



Founded 1975 · Volume 51 No. 54 | 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

AT HIS MAJESTY'S BEHEST

Oman's envoy to Tunisia receives prestigious award

TUNIS: At the behest of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, Dr. Hilal Abdullah Al Sinani, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Republic of Tunisia, received on Tuesday the "Arab Cultural Excellence Medal" (Supreme Class). The medal was awarded by the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) to His Majesty, during an official ceremony held at the Organisation's headquarters in Tunis.

> **FULL REPORT A6**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

New initiative for students launched

1 An evaluation study of Child-Friendly Education Initiative was launched. >**A2**

OMAN

His Majesty receives written message

2 His Majesty received a written message from Azerbaijan President. >**A5**

MARKET

Oman and India hold meeting to activate FTA

3 Oman, India held meetings to activate FTA between the two countries. >**B1**

HM VISITS PDO, INAUGURATES INTEGRATED OPERATIONS CENTRE 'BAIT AL HAITHAM'



His Majesty also reviewed key developments in the energy sector

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik visited the Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) in the Governorate of Muscat yesterday morning to review the key projects and developments within the energy sector. Upon His Majesty's arrival at the Company's headquarters, His Majesty was received by Eng.

Salim bin Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals; Mohsin bin Hamad Al Hadhrami, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals and Chairman of the PDO Board of Directors; and Dr. Aflah bin Said Al Hadhrami, PDO Managing Director. Thereafter, the Managing Director had the honour of delivering a

welcoming address on the occasion of the Royal visit of His Majesty the Sultan. Following this, His Majesty graciously viewed a visual presentation highlighting the principal stages of the Company's evolution and the achievements it has realised in the oil and gas sector, showcasing its efforts to enhance the working environment and el-

evate performance levels, alongside its future vision and projects anchored in modern technologies.

Bait Al Haitham
His Majesty then graciously unveiled the commemorative plaque, heralding the official inauguration of the Integrated Operations Centre "Bait Al Haitham." >**A4**



شركة تنمية نفط عمان
Petroileum Development Oman

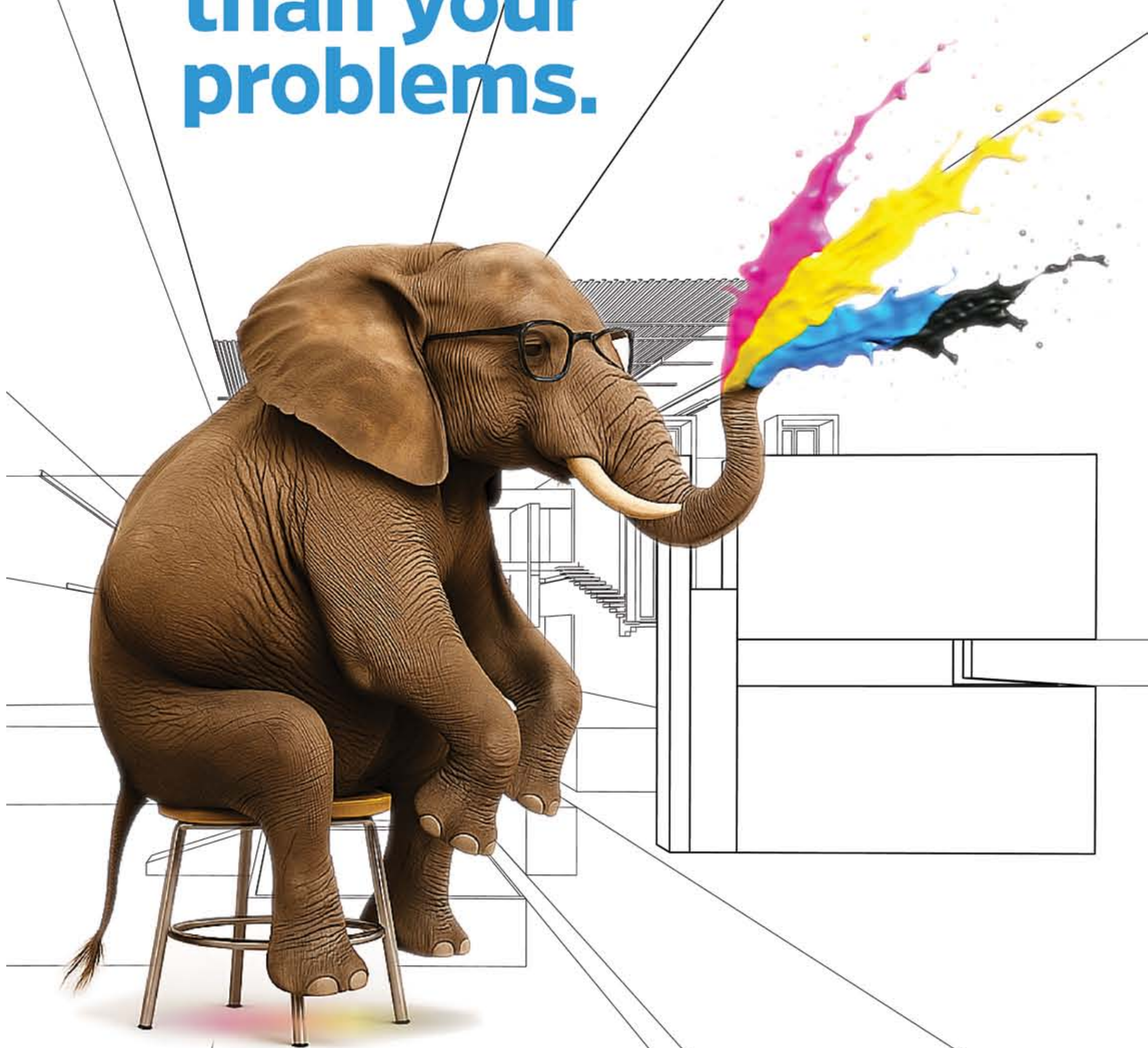
Petroileum Development Oman (PDO) extends its sincere gratitude and profound appreciation to

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik

for honouring the Company with his esteemed visit and gracious inauguration of the Integrated Operations Centre, 'Bait Al Haitham'.



We make your Business bigger than your problems.



We get you ahead on

- Booth production
- Event conceptualisation
- Event management



Wait, there's more

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



Driving What Comes Next

From studying political science and spending time abroad in Turkey to helping build one of Oman's most dynamic startup success stories, what sparked the shift toward tech, operations and the mobility sector?
I've always been interested in fast-moving environments where you can see the impact of your work immediately. Tech and mobility offered that, a space where ideas turn into real change, every single day.

Having been central to the Female Taxi project from its earliest days, what moment made it clear that this initiative could genuinely change lives? What do you believe holds more women back from entering mobility jobs, and what insights have the fearless early adopters taught you?
It became clear the moment women started applying simply because they saw someone like them already doing the job. The biggest barrier was never ability — it was seeing a real example. Once that existed, everything changed.



Rising through the organisation from early operations to GM comes with its own challenges. How has the approach to leading a team evolved, especially with colleagues who first knew you as the youngest member in the room?

TOP WOMEN LEADERS IN OMAN



Special Report By

Times of Oman

In Association with

the origin

Powered by

Ford

LINCOLN

Sheikha Ambuali General Manager, Yango Oman
Sheikha Ambuali has grown alongside Oman's mobility revolution, helping shape Yango from its early operational days into a national platform with real social impact. Rising from the youngest voice in the room to General Manager, she has led with clarity, trust, and pace. Her work on the Female Taxi initiative proved a simple truth: representation unlocks participation. Sheikha's leadership reflects a new generation building progress from the inside out.

It hasn't been easy. Stepping into a leadership role among colleagues you've grown alongside requires clarity, consistency, and trust. I believe strongly in teamwork, and my focus has been on aligning the team around a clear vision and moving

together toward shared success.
After witnessing the rapid scaling of a national mobility platform so early in your career, what guidance would you share with young Omanis who want to create

meaningful impact inside startups but feel unsure where to begin?
Everything you do has value. Don't be afraid to stand out, and don't wait to feel ready. Focus on what you're good at, learn fast, and take responsibility early.

SAF Chief of Staff receives Director of UK Integrated Warfare Centre

MUSCAT: Vice Admiral Abdullah Khamis Al Raisi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF), received in his office at Al Murtafa'a Camp on Tuesday Air Vice-Marshal Simon Strasdin, Director of the Integrated Warfare Centre (IWC) of the United Kingdom and the military delegation accompanying him.
During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views and discussed several topics of mutual interest. In a related context, Air Vice-Marshal Simon Strasdin, Director of the Integrated Warfare Centre and his accompanying military delegation visited the Maritime Security Centre (MSC) on Tuesday.
Upon the guest's arrival at the centre's headquarters, he was re-



ceived by the Acting Head of the Maritime Security Centre.
During the visit, the guest and his delegation were briefed on the roles of the Maritime Security Centre and its efforts in maintaining the security and safety of the environment and navigation within the maritime zones of the Sultanate of Oman.
He also viewed the centre's facilities and the modern technologies and systems with which it is equipped. — OMA



Evaluation study of child-friendly education initiative launched in Oman

The initiative was jointly developed by the Ministry of Education and UNICEF to make the learning environment attractive and child-friendly

child-friendly, and to strengthen a system that places the child at the centre of the educational process, emphasizing the principles of inclusiveness and participation.
This initiative directly contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals 2030, particularly Goal 4, which ensures inclusive and equitable quality education and promotes lifelong learning opportunities for all.
Since its pilot phase in nine schools across three governorates in 2012, the initiative has witnessed continuous growth, leading to its nationwide rollout across all educational governorates in 2022.
The evaluation was conducted using a participatory and inclusive approach, involving field consultations and visits to several educational governorates in the Sultanate of Oman. Children, including those with disabilities, alongside parents, school principals, and teachers, actively participated. This enriched the evaluation process with diverse perspectives and enhanced the alignment of findings with the real-life experiences of school communities across various governorates of the Sultanate.
Shanoona Salim Al Habsi, representative of the Sultanate of Oman on the UNICEF Executive Board at the United Nations in New York and Assistant Director-General for Special Education at the Ministry of Education, delivered a speech affirming the close strategic partnership between the Government of the Sultanate of Oman and UNICEF. This partnership has resulted in the implementation of several vital initiatives focused on child and adolescent development, including children with disabilities.
The workshop featured a review of children's and youth's

experiences and aspirations regarding the second edition of the Child-Friendly Education Guide, alongside a presentation of the key findings of the initiative's evaluation. This highlighted the importance of engaging children and the school community in developing more inclusive learning environments responsive to their needs.
A workshop was held with the participation of specialists from child development authorities and members of the Arab Parliament for the Child in the Sultanate of Oman. The goal was to prepare a five-year action plan to translate the report's findings and recommendations into practical, sustainable programmes and initiatives.
The workshop included multi-sectoral discussions and working sessions aimed at establishing the general framework of an action plan, including integrating key performance indicators and clearly defining priorities, responsibilities, and coordination mechanisms.
The workshop's outcomes will contribute to developing the second edition of the Child-Friendly Education Initiative, aligned with the provisions of the School Education Law issued in 2023, consistent with the national priorities of Oman Vision 2040 and the Eleventh Five-Year Development Plan (2026–2030), and in accordance with recent developments in the Sultanate of Oman's education system.
This launch represents a pivotal milestone in the Sultanate of Oman's efforts to entrench child-friendly education standards, enhance cross-sectoral coordination, and ensure that national education policies remain evidence-based, child-centred, and future-ready. — OMA

Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology

Request for Expression of Interest

Solar-Powered Street Lighting Project

The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology is pleased to invite specialized local companies to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) for the design and implementation of solar-powered street lighting systems. This project aims to improve energy efficiency, reduce operation and maintenance costs, support environmental sustainability, and promote the use of renewable energy technologies in the Sultanate of Oman, in accordance with the requirements stated in this announcement.

Requirements for Participation:

- An official Expression of Interest letter for the Solar-Powered Street Lighting Project for main roads in the Sultanate of Oman.
- Company profile, valid Commercial Registration (CR), and relevant licenses related to the company's activities

All documents must be submitted in PDF format and sent to tenders.contracts@mtcit.gov.om With the Expression of Interest title stated in the email subject, no later than 4 June 2026. Interested companies will be provided with the detailed documents upon submitting the Expression of Interest

For any inquiries, please contact the above email address

COMMENTARY

Lamine raises the Palestinian flag... and wins the hearts of millions



ABBAS AL ZAD JALI

The image was not merely a fleeting football celebration. Within hours, it had become one of the most widely circulated photographs across international media outlets and social media platforms alike.

Young Barcelona star Lamine Yamal was seen raising the Palestinian flag during Barcelona's title celebrations — a moment loaded with political, humanitarian, and symbolic significance that quickly transcended the boundaries of sport itself.

Tens of thousands of supporters filled the streets of Barcelona as the club celebrated its latest league triumph, turning the city into a sea of colours, chants, and flags.

Yet amid the festivities, one image stood above all others: the teenager carrying the Palestinian flag before jubilant crowds.

The Spanish press reacted cautiously and with varying interpretations. Some newspapers close to FC Barcelona described the act as a "personal expression" by a young player engaged with current global events, while others attempted to minimise the political dimension and focus solely on the celebratory atmosphere.

Nevertheless, completely ignoring the image proved impossible.

One Spanish publication described it as "one of the most controversial moments of Barcelona's celebrations outside football," while sports websites supportive of Barcelona wrote that Yamal "captured attention not only with his talent, but also with his symbolic message." Other commentators noted that the young footballer already understands the immense global reach of his image and influence, where even a brief gesture can instantly evolve into an international political discussion.

International reactions were sharply divided between supporters who viewed Yamal's



action as a courageous humanitarian gesture and critics who argued that sports should remain separate from politics. A number of journalists, commentators, and activists praised what they saw as unusual boldness in an era where many athletes avoid positions that might expose them to media attacks, commercial consequences, or pressure from sponsors and lobbying groups.

Among the phrases widely shared online were comments such as: "Courage is not always about scoring goals," and "A new generation of athletes is no longer afraid to express its views."

Another widely circulated comment read: "Raising the Palestinian flag in a time of silence — a goal recorded not in football statistics, but in the conscience of humanity."

In contrast, Israeli reactions appeared far more agitated.

Several Israeli newspapers and websites described the incident as "a storm of anger following the raising of the Palestinian flag," arguing that "the celebrations had turned into a political platform." Some commentators suggested that a player with Yamal's growing popularity was contributing to the expansion of global sympathy for Palestinians at a time when Israel faces increasing international criticism over the war in Gaza.

One Israeli commentator wrote angrily that "European sports stars are becoming less afraid to express support for Palestinians," while other articles interpreted the incident as evidence of the declining ability of Israeli media narratives to shape younger Western public opinion — particularly in an age dominated by digital platforms and social media.

Ironically, however, the criticism itself only amplified the image further.

The more outrage directed at Yamal intensified, the more widely the photograph spread throughout the Arab world and among supporters of the Palestinian cause internation-

ally. Many viewed the attacks against him as proof that simply raising the Palestinian flag had become treated as a "dangerous political act," thereby deepening the symbolism and emotional power of the moment.

Part of the image's impact lies in the fact that Yamal is not a seasoned political activist or public intellectual. He is, first and foremost, a teenage footballer who — according to traditional expectations — should concern himself only with goals, trophies, and celebrations.

But the world has changed. Modern athletes are no longer confined to the football pitch. Their influence increasingly extends into politics, identity, public morality, and humanitarian causes. Every image, gesture, or statement can instantly become part of a wider global conversation.

Yamal's own background added another layer to the symbolism. The Spanish player, of Moroccan and Equatorial Guinean heritage, grew up in a multicultural environment shaped by overlapping identities and experiences. Many therefore interpreted his gesture not simply as a political statement, but as an expression connected to broader questions of justice, discrimination, identity, and human solidarity.

For this reason, support for the image was not limited to Arabs or Muslims alone. European and Western voices also defended the act as a matter of human conscience rather than partisan politics.

At the same time, the reactions inevitably drew comparisons with the silence or caution shown by several famous Arab and Muslim footballers despite their larger fan bases and greater experience. For many supporters, this contrast made Yamal's gesture appear even more striking: a teenager at the beginning of his career showing a willingness to take a public position while many established stars preferred silence.

