



Soft Skills Running Hard Systems

Your career has spanned global organizations and diverse markets. What experiences most shaped your leadership approach and perspective on transformation?

Every market and environment taught me something unique about human interactions, adaptability, collaboration, resourcefulness, as well as the power of cultural integration. This reminds us that any transformation isn't just about strategies or systems as much as it is about people.

I discovered that different cultures respond to change very differently but all of us require humility to listen and courage to challenge the status quo. My international experience enlightened me with new perspectives but also reinforced that transformation isn't one-size-fits-all. It has to be human-centered, culturally relevant, and anchored in our values.

The beauty of it all is recognizing that people are people and they all aspire to progress with purpose and dignity. Our role as leaders is to create healthy environments to enable those aspirations to thrive.

Having worked across continents, how do you adapt strategies to balance global best practices with the unique needs of local markets such as Oman?

When it comes to policies, processes and systems, the key is always to align with the organizational maturity the client aspires to reach, their risk appetite, and their compliance with both local regulations and international standards. What tends to differ across markets is not so much what we do, but how we do it.

In all markets, transforma-



tion and change initiatives succeed only when we recognize that people are the true connective tissue between systems and controls; they are the lifeblood of any organization. This means best practices alone aren't enough. What really matters is building trust and winning hearts before minds. This requires cultural sensitivity, strong awareness of social dynamics, and mastery of the art of communication, choosing the right language, tone, timing, and methods to ensure that change is not just implemented on the surface, but embraced and embedded in the very DNA of the organization.

At Protiviti, you focus on building trust through transformational projects. Can you share an example of a project that had a particularly meaningful impact on

TOP WOMEN LEADERS IN OMAN

people and organizations?

In our transformational projects, we always prioritize trust as the cornerstone of sustainable change. One initiative, in particular, had a profound impact on both the organization and its people because of the way we approached communication. We designed a comprehensive communication framework that detailed the channels, tools, methods, cadence, and tone of engagement, ensuring clarity, consistency, and momentum over a two-year period. We had a very detailed plan and took the



Shatha Al Maskiry **Managing Director, Protiviti Oman**

Shatha Salim Al Maskiry works at the intersection of people, culture, and systems, shaping transformation through trust. With over two decades of global experience across Arthur Andersen, PwC, Shell, and Protiviti, she bridges global frameworks with local realities to make change practical and human. Through platforms such as Lahunna, SIDRAH, Rialy, and Wijdan, she equips women and young professionals with clarity, confidence, and purpose, reflecting a future of work rooted in values and inclusion.

lead to handle it ourselves on behalf of the client because we knew the issues and had to communicate differently for them to regain trust in the upcoming changes.

Equally critical was creating space for authentic two-way dialogue, moving beyond top-down messaging to genuine engagement. We also understood the importance of constructively engaging the most vocal skeptics, and transforming them into some of the strongest advocates for change. This deliberate investment in trust and dialogue not only accelerated adoption but also fostered a culture of transparency, inclusivity, and shared ownership. The outcome was not just organizational success, but a genuine sense of collective pride and celebration.

Leading cultural and organizational shifts often requires

courage and resilience. What has been one of the most significant challenges you've faced, and how did you navigate it?

One of the greatest challenges is when a client is not ready to face itself with humility and the courage to change. As consultants, our role is to bring objectivity and independence to the table, that part is straightforward. The real test lies in whether the client is prepared to confront uncomfortable truths and take ownership of the transformation. For me, courage begins with honesty. We cannot enable meaningful change if we are simply telling people what they want to hear. That's why we choose to work with clients and partners who value candor and are committed to progress, even when it's difficult. In many ways, courage is the first requirement of our profession; we're expected

and trusted to bring it into every engagement.

What advice would you give to the next generation of women leaders in Oman who aspire to create meaningful change in their fields?

Just love what you do and approach it with both excellence and integrity. Lead with class and grounded in ethics, because credibility will always be your strongest currency. Also, master the art of communication, not by being the loudest voice in the room, but by being clear, influential, and persuasive. Build allies early on because meaningful change is never achieved in isolation. And rather than dwelling on problems, consistently position yourself as someone who brings solutions. That mindset not only earns respect but also creates opportunities to shape the future.

IN SOUTH AL BATINAH



National climate and tsunami awareness campaign begins

A'RUSTAQ: The national awareness campaign concerning the risks of climatic conditions and tsunamis began on Monday in the South Al Batinah Governorate. Held under the slogan "Your Awareness for Your Safety," the campaign is scheduled to run for three days. The launch was held under the auspices of Eng. Masoud Said Al Hashimi, Governor of South Al Batinah, in the presence of several officials from government and private entities within the governorate.

The campaign is implemented by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), represented by the National Multi-Hazard Early Warning Centre, in cooperation with the National Committee for Emergency Management, the Ministry of Information, and the Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority. This effort is coordinated with the Office of the Governor of South Al Batinah, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, and the Ministry of Health.

The campaign aims to raise awareness among the community and stakeholders regarding weather hazards, climatic conditions, and tsunami risks. Furthermore, it seeks to enhance public understanding of the multi-hazard early warning system, provide integrated guidance on proper conduct during emergencies, bolster community response, and improve individual capacity to handle such events through practical drills and organized activities.

The campaign's scope covers the wilayats of A'Rustaq, Al Awabi, Nakhal, Wadi Al Ma'awil,

Barka, and Al Musannah. It targets representatives of government and private sectors, civil society organisations, and charitable teams, guiding them toward optimal methods for managing risks arising from these phenomena. The campaign is conducted through four main pillars: meetings and seminars, practical exercises, participation in various local activities, and the distribution of awareness leaflets.

The first day included lectures, working papers, and visual presentations addressing the national framework for emergency management in Oman, the operational procedures of the National Multi-Hazard Early Warning Centre, and safety protocols during emergencies.

Discussions also covered the role of dams in flood protection and school security and safety procedures, alongside panel sessions featuring various specialists. The program also saw the opening of an accompanying exhibition at the University of Technology and Applied Sciences in A'Rustaq, which will run for three days. The exhibition features awareness corners designed to introduce preventive measures and safe conduct during various emergencies. Abdullah Rashid Al Khaduri, Director General of Meteorology, explained that the accelerating climate challenges currently witnessed globally necessitate unified efforts and continuous awareness initiatives. He noted that the campaign seeks to deliver clear and simplified scientific messages to foster preventive behavior among all segments of society, helping to reduce risks from various weather conditions.

— ONA

Oman showcases its culture and heritage at book fair in Doha

The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism is showcasing more than 50 prominent titles featuring the Omani heritage over the past five years. These publications include research studies and books published by the Ministry in cultural, natural, archaeological and geological heritage



the book fair stems from a keenness to promote cooperation and integration of efforts among institutions supporting Oman's cultural and tourism presence in international forums, said Naseem

bint Abdullah Al Balushi, Supervisor of the Book Fairs Section at the Department of the "Journal of Oman Studies", Ministry of Heritage and Tourism.

Naseem explained that the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism is showcasing more than 50 prominent titles featuring the Omani heritage over the past five years. These publications include research studies and books published by the Ministry in cultural, natural, archaeological and geological heritage, she added.

She noted that these recent publications include the 26th edition of the "Journal of Oman Studies" that celebrates its golden jubilee—marking 50 years since the publication issued its first edition way back in 1975.

The Ministry's exhibits also include Issue No. 2 of a bulletin on relics titled "Athar Bulletin", which publishes reports about

surveys and excavations carried out by archaeological missions in the Sultanate of Oman.

The Ministry is also exhibiting Book No. 15 of the Omani Archaeological Heritage Series, which elaborates on remains of trilithic stones in the ancient Bedouin regions of south-eastern Arabia.

Naseem affirmed that Oman's pavilions at various international book fairs serve as centres of attraction that draw visitors from different age groups. Through such events, the Ministry highlights Oman's heritage and cultural assets, landmarks, tourist styles and experiences, in addition to tourist films, brochures, maps and promotional materials, said Naseem.

She pointed out that these publications provide information about Oman's most prominent destinations, events and tourist seasons, including the autumn season in the Dhofar Governorate. — ONA

Ways to enhance food security, achieve sustainability reviewed

Members of the Shura Council also discussed the ministerial statement and raised a number of observations focusing on various challenges and issues related to the agriculture, livestock, fisheries, and water resources sectors in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Shura Council concluded on Monday its discussion of the statement delivered by Dr. Saud Hamoud Al Habsi, Minister of Agricultural, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources, which continued over two consecutive days during the Council's 18th and 19th regular sessions of the Third Annual Sitting (2025-2026) of the Tenth Term (2023-2027).

The sessions were chaired by Khalid Hilal Al Maawali, Chairman of the Council, in the presence of Their Excellencies Council members and Ahmed Mohammed Al Nadabi, Secretary-General of the Shura Council.

During the 19th session, members of the Council continued discussing the ministerial statement and raised a number of observations focusing on various challenges



es and issues related to the agriculture, livestock, fisheries, and water resources sectors in the Sultanate of Oman. Discussions also addressed ways to enhance food security, achieve sustainability, and support farmers, fishermen, and livestock breeders in line with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

Council members stressed the importance of reviewing the requirements related to agricultural tariffs and services provided to farmers, noting the difficulties faced by farm owners regarding procedures linked to periodic endorsement letters, as well as the burdensome measures imposed on small farms that do not correspond to their size and nature. Members also emphasised the need to support national agricultural crops, expand lemon cultivation, and combat diseases and pests affecting Omani mango and quince trees. They underscored the importance of implementing effective and sustainable solutions to protect these crops, in addition to supporting farmers in marketing and providing the agricultural inputs necessary to boost local production. Furthermore, members called for the reinstatement of agricultural subsidies that had previously been

provided regularly, noting that their suspension had negatively affected small-scale farmers and local production levels.

Interventions also addressed ongoing issues related to the regulation of agricultural lands following the transfer of the file to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, which resulted in procedural delays and confusion among beneficiaries and employees, particularly regarding land sketches and electricity services. Members called for a more integrated and efficient mechanism to address these challenges.

On agricultural oversight, members questioned the reasons behind the absence of agricultural inspectors with judicial enforcement authority to conduct unannounced field visits to farms, ensure the safe use of pesticides and fertilizers, monitor violations, and refer them to the competent authorities, thereby safeguarding consumers and maintaining the quality of agricultural products.

In the same context, members noted that while market products are subject to inspection, some products are transferred directly from farms to markets without undergoing full inspection and

monitoring procedures. This, they stressed, requires stronger direct field supervision at production sites to ensure product safety, quality, and consumer protection.

Members also emphasised the importance of supporting the aflaj irrigation system by allocating investment lands to help sustain maintenance activities, especially during adverse weather conditions and exceptional circumstances. They further called for a clear plan to establish an insurance system against risks in the agriculture, fisheries, and water resources sectors.

The members called for reassessing the allocations of dam projects estimated at around OMR300 million, stressing that the postponement of several projects between five-year development plans had negatively affected implementation despite the urgent need for such projects amid recurring extreme weather conditions. They highlighted the importance of these projects in strengthening water security and protecting against flood risks.

In the fisheries sector, members called for the establishment of a fish processing factory to support fishermen and enhance the added

value of fisheries products, contributing to reducing the export of raw products outside the Sultanate of Oman. They also called for the establishment of agricultural marketing centres and laboratories for testing agricultural products to ease burdens on farmers and improve product quality and marketing.

Regarding the livestock sector, members questioned the ministry's plans to achieve food security in light of rising feed prices and weak market regulation, calling for proactive solutions for breeders. They also stressed the ministry's direct responsibility in providing designated grazing lands rather than referring the matter to other entities.

Discussions further addressed challenges facing the fisheries sector, including violations related to subleasing fishing vessels, illegal fishing, and the use of advanced processing and freezing equipment on board some vessels at sea without supplying products to local markets, negatively affecting both the local market and fisheries resources. Members also called for abolishing the requirement linking artisanal fishing vessels to commercial registration records in order to reduce regulatory and administrative burdens on fishermen.

In terms of infrastructure and services, members demanded the establishment of central markets and fruit, vegetable, and meat markets in several wilayats across the Sultanate of Oman, emphasising the growing need for such essential services, alongside the importance of developing marketing infrastructure related to the agricultural and fisheries sectors.

Members also presented several proposals related to the sustainability of water resources and the enhancement of food security, including the utilisation of treated wastewater in cultivating fodder and grasses instead of wasting it, thereby reducing reliance on

imports and strengthening local production.

The members discussion, explored the possibility of utilising agricultural lands outside the Sultanate of Oman through leasing or foreign investment to secure fodder, meat, and essential food supplies at reasonable prices. They inquired whether the ministry had adopted such initiatives within its future plans.

In the field of technological transformation, Council members asked about the ministry's progress in employing artificial intelligence and modern technologies in water resource management, pest control, and improving agricultural productivity, as well as the ministry's plan to transition from traditional methods to advanced digital systems that keep pace with global developments in this vital sector.

At the conclusion of the discussion on the ministerial statement, Council members praised the efforts exerted by the Ministry of Agricultural, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources in serving the agriculture, fisheries, and livestock sectors, emphasising the importance of these sectors as key economic drivers that strengthen food security and provide extensive employment opportunities for citizens. They expressed hope that the ministry would take into consideration the proposals and views presented by members over the two-day discussions in a manner that supports the achievement of Oman Vision 2040.

The Council will hold its 20th regular session on Tuesday, which will be dedicated to discussing the draft Unified Law (Regulation) on the Management of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture for the GCC States. The session will also discuss a number of economic agreements referred by the Council of Ministers, in addition to several proposals studied by the Council's permanent committees.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Gastroenterology, Endoscopy Clinic launched at Al Buraimi Hospital

AL BURAIMI: The Ministry of Health on Monday launched the Gastroenterology and Endoscopy Clinic at Al Buraimi Hospital. This initiative is part of the Ministry's ongoing efforts to enhance specialised services and expand the scope of healthcare provided in governorate hospitals.

The gastroenterology and endoscopy service is a modern specialised service newly introduced to the hospital. Previously, patients requiring such medical care were referred to Sohar Hospital and the Royal Hospital.

The launch of this service aligns with the Ministry of Health's policy to support decentralisation in



healthcare delivery. It facilitates patient access to specialised care near their places of residence, thereby contributing to reduced medical referrals and improved quality of healthcare services provided to the community.

