TIMESOFOMAN.COM
TWITTER.COM/TIMESOFOMAN
INSTAGRAM.COM/TIMESOFOMAN
FACEBOOK.COM/TIMESOFOMAN
YOUTUBE.COM/USER/TIMESOFOMANONLINE
LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/TIMES-OF-OMAN
عُمان OMAN
6 085010 120010

Times OF OMAN

GOLDEN JUBILEE
50 YEARS OF LEGACY
مجموعة مسقط للإعلام
Muscat Media Group

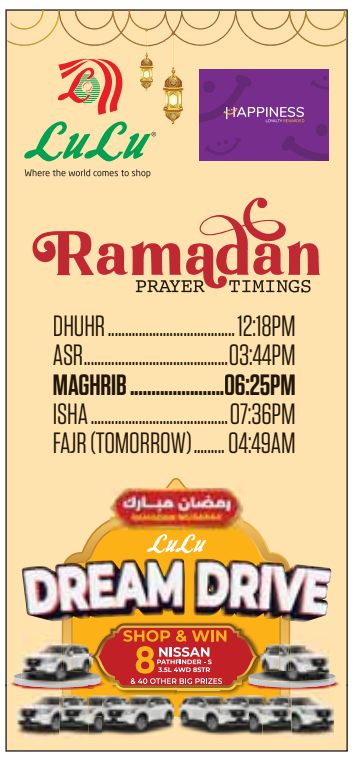
Founded 1975 · Volume 50 No. 24 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

CABLE

HM greets President of Bangladesh

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Mohammed Shahabuddin of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on the occasion of his country's Independence Anniversary.

In the cable, His Majesty expressed his best wishes to President Shahabuddin and the people of his country. — ONA



EXPO 2025 OSAKA

Oman's Osaka pavilion to showcase rich natural heritage and diversity

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman is all set to participate in Expo 2025 Osaka, Japan. Oman's pavilion will occupy an area of 1,763.22 square metres and showcase 33 activities.

At a press conference held yesterday, the General Commission for the Sultanate of Oman's Pavilion at Expo 2025 Osaka, said that the pavilion's design is inspired by the Sultanate of Oman's natural and environment and the diversity of the country's terrain.

Adaptation to natural surroundings

Being one of the outcomes of the Bilarab bin Haitham Award for Architectural Design, the design of the pavilion reflects the Omani people's adaptation to their natural surroundings. It focuses on the three basic elements of land, water, and people.

Reem Said Al Shanfari, member of the Omani pavilion's team and International Communication Officer, gave a visual presentation in which she explained that the pavilion will focus on six main areas of communication, tourism, investment opportunities, cultural identity, international relations and partnerships.

For his part, Ibrahim Saif Bani Oraba, rapporteur of the technical committee of the Omani pavilion at Expo 2025, said that the programme to be held on the sidelines of the event includes 33 activities.

He added that the programme will be held from 6 April to 13 October 2025.

Bani Oraba observed that Oman's participation in the expo will offer an important opportunity to exchange expertise with the countries of the world in cultural and technological areas. >A2

OMAN GDP RISES BY 1.7% TO OMR38.3BN

The value of oil activities fell by 3% to OMR11.84bn by the end of the fourth quarter of 2024

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman's gross domestic product (GDP) at fixed prices rose by 1.7 percent to OMR38.30 billion (at market prices) by the end of the fourth quarter of 2024, compared to OMR37.67 billion during the corresponding period of 2023.

This was evidenced by preliminary data issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

According to the NCSI, the added value of oil activities decreased by three percent to touch OMR11.84 billion by the end of the fourth quarter of 2024, compared to OMR12.20 billion by the end of the fourth quarter of 2023. The contribution of oil activities alone accounted for 29 percent.

The added value of crude oil activities amounted to OMR9.97 billion, a decline of three percent, while natural gas activities grew by 5.4 percent, to reach OMR1.83 billion.

The added value of non-oil activities grew by 3.9 percent to OMR27.86 billion by the end of the fourth quarter of 2024, compared to OMR26.83 billion by the end of the corresponding period in 2023.

By the end of the fourth quarter of 2024, the value of overall industrial activities stood at OMR8.39 billion compared to OMR7.99 billion by the end of the fourth quarter in 2023. The value of activities of agriculture, forestry and fishing posted a total of OMR987.40 million, while the value of service activities stood at OMR18.48 billion. — ONA

29%
THE CONTRIBUTION OF OIL ACTIVITIES ALONE ACCOUNTED FOR 29 PERCENT

9.97BN
THE ADDED VALUE OF CRUDE OIL ACTIVITIES AMOUNTED TO OMR9.97 BILLION

8.39BN
THE VALUE OF OVERALL INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES STOOD AT OMR8.39 BILLION

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN
Renovation of towers and forts continues

1 The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism is maintaining and renovating several forts and towers in the Wilayat of Al Suwaiq, South Al Batinah Governorate. The projects come within the ministry's commitment for preservation of the historic and heritage landmarks. >A3

WORLD
Trump may offer tariff break to countries

2 US President Donald Trump on Monday said that he may "give a lot of countries breaks" on tariffs, as his April 2 deadline to impose "reciprocal tariffs" on US trading partners draws closer. "I may give a lot of countries breaks, but it's reciprocal," Trump told reporters at the White House. >A6

MARKET
Experts to discuss circular economy

3 Oman Sustainability Week (OSW) 2025, Oman's national event for future energy, power, water, waste, future mobility, environment, and society, will take place from May 11 - 15. OSW 2025 will spotlight cutting-edge innovations and strategic collaborations. >B1

SURGE EXPECTED

Eid Al Fitr holiday expected to boost Oman's domestic tourism

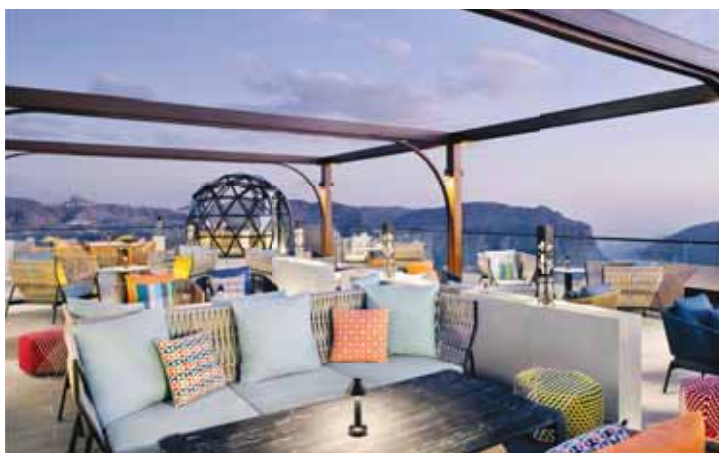
Times News Service

MUSCAT: The upcoming Eid Al Fitr holiday is set to provide a significant boost to domestic tourism in Oman, with hoteliers and tourism officials anticipating increased visitor numbers, particularly from the GCC region.

Tourism and hospitality stakeholders anticipate a surge in domestic tourism as many residents are expected to opt for local getaways rather than travelling abroad.

"This will be good for local tourism as people will not go abroad this year," said R. Venkat Perumal, a Business Manager at Mezoon Travel.

Additionally, Oman is expected to attract a significant number of visitors from neighbouring GCC countries looking to escape the heat.



Arup Singh Deo, Director of Operations and Projects at Al Nahda Hotels & Resorts, noted, "To escape the heat, we expect a large number of tourists to visit Jabal Akhdar and Al Abiyat."

Oman welcomed approximately four million tourists in 2024, and industry experts believe the Eid holiday will contribute to even higher numbers this year.

Hotels in popular destinations such as Jabal Akhdar are already seeing heightened interest.

The newly opened Hotel Indigo Jabal Akhdar, part of IHG's Luxury & Lifestyle portfolio, has quickly established itself as a premier mountain getaway.

"Oman's mountain ranges captivate with a breathtaking variety that appeals to both nature lovers and adventurers alike," said James Reeves, General Manager of Hotel Indigo Jabal Akhdar Resort & Spa. "The rugged peaks and deep gorges of Jebel Shams and the lush terraces of Jabal Akhdar offer unforgettable experiences."

Jagdeep Thakral, General Manager of DusitD2 Naseem Resort Jabal Akhdar, noted a rise in staycations.

"Staycations are catching up in the country, and we already have a lot of local residents booking their stay during the upcoming Eid break. We are all geared up to welcome them and have curated various offers and experiences to ensure they have the best stay at our property, which is popular with families."

The resort, known for its Adventure Park, has been a major draw for younger visitors. "The only Adventure Park in the area is a big hit among youngsters and is a major draw along with our other facilities at the property. The expected rush is certain to boost local tourism and engage a lot of SMEs in the towns and villages of Jabal Akhdar," Thakral added. >A2

OMAN

PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr	12:18pm
Asr	3:44pm
Maghrib	6:25pm
Isha	7:36pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)	4:49am

STUNNING BEAUTY OF OMAN CAPTURED ON LENS

Neethu George

Kishan Dinesh Dhayan

Hawwa Al Qusimy

300 OMANI SMES

Expo 2025 Osaka

< FROM A1

Bani Oraba explained that more than 300 Omani small and medium enterprises (SMEs) will participate in Oman's pavilion at the expo and that the firms will also exhibit their products on the digital platform and online store. Expo 2025 Osaka will be held from 13 April to 13 October 2025 in the Japanese city of Osaka under the slogan "Designing Future Society for Our Lives". As many as 155 countries from different regions of the world will take part in the expo, which is expected to have a turnout of 28.2 million visitors. -ONA

MEETING

Oman, Eritrea to enhance cooperation

ASMARA: Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister met at the Eritrean capital Asmara on Monday with Osman Saleh, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Eritrea.

The meeting discussed the cooperation relations between Oman and Eritrea, and means of promoting them in various sectors, such asmining, marine resources, transportation and logistics, information technology and banking.

The two ministers exchanged views on a set of regional and international issues of common concern.

They stressed the importance of coordination and consultation to maintain security and stability, and achieving comprehensive development.

The meeting was attended by Saleh bin Mohammed Al Saqri, Head of the African Department at the Foreign Ministry and some officials from both sides. -ONA

HOTELIERS OPTIMISTIC

Eid holidays boost domestic tourism

< FROM A1

Anoop Joseph, Director of Sales & Marketing at Hotel Indigo Jabal Akhdar, echoed this sentiment, highlighting the strong demand for holiday stays. "Long weekends in Oman, including the Eid holidays, always invigorate domestic tourism. We have already been receiving a lot of inquiries for the coming days."

A unique mountain experience

Nestled in the rugged Hajar Mountains, Hotel Indigo Jabal Akhdar offers immersive experiences that turn a typical holiday into an adventure. Families can explore ancient villages where centuries-old farming traditions thrive amid terraced pomegranate and damask rose gardens.

Adding to the resort's allure is Vue Rooftop & Lounge, the highest rooftop lounge and bar in the Middle East, offering panoramic canyon views and a distinctive dining experience featuring hearty, smoke-infused feasts.

With 173 rooms, suites, and chalets, the property caters to families seeking spacious accommodations, many featuring separate living areas and private balconies. The cool mountain air and breathtaking scenery provide a refreshing escape from the city, ensuring a memorable Eid holiday experience.

At DusitD2 Naseem Resort Jabal Akhdar, families can look forward to entertainment in both restaurants, traditional Arabic music, and Zarb-style food at the Bedouin camp.

Thakral noted that as an added delight, roses have already started blooming in the hotel's gardens, creating an enchanting setting for guests.

A positive outlook for the hospitality sector

Hoteliers remain optimistic about the holiday's impact on business. "Each time there are holidays in GCC countries, we see a significant increase in visitors from the UAE who want to stay at our hotels," said Arup Singh Deo. "We expect this Eid to be no different, with strong demand from regional travelers."

With Oman's diverse landscapes, cool mountain retreats, and high-quality hospitality offerings, this Eid al Fitr holiday is shaping up to be a thriving period for the country's tourism sector.

As per Royal orders, the Eid Al Fitr holiday for employees of the State's Administrative Apparatus, other legal entities, and private sector establishments will commence on Saturday, March 29, 2025, and will conclude based on the following scenarios:

If Eid falls on Sunday, March 30, 2025, the holiday will end on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, with work resuming on Wednesday, April 2, 2025. If Eid falls on Monday, March 31, 2025, the holiday will extend until Thursday, April 3, 2025, with work resuming on Sunday, April 6, 2025.

The Ministry of Labour has stated that employers may arrange for employees to work during the holiday if necessary, provided they are compensated accordingly. The exact duration of the holiday will be confirmed by the moon sighting committee on Saturday evening.

Renovation of towers, forts continues in Al Suwaiq

The projects come within the ministry's commitment to preservation of the historic and heritage landmarks in the various wilayats of the Sultanate of Oman

Times News Service

AL SUWAIQ: The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism is maintaining and renovating several forts and towers in the Wilayat of Al Suwaiq, South Al Batinah Governorate.

The projects come within the ministry's commitment to preservation of the historic and heritage landmarks in the various wilayats and governorates of the Sultanate of Oman.

Hassan bin Sulaiman Al Jabri, Director of Heritage and Tourism Department in South Al Batinah Governorate, said that the ministry is renovating and maintaining heritage sites in the Wilayat of Al Suwaiq .

He said that the ministry has completed renovation of Soor (fence) and towers of Al Maghabsha including the interior works. The ministry is also proceeding with the renovation works of Al Hilal Soor (Fence) which is expected to be completed during the current year.

He said that Sour Al Maghabsha was built during the reign of Sayyid Said bin Sultan Al Busaidi (1807-1856) and it is known for its rectangular fort with the length of 45 metres and the width of 44 metres and includes four towers.

The establishment of Soor Al Hilal dates back to the 19 th century and is known for its square shape with an entrance and two floors for guarding purposes and two canons, he added.

He said that the renovation works of these heritage landmarks contribute to their preservation, which provides the future generations with the opportunity to acquaint with them. -ONA

CEPS

Students qualify for Asia-level competition

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A team of students from the College of Economics and Political Science (CEPS) has won first place in the Investment Research Challenge, qualifying them to compete at the continental level in Asia.