Ultimately, football history may remember Lamine Yamal for his goals, assists, and titles. Yet the image of him raising the Palestinian flag during Barcelona's celebrations may endure as one of the defining moments associated with his name.

Some moments outlive trophies themselves — because they speak to something deeper than sport: the human conscience.

NATIONAL ELIGIBILITY CUM ENTRANCE TEST (UNDERGRADUATE)

More than 300 students in Oman affected as India cancels NEET UG 2026

Times News Service

MUSCAT: More than 300 students from Oman have been affected after India's National Testing Agency (NTA) cancelled the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (Undergraduate)—NEET UG 2026—conducted on May 3, following allegations of a question paper leak.

Officials confirmed that over 300 candidates from Oman had appeared for the examination on May 3, which is the primary gateway for admission into MBBS, BDS and other undergraduate medical programmes in India.

The cancellation follows an investigation launched by the Rajasthan Special Operations Group (SOG) into suspected malpractice linked to the examination. The Government of India has also referred the matter to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for a comprehensive inquiry.

In a statement, the NTA said the decision was taken after reviewing inputs received in coordination with central agencies and law enforcement authorities.

"On the basis of the inputs subsequently examined by NTA in coordination with the central agencies, and the investigative findings shared by the law enforce-



ment agencies, and in order to ensure transparency in the system, the National Testing Agency, with the approval of the Government of India, has decided to cancel the NEET (UG) 2026 examination conducted on 3 May 2026, and to re-conduct the examination on dates that will be notified separately," the statement said.

The agency added that the "present examination process could not be allowed to stand."

The NTA said candidate registration details and examination centres selected for the May 2026 cycle would remain valid for the re-test. Students will not be required to register again or pay any additional fee.

"In addition, fees already paid will be refunded to the students, and the exam will be re-conducted using NTA's internal resources,"

the statement added. Fresh examination dates and revised admit card schedules are expected to be announced through official channels in the coming days.

The NTA acknowledged the inconvenience caused to students and parents, but stressed that the move was necessary to protect the credibility of the examination system.

"The decision has been taken because the alternative would have caused greater and more lasting damage to that trust," the statement noted.

NEET UG 2026 was conducted in pen-and-paper mode across more than 5,400 centres in 551 cities across India and 14 cities abroad, including Oman. Around 2.279 million students appeared for the examination worldwide.

SULTAN'S ARMED FORCES

SAF Chief of Staff receives top British military official

Muscat: Vice Admiral Abdullah Khamis Al Raisi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF), received in his office at Al Murtafa'a Camp on Tuesday Lt. Gen Nick Perry, Chief of Joint Operations in the UK and the military

delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed areas of military cooperation and ways to develop them, in addition to discussing a number of military topics of mutual interest. — ONA



VOTE FOR YOUR FAVOURITE BRAND NOW!



For more information, contact:
Sanjeev Rana – sanjeev@mmg.om | +968 9722 1630
Syed Amir Saleem – syed.amir@mmg.om | +968 7847 1944

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SUBMIT YOUR VOTE!



Discover the Art of Automotive Luxury



2.0L Turbo Engine, 233 hp, 8-Speed AT, 4WD
SUPER WARRANTY 6 YEARS UNLIMITED MILEAGE*

EMI starting from
OMR 172*
for 6 years



*Terms and Conditions Apply



Terms & Conditions Apply. *Easy Monthly Installment is calculated based on 20% down payment for 6 years loan tenure. Subject to credit approvals from Banks only. Applicable on vehicles purchased for personal use. Images shown are for illustrative purpose only. Specification may vary as per the model variant. #WhichEver is earlier. To know more, please visit the CHANGAN Showroom.

Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment LLC

Showrooms:
Qurum 94641010, Mawaleh 97888180, Nizwa 96628940
Sohar 95351200, Salalah 96629050, Ibbi 96628930,
Barka 96629010, Sur 96628920

800 50800
9662 8909
changanoan
www.changanoman.com



Centre stands as foremost command and control hub for energy sector in Oman

< FROM A1 This Centre stands as the foremost command and control hub for the energy sector in the Sultanate of Oman, having been conceived as an advanced digital landmark dedicated to the real-time monitoring of all operational processes within the oil and gas sector under a unified operating system. It is regarded as one of the nation's most vital projects and a pioneering endeavour on a global scale, established in fulfilment of the wise and enlightened vision of His Majesty the Sultan in the era of the Renewed Renaissance. The Centre will directly contribute to the enduring sustainability of the national economy.

His Majesty the Sultan also viewed the wall exhibition documenting the most significant historical milestones of the PDO, its journey of institutional transformation, increased production, future strategic plans, and its initiatives in the realms of sustainability, digital transformation and the cultivation of national competencies.

At the conclusion of this visit, His Majesty the Sultan graciously penned an entry in the distinguished visitors' book, expressing his delight on this felicitous occasion and supplicating for the success of all personnel in this sector and the realisation of further accomplishments. Thereafter, a collective commemorative photograph was taken of His Majesty the Sultan with a number of the Company's employees, in lasting testament to this royal visit.

Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan during the visit were HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs; Sultan bin Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance; Dr. Hamad bin Said Al Aufi, Head of the Private Office; Abdul-salam bin Mohammed Al Murshidi, Chairman of the Oman Investment Authority; and Anwar bin Hilal Al Jabri, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion. — OMA



OMAN VISION 2040

HM's visit to PDO signals continued royal support for the energy sector

MUSCAT: The Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) was honoured to welcome His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on Tuesday on his first visit to the Company, during which he inaugurated Bait Al Haitham, PDO's Integrated Operations Centre (IOC), marking a significant milestone in the Company's history.

The inauguration reflects Oman's continued focus on digital transformation, operational integration, and the adoption of advanced technologies in the energy sector, in line with Oman Vision 2040 and the Sultanate of Oman's ambition to embrace the fourth industrial revolution.

Bait Al Haitham, a world-class centre, represents a major milestone in PDO's Journey of Transformation, centralising the monitoring and control of the Company's oil, gas, power and terminal operations within one integrated environment.

The state-of-the-art facility enables integrated decision-making, enhances operational efficiency and reliability, supports remote operations, and strengthens safety performance through real-time

coordination and collaboration across PDO's operational assets.

The centre oversees a vast operational network, supporting the management of 227 producing oil fields, 39 producing gas fields, 29 main production stations, 15 power generation stations, 1,400 megawatts of power generation capacity, and more than 13,000 active wells connected through extensive pipeline and transmission infrastructure. The facility also supports PDO's long-term ambition to enhance operational resilience, optimise resource management, and strengthen Oman's position as a leading energy producer.

The project is being implemented with a strong emphasis on capability development, operational optimisation, and national workforce empowerment. The facility currently accommodates 279 employees and has achieved 95% Omanisation rate.

Dr. Aflah Said Al Hadhrami, PDO Managing Director said: "The historic visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to PDO marks a proud and defining moment in the Company's Journey of Transformation, 'For Oman'.



His Majesty's inauguration of 'Bait Al Haitham' reflects the continued Royal support for the energy sector and reinforces the national importance of innovation, operational excellence, and digital transformation in advancing Oman's sustainable development goals.

As His Majesty's first visit to PDO, this occasion is a great source of pride and inspiration for all PDO employees, particularly our Omani

talent, who continue to lead and shape the Company's future. It also reinforces the confidence placed in PDO as a key national energy institution supporting the Sultanate's economic growth, energy security, and long-term resilience".

In 2025, PDO achieved its highest oil production rate since 2002. The Company's current Omanisation rate stands at 92.7%. PDO has launched the "Ruwad" programme, in collaboration with London Busi-

ness School, to develop leadership skills for the Company's emerging generation of leaders.

In occupational and operational safety, PDO has completed ten years without a single lost-time injury (LTI) in its exploration operations. Over the past year, the Company recorded a 15% reduction in lost-time injuries compared to 2024, a 40% reduction in vehicle accidents, and an 85% reduction in Level 1 and Level 2 process safety incidents compared to 2020.

Regarding new technologies, PDO is piloting 30 key technology initiatives to explore new growth areas and address pressing technical challenges, such as produced water management, energy management, artificial lift, enhanced oil recovery, and production measurement. Additionally, 22 new technologies are being deployed to provide solutions in energy and water management, artificial lift, and well construction.

PDO retained approximately OMR1 billion of its total supply chain expenditure within the Sultanate of Oman. It spent OMR350 million with small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and community

contracting companies, directed OMR273 million toward Omani-manufactured products, and created 2,552 job opportunities for Omanis through its In-Country Value (ICV) programme.

In 2025, PDO completed around 25 social responsibility projects valued at nearly OMR3.5 million and committed to implementing 45 new projects. The Company also renewed its scholarship programme worth OMR2 million to support 150 students from the concession area. Furthermore, its educational programmes – "Masar," "Ma'rifa," and "Ta'zeez" – have attracted over 300 male and female students.

PDO has also achieved an exceptional milestone by obtaining ISO 20121 certification for Sustainable Event Management, becoming the first entity in the Sultanate of Oman and the first oil and gas company in the Middle East to receive this global accreditation. This reflects PDO's unwavering commitment to sustainability and environmental leadership, and reinforces its efforts to organise low-carbon events following best international practices. — OMA

INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY

Nurses working in Oman’s health sector tops 24,000

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman joined the countries of the world on Tuesday in marking International Nurses Day, observed annually on 12 May.

The occasion honours the humanitarian and professional roles performed by male and female nurses in strengthening the health system and elevating the quality of therapeutic and preventive services, as they represent a fundamental pillar of comprehensive healthcare.

This year’s celebration underscores the importance of investing in nursing cadres, qualifying them, and empowering them to keep pace with modern medical and technical developments. Such efforts contribute to enhancing the efficiency of health services and achieving sustainable health development targets.

Statistics from the Ministry of Health indicate that the number of nurses working in the health sector in the Sultanate of Oman exceeded 24,000 by the end of December 2025. These professionals operate across various government and private health institutions, performing pivotal roles in providing healthcare at all levels, in addition to their contributions to health awareness programs, community care, and emergency response.

Over the past years, the nursing sector in the Sultanate of Oman



has witnessed significant development in the fields of academic qualification, professional training, and specialised sub-specialties.

This progress is supported by educational and training programs implemented by health and academic institutions, which enhance the readiness of national competencies and their ability to handle various health challenges in ac-

cordance with international best practices.

The nursing workforce remains a primary partner in the journey of developing the health sector, given their continuous efforts in patient care, improving quality of life, and promoting the safety of the healthy community. This role embodies the noble humanitarian values and the exalted mission of the nursing profession. — **ONA**

BILATERAL RELATIONS



HM receives written message from President of Azerbaijan

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has received a written message from President Ilham Aliyev of the Republic of Azerbaijan, pertaining to the bilateral relations between the two countries.

The message was handed over to Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister when he received on Tuesday Rashad Ismayilov, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Sultanate of Oman.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed ways to enhance bilateral cooperation between the two countries across various fields, and reviewed a number of issues of mutual interest at both the regional and international levels. — **ONA**



SEVERAL TOPICS DISCUSSED



Royal Office Minister receives senior British military official

MUSCAT: General Sultan Mohammed Al Nu’amani, Minister of the Royal Office and Head of the Office of the Supreme Commander, received on Tuesday Lt. Gen Nick Perry, Chief of Joint Operations in the United Kingdom (UK),

and his accompanying delegation.

The guest’s official visit to the Sultanate of Oman is aimed at strengthening the existing cooperation relations between the two countries. During the meeting, the two sides discussed several topics

of mutual interest. They also reviewed areas of cooperation and ways to enhance them to serve common interests.

The meeting was attended by the Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Oman. — **ONA**



مسقط غاز

MUSCAT GAS

Muscat Gases Company SAOG

PO Box 11, PC 124, Rusayl, Sultanate of Oman.

Tel: 22526900, Email: info@muscatgas.com

COMPANY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2026

Dear Shareholders,

We would like to present to you the unaudited consolidated financial statements for the period ended 31st March 2026.

At the group level, the total turnover of the Company for the period ended 31st March 2026 is 5.125 million **﷮** compared with 6.518 million **﷮** for the same period of the last year, i.e. a decrease of 21%.

The parent Company’s total turnover for the period ended 31st March 2026 is 4.675 million **﷮** compared with 6.169 million **﷮** for the same period of last year, i.e. a decrease of 24%.

At the group level, net profit after tax for the period ended 31st March 2026 is **﷮** 84,078 compared with net profit of 16,557 **﷮** for the same period of the last year.

The parent Company’s net profit after tax for the period ended 31st March 2026 is 102,967 **﷮** compared with net profit of 12,764 **﷮** for the same period of the last year.

The Management is focusing on the enhancement of LPG business to yield better results in the coming period and the Company will put all its efforts to maximise the shareholders return.

Thanking you,

Mr. Abdullah Saud M. Al Romaih

Chairman

SEPARATE AND CONSOLIDATED UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

	31 March 2026		31 March 2025	
	Parent ﷮	Group ﷮	Parent ﷮	Group ﷮
Revenue	4,675,194	5,125,438	6,168,992	6,518,591
Cost of sales	(4,346,010)	(4,733,254)	(5,905,638)	(6,165,141)
Gross Profit	329,184	392,183	263,354	353,450
General and administration expenses	(215,673)	(294,213)	(258,273)	(343,448)
Investment and Other Income	7,627	7,710	9,936	9,936
Profit for the period before tax	121,138	105,680	15,016	19,938
Provision for Income tax	(18,171)	(21,602)	(2,252)	(3,379)
Net Profit for the period after tax	102,967	84,078	12,764	16,557
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income	102,967	84,078	12,764	16,557
Earnings per share	0.003	0.003	0.000	0.001

SEPARATE AND CONSOLIDATED UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT MARCH 31,2026

	31 March 2026		31 March 2025		31 December 2025	
	Parent ﷮	Group ﷮	Parent ﷮	Group ﷮	Parent ﷮	Group ﷮
ASSETS						
Non-current Assets:						
Property, plant and equipment	2,988,030	3,415,997	2,579,504	2,905,010	3,032,227	3,404,324
Right of use assets	273,280	273,280	200,294	200,294	276,292	276,292
Deferred Tax Asset	-	-	-	-	-	-
Investment	2,004,118	-	2,004,118	-	2,004,118	-
Goodwill	-	996,800	-	996,800	-	996,800
Trade Receivable	490,558	490,558	-	-	490,558	490,558
Total Non-current Assets	5,755,986	5,176,636	4,783,916	4,102,104	5,803,195	5,167,974
Current Assets:						
Inventories	934,373	1,152,157	2,580,093	2,772,114	876,604	1,105,346
Trade and other receivables	2,974,359	3,149,827	5,140,977	5,030,281	3,255,200	3,195,853
Cash and cash equivalents	1,786,829	1,981,417	640,837	832,547	1,676,146	1,915,049
Total Current Assets	5,695,561	6,283,402	8,361,907	8,634,942	5,807,950	6,216,249
TOTAL ASSETS	11,451,547	11,460,038	13,145,823	12,737,046	11,611,145	11,384,222
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES						
Equity:						
Share capital	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
Statutory reserve	1,000,000	1,015,863	1,000,000	1,013,094	1,000,000	1,015,863
Special reserve	1,457,067	1,457,067	1,457,067	1,457,067	1,457,067	1,457,067
Land revaluation reserve	1,292,166	1,370,366	807,666	807,666	1,292,166	1,370,366
Retained earnings	(700,216)	(808,663)	(379,473)	(532,163)	(803,183)	(884,548)
Total Equity	6,049,017	6,034,633	5,885,260	5,745,664	5,946,050	5,958,748
Non-current Liabilities:						
End of service benefits	125,810	168,512	126,682	154,999	144,223	185,204
Non current portion of Term Loan	324,541	324,541	-	-	-	-
Non current portion of lease liabilities	-	-	243,732	243,732	323,995	323,995
Deferred tax	115,605	130,770	106,778	112,164	115,605	128,657
Total Non-current Liabilities	565,956	623,823	477,192	510,895	583,823	637,856
Current Liabilities:						
Trade and other payables	4,180,941	4,132,751	6,434,365	6,125,576	4,638,013	4,334,471
Bank overdraft	602,147	602,147	312,760	312,760	413,115	413,115
Current portion of Term Loan	-	-	-	-	-	-
Current portion of lease liabilities	15,097	15,097	13,776	13,776	9,926	9,926
Income Tax	38,389	51,588	22,470	28,375	20,218	30,106
Total Current Liabilities	4,836,574	4,801,582	6,783,371	6,480,487	5,081,272	4,787,618
Total Liabilities	5,402,530	5,425,405	7,260,563	6,991,382	5,665,095	5,425,474
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	11,451,547	11,460,038	13,145,823	12,737,046	11,611,145	11,384,222
Net Assets Per Share (﷮)	0.202	0.201	0.196	0.192	0.198	0.199

Note: The complete account will be sent by email to any Shareholders who request them in either Arabic or English as requested within 7 days of the request.