Since the service began operat-

ing in January 2026, the hospital has successfully performed over 110 endoscopy procedures. This achievement reflects the readiness of medical and technical staff and enhances the efficiency of diagnostic and therapeutic services offered at the hospital. - OMA

COORDINATION MEETING

Governance system for employment in civil society and charitable sectors

MUSCAT: The National Programme for Employment (NPE) on Monday held a coordination meeting with Dr. Laila Ahmed Al Najjar, Minister of Social Development, to discuss the establishment of a national system for employment governance within the civil society and charitable sectors in the Sultanate of Oman.

This initiative aims to enhance the sector's role as an active developmental and economic partner in supporting national development targets. The meeting focused on building an integrated institutional and operational framework for the civil society and charitable sectors to increase the efficiency of the sector's contribution to job creation, maximise local value added, and enhance the economic and social impact of community and charitable initiatives. This is to be achieved by aligning these initiatives with national priorities, labour market requirements, value chains, and promising economic sectors.

During the meeting, specialists



from the NPE reviewed the strategic foundations for evolving the sector toward a more sustainable and efficient operational model based on the integration of funding, initiatives, and employment. This model seeks to direct resources and community projects toward achieving tangible developmental and employment impacts, supporting local content, and stimulating initiatives capable of generating direct and indirect employment opportunities, while improving the utilisation of national enablers associated with the sector.

The meeting also emphasised the importance of forming a national committee for employment

governance in the civil society and charitable sectors. This committee would be responsible for developing regulatory and institutional frameworks, strengthening partnerships between government agencies, the private sector, and community institutions, and developing indicators and methodologies to measure the economic, social, and employment impact of initiatives and programmes. Such measures are intended to support financial and developmental sustainability while enhancing the efficiency and developmental effectiveness of community initiatives. - OMA

Full story at timesofoman.com/oman

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GLOBAL MUSIC

The Honourable Lady graces inauguration of ‘Tranim Al Amal’ Band

FROM A1 The ceremony featured a variety of musical performances. These performances blended the spirit of authenticity with contemporary horizons. They also combined distinctive features of Omani art with masterpieces of global music. These artistic tableaux expressed the band’s message and its inspiring humanitarian meanings. The performances were delivered by the “Tranim Al Amal” Band with artistic and training support from the First Royal Band for Music and Folk Arts (affiliated to the Royal Protocols at the Diwan of Royal Court), the Royal Guard of Oman Music, and the National Autism Centre. The inauguration of the

“Tranim Al Amal” Band follows the directives of the Honourable Lady to support this cherished group within society. It aims to enhance their presence across various domains. The initiative also stems from the Ministry of Social Development’s commitment to discovering and developing their abilities. It includes refining their artistic skills through specialized training programmes delivered in partnership with governmental and private sectors. Ultimately, this contributes to empowering these individuals, strengthening their active participation, and reinforcing the values of social responsibility among all institutions equally. -ONA

MEETING



State and Shura Councils to hold joint session

MUSCAT: The State Council and the Shura Council will, on Wednesday (13 May, 2026), hold the second joint session of the third ordinary sitting during the Council of Oman’s Eighth Term. In the session, the two councils will discuss the reports of their joint committees on the articles of divergence in the draft version of the law titled “Unified System for International Land Transport Between GCC States”. The joint session will also discuss the draft law on amending some provisions of the Personal Data Protection Law, the draft

law on combating the spread of drugs and psychotropic substances, the draft law on amending some provisions of the Penal Law and the draft law on amending some provisions of the Mineral Resources Law. The aforementioned draft laws were referred by the Council of Ministers. The joint session will include voting on the draft laws in accordance with regulations on holding joint sessions. The session is in implementation of the provisions of Articles 49 and 50 of Oman Council Law. - ONA

Oman, IMO discuss current challenges to maritime navigation



Sayyid Badr and Secretary-General of the IMO held consultations on current challenges facing maritime navigation in the region and through the Strait of Hormuz

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister received in Muscat on Monday Arsenio Dominguez, Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). The two sides held consultations on current challenges facing maritime navigation in the region and through the Strait of Hormuz. They also discussed efforts underway to address these challenges

through amicable and peaceful means, in coordination with relevant parties. In this context, Sayyid Badr emphasised the necessity of adhering to international law and the law of the sea, alongside respect by all parties for the sovereignty of states over their territorial waters. For his part, the IMO Secretary-General expressed his appreciation for the existing cooperation



with the Sultanate of Oman. He also voiced his satisfaction with the consultations held and expressed hope for continued efforts aimed at the safe implementation of the humanitarian initiative launched by the Organisation regarding the passage of tankers currently stranded in the Gulf, in cooperation with relevant parties. - ONA

NATIONAL RECORDS AND ARCHIVES AUTHORITY

Narrators preserving Oman’s endangered Bat’hari language honoured



SHALEEM AND AL HALANIYAT ISLANDS: The National Records and Archives Authority (NRAA) honoured narrators who contributed to the documentation of the Bat’hari language at a ceremony held at Al Shuwaymiya in the Wilayat of Shaleem and Al Halaniyat Islands. Sheikh Abdulhakim bin Mohammed Al Rashdi, Wali of Shaleem and Al Halaniyat Islands and chief guest of the event, said that linguistic diversity is an integral part of cultural variety and civilisational heritage, and an important means of preserving identity and enhancing heritage — a richness the Sultanate of Oman possesses in abundance. Dr. Talib bin Saif Al Khadhouri, Director General of Research and Document Exchange, said the Bat’hari documentation project is part of the Oral History Department’s programmes to document Omani languages and dialects at risk of extinction, using specialised scientific methods based on field interviews and audio-visual recordings. The NRAA is building a comprehensive scientific archive of Bat’hari vocabulary, linguistic structures and usage patterns,

enabling researchers to use the content for linguistic and cultural studies and helping preserve an important part of national identity, he added. He pointed out that the project goes beyond language to document heritage linked to the local environment, customs, traditions and popular knowledge carried by the language, reinforcing its role as a cultural vessel reflecting the distinctiveness and history of the local community. The ceremony included a welcoming performance, a statement from participants, and the honouring of narrators and collaborators who helped make the project a success, in recognition of their efforts to preserve the Bat’hari language and support national initiatives to safeguard Oman’s cultural and linguistic heritage. The Bat’hari language is spoken in the desert areas of Dhofar Governorate, in the Wilayat of Shaleem and Al Halaniyat Islands, and in some parts of Al Wusta Governorate. It is an unwritten spoken language, linguistically close to Harsusi, Mehri and Shahari (Jabali), suggesting that all these languages share a single linguistic origin. - ONA



Role of youth in achieving national, developmental targets discussed

Taqah Youth Development Forum's held several training courses in artificial intelligence tools and content design

TAQAH: A panel discussion titled "Together for Youth Development," held as part of the conclusion of the Taqah Youth Development Forum, explored ways to enhance integration and cooperation between government entities concerned with supporting and empowering youth, with the participation of several government bodies and the private sector. The session also discussed youth, entrepreneurial, and tourism programmes, initiatives, and projects, aimed at strengthening the role of youth as active partners in achieving national and developmental targets in line with Oman



Vision 2040. Asma Ali Al Maashani, Supervisor of the forum's organisation at the Planning and Wilayat Development Department at the Office of the Wali of Taqah, stated that the forum's programmes were con-

ducted from 29 April to 11 May. These included several training courses in artificial intelligence tools, content design via "Canva," and project management, in addition to a "Train the Trainer" programme aimed at qualifying

job seekers from the wilayat to enhance their opportunities to enter the labour market and engage in youth projects. She added that 24 young job seekers were qualified in the field of developing training skills, opening promising future horizons for them. She noted that the number of applicants for the training programmes exceeded 300 participants from the wilayat, featuring interaction and participation from various wilayats across the Dhofar Governorate. She further explained that the forum showcased, through a visual presentation, the impact of previ-

ous editions on developing youth capabilities and their continued participation in its programs, making it a model that attracts youth participation from both within and outside the wilayat. She emphasised the importance of integration among youth across different wilayats to support the national development process during the upcoming stage. - OMA The closing ceremony of the forum was held under the auspices of Dr. Ahmed Mohsin Al Ghassani, Chairman of Dhofar Municipality, who honoured the supporting institutions and participants in the forum's activities.

COMMENTARY

UN Safety day (8-12 May) – Driving Progress, Protecting Lives



SADIQ MOHAMMED SAID AL-LAWATY

Technology is a double-edged sword, yet its benefits often outweigh its costs. The Automobile proves this paradox. German engineer Karl Benz created the World's first practical car in 1885 in Mannheim. He patented his gasoline-powered vehicle on 29th January 1886. Earlier, in 1769 French military engineer

Nicolas-Joseph Cugnot built a steam-powered tricycle to haul artillery, but it was not a car in the modern sense. The invention reshaped civilization. Express highways were constructed for motor vehicles, ending centuries of isolation. Before cars, people rarely left their villages except from necessity, traveling by camel, horse, or donkey. Communities were disconnected and horizons were narrow. The car connected us. Cities expanded, trade flourished, and families reunited. To reduce the risks of individual vehicles, cities developed safer public transport. The electric tram appeared in the late 19th century as a solution for street mobility. Unlike cars, trams carry dozens of passengers along fixed routes, reducing congestion and the likelihood of collisions. But their long carriers and lack of individual use led people to

prefer the freedom of private cars, despite the dangers. And the cost has been heavy. According to the World Health Organization, 1.19 million people die on the world's roads every year – more than 3,000 lives lost every single day. Road crashes are the leading cause of death for children and young people aged 5 to 29. Pedestrians, cyclists, and motorcyclists make up more than half of all fatalities. Can society abandon the car? Certainly not. Modern life depends on it. The solution is not rejection, but responsibility. This is where the World Health Organization and the United Nations intervene through UN Road Safety Day. The goal: safer roads, better vehicles, and disciplined behaviour. We commit to safety regulations, reduce speed, and reject reckless driving. We celebrate the freedom vehicles gave us by protecting the lives they should not take.

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TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

ASU's Tender Committee is pleased to invite specialized companies to participate in the following tender:

Tender details:

Tender No.	Description	Document Collection Deadline	Site visit	Bids Submission Deadline	Document fees	Company Grade
(ASU/25/25/26)	Tender for Providing Cleaning & Landscaping Service for A 'Sharqiyah University (Ibra Campus, Sur Campus, ASU Muscat Office)	19/05/2026	Ibra 19/5/2026 (10AM) Sur 20/5/2026 (10AM)	03/06/2026	100 OMR	The Excellent Grade Company

❖ Specialized companies interested in participating in the tender should obtain the tender document during the official working days from Sunday to Thursday, between 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM.

❖ **Tender collection process:** The interested companies shall follow the following steps:

1 - The payment should be made directly to ASU under the following bank account:

Account Name	AL SHARQIYAH UNIVERSITY
Account Number	0423010693610011
SWIFT CODE	BMUSOMRX

2 - After payment, send the receipt to zayana.alamri@asu.edu.om along with the reference number, title of the tender and CR of the company.

3 - Participating companies will receive the tender document via email.

4 - Companies that hold Riyadh certificate are exempted from tender document fees. Companies should send Riyadh certificate to zayana.alamri@asu.edu.om, along with the reference number, title of the tender and CR of the company

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

❖ ASU is not bound to accept the lowest bid.

❖ For further details, please don't hesitate to contact us at: zayana.alamri@asu.edu.om or Tel 25401116.

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OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Prashant Pise appointed India’s next Ambassador to Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Prashant Pise, presently serving as Additional Secretary in India’s Ministry of External Affairs, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Sultanate of Oman, according to official diplomatic appointment announcements.

A 1995-batch Indian Foreign

Service officer, Pise has extensive experience in the Middle East and North Africa region, having previously served in diplomatic assignments in Egypt, Libya, Tunisia and Iraq. He has also held postings in Japan, Mauritius and the United Kingdom.

Before his latest appointment, Pise served as Ambassador of India to Iraq and later took charge

as Additional Secretary handling emigration policy and welfare-related matters in the Ministry of External Affairs.

His appointment comes at a time when India and Oman continue to strengthen cooperation across trade, energy, maritime security, investment and people-to-people ties. Pise is expected to assume his new assignment in Muscat shortly.





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Sultan Haitham Chairs Programme: A national pillar for achieving Oman Vision 2040 targets

The initiative aims to serve as a research platform for which Omani universities compete, transforming national challenges into innovation opportunities while laying the foundations for excellence through the development of practical solutions that serve various development sectors



global innovation indicators.

The programme’s management adopts an integrated governance framework, including precise requirements for host institutions and high standards for selecting chairholders. Sustainable funding mechanisms ensure the continuity of scientific contribution, support for postgraduate students, and the provision of advisory services benefiting society and industry, ultimately maximizing the economic and social impact of research.

In the domain of knowledge dissemination and exchange of expertise, the chair is committed to publishing outstanding scientific outputs and managing data and intellectual property in accordance with global best practices.

All activities of the programme are subject to rigorous periodic evaluation mechanisms that measure applied impact, including resulting patents and knowledge-based solutions that enrich the national economy with innovative products and services, thereby enhancing Oman’s global competitiveness. – **ONA**

MUSCAT: The Sultan Haitham Chairs Programme in Oman’s higher education institutions stands as one of the most prominent national initiatives reviewed by the Board of Directors of the Research and Innovation Authority during its meeting chaired by HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs and Chairman of the Board

of Directors of Authority.

This initiative, bearing the name of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, establishes a distinguished national research platform designed to address challenges through rigorous scientific methodology, supporting innovation and the development of a sustainable, knowledge-based economy in line with the aspirations of Oman Vision 2040.

The Sultan Haitham Chair for Advanced Technologies is the first chair to be launched under this ambitious programme. It aims to serve as a research platform for which Omani universities compete, transforming national challenges into innovation opportunities while laying the foundations for excellence through the development of practical solutions that serve various development sectors.

The designation of a chairs programme under His Majesty’s name reflects remarkable attention to the status of research and innovation on the national priorities ladder, affirming their qualitative role in guiding the economy and generating solutions, while enhancing specialised research and its effective linkage to Oman’s development needs.

The programme focuses on attracting the highest calibre of

scientific expertise and building national capacities, alongside strengthening strategic partnerships locally and internationally to ensure knowledge transfer and technology localization.