The winning team consists of Asma bint Ali Al-Rawahi, Hiba bint Rashid Al-Mabsali, Muna bint Abdulmonem Al-Shanfari, Al Reem bint Muhanna Al-Muslihi, and Roaa bint Muammar Al-Kathiri.

The team was supervised by Dr. Sri Rama Murthy, Assistant Professor in the Department of Finance at the college.

This annual international competition is one of the most prominent events organised by CFA societies worldwide, including CFA Oman. It aims to enhance students' financial analysis skills and prepare them for careers in the investment sector by providing a practical experience that simulates real-world equity analysis.

Following this victory, the students have advanced to compete at the Asia level. This year, the competition featured two teams from SQU, two teams from the College of Banking and Financial Studies, and one team from the Modern College of Business and Science.

Asma bint Ali Al Rawahi explained that all participating teams were assigned Omantel for analysis. She stated: "Our team conducted a financial analysis of the company, its sector, and the broader economy to determine whether investing in the company's shares would be advisable."

She added: "This experience prepares us for the job market, as financial analysts follow the same approach after graduation—evaluating companies assigned by their employers, conducting comprehensive studies, and making recommendations based on financial analysis.";

Regarding the benefits of participating in the competition, Asma said: "This experience provides us with practical expertise in stock analysis and financial evaluation, while also enhancing our presentation and financial research skills. It offers opportunities to network with investment professionals, receive guidance from CFA experts, and improve our employment prospects with leading global financial firms."

The Investment Research Challenge consists of three main stages:

1. Local Qualifiers – Held at the country or regional level under the supervision of the local CFA society.

2. Regional Finals – National winners compete at the continental level.

STATISTICAL CENTRE

Seven new units launched for early cancer detection

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Data from the Statistical Centre for the Gulf Cooperation Council showed that 31,700 cancer cases were recorded in these countries in 2023 which is approximately 90 cases per 100,000 population.

This rate is much lower than the global average of 196.9 cases per 100,000 population. And the women suffering from cancer constitute about 54.2% of the total cases in the GCC.

In the Sultanate of Oman, seven new units were launched for the national early cancer screening programme, the most common screening programme among women.

The Ministry of Health is working closely with private healthcare providers to expand oncology services and integrate new medical technologies into the system.

A key pillar of Oman's cancer care strategy is early detection, which has been a priority for the Ministry of Health. The national screening programme has ben in place for over 15 years.

These initiatives reflect Oman's commitment to preventive healthcare, reducing the burden of late stage cancer diagnoses through proactive screening and early intervention.

Oman has invested in specialised cancer centres such as the Sultan Qaboos Comprehensive Cancer Research and Treatment Centre and the National Centre at Royal Hospital.

The UAE has launched the revolutionary new drug (tremelimumab), making it one of the first countries in the Middle East to obtain this drug. This pharmaceutical innovation represents a qualitative leap in cancer treatment.

In the Kingdom of Bahrain, the latest medical equipment has been provided, with support from the Bahrain Cancer Society, to primary healthcare centers for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer patients.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia produced the first T-cells used in treating cancer patients, reducing costs by approximately 80%.

Qatar launched the first online platform in the Gulf region, dedicated to supporting the cost of cancer treatment and providing a simple and effective means for patients and their families to obtain the necessary financial support for treatment.

Meanwhile, Kuwait has also launched a programme for for Combating Cancer.

WORDS OF WISDOM

THE TRUE ESSENCE OF VIRTUE IN FAITH AND COMPASSION

It is no virtue. That you turn your faces towards the east or the west, but virtue is that one should sincerely believe in Allah and the Last Day and the Angels and the Book and the Prophets and, out of His love, spend of one's choice wealth for relatives and orphans, for the needy and the wayfarer, for beggars and for the ransom of slaves, and establish the Salat and pay the Zakat. And the virtuous are those who keep their pledges when they make them and show fortitude in hardships and adversity and in the struggle between the Truth and falsehood; such are the truthful people and such are the pious. (Quran 2:177)

FASTING HEALTH TIP

HAVING A BALANCED DIET DURING FASTING

Vitamins and minerals are important for good health and more during the fasting month. Make sure to eat plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables during Ramadan. Try adding watermelon to your Suhoor meal or eat it as a sweet treat after Iftar. Watermelon is high in water content, which helps your stomach not to crave for food. It is also rich in vitamin C, which is beneficial for your health.

IFTAR RECIPE

Samina Namoji

CHICKEN MOONG DAL MINI PIZZA

A fusion twist on the regular pizza, this Chicken Moong Dal Mini Pizza features a protein-packed, gluten-free base topped with spicy BBQ chicken, veggies, and melted cheese for a deliciously healthy treat!

Ingredients

For the Base:
- 1 cup yellow moong dal (soaked for 2-3 hours)
- 1/4 cup water (adjust as needed)
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp turmeric
- 1/2 tsp cumin powder
- 1/2 tsp red chili powder (for extra spice)
- 1/2 tsp baking soda (optional, for fluffiness)

For the Spicy BBQ Chicken Topping:
- 1/2 cup boneless chicken (boiled & shredded)
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp black pepper
- 1/2 tsp red chili powder
- 1/2 tsp paprika (optional, for smokiness)
- 1/2 tsp chili flakes
- 1/2 tsp oregano
- 1 tsp garlic paste
- 1 tbsp BBQ sauce
- 1 tsp oil

For the Pizza Assembly:
- 2 tbsp pizza sauce or spicy sriracha sauce
- 1/2 cup bell peppers (finely chopped)
- 1/4 cup onions (finely chopped)
- 1/4 cup jalapeños (optional, for extra spice)
- 1/2 cup mozzarella or cheddar cheese (grated)
- 1/2 tsp chili flakes
- 1/2 tsp oregano

Method

- Heat oil in a pan, add garlic paste, and sauté for a few seconds. Add shredded chicken, salt, black pepper, red chili powder, paprika, chili flakes, and oregano. Stir-fry for 2 minutes. Add BBQ sauce and mix well. Cook for another minute until the chicken is well coated. Set aside.
- Drain the soaked moong dal and blend with water, salt, turmeric, cumin powder, red chili powder, into a smooth, thick batter. Add baking soda and mix well.
- Heat a non-stick pan and lightly grease it. Pour a ladle of batter and spread like a thick dosa/pancake. Cook on medium heat until golden brown, then flip and cook the other side.
- Now assemble the Pizza
- Spread spicy pizza sauce or sriracha over the cooked side of the base. Add the spicy BBQ chicken, bell peppers, onions, and jalapeños. Sprinkle chili flakes, oregano, and cheese. Cover with a lid and cook on low heat until cheese melts and the base turn crispy. Serve & enjoy!

Ramadan session stresses importance of values like generosity and compassion

The session, which was held at the dedicated Majlis venue at Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi and featured a panel of guest speakers recognised for their contributions to UAE society

ABU DHABI: The fourth and final Ramadan session of Majlis Mohamed bin Zayed was held under the title 'Fostering Positive Values in the Community' in the presence of H.H. Lt. General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, as well as senior officials, academics, and representatives of UAE entities.

The session, which was held at the dedicated Majlis venue at Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi, was moderated by Eisa Al Subousi, Project Lead at the Year of Community, and featured a panel of guest speakers recognised for their contributions to UAE society.

Throughout their discussion, speakers explored the importance of encouraging values such as generosity, compassion, and social solidarity, as well as the far-reaching impact of volunteering and humanitarian work in strengthening community cohesion and wellbeing.

Foster mother Dr Aysha Al Busmait began by discussing misconceptions regarding fostering and adoption, explaining that Islam encourages fostering as a blessed act of service to others.

She noted that the UAE's Founding Father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, left behind an enduring humanitarian legacy, including through his kindness towards children in need of family care.

Tree-planting pioneer and civil engineer Sinan Al Awsi commented that his initiative of planting 209 trees over a 500-metre stretch in Abu Dhabi to grant shade to pedestrians embodied his belief that all individuals can demonstrate responsibility towards their community and country through volunteering.

He remarked that his planting of trees throughout the city was an expression of gratitude to the UAE, noting that his volunteer efforts led to beneficial environmental and societal outcomes while inspiring the surrounding community.

Addressing his motivations for establishing the Rabdan Volunteer Team, Salem Al Braiki recalled his realisation that volunteering opportunities were available to the public and could achieve significant impact locally.

Now responsible for leading programmes focused on improving the integration of senior citizens into society, including through the 'Journey of Generations' programme involving over 700 senior citizens, Al Braiki has worked to develop bridges of communication between generations and encourage youth to learn from the experience and expertise of senior citizens.

Reem Al Dhabyani, a volunteer at the Zayed Higher Organisation for People of Determination, remarked that people of determination are an integral part of the UAE community across various fields, including sports, media, entrepreneurship, and volunteering.

Noting the contributions of People of Determination to initiatives such as 'The Document' project and The Bee Café, Al Dhabyani commented that volunteers can develop lifelong skills and forge lasting relationships with other individuals and entities through their service.

At the session's conclusion, moderator Eisa Al Subousi asked each panellist to outline the most important decision they would make if they were an official in their chosen field, as well as their desired impact, with speakers emphasising the importance of all members of society taking the first step towards serving and uplifting the broader community to shape a more prosperous future for all.

'Fostering Positive Values in the Community' will be broadcast on Wednesday, 26th March at 5 pm on Abu Dhabi TV and the Majlis Mohamed bin Zayed YouTube channel (youtube.com/@MajlisMohamedbinZayed). – WAM

SEND US YOUR VIEWS AND COMMENTS
editor@timesofoman.com
webeditor@timesofoman.com

PAKISTAN SCHOOL MUSCAT
ANNOUNCEMENT OF TENDER

Pakistan School Muscat (PSM), invites qualified contractors to submit Tenders for the **design and construction of a Swimming Pool & Kids Pool.** Contractors with reevant experience are encouraged to participate in the bidding process.

Tender No.	Tender's Name	Tender Collection Period	Final Submission Deadline
2025/005	Designing and Construction of Swimming Pool & Kids Pool	March 26, 2025 – April 10, 2025 (09:00 AM – 01:00 PM on working days)	Before or by 11:30 AM on April 24, 2025

Eligibility Criteria:
- Contractors must have a minimum of five (5) years of relevant experience in similar projects, preferably in Oman.
- Interested bidders can collect the tender documents from the Administration Office after payment of a non-refundable fee of OMR 20.000 per tender.

Tender Document Collection:
- Location: Administration Office, Pakistan School Muscat, P.O. Box 987, P.C. 112, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman
- **Contact Numbers: +968 2470 2489, +968 9389 0691**
- **Email: talaib@pakistanschool.edu.om, bodschairman@gmail.com**

Tender Submission Guidelines:
- Bidders must submit the completed tender documents along with all relevant supporting documents.
- Tenders must be submitted in a sealed envelope, clearly labeled with:
  - o Tender Number & Title
  - o Company Name
  - o Point of Contact (POC) Name & Phone Number
- The sealed envelope must be placed in the Tender Box located at the Administration Office before the final submission deadline.

Important Notes:
- PSM reserves the right to reject any or all tenders and is not obligated to accept the lowest bid.
- Tenders that do not meet the required specifications and conditions will not be considered.

For further information or inquiries, please contact the Administration Office at the provided phone numbers or email addresses.

ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to inform all concerned that, **Mr. Sajeer P.K,** Salesman, holding **Indian Passport No. S5495989** and **Oman Resident Card No. 77974341** has been terminated from our service.

Therefore, with immediate effect, all concerned are requested to stop dealing with the above named person in favour of our Company. If anyone is dealing with him, it is at their own risk and the Company will not take any responsibility hereafter. If anybody has any claim, he/she should report to the Company within next 3 working days.

AL REEF L.L.C
P.O Box 418, Code – 115, M.S.Q, Sultanate of Oman.
Tel. 24503827/24503469/24503473

DUBAI WORLD TRADE CENTRE

India expands presence at Arabian Travel Market 2025

DUBAI: India is set to expand its presence at the 2025 edition of Arabian Travel Market (ATM), which will take place at the Dubai World Trade Centre from 28th April to 1st May.

A statement released on Tuesday projected that India's participation this year will grow by 41 percent year-on-year, driven by a strong presence from exhibitors such as the Ministry of Tourism of India, airlines Air India and Air India Express, as well as expanded representation from regional tourism boards of Goa, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh.

According to Future Market Insights, India's outbound tourism market is expected to reach US$55 billion by 2034, with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 11.4 percent over the next decade.

Research from STR, a hospitality industry analytics firm, indicates that India is increasingly becoming one of the most targeted outbound tourism markets globally, with many destinations intensifying efforts to attract Indian travellers.

In 2024, Dubai welcomed 3.14 million visitors from South Asia, with India accounting for the largest share, contributing significantly to the city's total of 18.72 million international visitors, a 9 percent increase year-on-year.

Danielle Curtis, Exhibition Director of Arabian Travel Market in the Middle East, stated that India's larger showcase at ATM highlights not only the rich and diverse travel offerings the country provides – from luxury experiences and wellness resorts to cultural destinations and adventure tourism – but also represents a key platform for global travel exchange, allowing the international travel industry to tap into this profitable market.

The 32nd edition of Arabian Travel Market will be held under the theme "Global Travel: Developing Tomorrow's Tourism Through Enhanced Connectivity", reflecting its mission to shape the future of travel and tourism through greater integration and cooperation. – WAM

CREATIVE WORKS

Artisans showcase craftsmanship

JEDDAH: Young artists and artisans captivated visitors in the Historic Jeddah (Al-Balad) district with their creative works as part of the Ramadan 2025 season activities organised by the Jeddah Historic District Programme under the Ministry of Culture.

Talented youth brought their ideas to life through artistic paintings that depicted daily life, the cultural history of Al-Balad, and the architectural heritage of Historic Jeddah.

Using various artistic tools, including colours and pens, they produced vibrant and expressive works that resonated with visitors.

Visual arts

In addition to visual arts, the event featured a handicrafts section where skilled female artisans displayed traditional crafts passed down through generations. Their work reflected the Kingdom's rich heritage, bridging the past with the present and preserving cultural traditions for the future.

Visitors had the opportunity to engage with these artisans and gain insight into the craftsmanship that once played an essential role in daily life. – SPA

WORLD

Donald Trump may grant tariff breaks to 'a lot of countries'

He noted that the European Union (EU) has agreed to lower car tariffs to 2.5 percent as part of a deal with the Trump administration

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump on Monday said that he may "give a lot of countries breaks" on tariffs, as his April 2 deadline to impose "reciprocal tariffs" on US trading partners draws closer.