At the behest of HM Oman’s envoy to Tunisia receives Arab Cultural Excellence Medal

This prestigious medal, the first of its kind awarded by ALECSO since its founding in 1970, reflects Arab recognition of the distinguished cultural and civilisational standing of the Sultanate of Oman

TUNIS: At the behest of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, Dr. Hilal Abdullah Al Sinani, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Republic of Tunisia, received today the “Arab Cultural Excellence Medal” (Supreme Class).

The medal was awarded by the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO) to His Majesty, during an official ceremony held at the Organisation’s headquarters in the Tunisian capital.

This prestigious medal, the first of its kind awarded by ALECSO since its founding in 1970, reflects Arab recognition of the distinguished cultural and civilisational standing of the Sultanate of Oman.

It also acknowledges His Majesty’s pioneering role in fostering culture and knowledge, and in advancing intellectual and cognitive development across the Arab world.

In his address, the Director-General of ALECSO stated that awarding the “ALECSO Arab Cultural Excellence Medal” to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik represents a moment of Arab gratitude to a leader who has made culture a national project and knowledge a civilisational vision.

He praised the civilisational model achieved by the Sultanate of Oman under His Majesty’s wise



leadership – a model that balances authenticity and modernity, and strengthens culture as a soft power for development and a tool for embedding the values of peace, tolerance, and dialogue.

He noted that this honour is not limited to His Majesty personally, but rather recognises a national and civilisational journey that has firmly established culture’s role in building the future of the Arab individual.

It also reaffirms Oman’s presence in supporting joint Arab cultural action, preserving heritage, and promoting dialogue and rapprochement among peoples.

He expressed the Organisation’s appreciation for the support it receives from the Sultanate of Oman and its pride in the cooperative relations between both sides in serving Arab culture and enhancing its global presence.

Dr. Hilal Abdullah Al Sinani, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Republic of Tun-

isia, affirmed in his address that awarding the Supreme Arab Cultural Excellence Medal to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik reflects ALECSO’s recognition of His Majesty’s leading role in championing culture and strengthening its position as a pillar of sustainable development and scientific progress.

He noted that Oman Vision 2040 has prioritised the Omani people and their cultural identity, while embedding the values of tolerance and civilisational dialogue.

He confirmed that this honour reflects the alignment of the Sultanate of Oman’s cultural vision with the Organisation’s goals of protecting Arab identity, supporting knowledge and innovation, preserving heritage, and promoting the Arabic language.

During the ceremony, a film was screened, featuring the intellectual and cultural vision of His Majesty the Sultan along with the achievements and rich tangible

and intangible historical heritage realised in the Sultanate of Oman, deeply rooted in human history.

On this occasion, Sayyid Saud Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, stated that ALECSO’s awarding of the Arab Cultural Excellence Medal (Supreme Class) to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik reflects His Majesty’s high vision of establishing culture as a central pillar of comprehensive development and as a tributary to the values of dialogue, tolerance, and co-existence.

It also recognises His Majesty’s ongoing commitment to supporting intellectual activity, thereby contributing to human understanding and regional and international stability, he added.

The minister affirmed that this honour acknowledges the civilisational standing the Sultanate of Oman has established in supporting culture and knowledge and enhancing their role in human development, as well as in building bridges of civilisational rapprochement among nations.

The Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth pointed out that the Sultanate of Oman, under the leadership of His Majesty the Sultan, continues to actively contribute to joint Arab cultural action and to strengthen intellectual partnerships that serve the goals of sustainable development, entrenching culture as a gateway to a more stable and prosperous future for generations to come. – **ONA**



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

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

EDITORIAL: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24813153, E-mail: editor@timesofoman.com
ADVERTISING: Telephone: 22009004, E-mail: amcoman@choueirigroup.com
CIRCULATION: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24818270, E-mail: circulation@timesofoman.com

TELEPHONE CALL



Sayyid Badr, Estonian and Dutch counterparts discuss bilateral ties

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, on Tuesday received a telephone call from Margus Tsahkna, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia.

During the telephonic conversation, the two ministers discussed bilateral relations and ways to enhance cooperation between Oman and Estonia.

Sayyid Badr and his Estonian counterpart also exchanged views about current regional and international issues. They stressed the need to continue coordination, consultation and support for political initiatives aimed at containing crises and resolving them through dialogue in a manner that consolidates pillars of security, stability and peace.

Sayyid Badr also conferred, in a phone call, with Tom Berendsen, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. During the telephonic conversation, Sayyid Badr and the Dutch minister discussed relations between the two friendly countries, as well as opportunities for developing bilateral cooperation, notably in the fields of transport and logistics.

They discussed efforts being made to address the challenges that emanate from the disruption of maritime navigation

Sayyid Badr and the Dutch minister also exchanged views about current conditions in the region. They discussed efforts being made to address the challenges that emanate from the disruption of maritime navigation. They underlined the importance of devising consensual solutions that meet the legitimate aspirations of all parties and contribute to the resumption of supply chains and the backing of the global economy. – **ONA**

INFRASTRUCTURE

Dhofar to add 424km road network in 2026

SALALAH: The Governorate of Dhofar is on the verge of a qualitative leap in its infrastructure system. The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology is set to receive new road projects across various wilayats of the governorate during 2026, adding a total of 424 kilometres to the existing network. This significant addition will enhance mobility and inter-connectivity between wilayats. The actual completion rate of these projects, scheduled for handover this year, has exceeded 83%, as part of continuous efforts to improve road network efficiency and facilitate tourist, economic, and social transport within the governorate.

These single-carriageway roads—totalling 510 kilometres—are expected to be fully completed by the end of this year, with 424 kilometres to be handed over in 2026. Concurrently, six dual-carriageway projects are under implementation, covering a total length of 450 kilometres, which will strengthen connectivity between the governorate’s wilayats and enhance transport network efficiency. The combined cost of both single and dual carriageway projects exceeds OMR370 million.

Eng. Said Mohammed Tabook, Director General of the Roads and Land Transport in Dhofar Governorate, stated that the

Ministry has already handed over three road projects in Salalah this year. These include Ateen Tunnel Project (total length 9 km) and the dualization projects of Sultan Taimour Street and Al Farooq Street (combined length 14 km). He noted that these projects will help reduce traffic congestion and improve traffic flow within the city, especially during Khareef Dhofar “monsoon season”.

In a statement to Oman News Agency (ONA), he added that the Ministry is currently implementing the Al Mughsail Road and Bridge Project in Salalah, which has achieved a completion rate of 81.6%, with the bridge road expected to be open to traffic by the beginning of Khareef Dhofar season 2026.

He explained that the project includes a concrete bridge 12 metres high, car parks, a lighted walkway, and aesthetic works, in addition to an underpass serving the Al Mughsail waterfront and the famous natural fountains of Al Marnif Cave. He noted that the Ministry is currently implementing the Al Mughsail Road and Bridge Project in Salalah, which has achieved a completion rate of 81.6%, with the bridge road expected to be open to traffic by the beginning of the Khareef season. The project includes 8 underpasses, one overpass, roundabouts, animal crossings, and a 5.5 km link connecting the dual carriageway to 18th November Street. – **ONA**

OMAN REAL ESTATE EXPO

Contracts worth OMR37.8mn signed

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning signed 182 usufruct contracts yesterday with an investment value exceeding OMR37.8 million during the Oman Real Estate, Design, & Build Exhibition and Conference 2026.

This was conducted in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, and the SMEs Development Authority “Riyada” across several developmental and vital sectors.

This reflects the growing investment momentum in the Sultanate of Oman, enhances the efficiency of government land investment, and supports projects with economic and social impact across various governorates.

The signed contracts included three usufruct contracts for government use in the “Athar” endowment health sector, covering a total area of 10,850 square metres with an investment value of OMR5.2 million in government and service sites designated for the health sector and support services in Muscat Governorate.

Within the framework of supporting small and medium enterprises, 22 usufruct contracts were signed for industrial and light industrial use, covering a total area of 11,353 square metres with an investment value of OMR899,000 in industrial and craft activity zones designated for SMEs in North Al Batinah, South Al Batinah, Al Dakhiliyah, Al Wusta, and Al Dhahirah governorates.

The projects encompass vari-



ous industrial and craft activities, including blacksmithing and carpentry workshops, vehicle maintenance, electric bicycle assembly, building materials manufacturing, and craft product industries, in addition to recycling projects and industrial support services, thereby contributing to entrepreneurship, stimulating innovation, and diversifying local economic activities.

Furthermore, 70 usufruct contracts were signed for agricultural, fishery, and food production use, covering a total area exceeding 1,719 acres with an investment value of more than OMR14.2 million in various governorates.

The projects vary between traditional and modern agriculture, fish farming, dairy and meat production, and the cultivation of crops, vegetables, fruits, and medicinal and aromatic herbs.

They also include livestock breeding, fodder production, and the processing of agricultural and food products, alongside projects utilising modern technologies and greenhouses, which enhances food security and agricultural sustainability in the Sultanate of Oman.

Regarding usufruct auctions, 71 contracts were signed for industrial, commercial, and residential-commercial uses, covering a total area of 89,276 square metres with an investment value of OMR285,600 in various investment sites within the lands offered for usufruct in several wilayats.

These contracts include multi-use investment opportunities covering commercial, industrial, and service activities, as well as projects related to markets, logistics, retail stores, and service centres, enhancing the economic utilisation of government lands and increasing investment efficiency.

Other contracts included 16 multi-use investment agreements covering the industrial, educational, agricultural, and service sectors, with a total area exceeding 624 square metres and an investment value exceeding OMR17.3 million in various investment locations across several governorates and wilayats.

These contracts cover diverse strategic projects, including food and industrial production factories, private schools, and service

centres, as well as specialised agricultural and production projects such as the cultivation of grapes, garlic, palm trees, and medicinal herbs.

This reflects the diversity of investment opportunities and the broad scope of economic and service development in the Sultanate of Oman, enhancing the private sector’s contribution to growth and sustainable development.

Additionally, 18 infrastructure execution agreements were signed for the “Sorouh” integrated residential neighbourhood projects between developers and service providers to enhance the readiness of these neighbourhoods and accelerate the pace of urban development.

The agreements covered the neighbourhoods of “Hay Al Fallah,” “Hay Al Salam,” “Hay Al Multaqa,” “Hay Al Mazun,” “Nasma Al Zain,” and “Hisn Al Zain,” contributing to the development of integrated and sustainable urban communities centered on quality of life and providing a modern, balanced residential environment. – **ONA**

US President weighs renewed military action against Iran

Iran's response has prompted several US officials to also question whether Tehran is prepared to engage seriously in talks

WASHINGTON DC: As US President Donald Trump expressed his displeasure over Iran's response to a deal to achieve a complete solution to the conflict in West Asia, sources familiar with the matter told CNN that the US President is increasingly considering a resumption of Washington's military action against the Islamic Republic as frustration mounts in the Trump Administration.

According to CNN, citing sources, stalled negotiations and Tehran's approach to addressing its nuclear issue have been a key



factor for such vexation from the Trump administration, noting that Trump has also been growing impatient with Iran's control of the strategic Strait of Hormuz and his perceived notion of divisions within the leadership of the Islamic Republic, which, according to him, has been obstructing meaningful progress in the diplomatic engagements.

Iran's response has prompted several US officials to also question whether Tehran is prepared to engage seriously in talks, CNN reported.

Divisions have also emerged within the Trump administration over the next course of action. Ac-

cording to CNN, some officials, including those in the Pentagon, are said to be advocating a more aggressive approach aimed at pressuring Iran through targeted military strikes to further weaken Tehran's position.

Others within the administration, however, continue to push for giving diplomatic efforts more time.

The official also noted that Washington and Tehran are operating on different timelines and thresholds for negotiations, adding that Iran has endured economic pressure for decades and may not feel the same urgency as the US administration expects.

Trump, on Monday, reiterated his frustration over Iran's proposal and the chances of military strikes are also highly expected from the US side, as he remarked that the ceasefire between the two sides stands on "life support".

Addressing the media at the Oval Office while interacting with the media during a maternal healthcare event, Trump said that Iran is the weakest it has been and called Tehran's proposal "a piece of garbage" and unacceptable.

"After reading that piece of garbage they sent us, I didn't even finish reading it. They (Iran) are on life support. The ceasefire is on massive life support", he said.

Immediate goal is to end the war: Iranian ministry official

NEW DELHI: Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said that the country's armed forces stand prepared to deal with every scenario and said that Tehran, for the time being, is focused on ending the war.

Esmail Baghaei said that while the immediate goal is to end the war, he reminded that the aggression was started by the United States.

He said, "For the time being, we were going to focus on ending the war. By ending the war, we meant agreeing mutually to stop violating each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty. And by the way, everyone knows that we didn't start

attacking the United States. They are far from our region. But as a matter of principle, we were ready to agree on a sort of MOU to put these principles -- based on international law and the UN Charter -- into writing. No one can challenge the accuracy and importance of such principles."

When asked about reports on IRGC announcing dolphin submarines that will be sent out, against the claims by Trump that the Iranian military has been decimated, the Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson said that Washington needs to reconsider its sources of information. **-ANI**

However, sources familiar with the discussions told CNN that no major decision is expected before Trump departs for China on Tuesday afternoon. **-ANI**

MEETINGS

Pakistan President, PM Sharif discuss regional developments

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari Monday held meeting with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the President's Office and discussed the overall situation of the country, issues related to Afghanistan and the changing situation in the region.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Federal Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar, Senator Saleem Mandviwala and Dr. Asim were also present in the meeting.

They paid tribute to the martyrs of the Marka-e-Haq and the professional capabilities of the armed forces of Pakistan, and reiterated the unwavering commitment to national defence.

The President said that despite the difficult geographical and regional situation, tensions in the Middle East and disruption of the supply chain, maximum relief should be provided to the people.



The President directed that all possible measures should be taken to reduce inflationary pressures and ensure availability of essential commodities.

PM Shehbaz Sharif, Qatari prime minister discuss regional situation

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday morning received a telephone call from Prime Minister and Minister of

Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Jassim Al Thani, during which the two leaders discussed the evolving regional situation and ongoing peace efforts in the region.

During their warm and cordial conversation, both leaders exchanged views on recent developments and reviewed progress regarding peace initiatives aimed at promoting regional stability.

-APP

SOUTH AFRICA

President Ramaphosa refuses to resign over cash scandal

PRETORIA: South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa announced on Monday that he will not resign and said he will challenge the impeachment proceedings against him in court over the cash heist scandal.

The announcement came a few hours after the South African parliament announced its intention to establish an impeachment committee as ordered by the country's highest court last week. "I therefore respectfully want to make it clear that I will not resign," Ramaphosa said in a televised address.

"To do so would be to preempt a process defined by the Constitution. To do so would be to give credence to a panel report that unfortunately has grave flaws."

What is Ramaphosa accused of?

The South African president was accused of hiding a 2020 break-in and the theft of large sums of foreign currency from police and



tax authorities in what became known as the "Farmgate" scandal. The funds, \$580,000 (€492,000) which Ramaphosa said were the proceeds from the sale of buffaloes, were allegedly hidden inside a sofa at Ramaphosa's luxury Phala Phala farmhouse in the northern Limpopo province.

In 2022, a report by an independent parliamentary committee found that Ramaphosa "may

have committed" serious violations and misconduct.

At the time, Ramaphosa's African National Congress (ANC) party held a majority in parliament and it declined to open impeachment proceedings following the report.

The case resurfaced last week when the Constitutional Court overturned the rejection of the 2022 parliamentary report. **-DW**

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Hantavirus: How is the outbreak being contained?

PARIS: So far, three people have died, with several others taken ill, after a hantavirus outbreak aboard the cruise ship MV Hondius. Hantavirus is a rare rodent-borne illness that has multiple strains of varying severity.