This approach aims to empower decision-makers to formulate evidence-based development policies, thereby contributing to raising the global ranking of Omani academic institutions and enhancing the Sultanate of Oman’s position in

LINKING TRADE ROUTES

Lecture on Omani maritime role held in the Netherlands

AMSTERDAM: The Omani Village in the Nijmegen province of the Kingdom of the Netherlands hosted a lecture titled “Omanis: A Maritime Nation Connecting East and West – Omani-Dutch Relations as a Model,” presented by Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Salim Al Harthy, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

During the lecture, the ambassador addressed the historical and economic significance of Omani maritime passages, reviewing the most prominent seaports and their role in linking trade routes between the East and West.

He also highlighted the Sultanate of Oman’s vision for diversifying income sources and enhancing the contribution of the maritime and logistics sectors to economic development. He further discussed Omani-Dutch relations and the growing cooperation across various fields, supported by the historical and humanitarian ties shared between



the two nations.

The event concluded with an introductory tour of the Omani Village, where attendees observed features of authentic Omani heritage reflecting the maritime, agricultural, and cultural diversity that embodies the ancient Omani civilization and its historical role in building bridges of civilized communication between peoples.

– **ONA**



‘SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION AWARD’

Omani Women Academy receives prestigious honour

SHARJAH: The Omani Women Academy has won the second edition of the “Sustainable Education Award” granted by the Sharjah-based Regional Centre for Educational Planning (RCEP) in Sharjah, affiliated to the UNESCO.

The academy won the award in the category of Outstanding Project, for its project named “Pioneers Incubator”. The project was a leading national initiative launched by the Omani Women Academy to empower women in the field of entrepreneurship by furnishing an integrated innovative environment that supports the conversion of ideas into tangible, sustainable projects.

The “Pioneers Incubator” project constitutes an integrated digital model in the field of sustainable vocational education. It provides a comprehensive digital vocational education experience that contributes to achieving the 4th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), notably in developing vocational

skills, ensuring equal educational opportunities and promoting education for sustainable development. The initiative also enhances women’s contribution to the national economy in line with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

The incubator benefits families that operate their own business projects, job seekers and women with disabilities who wish to embark on successful entrepreneurial experiences. It provides women with an integrated system of modern skills, in addition to guidance and mentoring programmes run

by a select group of experts and specialised consultants. It also opens up prospects for partnerships and opportunities for funding to support the establishment of women-led startups that are capable of competing and contributing to supporting the local economy.

The Academy is a youth initiative that aims to empower women and develop their leadership and skills professional abilities through specialised training programmes and workshops that help them engage actively in community development. – **ONA**



VARIETY OF PACKAGES

Second edition of Travel Market 2026 exhibition opens in Muscat



MUSCAT: The 2nd edition of the Travel Market 2026 exhibition commenced on Monday in the Muscat Governorate.

Organised by the Directorate General of Education in the governorate, with the participation of travel and tourism companies and institutions, the event is scheduled to continue until 13 May.

The exhibition features the par-

ticipation of more than 50 companies and institutions specialising in travel and tourism, alongside banking institutions and airlines. It offers a variety of packages, including flight bookings, tourism offers, hotel stays, and special promotional programmes, coinciding with the approaching summer holiday season.

The organisation of the exhibi-

tion comes within the framework of the Ministry of Education’s efforts to enhance the benefits and services provided to its employees, offering them the opportunity to learn about the latest programs and offers provided by companies in the tourism sector. This initiative contributes to supporting tourism and economic activity in the Sultanate of Oman.

GLOBAL ENERGY SUPPLIES

Oil jumps, gold drops as ceasefire efforts fail and Strait of Hormuz disruption bites

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oil prices surged by three dollars a barrel yesterday after international efforts to secure a ceasefire agreement stalled, while continued disruption to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz kept global energy supplies under pressure. Brent crude futures rose \$3.18, or 3.14 percent, to \$104.47 a barrel, extending Friday’s gain of 1.23 percent. US West Texas Intermediate crude climbed \$3.09, or 3.24 percent, to \$98.51 a barrel, following a 0.64 percent increase in the previous session. The official price of Oman oil for delivery in July 2026 reached \$101. The price of Oman oil yesterday witnessed a rise of \$3.94 compared to Sunday’s price of \$97.06. It is worth noting that the monthly average price of Oman crude oil for delivery in May 2026 stood at \$124.05, reflecting an increase of \$55.90 compared to the delivery price for last April.



Gold price drops

Gold prices fell yesterday as a lack of progress in US-Iran peace negotiations pushed oil prices higher, fuelling concerns that rising inflation could keep interest rates elevated for a longer period.

Spot gold declined 0.6 percent to \$4,684.32 per ounce.

US gold futures for June delivery dropped 0.8 percent to

\$4,692.70 per ounce.

The dollar strengthened, making the greenback-priced metal more expensive for holders of other currencies. Among other precious metals, spot silver rose 0.7 percent to \$80.88 per ounce, while platinum fell 0.6 percent to \$2,042.71 per ounce and palladium slipped 0.4 percent to \$1,484.99 per ounce. – **Agencies**



IN DOHA

Oman joins opening ceremony of GCC Games



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman marked its presence in style at the official opening ceremony of the fourth GCC Games on Sunday evening in Doha, as the regional sporting spectacle got under way at the Al Shaqab Indoor Arena in the sisterly State of Qatar.

Oman's delegation was led by His Highness Sayyid Azzan bin Qais Al Said, President of the Oman Olympic Committee (OOC) and Head of Mission, as athletes from across the GCC gathered for the opening celebrations of the Games, which run from May 11 to 22.

The Omani flag was proudly carried during the athletes' parade by taekwondo player Nebras Al Touqi and national 3x3 basketball team player Shams bint Khalil Al Khonji, in a vibrant ceremony featuring artistic performances celebrating Gulf unity and sporting excellence.



More than 1,074 male and female athletes from GCC countries are competing across 17 sports in the regional event, which continues to serve as one of the Gulf's leading platforms for sporting and

cultural exchange.

In a press statement, His Highness Sayyid Azzan said: "The Gulf Games reflect the deep-rooted fraternal ties binding the Gulf Cooperation Council nations and

represent an extension of a long-standing sporting tradition that has strengthened bonds between Gulf peoples over the decades."

He stressed that the tournament comes at a particularly important



time amid the rapid challenges and changes facing the region and the world, reaffirming that sport remains "a message of peace and a bridge for human rapprochement" that promotes values of love, understanding and cooperation.

Sayyid Azzan also underlined Oman's continued commitment to supporting joint Gulf action through active participation in regional sporting forums and initiatives aimed at strengthening solidarity, integration and brotherhood among GCC countries and their peoples.

The GCC Games are expected to provide strong competition across multiple disciplines while further reinforcing the spirit of unity and cooperation that defines Gulf sport.

Oman are competing in 11 sports at the Games. On Tuesday, Omani athletes will compete in five sports: taekwondo, table tennis, 3x3 basketball, bowling and swimming.

Iran condemns deployment of French, British warships

Any international naval cooperation with Washington's current maritime strategy would be viewed as a direct provocation, said Iran



TEHRAN: Iran has voiced strong opposition to the deployment of a French aircraft carrier intended for a potential mission aimed at restoring "confidence among shipowners" within the volatile Strait of Hormuz.

The diplomatic friction intensified after Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister, Kazem Gharibabadi, issued a stern warning on the social media platform X. He cautioned that any international naval cooperation with Washington's current maritime strategy would be viewed as a direct provocation.

Gharibabadi wrote that "the presence of French and British warships, or those of any other country potentially accompany-

ing the illegal and internationally unlawful actions of the United States in the Strait of Hormuz, will be met with a decisive and immediate response".

Al Jazeera reported that the French Ministry of Armed Forces confirmed last week that the nuclear-powered Charles de Gaulle aircraft carrier was travelling towards the strategic waterway.

The deployment comes as French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer spearhead an international mission dedicated towards "restoring freedom of navigation" in the critical shipping lane.

While Western powers bolster

their naval presence, Iran formally submitted its reply to the most recent American proposal for regional de-escalation on Sunday. State media confirmed the message was transmitted via Pakistani mediators, following an announcement from Tehran that it had finished a detailed review of Washington's proposal.

According to Iran's state-run IRNA news agency, the present stage of discussions is expected to concentrate on ending the ongoing conflict in the region. This latest communication comes amid reports that Tehran has formulated a "14-point plan" intended to counter the US-supported "nine-point peace plan".

The Iranian proposal reportedly outlines a three-stage roadmap, which includes a 30-day phase designed to transition a temporary ceasefire into a permanent end to hostilities.

As part of the negotiations, Tehran has sought sanctions relief, the removal of restrictions on Iranian ports, the withdrawal of US troops from the region, and a halt to Israeli military operations in Lebanon.

However, these intensifying diplomatic efforts are occurring against a backdrop of heightened friction and a potential breakdown of stability in the Gulf. Iran recently cautioned that its "restraint is over" and issued threats of retaliation should its vessels be targeted.

This warning follows a series of reports regarding strikes on commercial shipping near the Strait of Hormuz and the coast of Qatar.

Further complicating the security landscape, Iran's Revolutionary Guards have warned of "heavy attacks" against American interests in the event of further strikes on Iranian tankers.

These statements follow reports that a US fighter jet disabled two Iranian-flagged vessels in the Gulf of Oman, leaving the region caught between a fragile peace process and the threat of expanded naval warfare. **-ANI**

MAY 13-15

US President Donald Trump to visit China

BEIJING: US President Donald Trump will pay a state visit to China from May 13 to 15 at the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping, according to an announcement by the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson on Monday.

In a post on X, the spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China said, "At the invitation of President Xi Jinping, President of the United States of America Donald J. Trump will pay a state visit to China from May 13 to 15."

On Sunday, senior US officials said that the discussions between the US and China are set to continue on the topic of Iran as the two countries gear up for the much-anticipated meeting between US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Speaking about the engagements between the leaders, the senior US officials said that Trump and Xi had spoken multiple times about Iran and also about Russia and how Chinese revenue provides for not only components but also the potential of weapons exports to these two countries.

They said, "The President has spoken multiple times with General Secretary Xi Jinping about the topic of Iran and about the topic of Russia, to include the revenue that China provides for both those regimes and therefore as well as do use goods, components and parts, not to mention the potential of weapons exports."

Senior US officials also said that topics expected between the two sides include continued work on a US-China Board of Trade and Board of Investment. The two countries will focus on identifying mutual areas of interest in trade.

The two sides will also discuss additional agreements on indus-

try, spanning aerospace, agriculture and energy, and following this productive visit, Trump looks forward to hosting President Xi and Madam Peng for a reciprocal visit in Washington DC later this year, the official said.

The official said that the two leaders have an ongoing conversation about Taiwan and that there has been no change in American policy.

When asked if there was a potential shift in the stance of the United States towards Taiwan ahead of the meeting, the officials said, "There is an ongoing conversation between President Trump and General Secretary Xi Jinping about Taiwan. Certainly, the last couple of times they've interacted, it has been a point of discussion. There's been no change of US policy coming out of those. We don't expect to see any changes in US policy going forward."

The remarks come after the US last week announced a new wave of sanctions targeting Iran's financial and energy networks, escalating pressure on Tehran's oil revenues and its commercial links with China.

In a post on X, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent described Iran as "the head of the snake for global terrorism", adding that under the leadership of US President Donald Trump, the Treasury was acting "aggressively" through the initiative titled "Economic Fury".

He said, "Iran is the head of the snake for global terrorism, and under @POTUS' leadership, Treasury is moving aggressively, through Economic Fury, to sever the Iranian military's financial lifelines. We will relentlessly target the regime's ability to generate, move, and repatriate funds, and pursue anyone enabling Tehran's attempts to evade sanctions." **-ANI**



MAY 14 TO 15

FM Araghchi likely to visit India

TEHRAN: Iran's Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi is reportedly likely to visit India to attend the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting to be held in the capital from May 14 to 15.

The visit comes at a time of heightened geopolitical significance and underlines the deepening engagement between New Delhi and Tehran within the expanded BRICS framework.

Iran had joined BRICS in 2024 alongside Egypt, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Earlier as per reports citing Iranian sources, it was reported that Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs, Kazem Gharibabadi, was also likely to attend the BRICS

Summit later this week.

India officially assumed the BRICS Chairmanship on January 1 this year, taking over from Brazil. This marks the fourth time India has held the presidency of the influential bloc, having previously hosted summits in 2012, 2016, and 2021.

Russia had on April 29 said that its Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will participate in the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting in India.

In a post on X, the Foreign Ministry said that Lavrov would be in India from May 14-15.

TASS reported, citing the Russian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Maria Zakharova, that the event will provide a valuable plat-

form for substantive discussions on current international issues and prospects for strengthening global governance.

"On May 14-15, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will attend a full-format meeting of BRICS foreign ministers in New Delhi," she said.

TASS, citing Zakharova, reported that the event, chaired by India, will provide a valuable platform for substantive discussions on current international issues and prospects for strengthening global governance, particularly regarding countries representing the global majority.

"Special attention will be given to enhancing strategic partnerships in preparation for the 18th

BRICS summit, which is also scheduled to take place in New Delhi this September," she added.

Meanwhile, the meeting of BRICS Deputy Foreign Ministers and Special Envoys for the Middle East and North Africa (BRICS MENA) was held on April 23-24 in the national capital, where views were exchanged on the current regional developments.

BRICS brings together eleven major emerging markets and developing countries of the world: Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates.

It serves as a useful platform for consultation and cooperation on contemporary issues. **-ANI**

SPORTS

Mominul and Shanto extend hosts' lead against Pakistan

With just a day remaining in the first Test, a draw looks to be on the cards after the fourth day was affected by rain and bad light

MIRPUR: Bangladesh edged ahead of Pakistan on a day cut in half by rain and bad light, with Mominul Haque and Najmul Hossain Shanto stretching their lead to 179, with seven wickets still in hand.

With the afternoon session of the fourth day wiped out entirely by torrential rains on Monday, Bangladesh were solid either side of it, thanks primarily to 105-run stand between the pair, their century partnership this Test, and just the third time a pair has done so for Bangladesh.



Pakistan's seam bowlers threatened early after removing the openers cheaply once more, but found themselves held up by the two left-handers, with a late strike from Shaheen Shah Afridi in the final session the only triumph they had to show for the rest of the day.

The lights were on almost from the outset on an overcast morning, and the first dismissal looked like the kind a seam bowler would get

on a green top under the clouds.

Abbas got one to nip back in off the surface into Mahmudul Hasan Joy's pads, right under the knee roll.