"I may give a lot of countries breaks, but it's reciprocal," Trump told reporters at the White House on Monday afternoon.

He noted that the European Union (EU) has agreed to lower car tariffs to 2.5 percent as part of a deal with the Trump administration.

"We'll be announcing some additional tariffs over the next few days, having to do with automobiles, cars, and having also to do a little bit with lumber down the road, lumber and chips," Trump continued.

April 2 will be a big day

"But for the most part, April 2 will be a big day, that will be reciprocal day, and we'll be bringing some of the money back that's been taken from us," Trump said.

Earlier in the day, Trump announced on social media that he'll impose 25-percent tariff on any nation that purchases oil and/or gas from Venezuela, accusing the Latin American country of sending "tens of thousands of" criminals to the United States.

When asked by a reporter whether the 25-percent tariff is "on top of existing tariffs," Trump said "yes."

With key US economic indicators showing concerning trends, economists and investors warn that the risk of a "Trumpcession" has grown due to unpredictable trade and economic policies.

Earlier this month, Bruce Kasman, JPMorgan's chief global economist, expressed heightened concerns about the US economy. He told reporters in Singapore that the investment bank now estimates a 40 percent chance of a US recession this year. — Xinhua

Secret US military plans leaked

WASHINGTON DC: The White House on Monday confirmed that top Trump administration officials inadvertently included a journalist in a group chat about US military plans.

The chat on the Signal messaging app about upcoming military strikes reportedly included several members of President Donald Trump's cabinet, including Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth.

The editor of The Atlantic magazine, Jeffrey Goldberg, published a story on Monday in which he said he initially thought it could not be real.

"I had very strong doubts that this text group was real, because I could not believe that the national-security leadership of the United States would communicate on Signal about imminent war plans," he wrote.

Journalist knew hours before the strikes were carried out that they would happen

Goldberg was in the group chat where plans for airstrikes on Houthi rebels in Yemen were discussed.

On March 15, the US targeted rebel strongholds in Yemen. — DW

Times OF OMAN

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

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

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

SOUTH KOREAN TECH GIANT

Samsung co-CEO Han Jong-hee dies at 63

SEOUL: Samsung Electronics co-CEO Han Jong-hee died on Tuesday of a heart attack, the company said.

Han had been with Samsung since 1988 and built a career in the television department. The company said he was central in taking Samsung TV to "the pinnacle of the global market."

He became the CEO in 2022 and was also in charge of its consumer electronics and mobile devices division.

The Samsung company is still dominated by the Samsung family, with Lee Jae-yong as the third-generation leader and current chief of its flagship subsidiary Samsung Electronics.

The South Korean tech giant said in a stock exchange filing that Jun Young-hyun would now be the sole CEO. The company has traditionally had a co-CEO structure. Jun had only been appointed as co-CEO last week.

In a shareholder meeting last week, Han and other top executives told investors that they were expecting 2025 to be a difficult year.

SWELTERING TEMPERATURES

Keeping homes cool on a warming planet

GENEVA: In many places, keeping cool when the mercury climbs isn't just a matter of comfort — sweltering temperatures can affect our health, our productivity, our economies and even our survival.

An increase of just 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels could put 2.3 billion people at risk of severe heat waves. Scientists have said we could hit that temperature rise by the early 2030s if we don't cut carbon emissions.

Hot weather is already responsible for some 12,000 deaths each year. By 2030, the World Health Organization has conservatively predicted there could be 38,000 additional deaths annually due to heat exposure in elderly people.

Buying an air conditioner might be a quick and easy fix, but these energy-intensive appliances are only adding to the problem. Not only that: air conditioners can leak damaging refrigerants that can also contribute to global warming.

"We need to get out of this cycle," Lily Riahi from the United Nations Environment Program told DW. "The way we currently cool our homes and workplaces is a huge driver of climate change."

Cooling conundrum

In 2024 — the hottest year on record — electricity demand surged to nearly double the growth rate of the last decade, according to the latest figures from the International Energy Agency. A spark of good news, however: the largest slice of that growth was supplied by renewable energy, at 38%.

But much of that electricity is still supplied by fossil fuels. The IEA said two-thirds of the world's electricity was provided by coal in 2024, with coal power growing by nearly 1%. A major contributor to growing electricity demand: air conditioning.

That finding was also confirmed in an analysis of the world's three largest power markets, India, China and the US, by energy think tank Ember. "Extreme heat events drove air conditioner use to a record high, increasing electricity demand and putting pressure on grids," said the report, released in early March 2025.

As global temperatures, populations and incomes rise in countries like India and China, the number of AC units in operation worldwide could jump from more than 2.4 billion today to 5.6 billion by 2050, according to the IEA.

The agency also estimates that, without improvements to efficiency, energy demand for space cooling could triple by the middle of the century — consuming as much electricity as China and India today.

Riahi, who is also a global coordinator for the Cool Coalition network working to boost sustainable cooling, said this scenario will pile massive pressure on electricity grids and ultimately hamper efforts to meet climate targets.

"By 2050, estimates say that just space cooling will account for 30% to 50% of peak electricity [load] in many countries. Today the average is 15%," said Riahi. "So you're going to have grid failures."

What can be done about it?

Air conditioning plays an important role in prosperity and economic development by allowing people in hot countries to live and work in comfort. But unless ACs become significantly more climate-friendly, the projected explosion in their numbers will pose a huge challenge.

Riahi said there's a lack of awareness around cooling alternatives, as well as financial barriers that prevent people purchasing energy-efficient ACs with low-emission refrigerants. — DW

STATE DEPARTMENT

We expect Bangladesh to follow rules of Human Rights: US

WASHINGTON DC: The United States expects Bangladesh to follow the rules of human rights and be fair to their own citizens, the US State Department said on Monday, in relation to the

US State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce said that Bangladesh is expected to follow rules of human rights and be fair to their own citizens when asked to respond to Bangladesh Army Chief's warnings of imminent extremist attacks on Bangladesh.

Being asked about the rise in attacks by extremist elements, Bruce said the US expects every country to follow human rights.

"What's most important in the nature of how we handle other countries, what we expect of them if we consider them our friends, the diplomatic scenario," she said in the brieifing.

"We expect every country, certainly Bangladesh and others... to follow the rules of human rights and to be cognizant and fair regarding the behaviour and what their own citizens expect from their government. So I think that's a north star for any nation," Bruce added.

The remarks follow after US Department of State Spokesperson Tammy Bruce on March 20 condemned the violence against minorities in Bangladesh during her press briefing.

Being asked about US Director of National Intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard's recent criticism of Bangladesh, the State Department emphasised the need to reduce instances of violence in the country.

"We condemn any instances of violence or intolerance directed toward members of minority communities in any country and have welcomed measures taken by Bangladesh's interim government to ensure safety and security for all in Bangladesh. That's what we're watching. That's what we expect. And that will be what continues," Bruce sai. — ANI

PRO-DEMOCRACY MEDIA OUTLETS

Africa's press freedom hit hard by VOA shutdown, US aid cuts

CAPE TOWN: When the White House issued an executive order to dismantle pro-democracy media outlets Voice of America (VOA) and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, shockwaves replaced radio waves from Prague to Addis Ababa.

"For the past 40 years, VOA has been a major source of information on Ethiopia's key political and social issues. If the radio station stops broadcasting, there is bound to be a lot of negative pressure," said Endalkachew Haile Michael, a media researcher based in the United States.

The Trump administration's stance on media institutions undermines the United States "exemplary status on press freedom worldwide," he added.

For listeners like Alemayehu Geberheyewt, VOA was "a station where, beyond the daily news, a lot of educational stuff was broadcast. Since the beginning of the socialist regime in Ethiopia, VOA had been the voice of the people."

VOA began broadcasting in 1942 initially to counter Nazi propaganda before positioning itself against communism during the Cold War. Its programming reached Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa, and in the post-Cold-War era, VOA became regarded as a reliable news source in countries with little press freedom.

In response to the US cuts, European broadcasters like DW and France Medias Monde have called for action to fill the void left by retreating US state-funded international broadcasting.

US cuts already shook Africa's media landscape

But for African media, the gutting of the VOA, which operated across 13 African nations, is just the latest blow to pro-democracy media.

Previously, funding cuts to the US Agency for International Development, USAID, and other foreign assistance programmes, which were active in most African nations and went beyond humanitarian assistance, indirectly impacted media, from training to fact-checking teams to publishers.

Overall, in 2024, the US sent $12.7 billion (€11.7 billion) of $41 billion to sub-Saharan Africa,

while African nations benefited from US-funded global programmes to fight diseases like HIV/Aids.

Nancy Booker, a professor of journalism and media and communication at the Nairobi-based Aga Khan University, told DW: "A lot of community-based or startup African media have for the longest time relied on donor funding. We are seeing or experiencing a lot of uncertainty."

Simon Allison, from the South African independent publication The Continent, which was not affected by American aid cuts, described the situation as "an extinction-level event for a number of media houses." — DW

Full story @ timesofoman.com/world

Violent escalation and aid blockade prompt UN staff reduction in Gaza

The Secretary-General has taken the difficult decision to reduce the United Nations' footprint in Gaza, even as humanitarian needs soar and our concern over the protection of civilians intensifies

UNITED NATIONS: Following the killing of hundreds of civilians, including UN staff, and the aid blockade, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has decided to reduce staff in the Gaza Strip, a UN spokesman said on Monday.

"The Secretary-General has taken the difficult decision to reduce the United Nations' footprint in Gaza, even as humanitarian needs soar and our concern over the protection of civilians intensifies," said Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for Guterres, at a daily press briefing.

"The United Nations is not leaving Gaza," Dujarric said. "We remain committed to continuing to provide aid that civilians depend on for their survival and protection."

The spokesman said about 30 percent of the 100 international staff in Gaza, or about 30 people, were being withdrawn. Overall, there are about 13,000 UN personnel in Gaza, the bulk of them working for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and most of them are national staff.

"Based on the information that is currently available, the strikes hitting a UN compound in Deir Al Balah on (Wednesday) were caused by an Israeli tank shell," he said.

The strikes claimed the life of a UN colleague from Bulgaria and left six others, from France, Moldova, North Macedonia, Palestine and the United Kingdom, with severe injuries, some of them life-altering, according to Dujarric.

The spokesman told reporters that the UN compound's location was well known to Israeli forces. The secretary-general strongly condemns these strikes and demands a full, thorough and independent investigation into this incident.

Dujarric stressed that all parties must always comply fully with international law. Civilians must be respected, and they must be protected. The denial of lifesaving aid must end. The hostages must be released immediately and unconditionally.

"All states must use their leverage to stop the conflict and ensure respect for international law, by applying diplomatic and economic pressure and combating impunity," the spokesman said. "The secretary-general renews his urgent call for the restoration of the ceasefire to bring an end to the anguish."

However, Israeli officials have indicated they intend to continue their military activities in Gaza.

The aid blockade began more than three weeks ago when Israel cut off the entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza. It is the longest such suspension of assistance since the deadly Oct. 7, 2023 Hamas raid on Israel.

The UN emergency relief coordinator, Tom Fletcher, said he continues to receive horrific reports from Gaza of more health workers, ambulances and hospitals attacked as they try to save survivors.

Dujarric said several casualties were reported after the surgical department of Nasser Medical Complex was hit and caught fire on Sunday. In Rafah, in southern Gaza, ambulances were reportedly hit in Tal Al Sultan, resulting in several casualties. — Xinhua

CZECH MACHINERY PLANT

One injured in plant explosion

PRAGUE: An explosion hit the Czech Policske Strojirny machinery plant's compound on Tuesday morning, injuring one person, according to firefighters and police.

Czech fire rescue service said the explosion occurred at the plant in the town of Policka before 9:00 a.m. local time.

Fire alarm declared

"Due to the dangerous nature of the environment, a third fire alarm has been declared. Firefighters evacuated one injured person and handed him over to the emergency services. We are evacuating other people from the area," it said on social media platform X. — Xinhua

500 STREETS

Paris to increase car-free zones after city vote

PARIS: Residents of the French capital have voted to close down another 500 streets to cars, turning them into green, pedestrian zones, results showed on Monday.

Around two-thirds of the cast ballots were in favour of the so-called "garden road" schemes, according to Mayor Anne Hidalgo, although only 4% of the 1.4 million registered voters took part in the referendum.

"This vote reinforces our commitment to continue sharing public space for pedestrians and to make Paris greener," Christophe Najdovski, deputy mayor in charge of green spaces, told French news agency AFP.

Around 220 of Paris' 6,000 roads are already car-free, most of which are close to schools.

As a result of the vote, which was carried out on Sunday, some 10,000 parking spots will be removed from the city.

Consultations are planned "in the coming weeks" to decide on which streets will be pedestrianized, according to city authorities. The plan aims to remove cars from around 25 streets per arrondissement, or administrative district.

Sunday's vote was the third brought in by the Socialist mayor to improve the capital's busy road network. The previous votes led to the banning of e-scooters and to tripling parking fees for SUVs.

Opponents slam vote as 'PR stunt'

The opposition has criticized Sunday's referendum, calling it a publicity stunt while accusing the mayor of failing to resolve the problems faced by Parisians on a daily basis.

"Parisians did not want to get involved in a PR campaign by the city hall," Nelly Garnier of the right-wing opposition said, pointing to the historically low turnout.

Hidalgo has made attempts to fight congestion and improve air quality since taking the top job in in Paris in 2014. Recently she has limited traffic on one lane of Paris' busy ring road to car sharing during rush hours. — DW

ONGOING CONFLICTS

War economy: Is the European 'peace project' at risk?

BRUSSELS: There is no official definition of a "war economy" but there are many attributes that add up to one.

A war economy means that a country has mobilised its resources, manufacturing capabilities and workforce to support military preparation and production leading up to or during wartime.

The most obvious economic change is a shift in industrial production away from consumer goods to things like weapons, ammunition or other military equipment.

Besides traditional military hardware, modern weapons require investments in technology and digital services like software, data analytics, satellite systems and reliable internet, says Penny Naas, a public policy expert at the German Marshall Fund of the United States in Washington.