With the ship now docked, passengers are being returned to their countries of residence. Each will face a slightly different process over the coming days and weeks, depending on their infection status and their country's reactions to such outbreaks.

A Dutch couple, who were the first to become ill and later died, had been visiting South America before departing on the ship from Argentina's southernmost town, Ushuaia, in late March.

Argentina's Ministry of Health are investigating whether the couple were infected by exposure to rodent droppings during a bird-watching tour at a landfill site in the town. The World Health Organization (WHO) have confirmed two of the deaths were from the virus, with the other "probable" at this stage.

What happened on the MV Hondius cruise ship?

Hantaviruses are relatively well known, if rare, and are mostly transmitted from rodents to humans. he symptoms are respiratory and those strains which can develop into 'hantavirus cardiopulmonary syndrome (HCPS)' can have a "fatality ratio, reaching 40-50%" according to the WHO. Severity varies by region too. In



Europe, strains generally cause milder illness and a fatality rate between one and 15%, with cases in North and South America often above 30%. Those on the ship contracted the Andes strain. This is thought to be the only one capable of limited human-to-human transmission, and can cause HCPS. Close, prolonged contact, such as the conditions found on a cruise ship, is usually required to transmit the virus in this way. But the WHO and scientific community have been quick to say this is not comparable to COVID-19.

"The Andes virus requires much, much closer, sustained contact between people, as we understand it," Ann Rimoin, a professor of Epidemiology at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health in the United States, told DW.

"I understand people have a lot of anxiety, having experienced the [COVID-19] pandemic, but this is a very different virus and a different set of circumstances," she added.

An incubation period of six to eight weeks, during which symptoms may not be apparent, meant that illness on the MV Hondius took some time to present itself. According to the WHO, there were 147 people on board, seven of whom are confirmed cases and two probable. Meanwhile, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), a European Union medical authority, says tracing passengers' movements before and after boarding the ship is critical to preventing the virus from spreading.

What happens to MV Hondius passengers?

The cruise ship docked in Tenerife over the weekend. Because most people who were on board are yet to test positive or show symptoms, the majority of passengers are either returning to their countries of residence or are already there. Those with symptoms are in various hospitals in

South Africa, the Netherlands and Switzerland. A German woman who was a suspected case has tested negative.

Four other German nationals landed in Frankfurt on Monday, with asymptomatic patients being sent either to hospital or into self-isolation after medical checks, depending on circumstances.

14 Spanish nationals flew to Madrid on Sunday and will be isolated at a hospital in the capital. Turkish, Belgian, Greek, British and Argentinian passengers are traveling to medical facilities after socially-distant flights on Sunday. The last evacuation flight was expected to leave for the Netherlands on Monday.

Five French nationals, who had been aboard the Hondius, will be placed in "strict isolation until further notice" after one developed symptoms on the plane home, Prime Minister Sebastian Lecornu said. One of the 17 American passengers returned a "weak positive" test in Cape Verde, according to the US Department of Health and Human Services, who will do further tests.

What is the plan to stop the spread of Hantavirus?

The WHO recommends that "high-risk contacts" of confirmed cases quarantine for "42 days following last exposure." Those who had less contact with an ill patient should only "undertake passive self-monitoring and seek medical evaluation if symptoms occur."

- DW

UNITED KINGDOM

British PM Starmer rejects calls to resign

LONDON: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer has robustly rejected calls to step down following the Labour Party's recent electoral setbacks, insisting that he remains focused on his mandate and that no formal mechanism to oust him has been activated.

According to a post on X by Steven Swinford, Political Editor of

The Times, the Prime Minister made his position clear during a meeting with his Cabinet, signalling a determination to weather the internal storm. He reportedly emphasised the procedural reality of the situation, stating, "The Labour Party has a process for challenging a leader, and that has not been triggered." **- ANI**



INDIAN SCHOOL AL MAABELA
Post Box No 134, Postal Code 122
Al Maabela, Sultanate of Oman
GSM: +968 - 78904848, 98890562

TENDER NOTICE

S.No.	DESCRIPTION
1	Design and Construction of New Admin Block
2	Design and Construction of Connecting Passage between New & Old Block
3	Design and Redevelopment of School Playground
4	Supply of Sports Items

Competitive tenders are invited from the establishments specialized in each area. The collection of tender documents from School will commence from **14/05/2026** after a payment of **R.O. 10/-** (Inclusive of vat 5%) for each job.

Last date of tender submission is on or before **25/05/2026 before 3:00pm**.

The completed tender in all aspects should be dropped in the box kept in school office.

A tender should be submitted in a sealed envelope addressed to:
The Chairperson, Purchase Subcommittee, Indian School Al Maabela.

Note: Respective tenders shall clearly mention the: name of service quoted by the bidding party".

The school reserves the right to reject any tender without providing any reason and does not find itself accepting the lowest or any tender.

SPORTS

Rana rips through Pakistan as Bangladesh seal dramatic win

The hosts extended their dominance over the visitors with their third straight victory, having swept the 2024 series 2-0

MIRPUR: Bangladesh's bowlers combined to trounce Pakistan by 104 runs on the fifth and final day of the first Test on Tuesday. Nahid Rana struck decisive blows while Taskin Ahmed, Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Taijul Islam were among the wickets as the home team put together a rare triumph on the fifth day. This is now Bangladesh's third consecutive win against Pakistan, after they won the 2024 series by 2-0 margin. Rana removed Shan Masood, Saud Shakeel and Mohammad Rizwan in a fiery spell, before he took down Noman Ali and Shaheen Shah Afridi to finish with figures of 5 for 40 from his 9.5 overs. Taskin and Taijul took two wickets each while Mehidy, who took a five-for in the first innings, took one wicket. For most of their fourth innings, Pakistan were kept together by debutant Abdullah Fazal. He initially overcame Pakistan's early loss of Imam-ul-Haq before lunch, when he struck Mehidy for consecutive fours just after lunch. Rana then went for three fours in a row; Fazal edged twice through the slips before driving hard down the ground. Mehidy brought back Bangladesh immediately when he bowled Azan Awaish (15) next over. When Rana removed Masood soon after, Pakistan were 68 for three staring at trouble. Fazal reached his half-century with an upper-cut off Ebadot Hossain. He is now the sixth Pakistan batter to get fifties in both innings of his debut Test. Fazal however fell in the first over after tea when Taijul got the ball to spin sharply into the left-



hander's defensive prod, with the TV umpire confirming the dismissal through a review. Fazal made 66 off 113 balls, with 11 fours. Soon after, Taskin had Salman Ali Agha caught at second slip. Earlier in the day, the home side jumped into action in the fifth morning, adding 88 runs in 20 overs. They lost six wickets in the process, but Bangladesh made a laudable approach to keep the game alive. The morning however began with Hasan Ali removing Mushfiqur Rahim, caught at mid-off for 22. Hasan then took an excellent catch at the fine-leg boundary af-

ter Litton Das top edged a hook off Shaheen Afridi after making 11. Mehidy Hasan Miraz struck couple of fours and a six before Noman removed him for 24. It was his 100th wicket. Shanto fell to Noman too, lbw for 87 while trying to play a reverse sweep. Shanto missed out on becoming only the fourth batter, after Sunil Gavaskar, Ricky Ponting and David Warner, to score twin hundreds in a Test on three occasions. **Brief scores:** Bangladesh 413 and 240/9 decl. (Shanto 87, Mominul 56; Hasan 3-52) beat Pakistan 386 and 163 (Fazal 66, Salman 26; Rana 5-40) by 104 runs. - Agencies





CHERY INCREDIBLE SERVICE DEALS

FOR 2010 - 2021 MODELS*

JUST PAY

₹ 5

LABOUR CHARGE

Engine Oil & Engine Oil Filter Free

*Applies only for Engine Oil and Engine Oil Filter Change

₹ 4

LABOUR CHARGE

* Special Labour Rate for Brake Pad Change

50% Discount on Labour for Brake Pad Replacement

*Cost of Parts, Consumables and Skimming, etc. is Extra.

3rd March 2026 – 31st May 2026

This **Ramadan**, enjoy unbeatable value with Chery Service Deals.
Campaign Valid at Chery Service Centre, Ghala, Muscat.

*This offer is only applicable for the Chery vehicles sold by Oman Authorized Chery dealer. *This offer is applicable for the Vehicles purchased from 1st January 2010 until 31st December 2021 from Chery Authorized dealer, Oman. 1. This offer of Free Engine oil and Engine oil Filter is applicable only on Spare Parts, which are carried out at SBG workshops and is applicable for replacements carried out during the campaign period (1st March 2026 - 31st May 2026). 2. The 50% discount is also applicable on the replacement of 1 set of Brake pad (Front or Rear). 3. This offer is not applicable for any other Chery vehicle purchased during the same period from any other dealer for any reason whatsoever. 4. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or discounts. 5. For purposes of qualifying for this offer, the year in which the vehicle was first registered would be considered. 6. This offer is available only one time per vehicle, regardless of the visits. Visit Chery Service Centre today. Terms & Condition Apply.



NEW WORLD AUTOS LLC.
P.O. Box 3168, Postal Code 112, Sultanate of Oman
C.R. No. 1347521



Miller, Axar keep DC's hopes alive with record chase against PBKS

DHARAMSHALA: In a pulsating high-scoring thriller, Delhi Capitals (DC) pulled off the highest successful T20 chase in Dharamshala on Monday to defeat Punjab Kings (PBKS) by three wickets, handing their opponents a fourth consecutive defeat and keeping their own IPL playoff hopes alive. Chasing 211, DC overhauled PBKS's 210 for 5 with an over to spare, despite losing wickets at regular intervals and being under pressure for large parts of the innings. The contest, played on a seamer-friendly surface that surprisingly saw no spin bowled throughout, swung dramatically before DC's middle order held firm. PBKS, asked to bat first, rode on fluent half-centuries from Priyansh Arya (56) and skipper Shreyas Iyer (59*) to post 210. Arya's aggressive start set the tone as he reached his fifty off just 24 balls, while Iyer anchored the innings with composure, later surging the surface was "30 runs above par." Contributions from Suryansh Shedge (21) and a late flourish helped PBKS cross 200, though they were also aided by DC's wayward bowling, which included 17 wickets. DC's reply began shakily after early strikes from Yash Thakur, Arshdeep Singh, and Marco Jansen reduced them to 33 for 3. KL Rahul fell cheaply, while Abishek Porel was bowled early as PBKS's pacers exploited movement and bounce. However, Axar Patel and David Miller rebuilt brilliantly. Axar led the recovery with a composed 56 off 30, while Miller struck a crucial 51 off 28 as the pair added 64 runs in 34 balls, reviving DC from 74 for 4. Even after Axar's dismissal attempting a big hit, DC remained in control of the chase. The final phase saw momentum swing repeatedly. Miller took charge, hammering boundaries off Lungi Ngidi and Ben Dwarshuis before falling with DC needing quick runs. But Ashutosh Sharma (24 off 10), Madhav Tiwari (18 off 8), and Auqib Nabi (10 off 2) kept their composure in the closing overs. With 36 needed from the final three overs, DC sealed the chase with an over remaining. **Brief scores:** Delhi Capitals 216/7 in 19 overs (Axar Patel 56, David Miller 51; Arshdeep Singh 2-21) beat Punjab Kings 210/5 (Shreyas Iyer 59*, Priyansh Arya 56; Madhav Tiwari 2-40) by 3 wickets. - Agencies

OMAN OIL PRICE RISES
The price of Oman crude oil has increased, with prices for delivery by June 2026 reaching \$104.74. The price of Oman crude oil rose by \$3.74 from the price of Monday, which was \$101.

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER
The MSX index closed at 8,285.22 points, down by -0.34% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.01% at 660.00 points. Sohar Power, up 9.71%, was the top gainer while, Al Maha Ceramics, down 6.45%, was the top loser.



**Your instant Digital Personal Loan,
right when you need it!**

Exclusively for Government Employees

The maximum loan amount is OMR 15,000. Terms and conditions apply.



Bank Muscat. Better Everyday.

Oman, India discuss procedural and technical aspects of activating FTA

The meetings focused on strengthening economic, trade, and investment cooperation to serve mutual interests and support the growth of bilateral trade

NEW DELHI: The Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of India held a series of procedural and technical meetings in New Delhi as part of ongoing efforts to activate the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the two countries. The meetings focused on strengthening economic, trade, and investment cooperation to serve mutual interests and support the growth of bilateral trade. Discussions covered several technical and organisational aspects related to the agreement's implementation mechanisms. These included facilitating customs procedures, simplifying the movement of goods and services, enhancing trade fluidity, as well as exploring investment opportunities and industrial and logistics partnerships.



Both sides underscored the importance of expediting the completion of the necessary technical and procedural aspects for the agreement's entry into force. This will help open new horizons for economic cooperation, increase trade volume, and boost mutual investments, particularly in priority sectors such as food security, manufacturing industries, renewable energy, advanced technologies, logistics, fisheries, and agriculture. The meetings also addressed opportunities for Omani and Indian companies to benefit from the preferential advantages the agreement will provide, including market access, tariff reductions, and greater integration of supply chains. These measures are expected to enhance the competitiveness of national products and create promising investment opportunities for the private sector in both countries. Participants noted that Omani-Indian relations are witnessing accelerated growth across various economic and trade fields, supported by strong historical ties and a shared desire to develop a strategic partnership that keeps pace with global economic changes while promoting stability and sustainable development. The meetings concluded with a commitment to continue technical coordination in the coming phase to complete the agreement's implementation requirements, and to enhance communication between relevant authorities and the private sector. This will ensure maximum benefit from the agreement and support Oman's economic diversification goals as well as both countries' future visions for economic cooperation. -ONA

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE



Workshop highlights mechanisms for submitting economic concentration requests

MUSCAT: The Competition Protection and Monopoly Prevention Centre (CPMPC) at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion organised a specialised workshop in Muscat on Tuesday titled "Mechanisms for Submitting Economic Concentration Requests." The event saw the participation of several law firms responsible for submitting such requests on behalf of companies. The workshop addressed several key themes, including the definition of economic concentration, cases requiring the submission of approval requests for concentration operations, a review of the detailed steps for submission, and the required documentation. It also covered the criteria and standards upon which Ministry specialists evaluate and study these requests.