With Pakistan constricting the run-scoring, they struck again through Hasan Ali, who took advantage of the variable bounce to rear one up that caught the shoulder of Shadman Islam's bat.

The job of rebuilding fell once

more to the pair primarily responsible for putting Bangladesh in this position of relative control. Mominul and Shanto merely picked up where they'd left off, settling in and taking the sting out of Pakistan's attack.

Mominul was the more cautious one while Shanto gradually picked up the scoring rate, every run appearing to tilt the match situation ever so slightly Bangladesh's way.



and whacked him over his head. That the heavens opened might have been an advantage for Pakistan, in that it broke up the pair's rhythm and made Bangladesh's calculations about the pacing of their innings more complicated.

However, nearly four hours since then previous ball, the resumption of play saw no semblance of a loss of control from either batter.

Both ambled to their half-centuries unencumbered, with only Abbas's unerring accuracy and incessant ability to squeeze movement from a placid surface occasionally discomforting them.

Bangladesh's serene progress was only interrupted when Afridi found seam movement to bring one into Mominul, who could not get his outside edge out of the way.

With some time remaining in the final session, Pakistan may have hoped to trigger a collapse, but between then and until bad light forced the end of play, Shanto and Mushfiquar ensured there was no such thing.

Brief scores: Bangladesh 413 and 152/3 (Shanto 58*, Mominul 56, Hasan 1-23) lead Pakistan 386 (Awas 103, Fazal 60, Mehidy 5-102, Taijul 2-46). - Agencies

IPL 2026

RCB eliminate MI and go top after tense finish



RAIPUR: In one of the most gripping finishes of IPL 2026, Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) edged out Mumbai Indians (MI) by two wickets off the final ball in Raipur on Sunday, a result that also ended MI's and Lucknow Super Giants' playoff hopes while pushing RCB to the top of the table.

On a two-paced surface that constantly tested batters with variable bounce and grip, MI posted 166 for 7 after being asked to bat.

The innings was anchored by Naman Dhir's 47 and Tilak Varma's 57, the pair stitching together an 82-run stand that steadied MI after early strikes.

But RCB's bowlers, led by a masterclass from Bhuvneshwar Kumar, kept them in check. Bhuvneshwar



produced one of his finest IPL spells, removing Ryan Rickelton early, trapping Rohit Sharma with a knuckle-ball outswinger, and then dismissing Suryakumar Yadav for a golden duck with late swing. He finished with 4 for 23, controlling both ends

of the innings and also striking at the death to stall MI's momentum as they closed at 166 for 7.

RCB's chase began shakily. Virat Kohli fell for a golden duck, miscuing a drive off Deepak Chahar, while Rajat Patidar and Devdutt Padikkal also departed inside the powerplay. Corbin Bosch's short-ball tactics accounted for Patidar, while Chahar and Bosch shared early breakthroughs to leave RCB under pressure at 39 for 3.

The recovery came through Krunal Pandya, who was promoted to No. 5 and played a defining knock of 73 off 46 balls despite battling cramps. With Jacob Bethell (27) offering support but little fluency, Jitesh Sharma added a brisk 18, but MI struck back through

Bosch, who removed Jitesh and Tim David in successive deliveries. With Bumrah delivering a miserly 19th over, RCB needed 12 off 6.

The final over, bowled by Bawa, swung between chaos and composure. He dismissed Romario Shepherd off the third ball. A six from Bhuvneshwar Kumar off the fourth ball reduced the equation and RCB needed two off the final ball. Rasikh Salam clipped a near yorker back to the bowler, a misfield allowed a scramble, and despite a run-out attempt at the striker's end, he completed the second run with a dive.

Brief scores: MI 166/7 (Dhir 47, Tilak 57; Bhuvneshwar 4-23) lost to RCB 167/8 (Krunal 73, Bethell 27; Bosch 4-26, Chahar 2-33). - Agencies



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OMAN OIL PRICE RISES

The price of Oman crude oil has increased, with prices for delivery by June 2026 reaching \$101. The price of Oman crude oil rose by \$3.94 from the price of Friday, which was \$97.06.

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 8,313.76 points, down by -0.21% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.71% at 659.92 points. Oman Refreshment, up 7.69%, was the top gainer while, Al Suwadi Power, down 2.94%, was the top loser.

Oman launches Gulf gravimetric measurement network programme

The programme utilises the high-precision FG5-X absolute gravimeter in accordance with approved international standards

MUSCAT: A programme to establish a Gulf network for absolute gravimetric measurements commenced yesterday at the National Centre for Measurement and Calibration. The centre operates under the Directorate General of Specifications and Metrology within the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion. The programme utilises the high-precision FG5-X absolute gravimeter in accordance with approved international standards.

The three-day programme aims to establish a precise regional network for absolute gravimetry. It also seeks to link this network to the International System of Units (SI). The programme includes specialized workshops and lectures on the significance of gravity values and their influence on measurements and calibration. Participants will learn the methodology for calculating gravity values using the FG5-X absolute gravimeter. Instruction will also cover the uncertainty components affecting gravity calculations. The importance of absolute reference gravity points for geological survey operations will be highlighted. Furthermore, the programme involves the explanation and analysis of gravimetric measurement results. This will facilitate the transfer of technical knowledge and the exchange of expertise among member states. A specialised technical team from the National Centre for Measurement and Calibration in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is participating in the programme. This team serves as the project's adopting and implementing entity. They are working in collaboration with the National Centre for Measurement and Calibration in Oman. **-ONA**



BOLSTER INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL STABILITY

Strengthening ties: RBI and ECB ink landmark cooperation pact



NEW DELHI: In a significant move to bolster international financial stability and foster cross-border regulatory synergy, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the European Central Bank (ECB) have officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation. The MoU on cooperation in the field of central banking was signed by Sanjay Malhotra, Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Christine Lagarde, President of the European Central Bank (ECB), on Sunday. The agreement marks a new

chapter in the relationship between two of the world's most influential central banking institutions. The MoU, which updates the previous MoU of 2015, provides a framework for a regular exchange of information, policy dialogue and technical cooperation between the two institutions in areas of mutual interest in the field of central banking, the release noted. "It is important that we sustain global cooperation, and I am pleased to sign this MoU together with Governor Malhotra as a sign of our continued dialogue with the

Reserve Bank of India," said ECB President Christine Lagarde. Separately on Wednesday, the Reserve Bank of India said that it has issued the Foreign Exchange Management (Authorised Persons) Regulations, 2026, which aim to rationalise the authorisation and renewal framework for authorised persons and extend the principal-agent model for the delivery of foreign exchange facility while maintaining appropriate checks and balances. An RBI release said that the regulations have been issued after

examining and suitably including feedback received from the stakeholders on the draft framework published on the Bank's website on December 26, 2023. The guidelines seek to simplify the approval framework for entities dealing in foreign exchange and expand the delivery of forex services through agents while maintaining regulatory safeguards. Authorised persons are entities approved by the RBI to provide foreign exchange-related services such as currency exchange, remittances and overseas payment facilities. **-ANI**

CUSTOMER-CENTRIC

BankDhofar leads shift from transactions to relationships in Omani banking sector

MUSCAT: BankDhofar's strategic trajectory offers a clear signal of how banking in Oman is evolving — from a focus on transactions to a focus on relationships. At a time when customers expect speed, convenience, and personal relevance, the bank has steadily repositioned itself as a customer-centric institution, blending digital innovation with human engagement to build long-term trust. Digital transformation sits at the heart of this strategy. At COMEX 2025, BankDhofar showcased solutions such as Dhofar Pay, EasyMandate and EasyDebit, along with advanced digital onboarding tools. Together, these services point to a shift toward seamless, always-available banking where routine tasks are simplified and customers gain greater control over their finances. Rather than replacing human interaction, these tools are designed to make it more meaningful — freeing staff to focus on advisory and relationship roles. At the same time, BankDhofar has not stepped away from physical presence. The expansion of its branch network to more than 145 locations nationwide underlines that accessibility remains essential, particularly in a geographically diverse country. Complementary to this is the innovative "Bank on Wheels," a fully equipped mobile branch that brings services directly to communities, supporting financial inclusion and personalised engagement. These efforts reflect a recognition that customer centricity is as much



about reach and convenience as it is about technology. Partnerships also play a strategic role in deepening relationships. BankDhofar's collaboration with Taageer Finance is paving the way for integrated solutions such as Open Banking and virtual accounts, enabling customers to manage finances more smoothly across platforms. Its partnership with Mastercard, meanwhile, enhances payment security, digital capabilities, and cardholder privileges — features that directly shape everyday banking experiences. Customer centricity further extends to segmentation and personalisation. Engagements with Al Riadah customers, for example, highlight a targeted focus on tailored Wealth Management and Privilege Banking services for high-value clients. This approach signals that the bank views relationships as nuanced and long-term, rather than one-size-fits-all. Even infrastructure investments align with this philosophy. BankDhofar's early adoption of cash recycling ATMs — the first

in the Middle East — improves transaction speed, reduces queues, and enhances convenience. While such upgrades may appear operational, they directly influence how customers perceive service quality. Industry recognition has followed these efforts. In 2025, BankDhofar received the Best Customer Experience Award — Oman, reflecting the impact of initiatives such as its mobile branches, feature-rich app, and service guarantees. The bank was also named Best Customer-Centric Banking Brand — Oman at the Global Brand Awards, underscoring its focus on digital solutions, personalised services, and robust customer feedback systems that support relationship-based banking. Taken together, these developments illustrate a broader shift in philosophy: banking is no longer just about processing payments or approving loans. It is about understanding customer needs, anticipating expectations, and delivering value across multiple touchpoints.

Oman Qatar Insurance Co. SAOG Achieves Strategic Milestone with first Inaugural 'A-' S&P Global Credit Rating



The rating commentary noted the strategic and operational integration between OQIC and QIC, highlighting that the parent company's financial commitment and governance oversight underpin the Omani entity's robust credit profile.

CAPITAL ADEQUACY AND RISK-BASED CAPITAL METRICS

In its analysis, S&P Global highlighted the strength of OQIC's capital adequacy, underpinned by its integration within the QIC group, whose capitalisation is assessed as remaining well above the 99.99% level under S&P's risk-based capital model. This reflects a strong buffer against underwriting volatility, catastrophic losses, and market uncertainty, providing assurance to investors and counterparties about the Company's financial stability.

Capital adequacy remains a core pillar in credit rating assessments, as it signals an insurer's ability to absorb unexpected losses without external support. A solid risk-based capital position can help protect policyholders, maintain regulatory compliance, and support strategic growth initiatives.

ENHANCING COMPETITIVE POSITION AND MARKET PARTICIPATION

OQIC's newly assigned A- rating is expected to significantly strengthen its competitive positioning within the Sultanate of Oman's insurance industry. This rating enhances the Company's ability

to pursue large-scale insurance mandates, participate in complex underwriting opportunities, and compete more effectively with established regional insurers. In this regard, Mr. Hasan Yaseen Ali Al Lawati, Chief Executive Officer of OQIC stated that the assignment of an A- rating by S&P Global Ratings represents a major milestone in the company's corporate journey, reaffirming its financial discipline, operational strength, and commitment to sustainable value creation for clients and shareholders. He further noted that this achievement reinforces market confidence in OQIC's ability to deliver strong long-term performance and maintain financial resilience.

INVESTOR CONFIDENCE AND SHAREHOLDER VALUE

An A- rating with a Stable Outlook not only reflects creditworthiness but also signals to investors, partners, and financial markets that the Company maintains sound financial fundamentals supported by prudent risk management and effective capital governance. Such ratings are essential for building trust and attracting long-term investment, particularly in a sector where financial strength directly impacts policyholder protection. The Chief Executive Officer further emphasised that the rating will serve as a benchmark for future strategic planning and investor communications, aligning with its long-term objectives of transparency, governance excellence, and sustainable growth.

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Oman Refreshment, up 7.69%, was the top gainer while, Al Suwadi Power, down 2.94%, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 8,313.76 points, down by -0.21% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.71% at 659.92 points. Oman Refreshment, up 7.69%, was the top gainer while, Al Suwadi Power, down 2.94%, was the top loser. Shares of OQBI were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 4974 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 62.01 million, with more than 195.93 million shares changing hands.

Out of 67 traded securities, 20 advanced, 30 declined, and 17 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for RO 3008K while foreign investors were net buyers for RO 2533K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 475K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 13,277.34 points, up 0.33%. Prices of Financial Corporation, Bank Dhofar, Global Financial Investments, Al Madina Takaful, Bank Nizwa were up by 6.00%, 3.81%, 1.21%, 0.81%, 0.67% respectively. Prices of Al Sharqia Investment, Al Batinah Development Company, Bank Muscat, Muscat Finance, DIDIC were down by 2.61%, 2.17%, 1.52%, 1.33%, 1.16% respectively.



Industrial Index closed at 10,193.76 points, up 0.79%. Prices of Oman Refreshment, A'Saffa Foods, Raysut Cement, Oman Cables Industry, Dhofar Cattle Feed were up by 7.69%, 6.96%, 3.14%, 2.43%, 1.94% respectively. Prices of Gulf International Chemicals, Al Anwar Ceramics, Voltamp Energy, Oman Cement were down by 1.24%, 1.09%, 0.54%, 0.18% respectively.