To manage all this, there is an increase in centralised government control of necessary industries and resource allocation. This control lets governments prioritise and redirect raw materials to war-related industries and goods. Other things like fuel or food may be rationed to give priority to the military.

Who benefits from a war economy?

"In a true war economy, all elements of society are reoriented toward defending the homeland," said Naas.

This reorientation is expensive and there is usually a big increase in government spending to pay for it all. This can lead to more borrowing, inflation, higher taxes and less welfare spending.

Armin Steinbach, a fellow at Bruegel, a Brussel-based think tank, and a professor at HEC Paris business school. argues that companies specialising in military goods, digital technologies, information and intelligence, pharmaceutical and medical technology are big winners.

"Turning to war economies can be catalysts for scientific and technological advancements," Steinbach told DW. "New communication systems, jet engines, radar, intelligence benefit — and these technologies influence other industries."

Transitioning to a war economy

The move from a civilian economy to a war economy can happen slowly or quickly depending on the situation.

During World War Two, Germany had the advantage of knowing it was going to attack so it could get a head start. The US, the UK and other allies had less warning and had to respond frantically.

Today, Russia and Ukraine are in similar situations.

Russia has significantly increased military spending, beefed up the production of military goods and implemented capital controls to slow money leaving the country.

Inflation is up and the government has increased public spending to keep the civilian economy going. Poorer Ukraine is in a much more desperate situation. Since Ukraine is the one being attacked, it is fighting for survival and has had to invest much more into the war effort.

Today, Ukraine is spending 58% of its budget on military expenditure, Steinbach noted.

Like Russia, Ukraine has mobilized manpower to support military efforts, which has taken many experienced workers out of the traditional workforce. At the government's request, many factories have been retooled to make weapons and ammunition.

What other countries are in war economy mode?

There are a number of other countries that are almost in war-economy mode because of ongoing military conflicts, including Myanmar, Sudan and Yemen.

The ongoing conflicts in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories, Syria, Ethiopia and Eritrea have also led to economic disruption as governments there focus on military efforts. Israel has increased its defence spending and is manufacturing more military goods. Many workers have been recruited to fight taking them out of the civilian job market. To pay for this the government has upped value-added tax (VAT), utility prices and property taxes.

The European Union is ready to rearm

The EU has recently been jolted into action because of waning US support for Ukraine, NATO and Europe in general. This about-face after decades of US support and US President Donald Trump's overtures to Russian President Vladimir Putin are especially troubling for transatlantic security guarantees.

NATO members — 23 of which are part of the European Union — had already been struggling to spend 2% of GDP on defence. Now even this number is not seen as enough.

On March 4, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced a €800 billion ($867 billion) defense plan. Called "ReArm Europe" it is meant to beef up the EU's military capabilitiesand includes a total of €150 billion in loans to EU members. Additionally, the loosening of strict budget deficit regulations will allow countries to spend more and could add up to another €650 billion in military spending in the next few years.

Germany ready to step up military investments

For its part, Germany entered new territory by approving updated budget rules on March 21. Going forward, the government will be more free to armor up since most defense-related spending will no longer be hemmed in by fiscal deficit rules.

The move is so monumental that it could shake up the continent's security policy, and will require an adjustment to the country's constitution.

For Germany and Europe as a whole, prioritizing financial resources will be an important first step. Penny Naas believes better access to energy plus more coordination to get around a patchwork of national capabilities are also needed at the European level. Joint procurement and shared research and development should reduce costs. — DW

SPORTS

Oman rout Bahrain to set up quarter-final clash with UAE

Talib Hilal's men will aim to secure a semi-final spot in the AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup on Thursday

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Former champions Oman trounced Bahrain 5-1 in their final AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup Thailand 2025 Group D match at Jomtien Beach Arena, Pattaya, on Tuesday, to secure the top spot in the group and set up an exciting quarter-final clash with the United Arab Emirates.

Talib Hilal's men will be in action for a spot in the semi-finals on Thursday.

With two wins already in the bag from previous matches against Vietnam and Malaysia respectively, Oman's place in the knockout stages was assured before this game, but the result confirmed their position as group winners and determined their quarterfinal opponent.

The match kicked off with both teams eager to assert their dominance. Oman took the lead in the fifth minute when Sami Al Bulushi scored a stunning volley from a throw-in by Salim Oraimi.

Just before the first period ended, Oman doubled their lead when Yahya sprinted to meet a lobbed pass from captain Abdullah Masoud Salim and expertly slotted the ball past Bahrain goalkeeper Ahmed Abdulrasool.

Bahrain's defence struggled in the second period, as Oman continued to press. Abdulrasool kept his side in the game with a series of saves, but Yahya's persistence paid off as he added two more goals, bringing the score to 4-0.

Oman's dominance was further confirmed when Musallam Al Raimi curled a perfect right-footed free-kick past Abdulrasool, making it 5-0.

Bahrain managed to pull one back in the final moments when Husain Ali Aldoseri scored with a header, but it was a mere consolation as 2015 edition champions sealed a comfortable 5-1 victory, their third success in a row.

Bahrain, despite the defeat, advanced as one of the best runners-up and will meet defending champions Iran in their quarter-final encounter.

Iran edged past United Arab Emirates 4-3 on Tuesday to finish as the Group C winners with nine points

In other group-stage results, Thailand topped Group A with eight points, and Lebanon qualified as the runners-up. Thailand will face Saudi Arabia, who finished second in Group B after a 3-2 win over Iraq. Both the teams aim to reach the semi-finals for the first time.

Three-time champions Japan topped Group B with maximum points and will face Lebanon in their quarter-final match.

The top three teams at the Asian competition qualify for the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup.

Quarter-final fixtures: Thailand vs Saudi Arabia, Japan vs Lebanon, Iran vs Bahrain, Oman vs UAE.

WIN OVER LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS

Ashutosh's heroics power Delhi Capitals to a thrilling victory

VISAKHAPATNAM: In a stunning display of composure and skill, Ashutosh Sharma's unbeaten 66 off 31 balls led Delhi Capitals (DC) to an unforgettable one-wicket victory over Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) in the Indian Premier League 2025 on Monday.

Chasing a daunting target of 210, Delhi found themselves in dire straits at 7-3, and later at 65-5, before Ashutosh's match-winning performance turned the game on its head.

Lucknow Super Giants had posted a formidable 209-8, thanks to Nicholas Pooran's explosive 75 off 30 balls, including six fours and seven sixes, at a strike rate of 250.

Pooran, alongside Mitch Marsh, who contributed a breezy 72 off 36 balls, formed a crucial second-wicket stand of 87 runs.

However, Pooran's dismissal in the 15th over, courtesy of Mitchell Starc's fiery delivery that flattened his stumps, left Lucknow at 160-4. Starc finished with impressive figures of 3-42.

Lucknow's woes were compounded by Rishabh Pant's disappointing duck in his first match against his former team, dismissed by Kuldeep Yadav, who finished with a tight 2-20.

The Capitals' chase began disastrously as Shardul Thakur wreaked havoc in the first over, removing Jake Fraser-McGurk and Abishek Porel cheaply.

Faf du Plessis (29) and Axar Patel (22) briefly stabilised the innings, but it was the lower-middle order that kept Delhi's hopes alive. Tristan Stubbs (34 off 22 balls) and Vipraj Nigam (39 off 14 balls) helped their side stay within striking distance.

As Delhi required 22 runs from the final two overs, the pressure mounted. But Ashutosh, in his IPL debut as an impact player substitute, proved his mettle. With five fours and five towering sixes, he anchored the chase.

The defining moment came with six runs needed from the final over, bowled by Shahbaz Ahmed. Delhi's No.11, Mohit Sharma, survived a nervy lbw review and managed to scramble a single before Ashutosh smashed a colossal straight six, sending the crowd into a frenzy and sealing the victory with three balls to spare.

At one stage, Delhi needed 62 off 30, with four wickets in hand. Ashutosh went bang, bang and then some more as he smashed 46 off his next 11 balls to lead DC to an epic one-wicket win. This chase became the highest in Delhi Capitals' IPL history, surpassing their previous best of 209 set against Gujarat Lions in May 2017.

Brief scores: Delhi Capitals 211/9 in 19.3 overs (Ashutosh 66, Nigam 39, Stubbs 34, Rathi 2-31, Siddharth 2-39, Bishnoi 2-53) beat Lucknow Super Giants 209/ 8 (Pooran 75, Marsh 72, Starc 3-42, Kuldeep 2-20). - Agencies

IPL 2025

'Think we had enough runs on the board': Pant

VISAKHAPATNAM: Rishabh Pant's debut as Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) captain in IPL 2025 was one to forget. With the bat, he suffered a six-ball duck, and then, as a fielder, he watched his former team, Delhi Capitals (DC), chase down 210 in a thrilling one-wicket win in Vizag.

Given LSG's position at 133 for 1 in the 12th over, with Mitchell Marsh and Nicholas Pooran in full flow, questions arose about whether they should have posted an even bigger total. A final five-over tally of just 39 runs may have proved costly, but Pant stood firm in his assessment.

"I think we had enough runs on the board," Pant told JioHotstar after the game. "Our batters played really well. We might have lost momentum between overs 13-17, but it was still a pretty good score on this wicket."

LSG's assistant coach, Lance Klusener, had a contrasting view. He felt LSG fell short by at least 20-30 runs, putting extra pressure on the bowlers. "I'd say we left 20 or 30 runs out there," Klusener said. "That's probably why we ended up under pressure while bowling. When the bowlers got it right, there was a little bit of spin, so it was a good wicket for everyone. But with the experience and batting power we have, I think we should have scored more."

Pant, meanwhile, refused to dwell on the luck factor, particularly the missed stumping in the final over off Mohit Sharma. Had he completed it, with DC needing six off six with just one wicket in hand, LSG would have likely clinched victory.

"Luck plays a small part in the game for sure," Pant said. "If it had missed the pad, it would have been a big stumping chance. But these things happen in cricket. Instead of focusing on luck, we should concentrate on playing good cricket."

PACT SIGNED

Abu Dhabi becomes Afghanistan cricket's 'second home' with five-year deal

ABU DHABI: The Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) and the Abu Dhabi Cricket and Sports Hub (ADCSH) have announced a five-year "destination support agreement", making Abu Dhabi the UAE host for all ACB training camps and all Afghanistan A and national age-group matches.

As a possible next step in the arrangement, which runs till 2029, the ACB and Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) will work together for Afghanistan to use the venues in the UAE for hosting senior men's bilateral matches as well.

The update came after discussions between the ACB, the ADCSH, and the Abu Dhabi Sports Council (ADSC) in which the parties affirmed their "commitment to expanding cricket opportunities for Afghanistan's players on the global stage".

A statement said that "the agreement also encompasses support towards ACB to facilitate the Board's global operations and enhance player development pathways".

Matt Boucher, the chief executive of ADCSH, said, "Our facilities have already welcomed the world's best players, and this agreement

strengthens our strong commitment to nurturing global sporting and cricket talent and leveraging its capacity to be a force for societal good. We've loved hosting Afghanistan over the last couple of years and are pleased we can confirm Abu Dhabi as their second home."

ACB chief executive Naseeb Khan said the opportunity to utilise "all the premium facilities available" in Abu Dhabi would be a boost for Afghanistan cricket, especially at the age-group level. Calling the development a "turning point" for Afghanistan cricket, Naseeb said, "The opportunity to now focus on Abu Dhabi as our training base and our home for age-group participation will allow us to elevate Afghanistan's sporting success and build a strong national future for the game of cricket in our country."

Abu Dhabi, in fact, has been the site of three of Afghanistan's Test matches in the past, two in March 2021 against Zimbabwe and one in February 2024 against Ireland. They have hosted teams for ODIs and T20Is across India and the UAE as well. - Agencies

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by May 2025 reaching $74.44, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 93 cents from the price of Monday, which was $73.51. - ONA

MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,408.33 points, up by 0.45% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.32% at 391.29 points. Muscat Gases, up 9.76%, was the top gainer while Oman Cement, down 7.90%, was the top loser.

Experts to discuss circular economy, climate action, renewable innovation

The Oman Sustainability Week Talks 2025 will offer a stage for global thought leaders, industry experts, and government stakeholders to exchange insights on the most pressing sustainability challenges and developments

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Sustainability Week (OSW) 2025, the Sultanate of Oman's national event for future energy, power, water, waste, future mobility, environment, and society, will take place from May 11 - 15.

OSW this year, under the theme Sustainable Growth – Balancing Progress and Preservation, will unite policymakers, global industry leaders, and sustainability pioneers to explore innovative solutions for a thriving and a sustainable future. Oman Sustainability Week 2025 will spotlight cutting-edge innovations and strategic collaborations aimed at achieving Oman's Vision 2040 sustainability goals, Net Zero Emission by 2050, the United Nation's 17 Sustainable Development Goals, and the Paris Climate Agreement.

The International Sustainability Resources & Technology Conference (ISRTC) organized by Oman Environmental Services Holding Company (be'ah) and programmed by Economist Impact, is a key component of OSW, bringing together leading experts to share groundbreaking research and solutions in waste management, resource efficiency, and the transition to a circular economy. Discussions will explore advancements in carbon capture, green hydrogen, sustainable urban development, and ESG-driven business transformation, providing a knowledge-sharing platform for both local and international sustainability leaders.

At the heart of the event, the OSW Talks 2025 will serve as a catalyst for impactful discussions, offering a stage for global thought leaders, industry experts, and government stakeholders to exchange insights on the most pressing sustainability challenges and developments. The CPD-accredited OSW Talks will offer free-to-attend strategic and technical sessions, addressing key topics such as climate action and net-zero strategies, circular economy solutions, renewable energy innovations, sustainable water management, industrial decarbonization pathways, and fostering sustainability at the grassroots level within Oman's education system.

OSW Talks will welcome expert speakers and decision-makers from leading entities such as the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, Ministry of Transport, Communication and Information Technology, Petroleum Development Oman, OmanLNG, Oman Environmental Services Holding Company (be'ah), Hydrom, OQGN, OQ8, Shell Oman, bp Oman, and a distinguished lineup of international sustainability champions from Europe, the MENA region, and Asia.

Ashley Roberts, Managing Director at CONNECT, emphasized the importance of OSW Talks in driving sustainability dialogue:

"Oman Sustainability Week's OSW Talks provide an invaluable opportunity for professionals to gain insights from global experts, expand their knowledge, and engage in critical conversations that shape the future of sustainability in Oman and beyond. As an open-access platform, OSW Talks aims to accelerate learning and collaboration in key sustainability sectors. To explore the full program, visit the OSW website, and note that seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis."