The workshop featured a discussion session during which participants' inquiries were addressed and experiences were shared regarding the primary challenges companies face in this field, alongside ways to address them in compliance with applicable regulations. Eng. Ghalib Said Al Maamari, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion for Commerce and Industry, emphasized the importance of this workshop in raising awareness of the mechanisms for submitting economic concentration requests. He noted its role in supporting efforts to regulate the freedom of economic activity and establish market principles and price freedom in a manner that does not lead to the restriction of competition. -ONA

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PLANT HEALTH

Oman inspected over 34,000 imported agricultural shipments in 2025

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, marked the International Day of Plant Health, observed annually on 12 May. The celebration underscores the importance of raising awareness about plant health and its role in protecting agricultural wealth, achieving food security, and ensuring environmental sustainability. The ceremony was held under the auspices of Dr Ahmed Nasser Al Bakri, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources for Agriculture. The event aimed to highlight the significance of plant health in mitigating plant pests and diseases, enhancing the quality of agricultural production, and showcasing national efforts in plant protection and the support of sustainable agricultural development. In his speech, Eng. Ali Rashid Al Ghafri, Director of the Plant Quarantine Department at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, emphasized that marking this occasion reaffirms the importance of protecting plant health and its pivotal role in sustaining life on Earth. He further explained that the concept of plant biosecurity extends beyond mere pest control to include a comprehensive set of measures and policies aimed at preventing the entry and spread of organisms harmful to plants, whether they are pests or diseases. He stated that this is an integral part of the national strategy to achieve food security, in line with the goals of Oman Vision 2040, which places sustainability and prosperity at the heart of its priorities. He stressed that the Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry,



recognition of this responsibility and is working diligently to enhance the plant health, biosecurity, and food security systems. Al Ghafri clarified that the most prominent of these programmes is the Integrated Management Program for palm pests, specifically the Dubas palm bug and the Red Palm Weevil, as well as the integrated management of fruit flies, the pomegranate butterfly, and other agricultural pests. The Ministry relies on the latest global technologies and practices, including the meticulous monitoring of laboratory reports, pest risk analysis, and the training of national cadres to raise their efficiency in this vital field. He revealed that central laboratories conducted more than 24,000 analyses of imported agricultural products last year, including over 18,000 analyses for pesticide residues and 4,000 for plant health, which contributed to ensuring the safety and quality of agricultural imports. Additionally, more than 34,000 imported agricultural shipments and over 3,000 exported shipments were inspected, with more than 3,500 permits and registrations issued for agricultural products, and 100 specialised personnel trained in this field. For his part, Dr. Thaer Yaseen, Head of the FAO Mission in the Sultanate of Oman, stated that celebrating this occasion is a confirmation of the importance of investing in plant health systems as a primary pillar for protecting agricultural production and ensuring its sustainability. He added that the theme reflects the importance of enhancing prevention and preparedness, and moving toward more proactive systems in facing the risks of plant pests and diseases through early detection, coordinated response, and evidence-based decision-making. He noted that the Sultan-

ate of Oman is characterized by a strategic geographical location and unique environmental and agricultural diversity, forming a rich agricultural heritage that deserves protection and preservation for future generations. He pointed out that this heritage faces increasing challenges in plant health that require an integrated response and sustainable investment in prevention and preparedness systems. The celebration included workshops that brought together a group of experts, researchers, specialists, and decision-makers to exchange expertise and knowledge. They discussed the latest challenges and solutions in plant biosecurity, reviewed best practices, and formulated practical recommendations to enhance national and regional capabilities in protecting plant health and ensuring the sustainability of food resources. The workshops also explored ways to enhance cooperation between various government and private entities and research institutions in the field of plant health, identify priorities, and develop future action plans to strengthen plant biosecurity, while raising awareness of its importance as a key element of food security. -ONA

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Sohar Power, up 9.71%, was the top gainer while, Al Maha Ceramics, down 6.45%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 8,285.22 points, down by -0.34% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.01% at 660.00 points. Sohar Power, up 9.71%, was the top gainer while, Al Maha Ceramics, down 6.45%, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded while Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 4349 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 46.5 million, with more than 138.55 million shares changing hands. Out of 70 traded securities, 22 advanced, 32 declined, and 16 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for RO 166K while foreign investors were net buyers for RO 157K, followed by domestic investors for RO 9K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 13,232.58 points, down -0.34%. Prices of Financial Corporation, Ahli Bank, United Finance, Oman

Arab Bank, National Bank Oman were up by 9.43%, 1.54%, 1.11%, 0.49%, 0.48% respectively. Prices of Al Madina Investments, Ominvest, Taageer Finance, Al Anwar Investment, Bank Nizwa were down by 2.63%, 2.04%, 1.64%, 1.62%, 1.33% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 10,185.48 points, down -0.08%. Prices of Raysut Cement, Oman Fisheries, Voltamp Energy, Al Anwar Ceramics, Oman Cement were up by 7.11%, 3.70%, 2.72%, 0.55%, 0.18% respectively. Prices of Al Maha Ceramics, Galfar Engineering were down by 6.45%, 0.56% respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.32% before closing at 3,313.78 points. Prices of Sohar Power, Phoenix Power, Oman National Engineering, Dhofar Generating, Al Batinah Power were up by 9.71%, 5.05%, 1.94%, 1.12%, 1.01% respectively. Prices of Muscat Gases, Muscat Desalination, National Gas, SMN Power Holding, Renaissance Services were down by 2.63%, 1.87%, 1.67%, 1.35%, 0.83% respectively. — United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	8,320.78	8,257.45	8,285.22	8,313.76	-28.54	-0.34
FINANCIAL INDEX	13,279.97	13,176.91	13,232.58	13,277.34	-44.76	-0.34
Industry Index	10,217.62	10,155.70	10,185.48	10,193.76	-8.28	-0.08
Services Index	3,316.78	3,289.47	3,313.78	3,303.29	10.50	0.32
MSX Shariah Index	661.15	656.14	660.00	659.92	0.08	0.01
MSX TR INDEX	12,847.73	12,749.96	12,792.84	12,836.90	-44.06	-0.34
FINANCIAL TR IDX	16,294.33	16,167.88	16,236.15	16,291.09	-54.91	-0.34
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	13,066.18	13,006.87	13,045.02	13,055.62	-10.61	-0.08
SERVICES TR IDX	4,432.08	4,395.59	4,428.08	4,414.05	14.03	0.32
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,209.68	1,209.68	1,209.68	1,209.68	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
138,559,265	46,497,024	4,349	38,164,822,080	22	32	16	70

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, MAY 12

SN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	1,583,706	357,125	54	0.218	0.229	0.218	0.229	0.218	0.011	5.046	0.229	0.228	0.229	0.100	334,935,734
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	33,100	61,645	22	1.840	1.890	1.840	1.890	1.840	0.050	2.717	1.890	1.850	1.890	0.100	189,000,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NATL ENGG & INVESTMENT	4,000	632	1	0.158	0.158	0.158	0.158	0.155	0.003	1.935	0.158	0.151	0.158	0.100	23,700,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	3,646,783	332,433	77	0.090	0.093	0.090	0.091	0.090	0.001	1.111	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.100	32,407,584
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	142,960	28,578	26	0.199	0.201	0.198	0.201	0.199	0.002	1.005	0.201	0.202	0.201	0.100	135,652,373
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	522,164	103,985	53	0.199	0.201	0.198	0.199	0.198	0.001	0.505	0.199	0.199	0.195	0.100	142,166,862
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	748,548	315,124	10	0.418	0.422	0.418	0.422	0.420	0.002	0.476	0.422	0.420	0.422	0.100	686,148,362
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	3,476,520	756,027	250	0.218	0.219	0.217	0.219	0.218	0.001	0.459	0.219	0.220	0.219	0.100	665,715,879
OM0000010120	ASYAD SHIPPING	6,078,486	1,853,460	381	0.305	0.306	0.302	0.306	0.305	0.001	0.328	0.306	0.307	0.306	0.000	1,593,875,750
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	11,124	6,114	5	0.546	0.551	0.546	0.550	0.549	0.001	0.182	0.550	0.546	0.551	0.100	181,979,991
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FINANCIAL SERVICES	54,097	8,926	5	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.000	0.000	0.165	0.000	0.165	0.100	52,043,805
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	32,291	14,095	12	0.454	0.454	0.452	0.454	0.454	0.000	0.000	0.454	0.453	0.454	0.100	21,345,168
OM0000002440	AL SHARGIYA INVESTMENT HO.	49,011	5,494	8	0.112	0.113	0.111	0.112	0.112	0.000	0.000	0.112	0.110	0.112	0.100	10,980,000
OM0000002372	OMAN OIL MARKETING	43,100	51,720	8	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.200	0.000	0.000	1.200	1.182	1.200	0.100	73,530,000
OM0000003000	AI MAHA PETROLEUM PRODS MRKTNG	180	208	1	1.155	1.155	1.155	1.155	1.155	0.000	0.000	1.155	1.100	1.155	0.100	79,695,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	238,258	85,713	17	0.360	0.360	0.358	0.360	0.360	0.000	0.000	0.360	0.360	0.360	0.100	234,339,923
OM0000004735	SEMCORP SALALAH	1,053,612	279,207	39	0.265	0.266	0.264	0.265	0.265	0.000	0.000	0.265	0.263	0.265	0.100	252,961,567
OM0000006908	QBASE INDUSTRIES (SFPZ)	21,619,233	6,952,731	439	0.323	0.323	0.320	0.322	0.322	0.000	0.000	0.322	0.324	0.322	0.040	1,113,956,054
OM0000006894	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	949,599	463,715	154	0.492	0.492	0.486	0.491	0.492	-0.001	-0.203	0.491	0.491	0.491	0.100	378,168,200
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	310,488	113,610	8	0.366	0.366	0.365	0.365	0.366	-0.001	-0.273	0.365	0.366	0.360	0.100	38,325,000
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	140	49	1	0.549	0.549	0.549	0.549	0.550	0.001	0.286	0.549	0.500	0.549	0.100	24,595,110
OM0000000972	QOGAS NETWORKS	8,018,100	2,175,443	435	0.275	0.275	0.270	0.273	0.274	-0.001	-0.365	0.272	0.272	0.273	0.100	1,182,260,330
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	309,322	53,119	23	0.172	0.172	0.171	0.172	0.173	-0.001	-0.578	0.172	0.172	0.172	0.100	20,962,500
OM0000003141	BANKA WATER AND POWER	14,750	2,508	3	0.170	0.170	0.170	0.170	0.171	-0.001	-0.585	0.170	0.169	0.180	0.100	27,200,000
OM0000001509	DHOFAR INTL DEVPMT & INVESTM	48,154	16,336	9	0.340	0.340	0.337	0.338	0.340	-0.002	-0.588	0.338	0.337	0.338	0.100	167,666,976
OM00000009759	QO EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	6,284,900	3,147,717	304	0.501	0.503	0.499	0.500	0.503	-0.003	-0.596	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.010	4,000,000,000
OM00000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	106,000	35,398	4	0.335	0.335	0.333	0.333	0.335	-0.002	-0.597	0.333	0.328	0.335	0.100	66,600,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	3,139,931	4,603,417	149	1.469	1.469	1.460	1.460	1.469	-0.009	-0.613	1.460	1.466	1.460	0.100	1,095,000,000
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	616,299	76,421	16	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.125	-0.001	-0.800	0.124	0.124	0.125	0.100	21,700,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	17,590	6,364	6	0.363	0.363	0.360	0.360	0.363	-0.003	-0.826	0.360	0.360	0.360	0.100	85,107,600
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	31,512,751	14,126,812	679	0.454	0.454	0.447	0.449	0.453	-0.004	-0.883	0.449	0.449	0.449	0.100	3,370,372,281
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	42,835,630	9,729,890	726	0.231	0.231	0.226	0.228	0.231	-0.003	-1.299	0.228	0.229	0.228	0.100	1,508,732,150
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	140,278	20,835	18	0.149	0.150	0.148	0.148	0.150	-0.002	-1.333	0.148	0.147	0.150	0.100	331,069,049
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	46,517	10,254	8	0.223	0.223	0.220	0.220	0.223	-0.003	-1.345	0.222	0.220	0.222	0.100	43,919,832
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	81,512	14,860	12	0.187	0.187	0.181	0.182	0.185	-0.003	-1.622	0.182	0.175	0.182	0.100	54,336,633
OM000001533	OMINVEST	41,951	16,154	8	0.388	0.388	0.385	0.385	0.383	-0.008	-2.036	0.385	0.365	0.387	0.100	432,298,757
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	42,600	12,559	7	0.296	0.296	0.294	0.294	0.304	-0.010	-3.289	0.294	0.294	0.294	0.100	12,595,839
Total		131,854,585	45,838,679	3,978												

Parallel Market

OM0000003711	SOHAR POWER	459	104	2	0.228	0.228	0.228	0.228	0.206	0.020	9.709	0.228	0.206	0.000	0.100	4,520,000
OM0000002911	FINANCIAL CORPORATION	17,700	1,932	8	0.100	0.116	0.100	0.116	0.106	0.010	9.434	0.106	0.110	0.110	0.100	8,123,475
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	31,118	5,539	7	0.179	0.179	0.178	0.178	0.174	0.004	2.299	0.178	0.178	0.178	0.100	105,275,765
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	9,899	1,780	3	0.195	0.198	0.195	0.198	0.195	0.003	1.538	0.198	0.195	0.198	0.100	550,101,601
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	35,914	3,206	8	0.089	0.090	0.089	0.090	0.089	0.001	1.124	0.090	0.089	0.090	0.100	200,021,600
OM0000009569	JABAL REIF	4,100	426	2	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.103	0.001	0.971	0.104	0.103	0.104	0.100	18,096,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	138,974	25,120	37	0.182	0.183	0.180	0.183	0.182	0.001	0.549	0.183	0.184	0.183	0.100	40,360,000
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	25,200	5,191	3	0.206	0.206	0.206	0.206	0.205	0.001	0.488	0.206	0.205	0.215	0.100	412,345,127
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	31,875	2,359	2	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.000	0.000	0.074	0.074	0.075	0.100	22,728,830
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	5,420	4,283	4	0.795	0.795	0.790	0.790	0.790	0.000	0.000	0.790	0.790	0.790	0.100	75,050,000
OM0000002580	OMAN EDUC & TRAINING INVESTM	1,050	1,633	2	1.550	1.550	1.550	1.550	1.550	0.000	0.000	1.550	1.550	0.000	0.100	108,500,000
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	208,859	15,045	12	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.000	0.000	0.072	0.072	0.073	0.100	18,000,000
OM0000010823	OMAN GATEWAY FUND	1,200	1,350	3	1.125	1.125	1.125	1.125	1.130	-0.005	-0.442	1.125	1.125	1.135	0.000	30,763,405
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGG & CONTRACTING	43,486	7,791	11	0.180	0.180	0.179	0.179	0.180	-0.001	-0.556	0.179	0.179	0.179	0.100	36,334,574
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	12,303	1,612	3	0.131	0.131	0.131	0.131	0.132	-0.001	-0.758	0.131	0.130	0.131	0.100	12,969,000
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	80,400	17,789	9	0.222	0.222	0.220	0.220	0.222	-0.002	-0.901	0.220	0.221	0.222	0.100	143,152,887
OM0000003281	TAAQEER FINANCE	367,357	44,417	13	0.121	0.121	0.120	0.120	0.122	-0.002	-1.639	0.120	0.110	0.120	0.100	34,042,984
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	82,699	9,835	17	0.119	0.122	0.118	0.118	0.120	-0.002	-1.667	0.118	0.119	0.120	0.100	100,300,000
OM0000008447	OMAN RETT FUND	34,895	3,769	14	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.110	-0.002	-1.818	0.108	0.105	0.108	0.100	70,452,965
OM0000001178	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	12,569	1,311	3	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.000	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.100	16,355,000
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	6,020	890	4	0.147	0.148	0.147	0.148	0.152	-0.004	-2.632	0.148	0.149	0.148	0.100	4,440,000
OM0000001982	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	14,500	537	2	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.038	0.001	-2.632	0.037	0.037	0.040	0.100	311,000,000
OM0000000505	ALMAHA CERAMICS	8,237	2,403	6	0.303	0.303	0.290	0.290	0.310	-0.020	-4.452	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.100	15,950,000
Total	23	1,173,368	158,321	176												



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

CONNECT

PRINT EDITION

PLACE YOUR
ADVT HERE

Email to : amcoman@choueirigroup.com



RENT

CARGO

VACANCY



RENT OR SALE?
PLACE YOUR
ADVT HERE

Email: amcoman@choueirigroup.com



CARGO MADE SIMPLE
Advertise with us

Send your advertisement to:
amcoman@choueirigroup.com

PLACE
YOUR
ADVT HERE

Send your ad to: amcoman@choueirigroup.com



WJ Towell Group Company



Fleet of 2,000 vehicles

Choose from a wide range of brands & models

PDO, OXY and BP spec vehicles available

Attractive rates for short-term & long-term lease

Quality car rentals at competitive prices.

Muscat 9679 0594
9679 0684

Sohar 9731 6218
Salalah 9429 9325

www.orbit-oman.com

**ORBIT**
Car Rental & Lease

JOB WANTED

FINANCE MANAGER

M.com graduate with 32+ yrs of experience in Oman & India.
Expertise in budgeting, costing, accounting upto finalization, Consolidation, financial reporting, cash flow, VAT, taxation, banking relations, internal controls & ERP (SAP/Focus) implementation. Strong background in statutory compliance and financial management.

Contact: +968-94676186

SENIOR MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONAL

Experienced Indian Male with EXPERT in all SECTOR PROJECTS, 30+ yrs Exp: (27 yrs in OMAN) in Construction, Infrastructure & Industrial Projects 15-20% Growth I Budget & Cost Control Project & Contract Mgmt I P & L I Risk Mgmt M.Tech, B.Tech I LSS I PMP

Seeking Senior position & open to all industries

Contact: +968 79227820 | Email: adaminttc@gmail.com

FINANCE

Indian Male/CPA, CMA, CA Finalist & B.com

having OACPA membership 13+ years of experience in Financial Reporting & Analysis, Budget & Forecast, MIS Reports, Audit & Assurance Services, available for Senior Management roles in Finance.