Services Index was down by -0.61% before closing at 3,303.29 points. Prices of Al Jazeera Services, Majan College, Sembcorp Salalah, OQ Gas Networks were up by 3.05%, 0.76%, 0.76%, 0.37% respectively. Prices of Phoenix Power, Dhofar Generating, Al Batinah Power, Shell Oman Marketing, Barka Desalination were down by 2.24%, 2.20%, 1.97%, 1.86%, 1.72% respectively. — **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	8,357.66	8,304.47	8,313.76	8,331.13	-17.38	-0.21
FINANCIAL INDEX	13,288.09	13,216.34	13,277.34	13,233.91	43.42	0.33
Industry Index	10,226.25	10,110.30	10,193.76	10,113.71	80.05	0.79
Services Index	3,334.07	3,301.81	3,303.29	3,323.80	-20.52	-0.61
MSX Shariah Index	662.12	655.07	659.92	655.28	4.64	0.71
MSX TR INDEX	12,904.69	12,822.56	12,836.90	12,863.72	-26.83	-0.21
FINANCIAL TR IDX	16,304.29	16,216.26	16,291.09	16,237.81	53.28	0.33
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	13,097.23	12,948.73	13,055.62	12,953.10	102.53	0.79
SERVICES TR IDX	4,455.18	4,412.08	4,414.05	4,441.20	-27.15	-0.61
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,209.68	1,209.68	1,209.68	1,209.68	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
195,935,709	62,012,117	4,974	38,219,783,893	20	30	17	67

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, MAY 11

SN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PUR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	102	86	1	0.845	0.845	0.845	0.845	0.790	0.055	6.962	0.845	0.786	0.845	0.100	101,400,000
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	20,610,328	4,338,798	272	0.213	0.218	0.210	0.218	0.210	0.008	3.810	0.218	0.218	0.220	0.100	662,676,080
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	20,499	6,089	9	0.300	0.305	0.285	0.304	0.295	0.009	3.051	0.304	0.295	0.304	0.100	13,024,269
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	5,000	14,750	1	2.950	2.950	2.950	2.950	2.880	0.070	2.431	2.950	2.880	2.985	0.100	264,615,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	1,626,648	478,043	32	0.336	0.338	0.333	0.335	0.331	0.004	1.208	0.335	0.327	0.335	0.100	67,000,000
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	32,648	4,081	4	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.124	0.001	0.806	0.125	0.120	0.125	0.100	21,875,000
OM0000004735	SEMBORP SALALAH	657,598	174,154	53	0.264	0.266	0.263	0.265	0.263	0.002	0.760	0.265	0.260	0.265	0.100	252,961,567
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	309,877	46,312	31	0.149	0.150	0.149	0.150	0.149	0.001	0.671	0.150	0.150	0.155	0.100	335,542,955
OM0000000908	OQBASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	56,688,961	18,137,972	840	0.319	0.322	0.319	0.322	0.320	0.002	0.625	0.322	0.322	0.322	0.040	1,113,956,054
OM0000000902	OQ GAS NETWORKS	27,612,378	7,565,146	919	0.274	0.276	0.273	0.274	0.273	0.001	0.366	0.274	0.274	0.274	0.100	1,186,590,954
OM00000002077	AL OMANIYA FINANCIAL SERVICES	138,700	22,556	4	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.000	0.000	0.165	0.163	0.166	0.100	52,043,805
OM00000003287	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	23,160	9,834	10	0.425	0.425	0.424	0.424	0.424	0.000	0.000	0.424	0.422	0.430	0.100	21,345,188
OM00000002374	UNITED FINANCE	406,362	36,573	14	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.000	0.000	0.090	0.082	0.091	0.100	32,051,457
OM00000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	2,875	3,454	2	1.204	1.204	1.200	1.200	1.200	0.000	0.000	1.200	0.000	1.200	0.100	73,530,000
OM00000003026	OMAN TELECOM	4,809,218	7,059,463	140	1.467	1.469	1.465	1.469	1.469	0.000	0.000	1.469	1.615	1.469	0.100	1,101,750,000
OM00000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	1,433	502	1	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.000	0.000	0.350	0.000	0.350	0.100	24,636,500
OM00000001749	OMAN CEMENT	421	231	2	0.549	0.549	0.549	0.549	0.550	-0.001	-0.182	0.549	0.545	0.550	0.100	191,640,118
OM00000008394	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	867,281	425,569	165	0.494	0.494	0.488	0.492	0.493	-0.001	-0.203	0.492	0.487	0.510	0.100	378,938,400
OM00000001020	ASYAD SHIPPING	4,115,047	1,242,147	280	0.306	0.307	0.300	0.305	0.306	-0.001	-0.327	0.305	0.300	0.305	0.000	1,588,667,005
OM00000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	51,711,975	11,890,579	713	0.232	0.233	0.229	0.231	0.232	-0.001	-0.431	0.231	0.231	0.231	0.100	1,528,583,888
OM00000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	5,000	925	1	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.186	-0.001	-0.538	0.185	0.175	0.195	0.100	53,232,292
OM00000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	6,793	12,570	7	1.895	1.895	1.840	1.840	1.850	-0.010	-0.541	1.840	1.835	1.850	0.100	184,000,000
OM00000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	20,326	7,398	11	0.365	0.365	0.363	0.363	0.365	-0.002	-0.548	0.364	0.363	0.364	0.100	85,816,830
OM00000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGG & INVESTMENT	48,000	7,539	7	0.157	0.158	0.155	0.155	0.156	-0.001	-0.641	0.155	0.156	0.161	0.100	23,250,000
OM00000000759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	8,628,160	4,353,318	374	0.507	0.507	0.503	0.503	0.507	-0.004	-0.789	0.503	0.503	0.503	0.010	4,024,000,000
OM00000003968	OOREDOO	170,169	61,314	24	0.363	0.363	0.359	0.360	0.363	-0.003	-0.826	0.360	0.360	0.359	0.100	234,339,923
OM00000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	147,600	54,593	6	0.370	0.370	0.366	0.366	0.370	-0.004	-1.081	0.366	0.360	0.380	0.100	38,430,000
OM00000001509	DHOFAR INTL DEVPMNT & INVESTM	84,040	28,590	19	0.342	0.342	0.340	0.340	0.344	-0.004	-1.163	0.340	0.337	0.340	0.100	168,659,088
OM00000002796	BANK MUSCAT	11,451,337	5,238,591	481	0.461	0.462	0.453	0.453	0.460	-0.007	-1.522	0.453	0.453	0.453	0.100	3,400,397,869
OM00000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	24,851	4,270	3	0.172	0.172	0.171	0.171	0.174	-0.003	-1.724	0.171	0.165	0.175	0.100	12,914,262
OM00000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	642,350	128,106	74	0.205	0.205	0.198	0.199	0.203	-0.004	-1.970	0.199	0.199	0.199	0.100	134,302,599
OM00000005963	PHOENIX POWER	499,094	110,044	50	0.227	0.227	0.218	0.218	0.223	-0.005	-2.242	0.218	0.218	0.218	0.100	318,847,118
OM00000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO	214,000	24,122	21	0.113	0.113	0.112	0.112	0.115	-0.003	-2.609	0.112	0.112	0.113	0.100	10,980,000
OM00000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	928,488	185,143	88	0.204	0.205	0.198	0.198	0.204	-0.006	-2.941	0.198	0.198	0.199	0.100	141,452,455
Total	34	192,308,729	61,702,862	4,659												
Parallel Market																
OM00000001426	OMAN REFRESHMENT	20	28	1	1.400	1.400	1.400	1.400	1.300	0.100	7.692	1.400	1.295	1.400	0.100	70,000,000
OM00000002911	FINANCIAL CORPORATION	100	11	1	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.100	0.006	6.000	0.106	0.090	0.106	0.100	7,423,176
OM00000001301	DHOFAR FOODS AND INVESTMENT	5,000	1,050	3	0.210	0.210	0.210	0.210	0.206	0.004	1.942	0.210	0.207	0.210	0.100	41,512,154
OM00000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	7,444	1,583	3	0.211	0.215	0.211	0.215	0.211	0.004	1.896	0.215	0.211	0.215	0.100	3,978,542
OM00000001889	SALALAH MILLS	8,150	5,415	6	0.660	0.671	0.660	0.671	0.660	0.011	1.667	0.671	0.660	0.700	0.100	41,912,716
OM00000002341	OMAN CHLOHINE	2,000	394	1	0.197	0.197	0.197	0.197	0.195	0.002	1.026	0.197	0.194	0.197	0.100	14,087,242
OM00000000569	JABAL REIF	20,141	2,076	10	0.103	0.104	0.103	0.103	0.102	0.001	0.980	0.103	0.103	0.105	0.100	17,922,000
OM00000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	13,441	1,773	9	0.131	0.133	0.131	0.132	0.131	0.001	0.763	0.132	0.118	0.136	0.100	13,068,000
OM00000001020	OMAN CHROMITE	644	2,043	6	3.110	3.300	3.110	3.111	3.101	0.010	0.322	3.111	3.110	3.300	1.000	11,292,930
OM00000001434	NATL REAL ESTATE DEVPNT & INVESTM	81	397	1	4.900	4.900	4.900	4.900	4.900	0.000	0.000	4.900	0.000	4.950	0.100	8,636,250
OM00000001982	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	178,808	6,620	17	0.037	0.038	0.037	0.038	0.038	0.000	0.000	0.038	0.036	0.039	0.100	3,320,000
OM00000002200	AHLI BANK	2,000	390	1	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.000	0.000	0.195	0.186	0.198	0.100	541,766,728
OM00000003281	TAGEER FINANCE	98,901	12,066	7	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.000	0.000	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.100	3,4610,276
OM00000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	30,476	5,489	14	0.181	0.183	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.000	0.000	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.100	36,337,560
OM00000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	677	49	5	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.000	0.000	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.100	18,000,000
OM00000000784	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	16,662	1,738	6	0.106	0.108	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.000	0.000	0.107	0.103	0.107	0.100	16,643,893
OM00000001697	MUSCAT FUND	3,158	497	4	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.000	0.000	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.100	15,000,000
OM00000000823	OMAN GATEWAY FUND	1,287	145	5	0.135	0.135	0.130	0.130	0.135	-0.005	-0.441	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.100	30,900,131
OM00000001268	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	37,502	6,913	13	0.185	0.185	0.182	0.182	0.184	-0.002	-1.087	0.183	0.183	0.183	0.100	40,040,000
OM00000008868	THE PEARL REIF	50,000	8,700	11	0.174	0.174	0.174	0.174	0.176	-0.002	-1.136	0.174	0.159	0.179	0.100	102,810,910
OM00000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	1,000	80	1	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.081	-0.001	-1.235	0.080	0.079	0.080	0.100	1,680,000
OM00000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	110	8	1	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.075	-0.001	-1.333	0.074	0.074	0.076	0.100	22,728,828
OM00000001160	NATIONAL GAS	59,900	7,205	10	0.122	0.122	0.120	0.120	0.122	-0.002	-1.639	0.120	0.120	0.121	0.100	10,200,000
OM00000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	15,500	12,248	8	0.790	0.795	0.790	0.790	0.805	-0.015	-1.863	0.790	0.750	0.790	0.100	75,050,000
OM00000000747	DHOFAR GENERATING	23,600	8,112	4	0.090	0.090	0.089	0.089	0.091	-0.002	-2.198	0.089	0.089	0.090	0.100	19,739,360
Total	25	576,692	20,249	142												



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Contact: **94274470**
Email: azamca7@gmail.com

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Email: su.cpacma@gmail.com - GSM: 90605330

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ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Indian male Accountant, 10 yrs experience in Muscat, valid Oman D/L. Contact: 79774800

Looking for job accounts & purchase etc. with D/L Contact: 92505721, Email: sagarjohn28@gmail.com

Indian male with 13 yrs of experience in accounting, both abroad and India looking for suitable opportunity in accounts or finance. Contact 91631979

Indian male B.com accountant looking for suitable job. 12 yrs experience in Oman. D/L and NOC available. Contact: 90302933

Sr. Accountant - 20 yrs exp., full accounts, VAT & audit, D/L. Contact: 96761026 Email: mehreenraiz@gmail.com

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Accounts Manager, 47 yrs graduate with 22yrs of exp in Oman seeks suitable placement. Contact: 91410602

B.Com, CA articleship completed. 29yrs experience in Oman. Expert in book keeping & accounts finalization, seeking part time job. Contact: 99072361

CA Inter qualified lady (Keralite, 3+ yrs experience) available in Oman (family visa), seeking full-time,part-time opportunities. Contact: 91281006, 78536919

Looking for job accounts, purchase etc. with D/L Contact: 92505721, Email: sagarjohn28@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATION

MBA graduate (Sri Lankan, female) with 3 yrs corporate experience seeks admin, office support role. Immediate joining.+968 78414146

IT

Sr Program manager (B.Tech, MBA) female, 11+ yrs in product delivery, operations management & AI led projects. Seeking opportunity in Muscat on dependent visa. Contact : 90963084 Email: challapranavi@gmail.com

ENGINEER

Civil, project engineer (Indian male) 10 yrs Oman experience in building construction having valid D/L looking for suitable opportunity. Contact: 94965278 Email : mdulings@gmail.com

ENGINEER

BE Civil Engineer 14 yrs Oman experience in ROP, building, villa construction having valid D/L, looking suitable job. Contact: 91347385. Email: jhrajugu61613@gmail.com

Sales & Service Engieer (Indian), 3+ yrs Technical sales & operations oil & gas, valid D/L. Contact: 98211984

Mechanical engineering graduate (B.Tech) with basic site exposure. Knowledge in HVAC, plumbing, drawings & AutoCAD. Immediate joining. Contact: +96871208991

ENGINEER

BE Civil Engr. Indian male, 11yrs experience in Oman, holding Oman D/L seeks placement. Contact: 93867573, Email: pineasdhas@gmail.com

MANAGER

SriLankan MBA over 22 yrs of GCC experience seeking opportunities as Commercial manager, contract manager, or senior quantity surveyor in the construction industry. Available immediately. Contact: +96890452762 Email: similyaas@gmail.com

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Looking for merchandiser job or salesman of 10 yrs in Oman. Contact : 75137846, 79510980

Indian male with a B.Com and one year of experience in sales, stores, and inventory. Any suitable Contact: 95387638

Indian male, BBA, 20 yrs experience in sales & marketing in Oman, holding valid Oman driving license seeks suitable placement. Contact No : 93011232, Email: jitinjoshua920@gmail.com

PM Modi urges Indians to work from home and limit foreign travel

India's opposition parties on Monday denounced Prime Minister Narendra Modi's request to Indians to make lifestyle changes and help cushion the country from the economic repercussions of the Iran war

NEW DELHI: Over 10 million jobs could be impacted if Indians heed an appeal by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and cut down on buying gold jewelry. That's the assessment of the All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council.

In an interview with news agency ANI, the national trade federation's chairman Rajesh Rokde said on Monday that gold jewellery had a deep cultural importance in India and any broad-based limiting of its purchase could affect employment and economic activity in the jewellery sector.

Rokde said that Modi asking

people to cut down on purchasing gold over the next year was in the "national interest," adding that the prime minister might be referring to people who buy gold for investment.

He said that while he supports discouraging the purchases of bullion and coin for investment, the jewelry industry contributes around 7% to India's gross domestic product (GDP).

"Any restriction on jewellery would raise a big question on unemployment," he stated, saying that more than 1 crore (10 million) people who work in this in-



dustry — including artisans and showroom employees — could be "impacted directly."