With participation from top-tier sustainability organizations, government agencies, and research institutions, OSW 2025 promises to be a landmark event, advancing Oman's sustainability leadership on a global scale.

BRIEFS

Oil steady as investors weigh impact of US tariffs

SINGAPORE: Oil prices were little changed yesterday as markets weighed the impact of newly announced US tariffs on countries that buy Venezuelan oil and the uncertain outlook for global demand. Brent crude futures were up 1 cent at $73.01 a barrel. US West Texas Intermediate crude dipped 1 cent to $69.10. Both benchmarks gained more than 1% on Monday after US President Donald Trump announced a 25% tariff on countries importing oil and gas from Venezuela. Experts expect that WTI to stay around $70 for the rest of the year, with potential seasonal gains as the US and other countries enter the driving season.

Dollar hits three-week high

SINGAPORE: The US dollar yesterday hit a three-week high on the yen and was firm across the board after some strong US services data and cautious optimism on the tariff front. The dollar jumped 0.9%, pulling above 150 yen, then rose a little further in the Asia morning to a three-week high of 150.92 yen. The dollar also hit its strongest since 6 March 2025 at $1.0781 per euro. It was last trading at $1.0804. Sterling hit a two-week low of $1.2883 before steadying at $1.2883 in Asia trade. The US dollar index notched a fourth straight session of gains to settle at 104.3. The Australian dollar was steady at $0.6287, while the New Zealand dollar slipped to its lowest in a week at $0.5725..

Gold prices rise as demand for safe-haven assets increase

SINGAPORE: Gold prices rose yesterday as demand for safe-haven assets increased amid the uncertainty surrounding US President Donald Trump's tariffs, as well as concerns about economic slowdown, trade tensions, and inflation worries. The price of gold in spot transactions rose by 0.1% to $3,015.42 per ounce. US gold futures also climbed by 0.1% to $3,019.40. As for other precious metals, silver rose by 0.3% in spot transactions to $33.10 per ounce, platinum dropped by 0.1% to $973.35, and palladium increased by 0.3% to $953.78. -ONA

CONSISTENT PERFORMANCE

Alizz Islamic Bank reports 28% profit growth, reaching OMR10mn in 2024

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Alizz Islamic Bank achieved significant growth in 2024 as a result of a well-defined strategy and consistent performance.

The bank achieved double digit profitability of OMR 10 million, higher by 28% compared to last year's net profit of OMR 7.8 million. Strong growth was witnessed in all core business areas which led to the financing portfolio growing by 11% from 2023 to reach OMR 1,076.9 million while deposits increased by 8% to reach OMR 1,094.1 million.

Alizz Islamic Bank has seen a transformational shift in recent years and is set to continue to deliver sustainable results based on its ongoing strategy.

Moreover, the bank directed its investments to enhance the digital platforms as part of enhancing the customer experience and its commitment to promoting innovation as a culture.

It is also worth noting that the international credit rating agency, Capital Intelligence Ratings (CI) affirmed Alizz Islamic Bank's Long-Term ratings on the Oman National Scale to 'omAAA' from 'omAA', with a stable outlook which was improved during the past year as a result of change in outlook of Oman Sovereign rating and strengthening of the bank's financial position.

REPORT

India will be resilient to US tariffs because of its higher share of service exports

NEW DELHI: India's economy is expected to show resilience despite trade tensions arising from US President Donald Trump's tariff threats, according to a report by S&P Global.

The report highlighted that economies with a significant share of service exports, such as India and the Philippines, will be less affected by tariff measures, which are primarily imposed on goods.

It said "As tariffs tend to be levied on goods, trade will be more resilient in economies where a substantial share of exports is of services. This is the case for the Philippines and, especially, India".

The report noted that while trade frictions led by the US will impact economies across the Asia-Pacific region, domestic demand is expected to remain strong. As a result, any downward revisions to GDP forecasts in the region will likely be modest.

The report further noted that economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region remained stable through the end of 2024, with GDP gains in the fourth quarter surpassing expectations in several countries, including India, Australia, Japan, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, and Vietnam. However, growth was weaker than expected in Malaysia, South Korea, and Thailand.

For India, S&P Global forecasts a GDP growth rate of 6.5 per cent for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026. This is the same as the previous fiscal year's growth but lower than an earlier projection of 6.7 per cent. The forecast assumes a normal monsoon season and stable commodity prices, particularly crude oil.

According to the report, several factors will support India's economic growth. Cooling food inflation, tax benefits announced in the Union Budget for the upcoming fiscal year, and lower borrowing costs are expected to boost consumer spending. These factors will help sustain domestic demand and cushion the impact of external trade challenges.

It said "This assumes the upcoming monsoon season will be normal and that commodity--especially crude--prices will be soft".

While global trade uncertainties persist, India's strong services sector and steady domestic demand are likely to keep the economy on a stable growth path. -ANI

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Muscat Gases, up 9.76%, was the top gainer while Oman Cement, down 7.90%, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,408.33 points, up by 0.45% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.32% at 391.29 points. Muscat Gases, up 9.76%, was the top gainer while, Oman Cement, down 7.90%, was the top loser. Shares of Asyad Shipping were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 1052 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 4.97 million, with more than 31.75 million shares changing hands. Out of 52 traded securities, 23 advanced, 16 declined, and 13 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for RO 345K while foreign investors were net sellers for RO 187K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 158K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,733.61 points, up 1.05%. Prices of Oman & Emirates Investment, Ahli Bank, Sohar International Bank, Al Anwar Investment, Global Financial Investments were up by 5.00%, 4.52%, 3.08%, 2.90%, 2.27% respectively. Prices of Al Sharqia Investment, United Finance, Oman United Insurance were down by 5.33%, 3.08%, 1.24% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,509.27 points, down 0.41%. Prices of A'Saffa Foods, Galfar Engineering, Al Maha Ceramics, Oman Flour Mills, Raysut Cement were up by 5.00%, 4.11%, 3.25%, 2.56%, 2.06% respectively. Prices of Oman Cement, Al Anwar Ceramics, Oman Packaging, Gulf International Chemicals were down by 7.90%, 6.67%, 6.25%, 1.32% respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.6% before closing at 1,600.87 points. Prices of Muscat Gases, Oman Telecom were up by 9.76%, 0.35% respectively. Prices of Shell Oman Marketing, Abraj Energy, Ooredoo, Phoenix Power, Dhofar Generating were down by 8.73%, 2.52%, 1.68%, 1.64%, 1.64% respectively.— **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev . Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,408.33	4,380.74	4,408.33	4,388.43	19.90	0.45
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,733.61	7,652.49	7,733.61	7,653.36	80.25	1.05
Industry Index	5,528.47	5,446.05	5,509.27	5,532.07	-22.81	-0.41
Services Index	1,610.52	1,599.60	1,600.87	1,610.52	-9.65	-0.60
MSX Shariah Index	392.72	390.05	391.29	390.05	1.25	0.32
MSX TR INDEX	6,283.40	6,244.07	6,283.40	6,252.24	31.16	0.50
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,869.00	8,775.97	8,869.00	8,759.85	109.16	1.25
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,685.90	6,586.23	6,662.67	6,645.34	17.34	0.26
SERVICES TR IDX	1,981.72	1,968.29	1,969.85	1,981.72	-11.88	-0.60
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,166.89	1,166.89	1,166.89	1,166.89	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
31,759,101	4,966,732	1,052	27,707,889,566	23	16	13	52

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 25

REGULAR MARKET

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	4,000	252	1	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.060	0.003	5.000	0.063	0.061	0.063	0.100	7,678,125
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	404	147	3	0.360	0.378	0.360	0.378	0.360	0.018	5.000	0.378	0.324	0.378	0.100	45,360,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	3,780,113	503,102	105	0.131	0.135	0.131	0.134	0.130	0.004	3.077	0.134	0.134	0.134	0.100	886,711,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	748,552	66,640	49	0.089	0.090	0.089	0.090	0.088	0.002	2.273	0.090	0.089	0.092	0.100	18,000,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	910,144	240,076	63	0.263	0.264	0.262	0.264	0.261	0.003	1.149	0.264	0.264	0.264	0.100	1,981,688,824
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	702,920	238,196	85	0.338	0.343	0.337	0.339	0.336	0.003	0.893	0.339	0.338	0.339	0.100	226,575,879
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	10,970	9,326	9	0.848	0.851	0.848	0.851	0.848	0.003	0.354	0.851	0.851	0.866	0.100	638,250,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVESTMENT	20,000	2,280	3	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.000	0.000	0.114	0.110	0.116	0.100	17,100,000
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	100,000	9,210	7	0.092	0.093	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.000	0.000	0.093	0.093	0.094	0.100	87,820,619
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL.	1,027,769	86,383	53	0.084	0.085	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.000	0.000	0.084	0.084	0.085	0.100	14,700,000
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	163,200	10,666	10	0.065	0.066	0.065	0.066	0.066	0.000	0.000	0.066	0.064	0.066	0.100	47,150,818
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	1,958,813	259,600	95	0.133	0.133	0.132	0.133	0.133	0.000	0.000	0.133	0.133	0.133	0.100	575,972,981
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	164,854	56,040	10	0.339	0.340	0.338	0.338	0.340	-0.002	-0.588	0.338	0.338	0.340	0.100	79,906,580
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	173,262	41,695	23	0.241	0.244	0.238	0.240	0.243	-0.003	-1.235	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.100	24,000,000
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	444,000	29,748	17	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.068	-0.001	-1.471	0.067	0.067	0.072	0.100	45,217,458
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	83,742	14,754	15	0.179	0.179	0.175	0.176	0.179	-0.003	-1.676	0.176	0.176	0.176	0.100	114,566,184
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	1,278,189	301,387	70	0.238	0.238	0.232	0.232	0.238	-0.006	-2.521	0.232	0.232	0.232	0.100	178,686,400
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	35,000	2,205	3	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.065	-0.002	-3.077	0.063	0.063	0.064	0.100	22,436,020
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO.	8,100	575	1	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.075	-0.004	-5.333	0.071	0.069	0.074	0.100	6,390,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	13,345	1,521	3	0.116	0.116	0.112	0.112	0.120	-0.008	-6.667	0.112	0.112	0.114	0.100	24,640,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	194,909	74,686	64	0.377	0.399	0.377	0.385	0.418	-0.033	-7.895	0.385	0.385	0.386	0.100	127,385,993
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	5,000	2,510	1	0.502	0.502	0.502	0.502	0.550	-0.048	-8.727	0.502	0.502	0.550	0.100	47,690,000
Total	22	11,827,286	1,950,999	690												

Parallel Market

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	45,250	4,050	8	0.084	0.090	0.084	0.090	0.082	0.008	9.756	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.100	2,700,000
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	155,453	25,094	5	0.155	0.162	0.155	0.162	0.155	0.007	4.516	0.160	0.160	0.164	0.100	380,644,509
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	128,311	9,576	15	0.075	0.076	0.074	0.076	0.073	0.003	4.110	0.076	0.073	0.080	0.100	15,426,970
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	1,165	140	1	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.116	0.004	3.448	0.120	0.117	0.120	0.100	70,972,426
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	10,300	1,308	3	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.123	0.004	3.252	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.100	6,985,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	648,343	45,629	32	0.070	0.071	0.070	0.071	0.069	0.002	2.899	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.100	20,381,979
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	18,848	7,499	14	0.395	0.400	0.395	0.400	0.390	0.010	2.564	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.100	63,000,000
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	516,540	346,070	8	0.670	0.670	0.630	0.670	0.660	0.010	1.515	0.670	0.630	0.670	0.100	54,539,843
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	1,390	104	3	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.074	0.001	1.351	0.075	0.074	0.075	0.100	38,147,347
OM0000009908	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	863,123	87,268	34	0.100	0.102	0.100	0.102	0.101	0.001	0.990	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.040	352,868,067
OM0000010120	ASYAD SHIPPING	15,755,986	1,953,626	65	0.123	0.124	0.123	0.124	0.123	0.001	0.813	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.000	645,884,291
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	29,555	3,999	5	0.136	0.136	0.135	0.135	0.134	0.001	0.746	0.135	0.134	0.139	0.100	77,450,078
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	2,320	5,382	2	2.319	2.320	2.319	2.320	2.315	0.005	0.216	2.320	2.155	2.350	0.100	208,104,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	85,000	6,410	9	0.076	0.076	0.075	0.076	0.076	0.000	0.000	0.076	0.075	0.077	0.100	6,460,000
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	175	39	1	0.222	0.222	0.222	0.222	0.222	0.000	0.000	0.222	0.220	0.222	0.100	10,160,007
OM0000003281	TAAGEER FINANCE	98,731	10,663	2	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.000	0.000	0.108	0.106	0.110	0.100	29,277,774
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	1,690	169	2	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.099	0.100	0.100	223,695,303
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	165,868	53,598	28	0.325	0.325	0.321	0.322	0.323	-0.001	-0.310	0.322	0.322	0.322	0.100	64,282,663
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	1,135,168	357,418	93	0.314	0.317	0.314	0.314	0.315	-0.001	-0.317	0.314	0.314	0.315	0.010	2,512,000,000
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	20,000	1,500	2	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.076	-0.001	-1.316	0.075	0.069	0.075	0.100	1,575,000
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	1,085	66	3	0.061	0.061	0.060	0.060	0.061	-0.001	-1.639	0.060	0.059	0.063	0.100	87,756,088
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	41,000	2,460	1	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.061	-0.001	-1.639	0.060	0.060	0.000	0.100	13,334,400
OM0000001608	OMAN PACKAGING	10,000	1,500	1	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.160	-0.010	-6.250	0.150	0.000	0.000	0.100	4,865,379
Total	23	19,735,301	2,923,568	337												

SINOPEC, CHINA'S LARGEST OIL REFINER

China discovers two major shale oilfields with 180mn tonnes of reserves

BEIJING: Sinopec, China's largest oil refiner, has announced the discovery of two major shale oilfields in the east of the country with combined proven reserves of 180 million tonnes, after the discovered reserves in the Xinxing shale oil field in eastern China underwent review and registration by the Chinese Ministry of Natural Resources.