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

SALES & MARKETING

Seeking a suitable position in **SALES, MARKETING** having 16 yrs of experience in Oman & 25 yrs of total experience in the field of Infrastructure, Industrial and Building material products. BE Mechanical, DIM, Valid D/L

Contact: 9497 6056

LOOKING FOR **LOGISTIC JOB?**

Find the best opportunities and grow your career in the logistics industry.

MULTIPLE JOB OPENINGS

CAREER GROWTH

STABILITY & SECURITY

DIVERSE OPPORTUNITIES

SEND YOUR ADVERTISEMENT TO:
amcoman@choueirigroup.com

YOUR JOURNEY TO A BETTER FUTURE STARTS HERE!

WIDE RANGE OF JOBS

RELIABLE EMPLOYERS

BUILD YOUR FUTURE

LOOKING FOR **ARCHITECT JOB?**

Send email to:
amcoman@choueirigroup.com



MARRIAGE NOTICE

I, **ALFIA JABEEN** (holder of Indian Passport No. V9071219) d/o Mohammed Moizuddin having permanent residence in H No. - 20-2-253 Kamam Sukimeer Hussaini Alam Dood Bowli HYD (complete postal address in India) and presently residing at Barka, P.Box No. 1639 PC 114 Sultanate of Oman (complete postal address in Sultanate of Oman), intend to marry **Mr. MOHAMMED ADNAN KHATRI**, (holder of Indian passport bearing No. V4002808), s/o Mohd Jean Khatri having permanent residence in Village Beswa, Sikar Rajasthan at Embassy of India, Muscat. I swear that I am marrying him at my own free will and not under any duress and intimidation. Any objection towards this marriage may please be communicated to Embassy of India, Muscat, Diplomatic Quarters, Al Khuwair, P.O.Box No. 1727, Postal Code No.112, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman within 30 (thirty) days of publication of this newspaper advertisement.

JOB VACANCY

URGENTLY REQUIRED

An Excellent grade construction company required following staff for **CIVIL DIVISION**

- **SR. PROJECT ENGINEER**
- **PLANNING ENGINEER**
- **DRAUGHTSMAN**
- **HSE EXECUTIVE**
- **CONSTRUCTION MANAGER**

- **MEP ENGINEER**
- **SITE ENGINEER**
- **SURVEYOR**
- **QA/QC MANAGER**

Kindly send your CV to
civilrecruitment2627@gmail.com

ACCOUNTANT REQUIRED

A STEEL TRADING FIRM IN MUSCAT IS SEEKING AN ACCOUNTANT

- **Qualification: B.Com/ M. Com**
- **Age: 25 to 40 years**
- **Experience: 05 to 10 years**

Having sufficient knowledge of taxation

Interested candidates can send their CV to:
omer@albarakahsteel.com

URGENTLY REQUIRED

OMAN (LOCAL EXPERIENCE PREFERABLE)

We are currently seeking Oman experienced professionals for the following positions:

- **QUANTITY SURVEYORS**
- **SITE ENGINEERS**
- **MEP AUTOCAD DRAUGHTSMAN**

REQUIREMENTS:

- ✓ Minimum 5 years of local experience in Oman
- ✓ Total experience of at least 12 years in the relevant field for Quantity surveyor
- ✓ Strong technical and project experience

Interested candidates can send cv's to
hr@oasagreen.com..What's app cv's to 00968-98861459. Fax:24812226.

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE Account & admin executive, M.Com with 2+ yrs of experience ready to join immediately 78691736 Sudanese Accountant with 11 yrs experiences in Oman seeks job. Contact (97849429) Indian male fresher looking for accountant job. Presently in Oman. Contact: 90231803 Chief Accountant, finance manager Indian male with 19 yrs experience in Oman. Accounts up to finalization. MIS, audit, tax, VAT. Contact 78543201 E-mail kramct2021@gmail.com Looking for job accounts & purchase etc. with D/L Contact: 92505721, Email: sagarjohn28@gmail.com	ACCOUNTS/FINANCE Indian male with 13 yrs of experience in accounting, both abroad and India looking for suitable opportunity in accounts or finance. Contact: 91631979 Indian male B.com accountant looking for suitable job. 12 yrs experience in Oman. D/L and NOC available. Contact: 90302933 Sr. Accountant - 20 yrs exp., full accounts, VAT & audit, D/L. Contact: 96761026 Email: mehreenraiz@gmail.com Accounts Manager, 47 yrs graduate with 22yrs of exp in Oman seeks suitable placement. Contact: 91410602	ACCOUNTS/FINANCE CA Inter qualified lady (Keralite, 3+ yrs experience) available in Oman (family visa), seeking full-time,part-time opportunities. Contact: 91281006, 78536919 IT Sr Program manager (B.Tech, MBA) female, 11+ yrs in product delivery, operations management & AI led projects. Seeking opportunity in Muscat on dependent visa. Contact : 90963084 Email: challapranavi@gmail.com ENGINEER Civil, project engineer (Indian male) 10 yrs Oman experience in building construction having valid D/L looking for suitable opportunity. Contact: 94965278 Email : mdulings@gmail.com	ENGINEER BE Civil Engineer 14 yrs Oman experience in ROP, building, villa construction having valid D/L, looking suitable job. Contact: 91347385. Email: jhrajug1613@gmail.com Sales & Service Engieer (Indian), 3+ yrs Technical sales & operations oil & gas, valid D/L. Contact: 98211984 MANAGER SriLankan MBA over 22 yrs of GCC experience seeking opportunities as Commercial manager, contract manager, or senior quantity surveyor in the construction industry. Available immediately. Contact: +96890452762 Email: similyaas@gmail.com	MANAGER Senior MEP professional having 28yrs of GCC experience with Project management, design and supervision works looking for suitable openings. Contact :97283452 Email: syedrehuman@gmail.com Well experienced Indian Manager Business development, Sales & Marketing, with local market experience seeks suitable placement. Contact: 92133277 LOGISTICS Experienced in Store, warehouse incharge, seeking suitable position with 14yrs of experience in warehouse ,store management, along with hand-on involvement in site coordination installation work in Oman, Also have sales exp, immediate joiner. Valid Oman D/L. Contact: 79994705.	PURCHASE/ PROCUREMENT Indian male 41 yrs Bcom MBA having 14+ yrs experience in procurement UAE & Oman with valid UAE D/L. Seeking suitable opportunities. Contact +971 529546753 SALES/MARKETING Indian male with a B.Com and one year of experience in sales, stores, and inventory. Any suitable Contact: 95387638 Indian male, BBA, 20 yrs experience in sales & marketing in Oman, holding valid Oman driving license seeks suitable placement. Contact No : 93011232, Email: jitinjoshua920@gmail.com
---	--	--	--	---	---

ON MAY 26

Trump to undergo annual dental and medical exams

WASHINGTON DC: US President Donald Trump is set to undergo his annual dental and medical evaluations on May 26 at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Centre in Maryland amid scrutiny over his health conditions.

According to a White House statement issued on Monday, Trump's visit will include routine annual dental and medical assessments as part of his preventive healthcare schedule.

The statement further noted that the US President will also meet service members and staff at the medical facility in recognition of their service and dedication to the nation.

"President Donald J. Trump will visit Walter Reed National Military Medical Centre on May 26 for his annual dental and medical evaluations, and to visit with the men and women of the military. This will include the President's routine annual dental and medical assessments as part of his regular preventive health care. The President will also spend time with service members and staff at Walter Reed in recognition of their service, professionalism, and dedication to the nation," the statement read.

The White House said that additional details regarding Trump's schedule for the visit will be released at a later date.

Last year in July, Trump, who is now 79, was diagnosed with a "benign and common" vein condition known as chronic venous insufficiency after he noticed



swelling in his legs.

Trump's physician, Sean Barbabella, said in a memorandum, released by the White House on July 17 said that the US president underwent a thorough health examination after he noticed mild swelling in his legs, and it revealed no evidence of a more serious condition like deep vein thrombosis or arterial disease.

Barbarella said the president remains in "excellent" overall health after he was "thoroughly evaluated" by the White House Medical Unit after noticing mild swelling in his lower legs.

This, he said, was done keeping with "routine medical care and out of an abundance of caution."

The Walter Reed National Military Medical Centre was established in 2011 following the merger of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the National Naval Medical Centre in Bethesda, Maryland.

Walter Reed Army Medical Centre, founded in 1909 and named after Major Walter Reed, played a key role in treating American soldiers during major conflicts, including World Wars I and II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. —ANI

EU negotiators agree new rules on vital medicines

The rules aim to combat the drug shortages that have occasionally affected the bloc in the past few years, where pharmacies have run low on certain medicines, including painkillers, antibiotics and fever medicine for children



BRUSSELS: European Union negotiators on Tuesday reached an agreement on rules that aim to bolster the bloc's supply chains for essential medicines and reduce its dependence on drug manufacturers outside the bloc.

The rules aim to combat the drug shortages that have occasionally affected the bloc in the past few years, where pharmacies have run low on certain medicines, including painkillers, antibiotics and fever medicine for children. "With today's agreement, we are

taking practical action to reduce our vulnerabilities, diversify supply chains and strengthen Europe's capacity to produce critical medicines and their ingredients closer to home," said Cypriot Health Minister Neophytos Charalambides, whose country currently holds the rotating EU Council presidency.

Charalambides said that people should no longer have to be worried about whether they could obtain essential medicines from their pharmacy or hospital.

The agreed rules aim, among other things, to make it easier to use public funding to support the production of such medicines.

How will the rules on essential medicines work?

The new rules, which still require approval from EU member states and the European Parliament, foresee giving priority to medicines manufactured in Europe in cases of public procurement.

So-called strategic projects would also receive faster approval and more rapid access to funding.

The rules would also allow several countries to join together to buy important medicines, particularly those used to treat rare illnesses — an area where the market is deficient, according to the European Commission.

Why have there been drug shortages in the EU?

The Commission, which suggested amending the rules in 2025, has

identified several reasons why vital medicines have at times run short in the bloc.

Among other things, it has cited bottlenecks in the supply of active ingredients.

In addition — as became particularly apparent during the coronavirus pandemic in the early 2020s — the fact that production of some medicines is concentrated in a very small number of countries can pose supply problems, it said.

EU health ministers said last year that some 80% to 90% of medications used in Europe come from Asia, above all China.

This is although some 900,000 people are employed in the pharmaceutical sector in the EU, according to the Commission. —DW

FILM FESTIVAL

Why is Hollywood missing from Cannes?

CANNES: Hollywood won't be making it to Cannes this year.

The world's most important film festival kicked off on May 12 with a lineup of new movies from some of the most acclaimed filmmakers in global arthouse cinema — Pedro Almodovar, Asghar Farhadi, Pawel Pawlikowski, Cristian Mungiu — but not a single film from a US major studio. There'll be no red carpet spectacle to rival last year's premiere of "Mission: Impossible — The Final Reckoning" or earlier Cannes launches like "Top Gun: Maverick" and "Mad Max: Fury Road."

Is Cannes giving Hollywood the cold shoulder? Not exactly.

There are US films in the lineup. In the Competition section, Ira Sachs brings the musical fantasy "The Man I Love," starring Rami Malek, alongside James Gray's "Paper Tiger," with Scarlett Johansson and Adam Driver. Out of competition, John Travolta makes his directorial debut with "Propeller One-Way Night Coach," a passion project centered on aviation, and Andy Garcia directs and stars in the crime drama "Diamond."

What's missing are the big-budget studio tentpoles — the crowd-pleasing counterweight to Cannes' traditional diet of serious auteur cinema, the popcorn snack in-between the more filling movies.

Studios grow wary of festival risk

It isn't just Cannes. The Berlin Film Festival in February was also notably devoid of studio fare, much to the disappointment of the city's star-watchers and celebrity-driven tabloids. Berlinale director Tricia Tuttle has suggested Hollywood majors are increasingly wary of premiering big films at festivals, concerned that a



negative reception or an awkward press cycle could damage box office prospects months ahead of release.

She pointed in part to the 2024 Venice Film Festival, where Warner Bros. launched "Joker: Folie à Deux," Todd Phillips' musical follow-up to his billion-dollar hit "Joker." Critics were brutal. The sequel went on to earn around \$200 million worldwide, well below expectations and its

reported budget. Tepid reviews out of Cannes for "Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny" may also have hurt that film's performance, making it, adjusted for inflation, the weakest entry in the adventure's franchise.

Politics are another factor. Major festivals have become flashpoints for protest and debate, with press conferences routinely veering into questions about Gaza, Trump and Iran. In Berlin this

year, political tensions at times overshadowed discussion of the films themselves. For Hollywood studios, the risk of having stars or projects pulled into divisive global debates may simply outweigh the upside of a high-profile festival premiere.

Auteurs take centre stage

Without the studios, Cannes this year is doubling down on international auteur cinema. Farhadi

— a two-time Oscar winner for "A Separation" and "The Salesman" — returns with "Parallel Tales," a Paris-set drama featuring Isabelle Huppert, Catherine Deneuve and Vincent Cassel.

Spanish cinema's melodramatic master Almodovar is still hunting for his first Palme d'Or, Cannes' top prize, with "Bitter Christmas," a holiday drama about a woman being abandoned by her partner during the festive season; it's his seventh film running in the festival's main competition.

Russian director Andrey Zvyagintsev, long absent from the Croisette, is back with "Minotaur," the story of a businessman whose world collapses.

Laszlo Nemes returns with "Moulin," set in Nazi-occupied France, with Lars Eidinger portraying Klaus Barbie, the so-called "Butcher of Lyon."

Pawlikowski brings "Fatherland," his Thomas Mann biopic starring Hanns Zischler and Sandra Hüller, while Belgian auteur Lukas Dhont follows up his Oscar-nominated "Close" with "Coward," set in the trenches of World War I.

Mungiu, who won the Palme d'Or with his debut "4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days," makes his English-language debut with "Fjord," pairing Sebastian Stan and Renate Reinsve in a drama about a couple whose new life in rural Norway turns sour.

Germany is also back in the mix. After Mascha Schilinski's "Sound of Falling" took last year's Jury Prize, another German female auteur, Valeska Grisebach, enters Cannes' competition with "The Dreamed Adventure," her first feature since 2017's "Western," which won Cannes' Un Certain Regard prize.

— DW

TO CHINA

Over a dozen business, tech leaders to travel with Trump

WASHINGTON DC: Ahead of the much-anticipated visit of US President Donald Trump to China later this week, a White House official said that over a dozen business and tech leaders will travel with him.

The list of leaders set to travel with President Trump includes representation from major companies across technology, finance, defence, and consumer sectors.

As per the White House official, the list includes Apple CEO Tim Cook, Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk, BlackRock CEO Larry Fink, Blackstone CEO Stephen Schwarzman, Boeing CEO Kelly Ortberg, Cargill CEO Brian Sikes, Citi CEO Jane Fraser, Cisco CEO Chuck Robbins, Coherent CEO Jim Anderson, and GE Aerospace CEO H. Lawrence Culp.

Other leaders to travel with Trump are Goldman Sachs's David Solomon, Illumina CEO Jacob Thaysen, Mastercard CEO Michael Miebach, Meta executive Dina Powell McCormick, Micron CEO Sanjay Mehrotra, Qualcomm CEO Cristiano Amon and Visa CEO Ryan McInerney.

The list reflects leadership from some of the world's most influential corporations spanning technology, finance, aerospace, manufacturing, and global payments.

Meanwhile, on Monday, while speaking from the Oval Office ahead of his upcoming visit to China, Trump told reporters that he has a great relationship with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The objectives of Trump's three-day visit to China aim to rebalance trade and safeguard US economic strength and national security.

— ANI

INTERVIEW

Inclusive politics vital for Bangladesh's stability: Jatiyo Party chairman

DHAKA: Bangladesh's Jatiyo Party Chairman GM Quader, on Tuesday, called for an inclusive political environment in the country, noting that it is vital for the country's stability and noting that such conditions are not possible by excluding a party like the Awami League.

During an interview with ANI, Quader said that such stability is needed to maintain the security in and out of the country, stating that non inclusive political environ-

ment can give rise to militancy.

"Stability of the present government (of Bangladesh) is very much necessary to have security inside the country and outside the country everywhere. The rise of militancy will follow if we fail to have a stable situation," the chairman said.

The Jatiyo Party, founded by former Bangladeshi President and military ruler Hussain Muhammad Ershad, was the third-largest

political party in Bangladesh during the previous term when the Awami League was in power. However, the party is currently facing multiple challenges.