Opposition slams Modi's austerity call to nation

India's opposition parties on Monday denounced Prime Minister Narendra Modi's request to Indi-

ans to make lifestyle changes and help cushion the country from the economic repercussions of the Iran war, deeming the leader's move a "failure" of policy.

Rahul Gandhi, the leader of the opposition in the Indian parliament's lower house, said Modi's appeal was a "proof of failure".

"Yesterday, Modi ji asked the public to make sacrifices — don't buy gold, don't go abroad, use less petrol, cut down on fertiliser and cooking oil, take the metro, work from home. These aren't sermons — these are proofs of failure," the Congress leader wrote in Hindi on X.

"In 12 years, he's (Modi) brought the country to such a pass that the public now has to be told — what to buy, what not to buy, where to go, where not to go. Every time, they shift the responsibility onto the people just so they can wriggle out of accountability themselves," Gandhi went on to say as he referred to the Modi government's tenure.

Congress MP Karti Chidambaram questioned what triggered Modi's "very serious" directives.

"The Government must convene Parliament immediately & take the nation into confidence & inform us about the true state of affairs which has necessitated these 'appeals'," he said.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said Modi's call to the public was an "admission of failure" by his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government.

He also questioned the timing of the prime minister's call to action, saying that the Middle East crisis suddenly "came to mind" for the government after the recently-concluded state elections. -ANI

IMMENSE POTENTIAL

Pakistan's IT exports projected to touch \$4.6 billion this year

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday chaired a review meeting on the affairs of the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, wherein it was informed that the number of domestic internet connections in the country had surged from 1.9 million in 2024 to 5.10 million this year, and IT exports were expected to touch \$4.6 billion during the current fiscal year.

The prime minister said that promoting the IT sector and increasing IT-related exports were among the government's priorities.

He emphasised that Pakistan's youth possessed immense potential in the IT field, which must be fully utilised.

Prime Minister Shehbaz instructed to accelerate the establishment of Asaan Khidmat Centres in Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad



Jammu and Kashmir, and foster collaboration with provincial governments to launch the facilities across the provinces.

He said that cooperation from provincial and district-level governments should be sought to reduce the digital gap between urban and rural areas in

the IT sector.

During the briefing on various initiatives for the promotion of IT, it was told that a recent 5G services auction was held in Pakistan, marking the world's largest such auction since 2016, generating \$509 million in revenue for the country.

Besides, the "Indus AI Week" was organized in February 2025 to promote Artificial Intelligence, featuring events across 30 cities, participated by over 100 international delegates, and featuring 88 pavilions.

It was informed that fiber connectivity has been provided to government schools and health units in Islamabad, and the provision of free internet hotspots in the capital was in its final stages.

The participants were also told that E-learning pods were being installed in Saidpur Model Village and Fatima Jinnah Park.

The meeting was attended by federal ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Azam Nazeer Tarar, Ahad Khan Cheema, and Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Minister of State for Finance and Railways Bilal Azhar Kayani, and other high-ranking government officials. -APP

ALL PASSENGERS SAFE

Turkish Airlines plane suffers tyre fire during landing

KATHMANDU: A Turkish Airlines aircraft's tyres caught fire while landing at the Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu on early Monday morning. Police confirmed that all passengers and crew members were safely evacuated.

The flight en route from Istanbul to Kathmandu caught fire on the right tyres while landing, triggering the evacuation and rescue of all the passengers.

"The aircraft with call sign TK726 was en route to Kathmandu from Istanbul, and the tyre had caught fire while landing. Using the fire engine, it has been contained. All the passengers are safely evacuated," SP Rajkumar Silawal from the airport security told ANI in a telephonic conversation.

As per the official, there were a total of 278 passengers and 11 crew members on the flight. The pas-

sengers also included some United Nations officials.

In a video circulating on social media, fire is seen on the right landing gear of the aircraft, sending a thick plume of grey smoke. Passengers on board the aircraft were evacuated using the emergency doors.

No official statement or announcement has been made by the airport or the airline company over the incident. Also, the reason behind the incident is yet to be ascertained.

Turkish Airlines has been involved in similar incidents at Tribhuvan International Airport.

In the year 2015, an aircraft of the company had skidded off the runway and veered onto the grassy shoulder after losing balance during landing. This had forced the airport to remain shut for four days. -ANI

CENTCOM

US Central Command 'redirects' 61 vessels, disables four



FLORIDA: US Central Command (CENTCOM) has announced that its forces have "redirected" 61 commercial vessels as part of the persistent maritime siege of the Strait of Hormuz.

In an update regarding the ongoing operations, the military command further confirmed that they had disabled four others while maintaining the strategic blockade of the critical waterway.

According to a CENTCOM social media post, the naval operation remains extensive, with more than 20 warships currently deployed to enforce the measures against Iran.

This sustained military pressure coincides with a pivotal shift on the diplomatic front, as Iran formally submitted its reply to the most recent American proposal for regional de-escalation on Sunday. State media confirmed the message was transmitted via

Pakistani mediators, following an announcement from Tehran that it had finished a detailed review of Washington's proposal.

According to Iran's state-run IRNA news agency, the present stage of discussions is expected to concentrate on ending the ongoing conflict in the region.

This latest communication comes amid reports that Tehran has formulated a "14-point plan" intended to counter the US-supported "nine-point peace plan".

According to media reports, the Iranian proposal outlines a three-stage roadmap, which includes a 30-day phase designed to transition a temporary ceasefire into a permanent end to hostilities. As part of the negotiations, Tehran has reportedly sought sanctions relief, the removal of restrictions on Iranian ports, the withdrawal of US troops from the region, and a halt to Israeli military opera-

tions in Lebanon.

However, these intensifying diplomatic efforts are occurring against a backdrop of heightened friction and a potential breakdown of stability in the Gulf. Iran recently cautioned that its "restraint is over" and issued threats of retaliation should its vessels be targeted. This warning followed a series of reports regarding strikes on commercial shipping near the Strait of Hormuz and the coast of Qatar. Further complicating the security landscape, Iran's Revolutionary Guards have warned of "heavy attacks" against American interests in the event of further strikes on Iranian tankers.

These statements follow reports that a US fighter jet disabled two Iranian-flagged vessels in the Sea of Oman, leaving the region caught between a fragile peace process and the threat of expanded naval warfare. -ANI

TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE!

Trump rejects Iranian proposal to end conflict

NEW YORK: US President Donald Trump on Sunday came down heavily on Iran, expressing his displeasure over the response received from Tehran to end hostilities and establish peace amid the developing security situation in West Asia and the Gulf region, terming it completely unacceptable.

Lambasting Tehran in a post on Truth Social, Trump said that he did not like the response received from the 'representatives'.

"I have just read the response from Iran's so-called 'Representatives.' I don't like it -- TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE! Thank you for your attention to this matter", he said on Truth Social.

This comes after Iran submitted its reaction to the American proposal for de-escalating regional hostilities through Islamabad, Iranian state media announced on Sunday.

The move follows several affirmations from the Foreign Ministry spokesperson that Tehran's "views and considerations" concerning the Washington-led initiatives would be dispatched once a thorough "review and final conclusions" had been reached.

Detailing the development, the state-run IRNA news agency stated, "The Islamic Republic of Iran sent today, through Pakistani mediators, its response to the latest text proposed by the United States to end the war." The state media outlet further clarified the immediate objectives of the diplomatic outreach, adding that "According



to the proposed plan, at this stage, negotiations will focus on ending the war in the region."

According to the reports, the Iranian draft includes specific demands for Washington to "lift sanctions on Iran" and terminate the "blockade on Iranian ports." Furthermore, the proposal reportedly insists that the US must "withdraw US forces from the region" and "cease all hostilities," including a demand to end "Israel's war in Lebanon."

However, this diplomatic overture occurs against a backdrop of deteriorating security, as Tehran recently cautioned Washington that it would cease its policy of strategic restraint regarding retaliatory strikes. This warning coincided with reports from Gulf nations of fresh maritime and territorial hostilities, including an assault on a freighter bound for Qatar.

The latest slew of remarks by Trump comes shortly after he lambasted former US presidents for their leniency and what he claimed

of ensuring financial security towards Iran.

Meanwhile, earlier during an interview with independent journalist Sharyl Attkisson, which aired on Sunday, Trump asserted that Washington is maintaining rigorous surveillance of Iran's enriched uranium stockpiles, warning that any attempt to access the sites would result in immediate military action.

On the current military status of the conflict, the US President characterised Iran as a nation already militarily defeated. He argued that the country's defensive and offensive capabilities have been systematically dismantled.

"They have no navy, no air force, they have no anti-aircraft weaponry, no leaders," Trump remarked, adding that while Tehran continues to vacillate over potential diplomatic resolutions, its infrastructure is in ruins. He further claimed that were the US to withdraw today, it would take the Islamic Republic "20 years to rebuild." -ANI



LIFESTYLE

Health experts warn that interpreting the advice literally can lead to excessive calorie intake, unhealthy weight gain and a higher risk of Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM), a condition that affects blood sugar levels during pregnancy

‘EATING FOR TWO’?

Doctors warn a myth may increase the risk of gestational diabetes during pregnancy



For generations, pregnant women have been told, “You’re eating for two now.” It is often repeated lovingly by family members and friends, accompanied by extra servings at the dinner table and encouragement to indulge cravings. However, modern medical science warns that this well-intentioned advice may be one of the most persistent myths surrounding pregnancy nutrition. Health experts warn that interpreting the advice literally can lead to excessive calorie intake, unhealthy weight gain and a higher risk of Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM), a condition that affects blood sugar levels during pregnancy. In reality, specialists say pregnancy requires better nutrition, not more food.

“The idea of ‘eating for two’ is misleading,” said Dr. Tripti Raheja, Director of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the CK Birla Hospital in Delhi, while speaking to ANI.

“In the first trimester, there is no significant increase in calorie requirements. Most women do not need additional calories at this stage. In the second and third trimesters, an extra 300 to 450 kilocalories per day is sufficient, roughly equal to one healthy snack, not double meals,” she added.

Nutrition experts note that calorie requirements increase only gradually as the pregnancy progresses.

According to Garima Chaudhary, dietitian and nutritionist at Cloudnine Group of Hospitals, energy needs typically remain unchanged during the first trimester, when the developing fetus is still very small.

“Calorie needs increase gradually, not dramatically,” Chaudhary explained, adding, “For women with a normal body mass index, there is usually no need for additional calories in the first trimester. In the second trimester, around 340 extra calories per day may be required, and in the third trimester, about 450. The key is nutrient-dense foods, not larger portions.”

These requirements can vary depending on factors such as pre-pregnancy weight, activity levels, and whether the pregnancy involves twins. However, the overarching principle remains the same: the focus should be on nutrient-dense foods rather than larger portions.

“Most Indian women already consume over 2,000 calories per day,” Dr. Tripti Raheja further said.

“So the focus should be on improving the quality of food, more protein and fibre, fewer refined carbohydrates, rather than increasing quantity,” she added.

The concern with excessive eating during pregnancy, especially early on, lies in its link to gestational diabetes.

The condition develops when pregnancy hormones interfere with the body’s ability to use insulin effectively, causing blood sugar levels to rise.

Dr. Raheja explained that hormones such as human placental lactogen, progesterone and cortisol naturally increase insulin resistance during pregnancy.

When excessive calorie intake, particularly from refined carbohydrates and sugary foods, occurs alongside this hormonal shift, the body’s metabolic balance can be disrupted.

“If a woman gains weight rapidly in early pregnancy, especially central fat, insulin resistance worsens further,” Dr. Raheja said.

“This puts stress on the pancreas, which must produce higher levels of insulin to keep blood sugar under control,” she added.

On the other hand, Chaudhary noted that excess fat tissue increases inflammatory signals in the body, compounding the problem. “More fat tissue leads to more insulin resistance. If the pancreas cannot compensate adequately, blood sugar levels begin to rise,” she said.

Research and clinical observation suggest that rapid weight gain before 20 weeks of pregnancy can increase the risk of gestational diabetes by as much as 20 to 50 per cent. It may also raise the likelihood of having a larger-than-average baby, a condition known as macrosomia, which can complicate delivery and increase the chances of caesarean section (C-section).

Another challenge is that gestational diabetes often develops quietly. Many women do not experience noticeable symptoms, making early detection dependent on medical screening and careful observation of diet and weight patterns.

“Gestational diabetes is frequently silent,” said Dr. Swati Kanodia, consultant pediatric endocrinologist at Rainbow Children’s Hospital.

“However, certain red flags should prompt earlier glucose

testing rather than waiting until the routine screening at 24 to 28 weeks,” she added.

Doctors commonly look for warning signs such as rapid weight gain in the first trimester, particularly more than two to three kilograms, high intake of sugary foods and refined carbohydrates, frequent consumption of fruit juices or processed snacks, low protein intake, and a sedentary lifestyle.

Medical history also plays an important role. Women with polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), previous gestational diabetes, obesity, or a family history of Type 2 diabetes may require earlier monitoring.

“In India especially, baseline insulin resistance rates are already high, so early screening becomes particularly important,” Dr. Raheja said.

Although gestational diabetes often resolves after childbirth, its implications can extend far beyond pregnancy. Doctors stress that it should be viewed as a warning sign of future metabolic risk rather than a temporary condition.

“Women who experience gestational diabetes have a seven to ten times higher lifetime risk of developing Type 2 diabetes,” Dr. Kanodia said, adding, “The risk can persist for years, which is why postpartum monitoring and lifestyle changes are essential.”

Chaudhary added that nearly half of these women may develop Type 2 diabetes within five to ten years if preventive steps are not taken.

The effects may also extend to the next generation. Exposure to high blood sugar levels in the womb can influence how a child’s metabolism develops, increasing the likelihood of obesity, insulin resistance and Type 2 diabetes later in life.

“This phenomenon is known as fetal metabolic programming,” explained Dr. Sushma Dikhit, senior consultant gynaecologist at Cloudnine Group of Hospitals in East Delhi.

“Gestational diabetes isn’t just a pregnancy condition; it has long-term metabolic consequences for both mother and child,” she added, in a conversation with ANI.

For this reason, doctors emphasise balanced nutrition rather than larger portions during pregnancy.

Experts often recommend a simple “plate model” for daily meals: half the plate filled with fibre-rich vegetables, one quarter with protein sources such as dal, paneer, eggs, fish or chicken, and the remaining quarter with complex carbohydrates like multigrain roti, brown rice, oats or millets. Small portions of healthy fats such as nuts, seeds or ghee can also support satiety and nutrient absorption.