Sinopec affirmed that these reserves represent the first batch to be confirmed under the shale oil reserve estimation rules, which took effect last January, making the Xinxing field the first shale oil field in China to surpass the 100-million-ton reserve threshold.

The field is located in the Shengli Jiyang National Shale Oil Model Zone, operated by Sinopec in Shandong Province, eastern China, with data indicating that geological reserves exceed 140 million tons, while recoverable technical reserves are estimated at 11.36 million tons. In addition, Sinopec continues to intensify shale oil exploration and development, achieving major breakthroughs across multiple sites. -**ONA**

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Taageer Finance and Lulu Hypermarkets Oman to enhance customer affordability

MUSCAT: Taageer Finance Company and Lulu Group International Oman have announced a landmark strategic partnership aimed at enhancing customer affordability through flexible and accessible financing solutions. The collaboration is designed to offer easy finance and EMI (Equated Monthly Installment) options to Lulu customers, making international branded electronics, home appliances, and furniture more accessible to a broader customer base.

The initiative underscores both companies' shared vision of driving economic inclusion by enabling customers to enjoy a seamless, value-driven shopping experience coupled with tailored financing for premium products and leading international brands. This customer-centric approach is developed to create a win-win scenario - benefiting shoppers, retail businesses, and the broader economy.

Fahad Khamis Al Bulushi, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Taageer Finance Company, added: "We are proud to be recognized as a preferred financial partner in Oman's retail and SME sector. This collaboration with Lulu Group represents our unwavering commitment to enabling growth through innovative financing solutions. As both companies celebrate 25 years of successful operations, this partnership marks a timely milestone - bringing together two industry leaders with a shared vision for financial ease and economic progress."

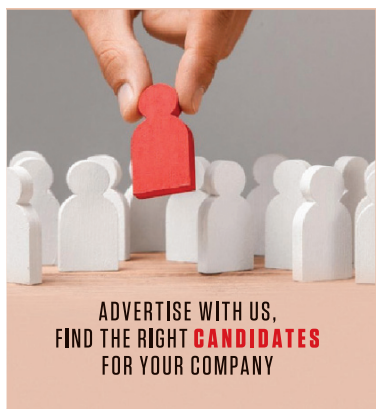
The partnership reaffirms Taageer Finance's leadership in offering tailored financial solutions and reinforces Lulu's customer-first approach by elevating the retail experience for thousands of shoppers across the Sultanate.

Commenting on the partnership, Shabeer K.A., Director, Lulu Hypermarkets Oman, stated: "At Lulu, we believe in going beyond retail to empower communities; our customer-centric initiatives are deeply rooted in corporate social responsibility and economic development. This collaboration with Taageer Finance aligns with our commitment to enhancing customer convenience and promoting financial inclusivity."

Through this partnership, customers across Lulu outlets in Oman will be able to access finance solutions that simplify their purchasing decisions while improving their lifestyle aspirations. By bridging the gap between affordability and premium retail offerings, the initiative supports enhanced consumer empowerment and strengthens local business ecosystems.

Taageer Finance offers a diverse range of financial and leasing solutions for businesses and individuals. Headquartered in Al Khuwair in Muscat, the company boasts an extensive nationwide network, with branches at Wattayah, Sohar, Al Kamil, Barka, Nizwa, Salalah, and Seeb. By offering customers a cutting-edge digital platform, upholding the highest corporate governance standards, implementing resilient systems and procedures, and utilizing state-of-the-art technology, Taageer has established itself as a trusted ally for customers. This includes the integration of Point of Sale (POS) machines at all branches, a robust mobile application with payment gateway integration to facilitate a streamlined cashless payment process, as well as the efficient processing of customer requests through its mobile application.

Taageer takes pride in being a responsible corporate citizen, actively supporting the community and contributing to the nation's socio-economic development goals. To drive its business growth, the company focuses on nurturing local talent and continuously enhancing its business processes, customer service standards, and finance solutions portfolio to meet evolving market demands.



CONNECT PRINT EDITION

WWW.TIMESOFOMAN.COM
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2025

PLACE YOUR ADVT HERE
Email to classifieds @ timesofoman.com

RENT

RENT OR SALE?
PLACE YOUR ADVT HERE
Email: classifieds@timesofoman.com

CARGO

REEFER / ISO DRY CONTAINER SALES, MODIFICATIONS & RENTALS
OFFICE, WORKSHOPS, PLANT ROOMS, TRAINING FACILITIES, TOILETS, ACCOMODATION & ANY CUSTOM BUILT CONTAINER
CONTAINER SOLUTIONS LLC
Po Box 522, Pc 322, Falaj Al Qabail, Sohar Free Zone, Oman
Tel: +968 9358 5556, +968 99508921, +968 26942610
FAX: 26942611, Email: sales@containersolutions.com.
www.containersolutions.com

VACANCY

For High Impact Professional
WEBSITES
GULFCYBERTECH E-Solutions
Tel: 99818819 24130929 Email: info@gulfcybertech.com
Oman Web Award Winner
Designing & Maintenance
E-Commerce Solns.
Domain & Hosting
Mobile Applications
Email Ads & Promotions
www.gulfcybertech.com

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

Muscat 9679 0594 9679 0684
Sohar 9731 6218
Salalah 9429 9325
www.orbit-oman.com
أوربت ORBIT Car Rental & Lease

JOB VACANCY

URGENTLY REQUIRED
Experienced CHEF/COOK
(Arabic & Indian Dishes)
for a reputed family in Muscat.
Contact: 99735820

We're SEEKING!
We are seeking an experienced Pharmaceutical-Grade Warehouse Design Consultant in Muscat to lead the planning, design, and optimization of a state-of-the-art pharmaceutical storage facility as per the GDP and GWP guidelines having area approx. 15000 sq. meter in the capital. The ideal company will have expertise in warehouse layout, regulatory compliance, and efficient logistics to ensure the facility meets industry standards for storage, handling, and distribution of pharmaceutical products.
Contact us: dphroman@yahoo.com

JOB WANTED

FINANCE
Indian, MBA, Finance with 20 yrs experience in business with complete knowledge in Finance, VAT, Credit Control, Admin, HR, Warehouse with SAP knowledge & D/L.
Contact: 78031718

LOGISTIC
Seeking job as a STORE MANAGER (retail) FASHION & FMCG.
Experienced in store operations, inventory management and business growth at Raymond Lifestyle. Ready to contribute skills to a dynamic team.
Contact: +968 7967560
WA +91 8055514441

EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR
Qualified and Highly Professional, 25 yrs, F, Tunisian, Masters in Project Management and Entrepren- eurship with 2 years Experience in MNC as Corporate Events Coordinator. Additional experie- nce in administration, content creation and social media management. Fluent in Arabic, French, English. Seeking suitable position.
Contact: +968 76498724,
Email: tbibmarwa2@gmail.com

ENGINEER
Mechanical Engineer with 15 yrs of rich experience in Sales, marketing and business development in Oman in the field of MEP, Industrial, civil infrastructure and building material products holding valid D/L and NOC available. Can join immediately.
Contact: 97748860, WA:+91 9307500399
Email: samit00123@gmail.com

ENGINEER
Indian, QHSE Engineer, 5 yrs Oman experience, NEBOSH IGC, IRCA lead auditor (ISO 9001/14001), ASNT Level 2 certified. Seeking suitable position.
Phone: +968 78177146
Email: jithinkaithapola@gmail.com

PROJECT MANAGER - MEP
Seeking suitable placement.
B. Tech in Electrical Engineering with 25 years of experience, including 18 years in Oman, specializing in the construction field and tender estimation.
Mobile: 97007489

ENGINEER
Indian, BE Civil engineer with 13 yrs of experience (11 yrs in Oman) in construction & industrial projects. Currently available in Oman with valid D/L, Employment visa & OSE membership.
Contact /WA: +968-95628080
Email: prakasam1991@yahoo.com

MANAGER
Project Manager
Civil Engineering, 20 yrs experience in building construction, looking for suitable positions.
Contact: 93807689
cvmsamy.1981@gmail.com

Let Your Brand Grow with our Creative Services
NEXUS NOVEL ADVERTISING

LOGO DESIGN
CREATIVE CAMPAIGNS
BRANDINGS
PACKAGING
PRINT COLLATERALS
99440826 digital@nexusnovel.com

LOOKING FOR
ARCHITECT JOB ?
Send email to:
classifieds@timesofoman.com

SERVICE

Cleaning service & pest control.
Contact 99493549

Pest control,
Contact: 92326955
Gulfa international LLC.

Civil maintenance, gypsum, painting, carpentry, plumbing, glass partition, office fitout.
Contact: 94160282

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

WANTED

Required Business partner for a running company. Interested person please contact to the phone number given below.
GSM: +968 79005573, Email: md@theimcworldwide.com

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

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

CONNECT

JOB VACANCY

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Required Accountant with minimum 4-5 years Oman experience, with a valid driving license. Send your cv to admin@dilipinternational.com.

DOMESTIC HELP

Urgently required Indian cook for an Omani family for two months. Contact 78900791

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

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

Senior Accountant upto finalization with D/L. Contact +968 79471027

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

Sr. Accountant, 16 yrs of experience in Oman. Accounts up to finalisation and auditing. Contact: 91469060.

ADMINISTRATION

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

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

Indian, Male, have 6 yrs experience in oman as coordinator looking for suitable job. Contact: 90789282

ADMINISTRATION

Indian female 30, BA English Literature (4 yrs experience as operation executive in India) seeking any suitable job. Contact: 77237423, Email: nivyapaul11@gmail.com

Seeking for opportunity in administration office management secretary with 17 yrs of experience in financial institution.Strong skills in Arabic & English. Proficiency in MSoffice well organized strong multi tasking, communication skills , translation, accounting, contract review, business development etc. Contact 78455947, Email mayaminbakr@gmail.com

Indian male MBA(HR) & B.tech (Comp) with nearly 10 yrs of over all experience seeks job. Contact: +968 94168194, +91 9745020204, Email: gokulgopan91@hotmail.com

Well-experienced, highly organized and proactive Executive Secretary seeking a suitable position in Oman. Available for immediate joining with NOC/D/L. Contact: 97932277, Email: pradeepkumarkds5@gmail.com

LOOKING FOR
DRIVER JOB ?

Send email to:
classifieds@timesofoman.com

ARCHITECT

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

Architect seeking job in Oman Architect with B.Arch, BIM certified, skilled in AutoCAD, revit, sketchUp, and 3D modeling. Experience in design, drafting, and project coordination. Contact: +968 71719254, Email: architectraedfaiz@gmail.com

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

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

DRIVER

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

Looking for driving job have car. Contact: 98586920

Looking for driving job. Contact: +968 99532361

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

EDUCATION/TRAINING

Indian, female, Msc, B.Ed Maths job seeking. Contact 78114504

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

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

ENGINEER

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

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

17+ years experienced PMV Manager with a strong track record in workshop management, inventory management and team leadership seeking suitable position in Oman. Contact: 79106919, Email: rinualex1984@gmail.com

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

Automation engineer, BE Electronics & Communication PLC, SCADA, AutoCad. Contact: 76622441, Email: fatinkisho10@gmail.com

Engineering graduate with over 5 yrs of experience as a consultant, skilled in SAP material management, warehouse management, and procurement, seeking IT job opportunities. Open to transitioning to new domains. Contact: +968 93215997. Email abhin4nd@gmail.com

Indian B.Tech Civil engineer having certification in BIM and experience in site supervision is seeking for entry level positions. Contact +968 78441832 Email shamilabdulla664@gmail.com

Civil engineer supervisor, 14 yrs experience civil & tower project with D/L & own visa. Contact: 78002980

Mechanical engineer with over 4 yrs experience in sales and operations having Oman D/L with MSc in Engineering management from UK available to join immediately. Contact: 96111283, Email: dobin.mathew@gmail.com.

ENGINEER

BE Project engineer 12-13 yrs experience. Contact: 93850875, Email: abdulcivilco2015@gmail.com

LOGISTIC

20 yrs of experience in logistics operations and customs clearance and documentation as well Looking for a suitable position. Contact: 71263225, Email: nikeshkuttikara@gmail.com

Sudanese Supply chain professional with CSCP certificate, MBA and 10 yrs experience in supply chain, logistics, procurement and project management. Contact: 95272472. Email: kemeir@hotmail.com

MANAGER

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

IT

Bachelors in IT with an Int. D/L seeking a suitable position in any IT support role currently in Oman. Contact: 92419981, Email samnairis@gmail.com

SALES/MARKETING

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

Indian male, Sales executive (MBA in Marketing) with 10 yrs of experience in FMCG & automobile with strong communication skills, holding valid Oman. D/L. Contact: 92350798

Indian male MBA graduated specialized with Marketing & HR (fresher). Looking for suitable positions . Currently in Muscat Oman. Contact: +968 71084371, Email: ccrashid9@gmail.com

LOOKING FOR
ARCHITECT JOB ?

Send email to:
classifieds@timesofoman.com

OPPOSING ARROWS OF TIME EMERGE FROM CERTAIN QUANTUM SYSTEMS: STUDY

Researchers investigated why we perceive time as moving in one direction and whether this perception emerges from open quantum mechanics

Researchers at the University of Surrey made a thought-provoking discovery. A new study reveals that opposing arrows of time can theoretically emerge from certain quantum systems.

Dr Andrea Rocco, Associate Professor in Physics and Mathematical Biology at the University of Surrey and lead author of the study, said: "One way to explain this is when you look at a process like spilt milk spreading across a table, it's clear that time is moving forward. But if you were to play that in reverse, like a movie, you'd immediately know something was wrong -- it would be hard to believe milk could just gather back into a glass.

"However, there are processes, such as the motion of a pendulum, that look just as believable in reverse. The puzzle is that, at the most fundamental level, the laws of physics resemble the pendulum; they do not account for irreversible processes. Our findings suggest that while our common experience tells us that time only moves one way, we are just unaware that the opposite direction would have been equally possible."

The study, published in Scientific Reports, explored how a quantum system -- the world of the sub-atomic -- interacts with its environment, known as an 'open quantum system'. Researchers investigated why we perceive time as moving in one direction and whether this perception emerges from open quantum mechanics.