Amid these developments, Quader, who is also the younger brother of General Ershad, explained the circumstances surrounding the fall of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the interim administration led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus.

"The Chief of the Interim Government, Muhammad Yunus, has stated that Sheikh Hasina's fall was meticulously designed. Behind this design, Jamaat-Shibir was very actively involved. They have claimed that they did everything from behind the scenes. Jamaat-Shibir claimed, 'Since it is our creation, we will do whatever we like.' They described it as a new independence, stating that while they gained independence, this

current moment represents a second independence for them. They further asserted that 1971 was a mistake and a conspiracy orchestrated by a neighbouring country. According to them, the freedom fighters were betrayed, and they sided with India," Quader said.

"They sided with a narrative where India was targeted as an enemy, as if they were reverting to the ideology of Pakistan. In that way, they were very much against In-

dia. Following that, India had cool relations with the interim government," he said.

Quader said he believes that under the leadership of the newly elected Prime Minister, Tarique Rahman, India intends to build a strong relationship with the current government of Bangladesh. However, he noted that India's primary concern remains its security interests, particularly regarding the "chicken's Neck" corridor. —ANI



Many colorectal cancers begin as polyps, which are growths that develop on the inner lining of the bowel. These growths are usually benign and cause no immediate harm. However, two specific types of polyps, adenomas and serrated polyps, have the potential to develop into cancer over time

Researchers find in a study that two types of colon polyps can raise bowel cancer risk fivefold. These two polyp types may represent separate cancer pathways that can occur at the same time. Nearly half of patients with serrated polyps also had adenomas, making this high-risk combination more common than expected.

The results emphasise the importance of early detection and regular colonoscopy monitoring. Researchers from Flinders University and Flinders Medical Centre have identified an important connection between two common types of bowel polyps and a greater risk of cancer.

Their findings appear in the journal Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology (CGH). Bowel cancer, also known as colorectal cancer, is a major health concern.

In Australia, it ranks as the second leading cause of cancer death and the fourth most frequently diagnosed cancer.

Many colorectal cancers begin as polyps, which are growths that develop on the inner lining of the bowel. These growths are usually benign and cause no immediate harm.

However, two specific types of polyps, adenomas and serrated polyps, have the potential to develop into cancer over time.

Colonoscopy study reveals fivefold increase in risk

To better understand this risk, researchers reviewed more than 8,400 colonoscopy records. The analysis showed that people who had both adenomas and serrated polyps faced a much higher likelihood of developing advanced precancerous changes.

In fact, the risk was up to five times greater compared with people who had only one type of polyp.

“Polyps are common and usually harmless, but when both types appear together -- what we call synchronous lesions -- the risk of serious bowel disease or cancer rises sharply,” says Dr Molla Wassie, lead author and researcher at the FHMRI Bowel Health Service.

The researchers also found that this combination may be more widespread than previously believed. Nearly half of the patients who had serrated polyps were also found to have adenomas.

Separate cancer pathways may occur at the same time

“This is one of the largest studies of its kind,” says Dr. Wassie. “Our findings support growing international evidence that these two types of polyps may represent separate cancer pathways that can be active at the same time -- making early detection and regular monitoring even more important,” added Dr Wassie.

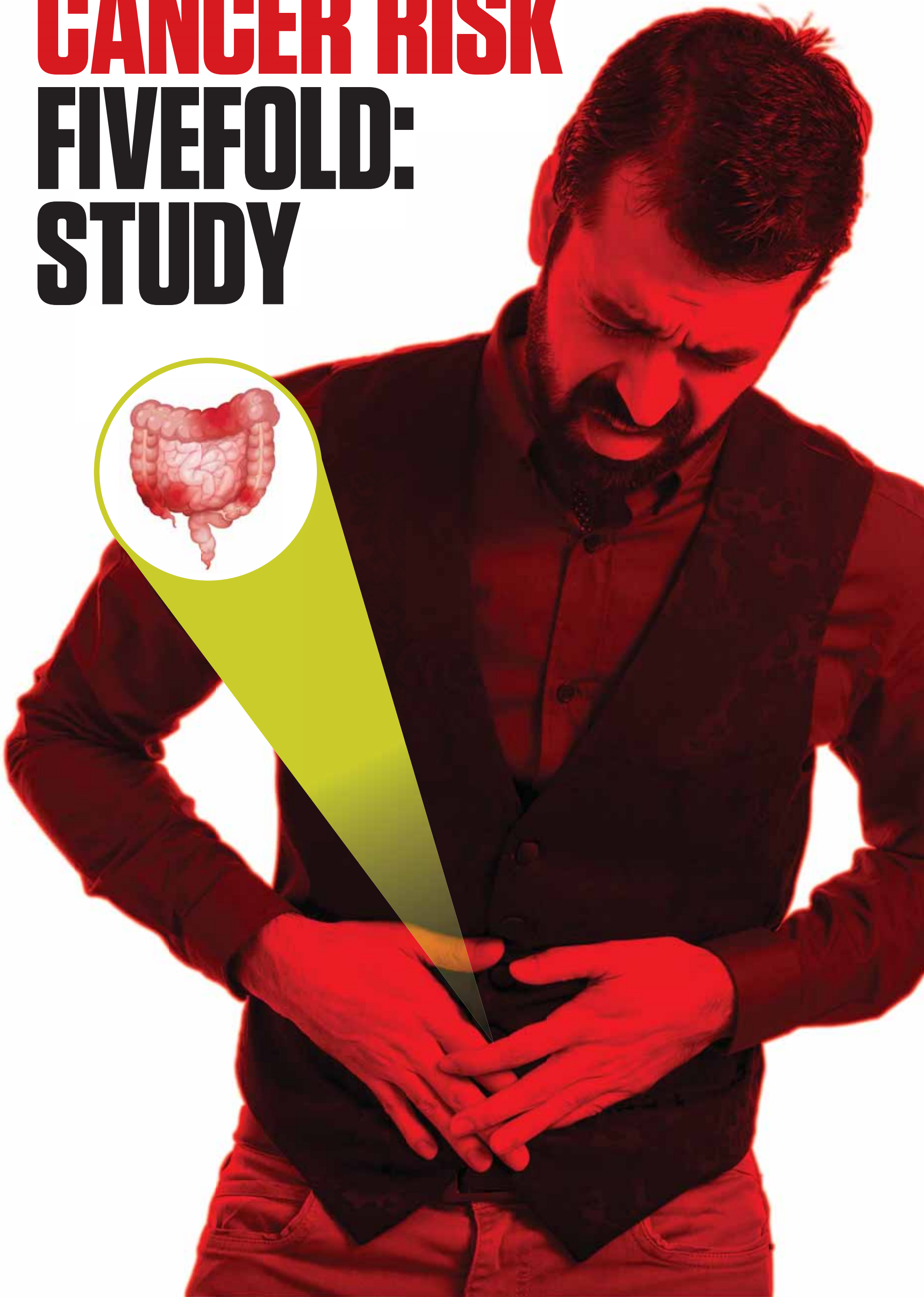
The study also suggests that serrated polyps may develop into cancer more quickly than adenomas. This highlights the importance of screening strategies and follow-up colonoscopy schedules that reflect differences between polyp types.

Why regular colonoscopy screening matters

“Polyps become more common as we age, but the key is catching and removing them early. If you’ve had both types of polyps, it’s especially important to stay on top of your colonoscopy schedule,” said Dr Wassie.

People over age 45 or those with a family history of bowel disease are encouraged to speak with their GP or visit the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program to learn about available screening options. - **ANI**

TWO TYPES OF COLON POLYPS CAN RAISE BOWEL CANCER RISK FIVEFOLD: STUDY



SPORTS

Spurs draw with Leeds for vital point in survival fight

Tottenham, under manager Roberto de Zerbi, remained unbeaten in four consecutive matches, which include two wins

LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur took a small and potentially crucial step toward retaining their English Premier League status after drawing at home with Leeds United 1-1 on Monday.

Spurs, just above the drop zone, moved two points clear of relegation rivals West Ham. Tottenham went ahead in the 50th minute on Mathys Tels' strike.

However, Tels' foul on Ethan Ampadu with 15 minutes left led to a Leeds penalty that Dominic Calvert-Lewin converted.

Spurs take on Chelsea away and Everton at home in their last two games, while West Ham are away at Newcastle before facing Leeds at home on the final day of the season. One of the two teams will join the already relegated Burnley and Wolves in next season's Championship.

Spurs went into the game on a high after two consecutive victories, but though they dominated



the first half in terms of possession and shots on goal, they didn't break the deadlock until five minutes into the second half.

Pedro Porro's corner kick was cleared to an unmarked Tels, who coolly struck into the far corner of the net from 20 metres out. It was the centre forward's first goal since January 7.

Tels turned villain 24 minutes later when his high foot was adjudged to have made contact with Ethan Ampadu's head.

The referee pointed to the spot and Calvert-Lewin, who was denied a first-half penalty after a video review, confidently dispatched the spot kick.

In an edgy last few moments and

a remarkable 15 minutes of added time there were no more goals. Spurs will content themselves that their destiny remains in their hands.

"We played a good game but there was big pressure," Tottenham coach Roberto De Zerbi said. "We didn't play calmly. We wanted to win immediately without passes. When you are fighting for relegation you can't play every game calmly."

"Leeds played a good game and we hope they play like that against West Ham in the next game."

Spurs have taken eight out of a possible 12 points since De Zerbi's debut defeat at Sunderland on April 12. Zerbi, remained unbeat-

en in four consecutive matches, which include two wins, after sharing points with Leeds.

"We deserve to stay up," he said. "We will fight until the end.... Even if we had won today it wouldn't have been finished yet."

West Ham to lodge complaint

Elsewhere, West Ham United are reportedly set to lodge a complaint with the referees' body, Professional Game Match Officials, after VAR denied it a late equaliser against Arsenal for a foul on David Raya during their Premier League 2025-26 clash on Sunday.

Relegation-threatened West Ham thought they had rescued a precious point against the league

leader when Callum Wilson equalised in stoppage time after Raya had dropped the ball.

But the goal was disallowed by referee Chris Kavanagh, following a lengthy review that saw him advised to consult the pitch-side monitor, for a foul by Pablo on Reya.

The decision meant Leandro Trossard's 82nd-minute strike eventually proved enough for Arsenal to secure a 1-0 win that took it five points clear at the top of the table and left London rival West Ham in the bottom three with just two games left to play.

Hull secure playoff spot

Hull will play Southampton or

Middlesbrough in the Championship playoff final after second half goals from Mo Belloumi and Joe Gelhardt gave it a 2-0 win over Millwall in London.

Belloumi's 64th-minute strike with his left foot broke the deadlock in the second game of the two-leg affair and Gelhardt made sure with a low shot that squirmed past the Millwall goalkeeper.

The win means Hull have one match to secure a place in the Premier League for the first time since it was relegated in 2017.

Southampton and Middlesbrough drew the first leg 0-0 on Saturday.

The playoff final is set for Wembley on May 23. - Agencies

ITALIAN SERIE A



Acrobatic late goal gives Bologna win at Napoli

NAPLES: A stoppage time goal from Jonathan Rowe gave Bologna a 3-2 win against Napoli in a pulsating Serie A encounter on Monday.

The result — only the second home defeat of the season for Napoli — lifted Bologna into eighth place above Udinese and Lazio with two rounds remaining.

Federico Bernardeschi put vis-

iting Bologna 1-0 up after nine minutes with a rifled shot into the roof of the net and Riccardo Orsolini added a second from the penalty spot 11 minutes before t he break.

Giovanni Di Lorenzo pulled one back for Napoli in first-half stoppage time and Alisson Santos slot- ted home a neat layoff from Ras- mus Hojlund early in the second

half to level the scores. However, Bologna seized the win in the 91st when Rowe acrobatically convert- ed after Vanja Milinkovic-Savic could only parry Juan Miranda's fierce shot.

Napoli remained in second place, two points ahead of Juve- ntus and three above AC Milan and Roma. Inter Milan have already se- cured the league title. - Agencies

SPANISH LA LIGA

Girona held at Vallecano; Real Oviedo relegated

MADRID: A late goal from veteran striker Cristhian Stuani rescued a point for Girona on Monday in a tense relegation encounter at Rayo Vallecano that guaranteed Real Oviedo will go down from Spanish La Liga.

The 1-1 draw meant Oviedo, in last place, will return to La Liga 2 after one season in the top tier.

Girona were two points clear of the relegation zone with three games remaining.

However, only six points separate the nine teams from places 11th to 19th as a desperate relegation battle to avoid joining Oviedo looks certain to go to the final weekend.

Rayo, who last week beat Strasbourg to set up a Conference League final against Crystal Palace, came into the game on a high and was on top for much of the match.

However, they struggled to

threaten the Girona goal and the deadlock wasn't broken until the 86th minute when Rayo Brazilian forward Alemão cleverly deflected in a long-range shot.

Not for the first time this season, Stuani came off the bench to save Girona. The big Uruguayan got his head on a corner in the 90th to secure a crucial point for the visitor. Girona sat in 17th place, two points ahead of Alaves. Rayo were 10th. - Agencies



SCORED 10 GOALS THIS SEASON

PSG's Dembélé voted Ligue 1's best player for second straight season

PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) forward Ousmane Dembélé has won Ligue 1's player of the season award for the second straight year.

Dembélé won the award late Monday night as a PSG player claimed it for the 10th straight time. Kylian Mbappé won five in a row before joining Real Madrid.

The 28-year-old becomes just the fifth player to win back-to-back awards, the last being Zlatan Ibrahimovic in 2014. "It's an individual trophy but all the individual trophies I've won are thanks to this team," Dembele said.

Alexandre Lacazette was the last non-PSG player to win it when playing for Lyon in 2015. The prize was not awarded during the pan-



demic-shortened 2019-20 campaign. Dembélé starred in PSG's league title win last season with 21 goals and went on to win the Ballon d'Or, but has had less of an impact this campaign because of injuries.

He has 10 goals and coach Luis Enrique has used him more sparingly, starting him in only nine league games.

Dembélé's performances have arguably been more impactful in the Champions League, with PSG aiming for a second straight title after beating Bayern Munich in the semi-finals.

Dembélé's early goal in the return leg earned PSG a 1-1 draw and put them through 6-5 on aggregate.

PSG play Premier League leader Arsenal in the final on May 30.

Other awards

PSG team-mate Désiré Doué was voted the league's best young player for the second straight season. The 20-year-old forward's winning goal against Brest on Sunday put PSG on the verge of a record-extending 14th league title.

PSG are six points ahead of second-placed Lens with two games left and with a vastly superior goal difference. PSG only need a draw at Lens on Wednesday in their rescheduled match to clinch the title.

Pierre Sage won the best coach award for turning Lens into a surprise title contender in his first season in charge and with far less resources than cash-rich PSG. Robin Rissner won the best goal-keeper award for Lens. - Agencies

78 YEARS OLD

Advocaat returns as Curacao coach, will be oldest manager in World Cup history



LONDON: Months after stepping down, Dutchman Dick Advocaat has returned to serve as the head coach for Curacao's national football team, according to multiple reports on Monday.

Advocaat, who at 78 will become the oldest manager in World Cup history, resigned in February for family matters.

But with his daughter's health reportedly improving, Advocaat has decided to come back and lead Curacao into their first-ever World Cup appearance.

Curacao, with a population of just over 150,000, are the small-

est nation to ever qualify for the World Cup.

Advocaat, nicknamed the "Little General", replaces Fred Rutten, who stepped down to enable the Dutchman's comeback. Rutten managed Curacao during two March friendly matches, losing to China (5-1) and Australia (5-1).

Agencies reported that Curacao's player council met with Gilbert Martina, Curacao Football Federation's president, following the matches and said the team preferred Advocaat over Rutten.

Atilay Uslu, owner of Corendon Airlines, a major sponsor, threat-

ened to pull more than 1 million euros of annual funding if a coaching change wasn't made, the report said.

"There must not be a climate that damages healthy professional relationships within the team or staff," Rutten said in a statement. "Therefore, resigning is the right decision."

"Time is of the essence and Curacao must move forward. I regret how things turned out, but I wish everyone the best."

Curacao plays their first World Cup match June 14 in Houston against Germany.