“Combining carbohydrates with protein and healthy fats slows glucose absorption and helps maintain stable blood sugar levels,” Chaudhary said, adding that refined sugars, sugary beverages and fruit juices should be limited.

Meals spaced throughout the day, rather than large, heavy servings, can also help maintain steady energy levels during pregnancy.

Still, navigating cultural expectations around pregnancy and eating habits can be challenging.

In many Indian households, women are strongly encouraged to eat more “for the baby,” making portion control difficult.

Experts suggest addressing these pressures through education and communication.

“A helpful approach is to explain that the doctor has advised focusing on nutritious, balanced meals rather than eating double,” Dr. Raheja said, adding, “Families are usually more receptive when this message is framed as medical advice.”

Chaudhary agrees, noting that the emphasis should be placed on quality rather than quantity. “The baby needs nutrients, not excess sugar,” she said.

Meanwhile, Dr. Dikhit added that involving family members in prenatal consultations can help dispel myths and reduce guilt around eating less than expected.

“When families understand that overeating can increase the risk of gestational diabetes, a very large baby, difficult delivery or future diabetes risk, they often become supportive of healthier eating habits,” she said.

Pregnancy, doctors say, is a period of remarkable physiological change, but also an opportunity to build a foundation for lifelong health.

“Pregnancy is a state of controlled metabolic stress,” Dr. Dikhit said, adding, “The goal is not maximum weight gain but optimal metabolic health.”

In that sense, the message for expectant mothers may be simple but powerful: pregnancy is not about eating twice as much, it is about “eating twice as wisely.” - ANI

Barcelona are champs



Marcus Rashford and Ferran Torres' strikes were enough to brush aside Real Madrid in the El Clasico and secure the 29th La Liga title for the Catalan giants at Camp Nou on Sunday

BARCELONA: Watched by their grieving coach, Hansi Flick, Barcelona won their second straight Spanish league title and 29th overall with a comfortable 2-0 win over Real Madrid at Camp Nou on Sunday, adding to their rival's troubled season.

Goals by Marcus Rashford in the ninth minute and Ferran Torres in the 18th gave Barcelona the victory, creating an insurmountable 14-point advantage over their fierce rivals with three rounds remaining in La Liga.

Flick was in the dugout for Sunday's El Clasico following the death of his father, which Barcelona announced hours before kickoff.

Players from both teams wore black armbands and there was a moment of silence before kickoff.

A draw would also have been enough for the Catalan club to seal their third league title in four seasons. Rashford opened the scoring for the hosts with a wonderfully taken free kick, curling the

ball over the wall and into the top corner. Torres added to the lead from inside the area after a flick from Dani Olmo. There was a brief scuffle between players in the 51st minute after Olmo confronted a Madrid player. Olmo was shown a yellow card. Madrid's Jude Bellingham had a goal disallowed for offside in the 63rd minute.

Brazil forward Raphinha replaced Rashford in the 64th minute to return from a long injury layoff. Barcelona have been playing the final league games without the injured Lamine Yamal. Yamal was on the field lifting the trophy along with his team-mates.

Madrid were without the injured Kylian Mbappé, the league's leading scorer with 24 goals. The France forward failed to recover from a left-hamstring ailment that has kept him sidelined since late April.

Arbeloa under fire
The loss in Sunday's Clasico is likely to increase criticism of

coach Álvaro Arbeloa, who was promoted from Madrid's reserve team when Xabi Alonso was fired in January. "There's not a lot we can say," Arbeloa said. "We understand how frustrated and dissatisfied the fans must be. The only thing we can do is work and look to the future, learn from everything that we have done badly this year. Real Madrid are always back, we have fallen many times and we have risen many times."

Elsewhere, Spain forward Nico Williams had to be substituted before halftime in Athletic Bilbao's 1-0 loss to Valencia at home, prompting more concerns ahead of the World Cup. Williams appeared to suffer a hamstring injury, and was replaced by brother Iñaki Williams in the 37th minute.

Also on Sunday, Mallorca stayed two points clear of the relegation zone after a 1-1 draw at home against third-place Villarreal. Last-place Real Oviedo moved closer to relegation after a 0-0 draw with Getafe at home. - Agencies

Most La Liga titles	
Real Madrid:	36
Barcelona:	29
Atletico Madrid:	11
Athletic Club:	8
Valencia:	6

Flick: 'I will never forget this day'

BARCELONA: Barcelona coach Hansi Flick was in the dugout for Sunday's El Clasico against Real Madrid following the death of his father, with the Catalan club winning its second consecutive Spanish league title.

Barcelona beat Madrid 2-0 at Camp Nou just a few hours after the club announced the death of Flick's father.

"I will never forget this day," Flick said. "It was a tough day for me. It starts with this (news that) my father passed away, but here, my team is fantastic."

Flick's father reportedly died overnight. The club did not give any additional details.

"FC Barcelona and the entire blaugrana family wish to send all our love to Hansi Flick after the passing of his father," Barcelona said in a statement.

"We share in your sorrow and our thoughts are with you and your family during this difficult time."

Barcelona and Madrid players wore black armbands and there was a moment of silence before kickoff.



"Flick has been very important for us," midfielder Frenkie de Jong said. "He has very clear ideas, but inside there is a lot of freedom for the players. This way we can show our quality." Barcelona players threw Flick up in the air during the title celebrations.

"This is like a family and they gave everything today and I'm really proud," Flick said. "It's amazing, in this stadium, and also in the Clasico against Real Madrid, to win La Liga."

The German coach has to

build on the impressive season. Three more wins in its remaining games could make Barcelona just the third team to tally 100 points in a La Liga season, as well as the first team to win all their 19 home games in a single season.

The Catalan side won the league back-to-back for the first time since 2019. With the 29th title, Barcelona have now won the La Liga 13 times since the turn of the century, making it the most successful side since 2000. - Agencies

LATE GOAL AND VAR DRAMA

Arsenal stay in control of title race

LONDON: Arsenal needed a late goal and an even later, dramatic VAR call to stay in control of the English Premier League title race on Sunday. A 1-0 win over relegation-threatened West Ham restored Arsenal's five-point lead over second-place Manchester City and came with a huge dose of controversy.

Leading thanks to Leandro Trossard's 83rd-minute goal, Arsenal looked like they would throw away two crucial points—and lose their slim advantage in the title race—when West Ham substitute Callum Wilson lashed a shot over the line following a corner in the fifth minute of stoppage time.

Arsenal's players complained and there was a long video review, which spotted West Ham player



Pablo had his left arm across the face of David Raya as the Arsenal goalkeeper attempted to get to the ball after the corner was swung in. The referee, Chris Kavanagh,

looked at the incident on the pitchside monitor and chose to rule out the goal.

It left Arsenal two wins from a first league title since 2004, with

games to come at home to already-relegated Burnley and, in the final round, away to a Crystal Palace team that might field a weakened lineup due to having the Conference League final three days later.

It also left West Ham a point adrift of safety, in third-to-last place with two games remaining, while guaranteeing another season in the Premier League for Nottingham Forest and Leeds.

Elsewhere, Aston Villa still have work to do to secure Champions League qualification after being held 2-2 at already-relegated Burnley. That kept Villa in fifth place, behind Liverpool on goal difference and four points above sixth-place Bournemouth in the race to finish in the top five and get into Europe's top competition. - Agencies

HOME VICTORY

PSG beat Brest, on brink of 14th Ligue 1 crown

PARIS: Désiré Doué's late goal earned Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) a 1-0 home win over Brest on Sunday and all but sealed a record-extending 14th Ligue 1 title.

PSG lead second-place Lens by six points and only need a draw when they meet in their rescheduled game on Wednesday, after which comes the final round next Sunday.

Lens beat Nantes 1-0 on Friday, guaranteeing a spot in next season's Champions League and relegating eight-time French champion Nantes to Ligue 2.

Lille are in third after grinding out a 1-0 win at Monaco courtesy of an own-goal from Monaco captain Denis Zakaria with 20 min-



utes left. That moved Lille one point ahead of Lyon, who lost 2-1 at Toulouse, and two points clear of fifth-place Rennes, which rallied to a 2-1 win against Paris FC. **Other results:** Auxerre 2 Nice 1, Metz 0 Lorient 4, Marseille 1 Le Havre 0, Angers 1 Strasbourg 1.

ITALIAN SERIE A

Como edge past Verona to secure first-ever European spot

MILAN: Seven years ago, Como were playing in the fourth division of Italian football. Next season they will be competing in Europe for the first time in their 119-year history. And that could even be the Champions League.

Como won 1-0 at Hellas Verona in the Italian Serie A on Sunday to guarantee a spot in at least the Conference League, as they can't finish lower than sixth. Anastasios Douvikas scored for Como.

The result also left Como just

two points behind fourth-place AC Milan and Roma. Milan lost 3-2 at home to Atalanta, while Roma snatched a dramatic 3-2 win at Parma.

There are two rounds remaining in Serie A after this weekend.

Como are making rapid progress since Indonesian tobacco billionaire brothers Robert Budi Hartono and Michael Bambang Hartono purchased the club in 2019, when they were in Serie D.

European football could prove enough to keep coach Cesc Fabre-



gas at the club, with bigger teams across Europe reportedly interested in the 39-year-old, who has impressed in his first managerial position.

Milan were heavily jeered throughout Sunday's match while hundreds of Rossoneri fans streamed out of San Siro after Atalanta went 3-0 up, just six minutes after halftime.

Strahinja Pavlovic's 88th-minute goal for Milan was only the team's second in six matches since the end of March.

However, Milan almost pulled off an incredible comeback as Christopher Nkunku converted a penalty in stoppage time after being fouled by Marten de Roon before Matteo Gabbia headed narrowly past the post.

Jamie Vardy's first goal since January set Cremonese on their way to a vital 3-0 win over bottom club Pisa, who played most of the second half with nine men.

Fiorentina and Genoa are both now mathematically safe after playing out a 0-0 draw. - Agencies

UNION BERLIN MANAGER

Marie-Louise Eta becomes first female head coach to win Bundesliga game

BERLIN: Union Berlin's Marie-Louise Eta became the first female head coach to win a game in European football's top five men's leagues as she oversaw a 3-1 victory against Mainz in the German Bundesliga on Sunday.

Eta punched the air and joined her players to applaud Union's fans as she celebrated her first win in the fourth game of her five-game tenure as interim coach.

"You're happy, you want to win games. That's always the case, and so it was today as well," she told



broadcaster DAZN when asked if it was a release of pressure. "The way it happened was great too, how we managed to pull it off."

Late goals from Oliver Burke in the 88th minute and Josip Juranovic in stoppage time turned a draw into a win to move Union up to 12th in the Bundesliga table. Earlier, Mainz's Sheraldo Becker had scored to cancel out Andrej Ilic's opener for Union.

It was the first win for Union since March. Eta took over when the club fired Steffen Baumgart

last month. She had one draw and two losses before Sunday's win.

While Eta, an experienced youth and assistant coach, has previously acknowledged there's a "social impact" to her historic head coach role, she's keen to stress that results come first.

Eta's time as head coach of the Union men's team is due to end next week when Union hosts Augsburg in its last game of the season. She has already agreed to take charge of the Union women's team for next season.

The game was interrupted for several minutes in the first half as Union fans threw tennis balls onto the field in a protest against league scheduling. Mainz, led by former Union coach Urs Fischer, are 10th.

Two goals

Two goals from Igor Matanovic were not enough to stop Europa League finalist Freiburg losing 3-2 at Hamburger SV in the Bundesliga on Sunday.

The Bundesliga is set for a final-day relegation battle next week

with three teams on the same number of points seeking one shot at survival.

Heidenheim beat Cologne 3-1 on Sunday to move up to 17th, level on points with Wolfsburg in 16th and St. Pauli in 18th.

The teams in 17th and 18th are relegated automatically, and the team in 16th faces a two-leg promotion-relegation playoff against a team from the second division. Wolfsburg and St. Pauli play each other next week, and Heidenheim hosts Mainz. - Agencies



Martin wins French MotoGP, Ogura ends Japan's drought

Italian rider Bezzecchi seemed to be heading for his fourth win of a season, which is only five races old, when Spaniard Martin nipped in front of him on the 26th lap of 27



LE MANS: Jorge Martin overtook MotoGP championship leader Marco Bezzecchi on the penultimate lap to win the French Grand Prix on Sunday, while Ai Ogura secured Japan's first podium finish for 14 years. Italian rider Bezzec-

chi seemed to be heading for his fourth win of a season which is only five races old when Spaniard Martin nipped in front of him on the 26th lap of 27. The Spaniard, world champion in 2024, stood up in his saddle with his arms aloft as he crossed the line to record his first victory of the season.

Ogura finished third to become the first Japanese rider to finish on a MotoGP podium since Katsuyuki Nakasuga at the Valencia Grand Prix in 2012.

Martin's performance cut the

lead on his Aprilia team-mate Bezzecchi in the championship standings to a single point after he picked up additional points by winning the sprint race on Saturday. "I rode a great race," Martin said.

Bezzecchi was gracious in defeat. "It was a very tough race, and I knew it wasn't the strongest today. So I am very happy (with the result)," the Italian said. Ogura's first podium of his career after a gutsy ride moves the 25-year-old Trackhouse rider up to fifth place in the riders' standings. - Agencies

BADMINTON



Balasubramannian seals triple crown at Oman Open

MUSCAT: Indian shuttler Balasubramannian N.G emerged as the star of the Oman Open Badminton Championship after clinching the men's singles, men's doubles and mixed doubles titles at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex in Bausher recently.

Balasubramannian claimed the men's singles crown with a 21-13, 21-15 victory over Iran's Ali Shah Hosseini in the final. He then teamed up with Rajesh Ravi to win the men's doubles title after defeating the Indian pair of Jeswin Mathew and Vikash Nair 18-21, 25-23, 21-14 in a thrilling three-game contest.

The Indian star completed a remarkable clean sweep in the mixed doubles event alongside Diya,

overcoming Vikash Nair and Beta Mansouri 19-21, 23-21, 21-14 in another closely fought final.

Prizes were presented by Hisham bin Juma al Sinani, Director General of Sports Welfare and Development at the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, in the presence of Dr. Abdulrahim bin Musallam al Droushi, Oman Racket Sports Committee chairman and other officials.

The championship attracted wide participation from Omani and expatriate players, with more than 40 players from different nationalities competing in the Oman Open, while participation in the Omani men's and women's championships exceeded 90 players.