To simplify the problem, the research team made two key assumptions. First, they treated the vast environment surrounding the system in such a way that they could focus only on the quantum system itself. Second, they assumed that the environment -- like the entire universe -- is so large that energy and information dissipate into it, never returning. This approach enabled them to examine how time emerges as a one-way phenomenon, even though, at the microscopic level, time could theoretically move in both directions.

Even after applying these assumptions, the system behaved the same way whether time moved forward or backwards. This discovery provided a mathematical foundation for the idea that time-reversal symmetry still holds in open quantum systems -- suggesting that time's arrow may not be as fixed as we experience it.

Thomas Guff, a postdoctoral researcher who led the calculations, said: "The surprising part of this project was that even after making the standard simplifying assumption to our equations describing open quantum systems, the equations still behaved the same way whether the system was moving forwards or backwards in time. When we carefully worked through the maths, we found that this behaviour had to be the case because a key part of the equation, the "memory kernel," is symmetrical in time.

"We also found a small but important detail which is usually overlooked -- a time discontinuous factor emerged that keeps the time-symmetry property intact. It's unusual to see such a mathematical mechanism in a physics equation because it's not continuous, and it was very surprising to see it pop up so naturally."

The research offers a fresh perspective on one of the biggest mysteries in physics. Understanding the true nature of time could have profound implications for quantum mechanics, cosmology and beyond. - ANI

SPORTS

Partey nets twice for Ghana, Ivory Coast triumph again

Arsenal midfielder Partey scored two headers as Ghana secured a comfortable 3-0 win over Madagascar in the FIFA World Cup African qualifiers

AL HOCEIMA: Thomas Partey and Mohammed Kudus strengthened Ghana's bid for a place at the 2026 FIFA World Cup, while Ivory Coast won to return to the top of their qualifying group.

Four-time continental champions Ghana failed to reach the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations but the Black Stars sit five points clear of second-placed Madagascar in Group I following their 3-0 victory away against the islanders at Al Hoceima Grand Stadium in Morocco.

Ghana's cause was also helped as Mali, the top seeds in their group, were held to a goalless draw away against Central African Republic.

The Eagles are third, six points behind Ghana, with four rounds of the 10-game campaign remaining.

Ivory Coast moved to the top of Group F, a point ahead of Gabon, as Sebastien Haller's first-half header was enough to settle a nervy home encounter with The Gambia.

Only the nine group winners in African qualifying are assured of a place at the expanded 48-team World Cup finals.

The four best second-placed sides will play off for a space at an intercontinental qualifier which will provide the chance for a 10th side to reach the United States, Mexico and Canada.

Elsewhere, Tunisia scored two late goals against 10-man Malawi to move four points clear at the top of Group H.

The Flames, who had Lloyd Aaron sent off midway through the second half, frustrated the hosts in Rades until an unmarked Seifeddine Jaziri broke the deadlock with a back-post header in the 86th minute.

Elias Achouri added a stoppage-time penalty and there was still time for Carthage Eagles goalkeeper Aymen Dahmen to keep out a 98th-minute spot kick from Richard Mbulu to preserve a clean sheet.

Tunisia's closest challengers are Namibia, who drew 1-1 at home against Equatorial Guinea in neutral Polokwane.

In Group A, Lassina Traore scored twice as Burkina Faso won 2-1 away against Guinea-Bissau to cut Egypt's lead at the top of the table to two points.

Meanwhile, Bereket Desta and Abubeker Nasir both scored hat-tricks as Ethiopia registered their first victory by thrashing Djibouti 6-1.

Ghana's dismal AFCON qualifying campaign at the end of last year means they will be missing from the tournament for the first time since 2004, but the West Africans are in pole position to secure back-to-back appearances at the World Cup finals.

Partey gave the Black Stars the perfect start against Madagascar when the Arsenal midfielder powerfully met Jordan Ayew's pin-point free-kick in the 11th minute.

The same two players combined to make it 2-0 eight minutes into the second half as Partey again found space to head home Ayew's corner from the right.

And five minutes later newly-appointed Ghana captain Ayew was the creator again, threading a through ball into the box for Kudus to convert.

The Black Stars, who thrashed Chad 5-0 on Friday, extended their lead in Group I after Mali were frustrated by CAR in neutral Casablanca. The Eagles struggled to create clear chances, with Yves Bissouma firing a volley over the bar and Abdoulaye Diaby heading narrowly side.

Ivory Coast continued their unbeaten start in Group F, but the reigning African champions had goalkeeper Yahia Fofana to thank for several crucial saves in the second half against The Gambia.

The Elephants had started well in Abidjan, as Brighton winger Simon Adingra clipped in a cross for Haller to guide home in the 15th minute.

Ivory Coast are yet to concede a goal in African World Cup qualifiers, but Emerse Fae's side have been far from convincing in their performances against Burundi and the Scorpions this month.

Collated African World Cup qualifier results (Monday): Group A: Guinea-Bissau 1 Burkina Faso 2, Ethiopia 6 Djibouti 1; **Group F:** Ivory Coast 1 The Gambia 0; **Group H:** Namibia 1 Equatorial Guinea 1, Liberia 2 Sao Tome e Principe 1, Tunisia 2 Malawi 0; **Group I:** Central African Republic 0 Mali 0, Madagascar 0 Ghana 3. - Agencies

UEFA WORLD CUP EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS

Eze scores first England goal as Tuchel's men beat Latvia

LONDON: Thomas Tuchel secured a second successive victory as England head coach in their 3-0 World Cup qualifier against Latvia at Wembley on Monday - but it was a slog rather than a thrill ride before they made their superiority count.

England, as against Albania in Tuchel's opening game, were frustrated for long periods by the country ranked 140th in the world, before dominance was transformed into goals. Chelsea captain Reece James celebrated his first England start since September 2022 by curling in a superb free-kick from 20 yards seven minutes before half-time.

England then struggled to add to the scoreline in the face of Latvia's stubborn resistance until captain Harry Kane turned in his 71st goal in 105 international appearances from Declan Rice's cross after 68 minutes.

As Latvia finally ran out of steam and resistance, substitute Eberechi Eze scored his first England goal with a deflected shot 14 minutes from time. In picking up three points, Tuchel became the first England men's manager to win his first two competitive games since Fabio Capello in 2008.

The victory margin for the Three Lions was eventually a convincing one, but they made life hard for themselves before finally putting away a side 136 places below them in the world rankings.

It was no surprise that England's vast superiority and fitness finally proved all too much, despite the visitors' defence.

Once Kane doubled England's advantage midway through the second half, it became even more of a damage limitation exercise for Latvia, who adopted the same strategy as Albania here on Friday by building a very low block and seeing how long it survived.

The six-point haul was fully expected from Tuchel's first two games against such opposition, and he will be satisfied with two clean sheets, but it will prove a highly valuable exercise in informing him where England must improve if they are to fulfil his single mission - which is to win the 2026 World Cup at the conclusion of his 18-month contract.

Other results: World Cup Qualifiers: Group G: Lithuania 2 Finland 2, Poland 2 Malta 0; **Group H:** Bosnia-Herzegovina 2 Cyprus 1, San Marino 1 Romania 5; **Group K:** Albania 3 Andorra 0. - Agencies

MIAMI OPEN

Sabalenka advances but Gauff crashes out

MIAMI: World No.1 Aryna Sabalenka led the charge into the Miami Open quarter-finals with a composed 6-4, 6-4 victory over defending champion Danielle Collins. The Belarusian broke at 3-3 in the first set and again in the opening game of the second to seal the win in one hour and 19 minutes.

The biggest upset of the day came as world No.3 Coco Gauff fell 6-4, 6-4 to Poland's Magda Linette, leaving the home crowd stunned.

Second seed Iga Swiatek continued her pursuit of a maiden title in 2025, defeating Ukraine's Elina Svitolina 7-6 (7-5), 6-3. Swiatek now faces 19-year-old wildcard Alexandra Eala from the Philippines, who progressed after 10th seed Paula Badosa withdrew due to a lower back injury. Elsewhere, four-time Grand Slam winner Naomi Osaka was sent packing by Italy's Jasmine Paolini, who fought back to win 3-6 6-4 6-4.

In the men's draw, Alexander Zverev overcame a slow start to beat Australia's Jordan Thompson 7-5, 6-4. The German, trailing 4-1 in the first set, won eight of the next nine games to secure the victory. He now faces France's Arthur Fils, who battled past Frances Tiafoe 7-6 (13-11), 5-7, 6-2.

Taylor Fritz also advanced with a 7-5, 6-3 win against Canada's Denis Shapovalov, while Tommy Paul was eliminated by Argentina's Francisco Cerundolo, 6-2, 7-6 (7-4). Australian 10th seed Alex de Minaur mounted a comeback to beat Brazilian teen Joao Fonseca 5-7, 7-5, 6-3, setting up a last-16 clash with Italy's Matteo Berrettini.

Briton Emma Raducanu continued her resurgence storming into her first WTA 1,000 quarter-final with a 6-1, 6-3 win over 17th seed Amanda Anisimova. - Agencies

ROUND-UP

‘Taste of Hakkasan’ menu explores journey through flavour, elegance

This specially curated dining experience masterfully blends signature Cantonese flavours with refined craftsmanship offering a true reflection of Hakkasan’s culinary journey

MUSCAT: Hakkasan Muscat at The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort invites guests to embark on a captivating culinary journey with the launch of “Taste of Hakkasan” menu. This specially curated dining experience masterfully blends signature Cantonese flavours with refined craftsmanship offering a true reflection of Hakkasan’s culinary journey. Set within a sophisticated and alluring atmosphere, where modern luxury converges with timeless Cantonese tradition, Hakkasan provides the perfect backdrop for memorable moments with family and friends.

Available from the first day of Eid Al Fitr, the “Taste of Hakkasan” presents a carefully curated menu, where guests can begin their culinary journey with a choice of delicate dim sum combinations, rich traditional soups, or fresh crab bites. The main courses highlight a bold fusion of Asian and Omani influences, featuring Spicy Curry Prawn Balls with Lily Bulb and Almond, Omani hammour with Lao Gan Ma sauce, and a comforting Tofu, Aubergine and Shiitake Mushroom Claypot Bake, accompanied by seasonal sides. To round off the experience, a selection of fruity, sour, and decadent parfaits and sorbets provides the perfect sweet finale.

The menu itself is a celebration of flavor, craftsmanship, and atmosphere embodying the spirit of unforgettable dining experiences. Guests are invited to indulge in Hakkasan Muscat’s exquisite culinary journey, where every visit promises to leave a lasting impression.

HERITAGE FRAGRANCE BRAND

Shama Perfumes opens its exquisite pop-up booth at Mall of Oman

MUSCAT: Shama Perfumes, the heritage fragrance house renowned for its deep-rooted legacy and commitment to olfactory artistry, announced the opening of its second location in Muscat - an exquisite pop-up booth located at the main atrium of Mall of Oman. This new presence marks a significant step in the brand’s expansion across the GCC, reaffirming its deep ties with the Omani market and clientele.

Building on the success of its flagship boutique at Opera Galleria, the new Shama pop-up experience is designed as a sensory sanctuary inviting patrons on a journey of refined perfumery. Visitors to the pop-up will be enveloped in a captivating blend of Khashab Al Oud, Dehan Al Oud, Attars, Mukhallats, Oud Ma’attar, Perfume Sprays, and bespoke gifting selections – each product reflecting the brand’s dedication to craftsmanship and excellence.

As part of its Ramadan activations, Shama Perfumes is offering an exclusive experience across both locations. Customers will be treated to a professional gift-wrapping service designed to elevate the art of gifting during the Holy Month. Adding a personalized touch, a traditional calligrapher will be present to write heartfelt messages and names onto perfume boxes, transforming each fragrance into a cherished keepsake at Mall of Oman. That’s not all, the brand is hosting a special ‘chai’ station at its Opera Galleria boutique.

Speaking on this milestone, Salman Shama, CEO of Shama Perfumes, commented: “The launch of our Mall of Oman pop-up is a symbol of our continued commitment to the discerning patrons of Oman. We are proud to bring our legacy closer to the community and create immersive experiences that combine luxury with tradition. Our Ramadan activations are designed to evoke emotion, personal connection, and warmth - values that have always been central to the Shama Perfumes story.”

Sarah Shaikh, Brand Director at Shama Perfumes, added: “At Shama, every element - from fragrance to presentation - is thoughtfully curated to tell a story. The new pop-up is a reflection of our desire to bring this narrative closer to our audience in more accessible and engaging ways.”

From an opulent scent library at Opera Galleria to the evocative displays at Mall of Oman, Shama Perfumes continues to blend heritage with innovation, offering customers a world-class olfactory journey steeped in legacy, culture, and timeless beauty.

Founded in 1977 in Mumbai in India by Umar J. Shama, Shama Perfumes began with a vision to offer exquisite scents and products to a discerning clientele, the brand has evolved under the visionary leadership of Salim Shama, who established Shama’s global headquarters in Dubai in 2017. With a reputation built on quality and legacy, and guided by its CEO Salman Shama, the brand now reaches fragrance connoisseurs across India, UAE, Qatar, and Oman.

JOY OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

Indian School Duqm celebrates Kindergarten Graduation Day

MUSCAT: The joy of accomplishment filled the air as Indian School Duqm celebrated its first Kindergarten Graduation Day on 21 March. The event marked a significant milestone for the young graduates, recognizing their journey of learning, creativity, and growth.

The Chief Guest Dr. Sivakumar Manickam esteemed outgoing Chairman of the Board of Directors, Indian Schools in Oman, shared words of encouragement, emphasizing the importance of early education in shaping future leaders. The Guest of Honour Vinoba M. P gave a message to the parents which emphasised how important it is to spend valuable time with these young minds. Arif T K, the President of the School Management Committee expressed his gratitude towards the Board for their constant support and guidance in establishing an Indian School in Duqm.

The little graduates, dressed in their caps and gowns, proudly walked the stage to receive their certificates, symbolizing the completion of their first academic step. Adding charm to the occasion, the children showcased delightful performances, including songs, dances, highlighting the skills and confidence they have gained over the year. Parents and family members beamed with pride as they watched their little ones shine on stage.

The event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks from the Headmistress of Indian School Duqm, Snehal Ranjan Gupte acknowledging the collective efforts of students, parents, and staff in making the academic year a memorable success. As the young graduates embark on their next phase of learning, the Kindergarten Graduation Day served as a beautiful reminder that every big journey begins with a small step.

MAZDA RAMADAN RAFFLE – SECOND WINNER ANNOUNCED

Mazda Oman announced Omar Nadeem as the second winner of its Ramadan raffle, continuing the excitement that began with the first winner of a brand-new Mazda 6 last week. This thrilling campaign continues to capture the spirit of Ramadan, offering customers the unique opportunity to own a Mazda while also standing a chance to win an additional one. With two more raffle draws remaining, anticipation is at an all-time high as more customers await their turn to win.

AWARD

Bank Muscat named Best Bank for Trade Finance Bank by The Digital Banker

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the premier financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, has been honoured with the Best Bank for Trade Finance Award by The Digital Banker. This prestigious accolade highlights the Bank’s unwavering commitment to implementing the highest standards in trade finance.

Ilham Murtadha al Humaid, General Manager of Corporate Banking at Bank Muscat, expressed pride in receiving this award, stating, “This recognition underscores our dedication to excellence. We offer a suite of advanced document management systems and innovative trade finance solutions, leveraging modern technology to boost operational efficiency, automate processes, and enhance customer experience. These are areas where we have made significant strides, and we remain focused on optimizing business operations by adopting industry best practices.”

Bank Muscat delivers a comprehensive array of trade finance solutions tailored to the diverse needs of its clients, including SMEs, large corporations, and government entities. These solutions are designed to optimize cash flows, mitigate the risks of international trade, and facilitate swift payments in major currencies. With a market share exceeding 35%, the Bank stands as a formidable player in trade finance, supported by a dedicated team of over 75 professionals who ensure timely processing of commercial transactions.

The team at Bank Muscat possesses multidisciplinary expertise in trade services, offering valuable guidance and advice, particularly for complex transactions. The Bank’s “Global Trade Service Office” acts as a centralized hub for trade finance inquiries, ensuring efficient responses through a sophisticated system.

Investing in human resource development is a priority for Bank Muscat. Employees are encouraged to pursue international certifications such as CDCS and CITF, enhancing their expertise to deliver exceptional service to government entities and corporations. Reflecting its customer-centric approach, the Bank has launched the DigiTrade platform, enabling corporate clients to manage transactions electronically from their offices or homes. This platform offers a broad range of commercial products and services, ensuring faster processing through streamlined procedures.

ROUND-UP

Subaru celebrates Ramadan 2025 with Crosstrek and Forester

Known for its 100% Japanese reliability, safety, and, Subaru invites auto enthusiasts and families to take advantage of this limited time offer and drive home a vehicle that's built for every journey

MUSCAT: Subaru is ringing in Ramadan 2025 with an exclusive promotion, offering extraordinary value across its Crosstrek and Forester models.

Known for its 100% Japanese reliability, safety, and, Subaru invites auto enthusiasts and families to take advantage of this limited time offer and drive home a vehicle that's built for every journey. The promotion runs until April 30, providing customers with an incredible opportunity to enjoy premium benefits during the holy month.

This Ramadan, Subaru's special offers include:

Insurance and registration included in price

Service Package of 4 years or 50,000 km

45% Buy-Back Guarantee after 3 years or 60,000 km, subject to conditions

OMR 300 in Lulu Vouchers and a Petro Card

With VAT included, this comprehensive offer makes it the perfect time to invest in a Subaru and experience the brand's legendary all-wheel-drive technology, designed to perform on both urban roads and rugged trails.

"We've always been committed to delivering vehicles that inspire confidence, no matter the terrain," said a Subaru senior spokesperson. "This Ramadan, we're excited to offer even more reasons to choose Subaru — combining rewarding ownership benefits with exceptional performance. Whether navigating city streets or embarking on off-road adventures, Subaru offers the perfect vehicle for every lifestyle."

Customers are invited to visit Subaru's showroom in Wattayah, Muscat, or any of the OTE locations at Barka, Sohar and Nizwa across Oman to explore the Crosstrek and Forester firsthand.

Test drives are available, allowing customers to find the Subaru that fits their needs perfectly. For added convenience, Subaru's digital platforms provide easy access to vehicle details, pricing, and promotions, enabling potential buyers to explore offers and schedule test drives from the comfort of their homes.

NATIONAL BANK OF OMAN

NBO celebrates Eid tradition with dedicated Eid note dispensing machines

MUSCAT: As part of its ongoing commitment to enhancing customer convenience, the National Bank of Oman (NBO) is continuing to offer its Eid note dispensing machines ahead of the festive season.

Located at five digital branches across Oman, NBO's Head Office, Sohar Branch, New Salalah Branch, Ibra Branch and Bahla Branch, the machines dispense 100 and 500 Baiza notes, catering to the seasonal demand for Eidiya. The service is available exclusively to NBO Debit Card holders and will remain accessible until 29 March.

Regarding the service, Dr. Ali Salim Al Shekaili, Assistant General Manager – Head of Digital and E-Channels at NBO said, "Eidiya is a cherished tradition that brings joy to families and strengthens bonds. By offering our customers an easy way to access Eidiya in convenient note values, we are supporting a meaningful cultural practice while making banking more convenient. We are proud to continue delivering thoughtful solutions that bring added value to our customers' lives."

This service forms part of NBO's broader commitment to advancing its digital banking capabilities. From self-service innovations to secure and intuitive mobile banking features, NBO continues to lead the way in delivering smart, accessible and user-friendly financial solutions. Introduced last year as a first-of-its-kind service in Oman, the machines further reinforce the bank's position as a leader in digital transformation.

RECOGNITION

Sohar Oil celebrates 40 years of everlasting trust and tradition with an award-winning film

MUSCAT: Sohar Oil, the first true Omani brand in the cooking oil market in Oman from Areej Vegetable Oil & Derivatives' (AVOD) is something that's been passed on by families to their next generation making it a truly a trusted heritage brand in Oman and has been having a constant presence in kitchens in Oman delivering premium quality cooking oil to households and businesses alike.

Sohar Oil announces its latest recognition, winning the prestigious "Most Creative Film" and "Most Fast-moving Brand of Oman" accolades at the TOMI (The Oman Marketing Impact) 2025 Awards. This achievement underscores Sohar Oil's dedication not only to its immaculate product quality but also to its innovation, excellence and a creative way of bringing the brand closer to its consumers, reaching them through communication and constantly building lasting trust across generations.

Sohar Oil's journey is one of perseverance, dedication, and an unwavering pursuit of excellence. Named after the legendary and storied ship, SOHAR, which holds a special place in Oman's rich seafaring history, the brand has resonated deeply with Omanis, evoking immense national pride and honour. Its iconic Arabic jingle, first introduced in 1982, became a nostalgic song to remember even now over acouple of generations. It was relaunched in 2007 with the same model and her daughter, symbolizing two generations and revived once again this year in a modern genre featuring three generations, reinforcing the brand's deep-rooted legacy of trust.

Eng. Salem Al Bortmany, CEO of AVOD, states, " It is a matter of immense pride for us that Sohar Oil's legacy of excellence has been passed down through the ages. True to its Omani spirit, it not only succeeded but its reputation for unparalleled purity and top-notch quality propelled it to instant stardom and today its the fastest growing brand. Sohar Oil is more than just a cooking oil. It is a premium brand and a testament to AVOD's commitment to delivering a brand that's not only healthy but an emblem of TRUST, Omani pride and a celebration in every occasion, bringing families and generations together."

Like all AVOD products, Sohar Oil has undergone rigorous research and development to ensure only the finest final product reaches the market. AVOD also holds the distinction of being the first company in Oman to fortify its cooking oils with vitamins A & D, ensuring that all its products – including flagship brands Minara, Khafeef, Jabal Akhdar, Muscat Margarine, and Areej cooking oil – offering the perfect fusion of health and quality.

As a heritage brand Sohar Oil sets itself apart from competition and continues cement its status as a treasured confidant in every kitchen across Oman transforming individuals, families into healthier and happier communities over 40 years and it's the true legacy of Sohar Cooking Oil.

BESTUNE
Built to inspire صُمِمت لتُلهم الآخرين

أهلاً رمضان
RAMADAN MUBARAK

Celebrate a Memorable Ramadan with Bestune

CASH PRICE
OMR 7,700*
VAT INCLUDED

All new
T90
PREMIUM MY2025

1.5L Turbo Engine, 158hp, 7-speed DCT
L x W x H (mm): 4800 x 1915 x 1685

CASH PRICE
OMR 7,150*
VAT INCLUDED

T77 PRO
DELUX MY2025

1.5L Turbo Engine, 168hp, 7-speed DCT
L x W x H (mm): 4718 x 1880 x 1710

CASH PRICE
OMR 7,450*
VAT INCLUDED

B70S
PREMIUM MY2025

1.5L Turbo Engine, 158hp, 7-speed DCT
L x W x H (mm): 4555 x 1850 x 1515

CASH PRICE
OMR 7,150*
VAT INCLUDED

B70
COMFORT MY2025

1.5L Turbo Engine, 165hp, 7-speed DCT
L x W x H (mm): 4810 x 1840 x 1455

RAMADAN OFFERS

FREE SERVICE 3 YEARS / 55,000 KMS# | FREE INSURANCE@ | FREE REGISTRATION^ | FREE WINDOW TINTING^^
VAT (5%) INCLUSIVE IN VEHICLE PRICE | **MANUFACTURER'S WARRANTY 6 YEARS OR 250,000KMS****

Terms and Conditions Apply. Offer valid from 20th February to 20th April 2025 on all models purchased through the BESTUNE Showroom Retail Offer. #Whichever is earlier. Periodic Maintenance Service only. Offer includes only 10,000 kms service intervals. @For 1st year, Oman & UAE only. ^For 1st year only. ^^Window Tinting warranty will be 3 years against manufacturing defects and will be fitted at our own Service Centres. *Car price excludes cash gift. **Whichever is earlier. Images shown are for illustrative purpose only. Specification may vary as per the model variant. For more information, please visit the BESTUNE Showroom.

Gulf Great Sands LLC

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT:
SHOWROOMS : **Al Qurum 79999073, Sohar 95499001**
SALES CENTRES : **Mawaleh 79913320, Barka 95332787, Sur 95500965, Ibri 79326176, Nizwa 94962202, Salalah 96562624**

800 50800
bestuneoman
bestune-oman.com

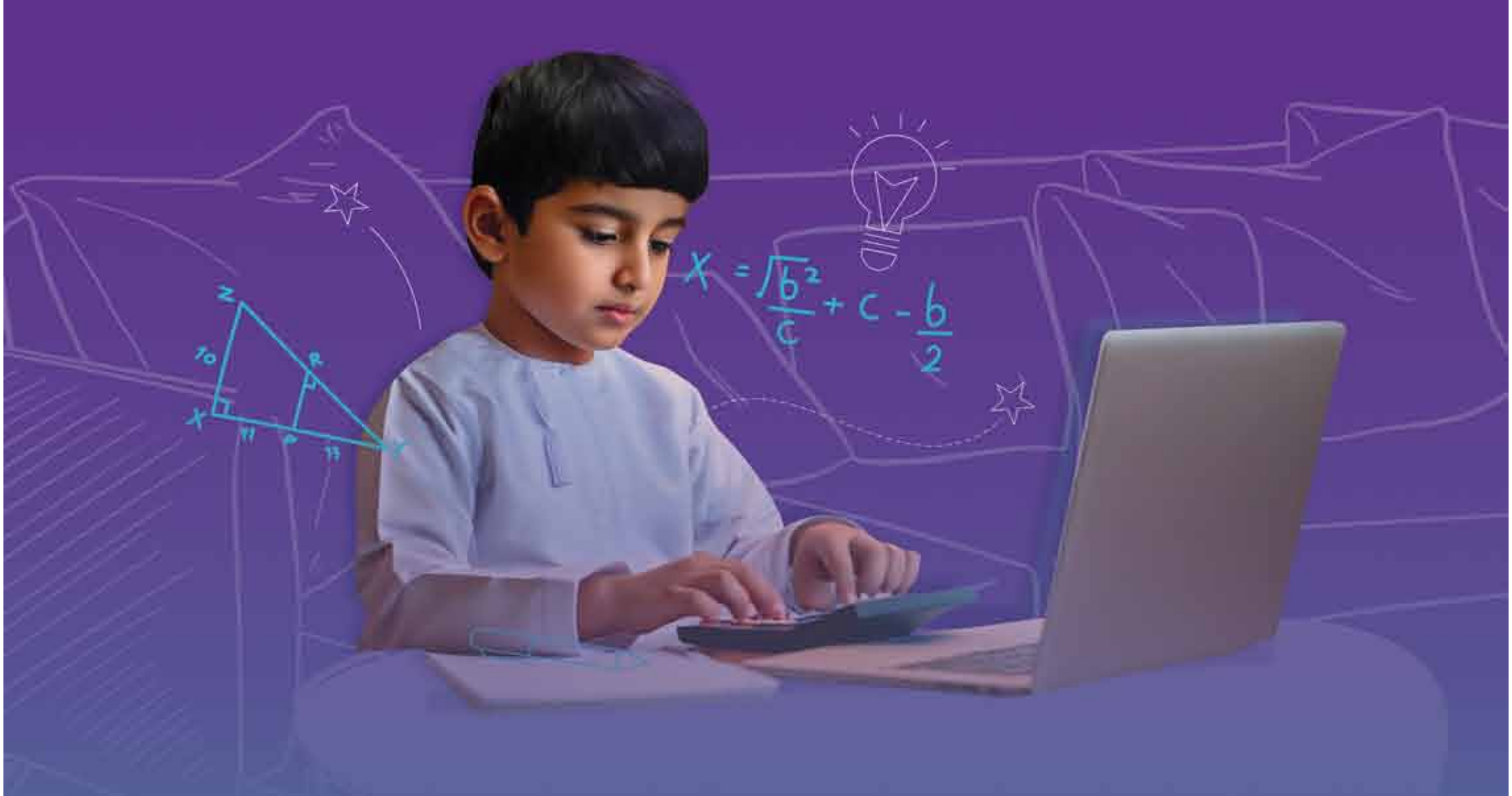
C.R : 1159794

AWASR
Experience Better

Their future starts today!

Change to Awasr, Fastest Internet In Oman

- **Get Ashel Educational** Platform for free!
- **Unlimited data** for all plans



SUBSCRIBE NOW !
WhatsApp
80001000
Website: awasr.om