JORDAN RALLY

Oman's Amri eyes podium in Jordan as Jweihaan seeks to tighten MERC2 grip

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Omani rally driver Zakariya Al Amri will be aiming to strengthen his FIA Middle East Rally Championship (MERC2) challenge with a podium finish at this weekend's Jordan Rally in the Dead Sea and Jordan Valley regions. The rally will be held from May 14-16.

Driving his Subaru Impreza alongside co-driver Mohammed Al Mazrui, Amri heads into the third round of the regional series placed third in the championship standings with 24 points and eager to close the gap on the front-runners after showing consistent pace in the opening rounds in Oman and Qatar.

The Jordan Rally is expected to provide a stern test with demanding gravel stages spread across the rugged terrain near the Dead Sea, but the experienced Omani driver will be looking to convert his growing momentum into a strong finish against a competitive regional field.

Jordan's Shaker Jweihaan arrives as the favourite in the FIA MERC2 category after dominating the opening two rounds in Oman and Qatar in his Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution X.

Alongside co-driver Mustafa Juma, Jweihaan leads the standings on 60 points and is chasing a third successive victory on home



gravel to edge closer to a second MERC2 crown.

Kuwaiti duo Jassim Al Muqahwi and Sulaiman Al Helal remain second overall with 41 points, while Jordanian driver Sami Fleifel, who trails Amri by just three points, is also expected to challenge strongly in front of home fans.

Amri, who finished runner-up in the 2025 championship behind fellow Omani Abdullah Al Zubair, has steadily established himself among the region's leading production-car drivers and will hope

Jordan's fast and technical stages can provide the breakthrough result he has been targeting.

The competitive action begins on Thursday with a new 4.83km Shakedown stage where teams will fine-tune their cars ahead of Friday's opening special stages. Drivers will be permitted a maximum of two runs as they prepare for one of the championship's most demanding gravel rallies.

Meshari Al Thefiri was the dominant force in regional Group N and MERC2 rallying for many years before switching to a variety

of FIA cross-country disciplines.

The Kuwaiti won two Group N titles with Mubarak Al Thefiri in 2013 and 2014 before going on a run of five successive MERC2 title successes with Qatar's Nasser Al Kuwari between 2017 and 2021. The duo were triumphant again in 2023.

Jweihaan's 2023 title was not the first for a Jordanian, however. Issa Abu Jamous teamed up with Emad Juma to take the title in 2022 after a close battle with fellow Jordanians Ihab Al Shorafa and Yousef Juma.

ITALIAN OPEN

Zverev, Osaka advance in Rome

ROME: Germany's Alexander Zverev kept up his bid for a third Italian Open title at the Foro Italico with a straight-set win over Alexander Blockx, 6-1, 6-4 on a windy centre court where the threat of rain looms large in Rome on Sunday.

Second seed Zverev, who was heavily beaten by Jannik Sinner in the Madrid final last weekend, will face one of Tommy Paul or Italy's Luciano Darderi in the fourth round.

He barely had to get out of second gear against Blockx, who was beaten in the Madrid semis by Zverev. "Not easy to play pretty tennis, but I was efficient today and winning in straight sets is very nice," said Zverev.

The German, who won the men's singles title in the Italian capital in 2017 and 2024, is on the same side of the draw as Dino Prizmic.

"There's a lot of young guys who are playing great tennis. He's definitely one of them," Zverev said. "But I'm going to go match by match, I think that's the most important thing, not to look too far ahead and focus on the things that



you can control."

Prizmic followed up knocking out Novak Djokovic from the Italian Open by beating France's Ugo Humbert 6-1, 7-5 to reach the last 16. As it stands Prizmic will already be up 11 places to 68th come Monday week, just before the start of the French Open.

Clay court specialist Casper Ruud easily dealt with 11th seed Jiri Lehecka in straight sets, 6-3, 6-4.

Osaka eyes Swiatek clash

Naomi Osaka could face three-

time Rome champion Iga Swiatek in the last 16 of the women's tournament after easily seeing off Diana Schneider 6-1, 6-2.

The four-time Grand Slam winner beat her Russian opponent in just 54 minutes to equal her best result of a difficult season in which she was knocked out of Indian Wells and Madrid at the same stage by Aryna Sabalenka.

But with Sabalenka suffering a shock early elimination on Saturday, 15th seed Osaka could yet be a contender. - Agencies

SUPER OVER THRILLER

Seeb Stars retain veterans' league title

MUSCAT: Defending champions Seeb Stars retained the Oman Cricket Veterans League title after edging Muscat Capitals in a dramatic super over finish at the Oman Cricket Academy Grounds recently.

In a repeat of last year's final, Seeb Stars posted 146/6 in 20 overs before Muscat Capitals fought back to level the scores and force a super over.

Muscat Capitals were struggling early in the chase after losing five wickets inside the first 10 overs, but Hemal Mehta turned the match around with a blistering 72 off 39 balls, hitting five sixes. He struck three of those maximums in the final over to tie the scores. In the super over, Mus-



cat Capitals managed 11 runs with Mehta again clearing the ropes. Seeb Stars responded confidently, with Prashanth Chandran hitting a six off the first ball of the over to set up the winning chase and seal back-to-back titles.

The tournament featured six teams — Dromedary CC, Sur Strikers, Seeb Stars, Salalah Challengers, Muscat Capitals and Sohar Titans — and brought together 99 players aged 45 and above over two weeks of competition.

ROUND-UP

Bank Muscat drives meaningful change with sustainable community initiatives

This year, the programme aims to support over 160 families from across the Sultanate of Oman’s governorates through the distribution of essential home appliances and household furniture to low-income families who have received homes under the Social Housing Programme

MUSCAT: In line with its unwavering commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility and community service, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, has implemented its annual Tadamun programme for the 14th consecutive year, in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development. This year, the programme aims to support over 160 families from across the Sultanate of Oman’s governorates through the distribution of essential home appliances and household furniture to low-income families who have received homes under the Social Housing Programme. With this year’s edition, the total number of families to have benefitted from the programme since



its inception now exceeds 3,726. The programme is implemented as part of the Bank’s Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility strategy, which is focused on delivering long-term benefits to the community and contributing to social welfare across Oman. This year, the distribution of home appliances and furniture was carried out on a continuous, year-round basis across the Sultanate’s various governorates. This approach was adopted to ensure faster, more responsive support for families in need, with priorities identified by the Ministry of Social Development to guarantee timely and targeted delivery. The Tadamun programme, one of Bank Muscat’s flagship CSR initiatives, operates in close coordination with specialists from the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, who are responsible for receiving and reviewing applications and finalising the list of eligible beneficiaries. A dedicated team subsequently conducts detailed assessments of each case to identify the specific needs of the targeted

families and ensure that their essential requirements are met. Speaking about the programme, Talib Saif Al Makhmari, Head of Community and Media Relations at Bank Muscat, said: “Year on year, we strive to develop and enhance our annual CSR and sustainability programmes to better serve all segments of society across the Sultanate. The Tadamun programme is one of our core social responsibility initiatives, and we remain firmly committed to implementing it on an annual basis in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development. Through our programmes, we always strive to deliver lasting impact to society across every corner of our beloved Oman.” Bank Muscat’s CSR and community programmes and initiatives encompass a number of key flagship programmes alongside Tadamun, including the Maliyat Academy financial literacy initiative, the Green Sports programme supporting local sports, the Al Wathbah Academy programme targeting small and medium enterprises, as well as various community initiatives that the Bank

continuously implements. In recognition of its efforts in the field of CSR and sustainability, Bank Muscat received in 2025 the Best CSR Bank in Oman award at the Gazet International Awards, the Outstanding CSR Initiatives in Banking Oman award from World Business Outlook, and the Leadership in CSR award at the Basma Awards ceremony organised by Muscat Media Group, in addition to the Sustainability Award in the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) category at the Oman Sustainability Week Awards.

REDEFINING VERSATILITY

Ford Everest: Built to do more with absolute commanding power



MUSCAT: In a landscape as diverse as Oman, a vehicle must be a partner in both progress and adventure. The Ford Everest, a flagship SUV, is redefining versatility across the country. From the rugged demands of industrial sites to the comfort of city driving, the Everest is engineered to deliver commanding power and sophisticated technology in equal measure. The Ford Everest is specifically designed to meet the rigorous standards of Oman’s commercial and industrial sectors. For businesses requiring immediate so-

lutions, Ford offers ready stock availability across the lineup for immediate delivery. A critical advantage for the energy sector is that all Everest models are eligible for PDO-approved modifications. This ensures that every vehicle can be made site-ready from day one, providing the relentless power and stability required for demanding industrial environments. Whether choosing the 2.3L EcoBoost or the 2.0L Turbo Diesel, your business is supported by a vehicle built for every challenge. The Everest range is structured

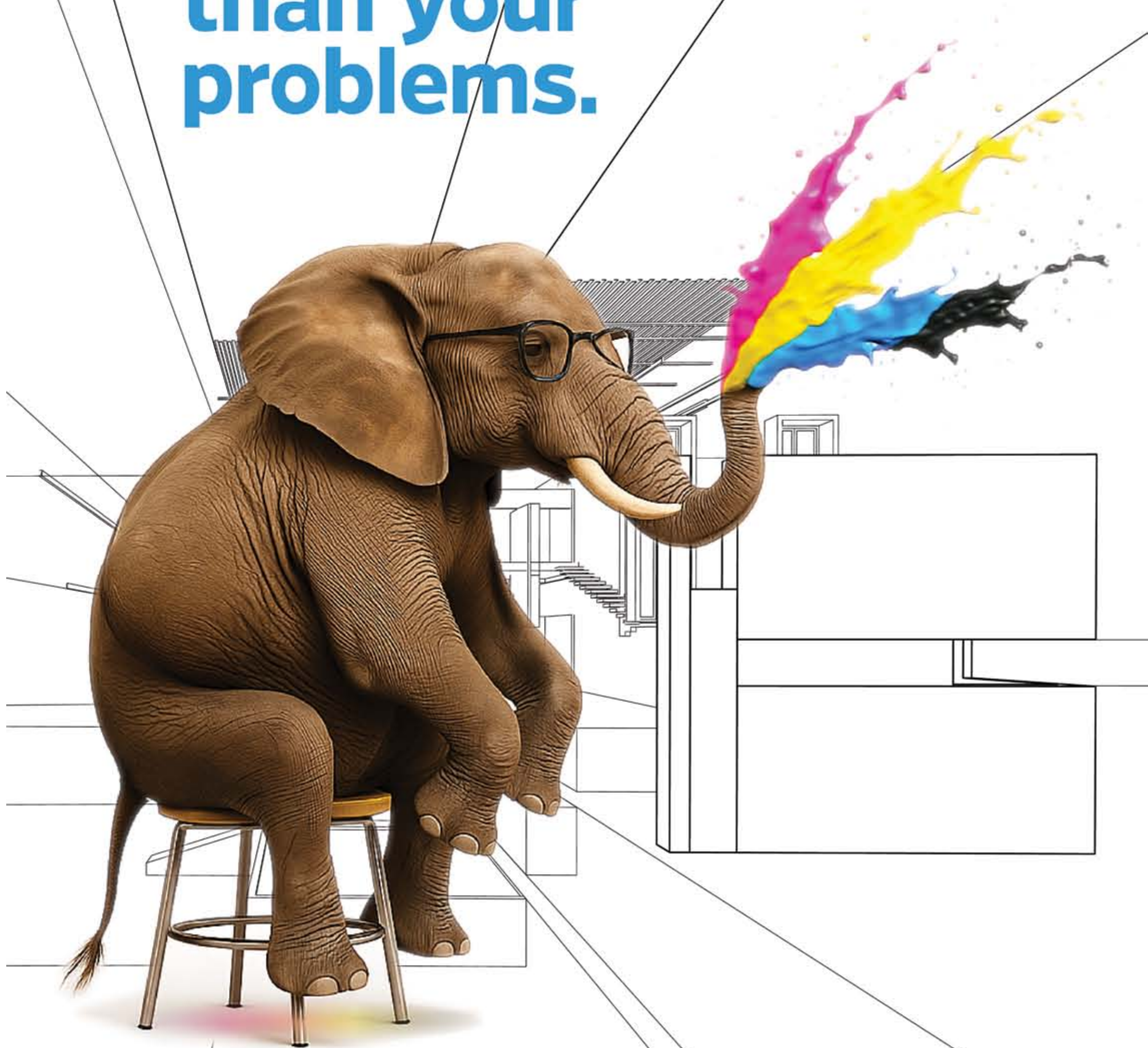
to offer a perfect fit for every driver through three distinct models: **Everest XLS: The Legacy** Providing a robust choice between the 2.3L EcoBoost and 2.0L Turbo Diesel engines, the XLS offers comfortable seating for seven and the instantly recognizable C-clamp headlamp design. **Everest Limited - The Elite** The pinnacle of the range, the Limited model offers a premium experience with a twin-slide panoramic sunroof, a power-fold third

row and an 800mm water wading capability to tackle any conditions with ease. The heart of the Everest lies in its superior engineering. The 2.3L EcoBoost engine stands as a best-in-class powerhouse, producing a remarkable 296 hp and 420 Nm of torque. For those prioritizing diesel efficiency, the 2.0L Turbo Diesel offers the reliable torque necessary to push all boundaries. With selectable drive modes including Sand Mode, the Everest optimizes traction and steering automatically, allowing drivers to navigate

the unique terrains of Oman with the confidence of an expert. Inside, the Everest is a masterpiece of innovation designed for the entire family. The cabin is anchored by a massive 10.1-inch or 12-inch portrait touchscreen and an 8-inch digital instrument cluster. With Apple CarPlay, Android Auto and a 360-degree camera, the Everest acts as a seamless command centre. The third row is designed with genuine room for adults, featuring easy access and dedicated overhead vents to keep every passenger

cool and comfortable. With its muscular stance and “Built Ford Tough” DNA, the Ford Everest transitions effortlessly from a high-performance industrial tool to a premium family sanctuary. Experience the capability of the Ford Everest today by visiting your nearest Ford showroom in Oman to explore ready stock availability and discover how this SUV is built to do more for you and your business. In Oman, Ford vehicles are brought to you by Arabian Car Marketing Co.

We make your Business bigger than your problems.



We get you ahead on

- Booth production
- Event conceptualisation
- Event management



Wait, there's more

- Large format digital printing
- Flex banners
- Vinyl stickers
- Back drops with metal frames
- Wooden standalones
- Backlit flex banners