Bosnia's Dzeko to join list of World Cup 40-year-olds

Former Manchester City striker Edin Dzeko is set to join an exclusive list of players aged 40 or over to play at a World Cup after being picked in Bosnia-Herzegovina's squad for this summer's edition.

Cameroon forward Roger Milla is the only outfield player to have played at a World Cup after his 40th birthday, having appeared at and scored at the 1994 tournament. There have also been six goalkeepers - Egypt's Essam el Hadary, who was 45 at the 2018 World Cup, Colombia's Faryd

Mondragon, Northern Ireland's Pat Jennings, England's Peter Shilton, Italy's Dino Zoff and Tunisia's Ali Boumnijel.

Luka Modric, 40, and Cristiano Ronaldo, 41, are also expected to feature for Croatia and Portugal respectively this summer.

Dzeko, who has 148 caps, played in seven of his country's eight matches in Group H of qualifying and also in the semi-final and final of their progression through the play-offs.

He scored his 73rd international goal in the semi-final win against Wales. - Agencies

Sinner thrashes Popyrin; Gauff survives Jovic scare

The world No.1 easily won his 25th straight match, taking just over an hour to see off his Australian rival and set up an Italian derby with Andrea Pellegrino in the next round



ROME: Jannik Sinner breezed into the last 16 of the Italian Open on Monday after swatting aside Alexei Popyrin in straight sets 6-2, 6-0 and continuing his bid for a first title in Rome.

The world No.1 easily won his 25th straight match, taking just over an hour to see off Australia's Popyrin and set up an Italian derby with Andrea Pellegrino in the next round.

Pellegrino, 29, who beat 20th seed Frances Tiafoe 7-6 (10/8), 6-1, is a qualifier ranked 155 in the world who before this week had never played in the main draw of a Masters 1000 tournament.

Sinner meanwhile is trying to extend his own record-breaking run of overall victories in the ATP's top-ranked events after having won his last five. The 24-year-old

joins Novak Djokovic as the only player to win a year's first 25 Master 1000 matches, with the Serbian tennis icon's record run stretching to 31 matches in 2011.

Popyrin was suffocated by Sinner and made 23 unforced errors on his way to a comprehensive defeat. The world No.60 only got 48 percent of first serves into play and that allowed Sinner to break five times and close out a match which was barely a contest.

"It has been a very good performance from my side," said Sinner. "He's a big server so his percentage was not very high, which helped me for sure a little

bit, but I've been returning very well the second serves."

Should Sinner prevail at the Foro Italico he will be the first Italian to win there since Adriano Panatta 50 years ago, and would complete his collection of Master 1000 tournaments.

With great rival Carlos Alcaraz out injured and Novak Djokovic eliminated early, Sinner will be red-hot favourite as he builds towards completing the career Grand Slam at the French Open which starts next week.

Gauff bounces back

Coco Gauff survived a scare against

Iva Jovic coming back from a match point to win 5-7, 7-5, 6-2 and reach the women's quarter-finals.

American star Gauff, who is reigning French Open champion and reached the final in Rome last year, won a draining match on windy centre court which took the best part of three hours.

The 22-year-old has struggled on clay this season, with a last-16 exit in the Madrid Open coming after a disappointing run to the quarter-finals in Stuttgart.

Gauff was so annoyed with herself shortly after saving a match point against the serve at 5-4 down in the second set that she



smacked herself in the head.

But she recovered to eventually see off her fellow American and set up a clash with Mirra Andreeva in the last eight.

"It was really hard," said Gauff. "I think the conditions made it tough to make some clean tennis. Really proud of how I was able to fight."

Swiatek in quarters

Also, Iga Swiatek swept aside Naomi Osaka 6-2, 6-1 on Monday, producing one of her most commanding displays of the clay-court season to reach the quarter-finals.

The world No.3 and the so-called 'Queen of Clay' needed just 80 minutes to overwhelm 16th-ranked Osaka on the red dirt of Foro Italico, where the Pole has long looked at home.

Swiatek, a six-time Grand Slam champion and four-time winner in Rome, struck early and never loosened her grip.

Awaiting her in the quarter-finals is world No.5 Jessica Pegula of the United States.

Swiatek holds a narrow 6-5 edge in their head-to-head record and beat Pegula in their only previous meeting on clay, at Roland Garros in 2022. - Agencies

IN BUDAPEST ON MAY 30

German referee Siebert to officiate Arsenal-PSG Champions League final

NYON: German referee Daniel Siebert was picked on Monday by UEFA for the Champions League final after FIFA left him off its World Cup list. The game between Arsenal and Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) on May 30 at Puskas Arena in Budapest will be Siebert's 10th in the Champions League this season - and the third straight round he will have worked an Arsenal match.

Siebert handled Arsenal's 1-0 wins at Sporting Lisbon in the quarter-finals first leg, and at home to Atletico Madrid in the semi-finals second leg.

He refereed PSG once this season, in a league phase game at Ath-



letic Bilbao that ended 0-0.

In his nine Champions League games this season Siebert has shown two red cards and awarded just one penalty kick. FIFA did take Siebert to the 2022 World Cup in Qatar where he worked two group-stage games, Tunisia-Australia and Ghana-Uruguay.

He was not picked for the 2026 tournament in North America, with FIFA selecting his fellow German Felix Zwayer.

Siebert worked at the past two European Championships, handling a total of five games.

French referee François Letexier, who handled the men's Euro 2024 final, was picked by UEFA

for the Europa League final. Aston Villa will play Freiburg on May 20 in Istanbul. The Conference League final between Crystal Palace and Rayo Vallecano on May 27 in Leipzig, Germany, will be refereed by Maurizio Mariani of Italy. Mariani worked the Champions League quarter-finals, second-leg game at Anfield last month where he awarded a penalty to Liverpool against PSG then overruled himself after a video review.

Letexier and Mariani are both among the 52 referees FIFA is taking to the World Cup where 104 games will be played in the United States, Canada and Mexico from June 11 to July 19. - Agencies

INDIAN CRICKET LEGEND

Dravid named as Dublin franchise co-owner in ETPL

DUBLIN: India cricket legend Rahul Dravid has been announced as the co-owner of the final European T20 Premier League (ETPL) franchise based out of Dublin.

Dravid is part of an Indian consortium which has acquired the team, who will be called the Dublin Guardians.

The 53-year-old, who played 164 Tests and 344 one-day internationals for India and coached the national team from 2021 to 2024, is seen as a major coup for the league's organisers.

"It's absolutely brilliant to be involved. When I first heard about this it was really exciting," Dravid said.

"I've always loved the passion and energy of cricket in Europe. The passion with which the players play the game.

"I've seen the passion of grassroots and also the T20 World Cup has shown the talent, too.

"That's something we can grow and build. It would be a dream to see the talent on the world stage."

Former India spin-bowling all-rounder Ravichandran Ashwin will captain the Guardians. He retired from Test cricket in December 2024 and stepped away from the Indian Premier League last summer, making him available to play in leagues in the rest of the world.

The ETPL is being run in collaboration with the cricket boards of Ireland, Scotland and the Netherlands - with six teams based out



of Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Belfast, Dublin, Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Bollywood actor and film producer Abhishek Bachchan is a part-owner of the league in conjunction with Rules Sport Tech, a private Indian company.

As reported by BBC Sport earlier this year, the franchises have been sold for £11.1m (\$15m) over a 10-year period.

The tournament is set to be played from August 26 to September 20 with games staged in The Hague and Dublin during the first edition.

Cricket Ireland chair Brian MacNeice said it was a "landmark day for European cricket" having brought in "the best from world cricket" with those who are backing the franchises.

"It's going to make a huge impact across Europe. I am excited by the calibre of people who are backing the teams," he added.

"It's all about the visibility and development of the game in a region where it can grow." - Agencies

PERMANENT MEMORIAL

Liverpool to honour Diogo Jota and his brother at Anfield

LONDON: Liverpool are to build a permanent memorial at Anfield in honour of its former forward Diogo Jota and his brother Andre Silva, who died in a car crash last year in northwestern Spain.

The heart-shaped sculpture will be titled "Forever 20" in reference to Jota's jersey number, which has been retired from the club at all levels, including the women's and academy teams.

The memorial will also display Silva's number 30 shirt when he played for Penafiel in the Portuguese second division.

"It will stand on a Granby Rock-



guese second division club Penafiel, died in a car crash on July 3 in the Spanish province of Zamora.

Jota helped Liverpool win the Premier League last season, and won the FA Cup in 2022 and League Cup in 2022 and 2024 with the Merseyside club. He scored 65 goals in 182 appearances for it.

Ahead of the 2026 Premier League season-opener, Liverpool honoured the Portuguese forward with a minute's silence before the kickoff against Bournemouth. Liverpool have not yet announced when it will be unveiled but will reveal the date in the future. - Agencies

ROUND-UP

DENZA B8: Defining standard for flagship hybrid luxury in Oman



Designed for those who demand excellence in every detail, this seven-seat flagship provides a seamless experience, whether navigating the bustling streets or venturing across diverse landscapes

MUSCAT: The DENZA B8 continues to set the benchmark for luxury hybrid SUVs in Oman, offering a sophisticated blend of high-end technology and powerful performance.

Designed for those who demand excellence in every detail, this seven-seat flagship provides a seamless experience, whether navigating the bustling streets or venturing

across diverse landscapes.

The DENZA B8 is built on a foundation of remarkable mechanical capability. Its dual-motor all-wheel-drive system, combined with a 2.0-litre turbo petrol engine, produces a formidable 603 hp and 760 Nm of torque. This translates to a 0-100 km/h acceleration time of just 4.8 seconds, providing the responsiveness of a

sports car within a full-size SUV frame. Beyond pure speed, the B8 offers a combined range of up to 825 km, ensuring long-distance travel across the Sultanate is both efficient and uninterrupted.

The exterior of the B8 reflects a purposeful design philosophy. Its upright grille and signature matrix LED headlamps create a distinctive face, while the 2920 mm wheelbase and 20-inch alloy wheels provide a grounded, stable stance. The vehicle is designed to be adventure-ready, featuring a rear-mounted spare tyre and geometric bumpers that highlight its off-road character. With specialized terrain modes for mud, sand and snow, the B8 is as capable on rugged terrain as it is refined on the streets of Muscat.

The cabin of the DENZA B8 is a curated space of comfort and high-end technology. Available in elegant Dark Black or Wheat Yellow, the interior features three rows of

seating designed to accommodate seven passengers in total serenity. The driver and passengers are treated to a 17.3-inch infotainment display and a 16-speaker Devialet sound system that delivers a world-class acoustic experience. Details such as ventilated, 8-way power-adjustable seats and dedicated driver headrest speakers ensure that the environment remains personal and relaxing, even on the longest journeys.

Safety in the B8 is managed by a comprehensive suite of intelligent systems designed to assist the driver at every turn. The vehicle features an advanced array of braking technologies, including Hydraulic Brake Assist and a Parking Brake Deceleration System, alongside stability tools like Rollover Mitigation and Hill Descent Control.

In Oman, BYD, DENZA and Yangwang vehicles are distributed by World Auto Business.

GLOBAL STRATEGY

Vodafone Oman leads strategic Luxembourg visit to connect Omani institutions with Global SME and innovation best practices



MUSCAT: Leveraging its global reach and strategic partnerships, Vodafone Oman led and coordinated a high-level visit to Luxembourg for a delegation from the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (Riyada) and the Oman Investment Authority (OIA), aimed at exploring international technology, procurement, and innovation models that support SME growth and economic development. The visit reflects Vodafone Oman's role as a strategic gateway, enabling Omani government entities to access global best practices, future-ready ecosystems, and applied models that support national development priorities.

Eng. Bader Al Zidi, CEO of Vodafone Oman said, "SME growth today requires more than access to funding or markets. It requires exposure to systems that help businesses scale, compete, and integrate into wider value chains. Through Vodafone's global network, we are able to support that by opening direct channels to models and expertise that are already being applied internationally. Our focus is not to replicate another market, but to understand what is relevant and how it can support Oman's own priorities."

Vodafone Oman facilitated visits to a number of leading technology and innovation platforms,

focusing on areas such as procurement, artificial intelligence, and SME growth. These included Vodafone Procure & Connect that brings together world-class procurement and global voice and roaming to simplify how you buy, connect and operate; Tomorrow Street, a joint venture between Vodafone and Technoport supporting the growth of scaleups; and the House of Startups, an initiative by the Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce that brings together government, private sector, and innovators within one environment. The programme provided insight into how centralised procurement is managed at scale, how high-potential companies are integrated into global ecosystems, and how structured environments support collaboration and commercial growth.

The visit builds on Vodafone Oman's wider focus on supporting Oman's digital development through connectivity, enterprise solutions, cybersecurity, digital platforms, and partnerships that create practical value for businesses and communities across the Sultanate. In 2025, Vodafone Oman recorded strong growth in its enterprise segment, reflecting increasing demand from organisations for reliable connectivity, secure digital platforms, and responsive support that can evolve with their operational needs.

HAJ SEASON OFFERS



Meethaq Islamic launches exclusive offers to support customers on their Haj journey

MUSCAT: In celebration of this year's Haj season, Meethaq Islamic Banking from Bank Muscat, has launched a range of Sharia-compliant banking offers designed to support pilgrims performing Haj and ease their journey, while delivering added value to its esteemed customers.

Meethaq's exclusive Haj season offers include a competitive rate on Travel Finance, 50% cashback on credit card purchases made within the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, capped at OMR 20, as well as first-year annual fee waiver on new credit cards for pilgrims. These offers reflect Meethaq's commitment at providing banking solutions tailored to customers' needs across different occasions and seasons.

Meethaq's Travel Finance product features financing of up to 100%, a convenient payment plan, competitive pricing, nominal processing fees, and partnerships with leading travel operators and service providers in the Sultanate. The product has been developed under the principle

of Sharia-compliant Service Ijarah, ensuring full alignment with Islamic finance practices.

Meethaq Islamic Banking also offers a diverse portfolio of credit cards, including the Meethaq LuLu Credit Card, Meethaq Visa Gold Credit Card, Meethaq Platinum Credit Card, and the Hafawa Visa Signature Credit Card. These cards provide a wide range of benefits to suit customer's varying needs, including travel benefits, airport lounge access, cashback rewards, easy payment plans, supplementary cards for family members, and secure online shopping. Meethaq credit cards are accepted worldwide, giving customers access to an extensive range of offers and many more benefits.

Commenting on the occasion, Sami Bait Rashid, Assistant General Manager, Personal Banking, Meethaq Islamic Banking, said: "We are delighted to mark this year's Hajj season by offering our valued customers a comprehensive suite of banking solutions specially tailored to ease their Hajj

pilgrimage. Meethaq's participation in such occasions reflects our enduring commitment to meeting customers' needs and delivering a distinguished banking experience. We remain focused on continuously developing our products and services to keep pace with the latest trends in the sector."

Meethaq Islamic Banking is a pioneer in providing innovative digital banking services that are fully compliant with Islamic banking standards. Customers can conveniently manage their banking needs through Meethaq's mobile and internet banking platforms. Meethaq also operates an extensive branch network across Oman, with 32 branches and 64 ATMs and CDMS, in addition to access to over 900 Bank Muscat machines, ensuring seamless and convenient banking services.

Every Meethaq product undergoes a rigorous Sharia compliance review process established by the Sharia Supervisory Board, formulated in alignment with the guidelines of the Central Bank of Oman.

OFFICE-BEARERS

Student Council inducted at Indian School Muladha



MUSCAT: The solemn felicitation of the office-bearers of the Student Council of Indian School Muladha for the academic year 2026-27 was held on 7 May.

The event was attended by the Chief Guest. G.V. Ramakrishna, Finance Director, Board of Directors, Indian Schools Oman and Director in Charge, ISML. Mahir Al Barram, official from Thawani Technologies, the President of School Management Committee M.T. Musthafa, Convenor Ashifa Asif, Treasurer Dr Ajeeb P, Shameer Ahamed (In-Charge, Co-scholastic-SMC), Principal Dr Leena Francis, parents, staff and students attended the ceremony.

The march by the student council members was a spectacular event which set the mood for the event. The programme commenced with the Royal Anthem of Oman and the National Anthem of India followed by the soulful rendition of prayer song by the school choir.

The Chief Guest was given a floral welcome by the Convener of the School Management Committee. The President M T Musthafa extended a cordial welcome to the gathering.

The student council members were introduced by Nijo Jose, the Student Council Coordinator.

The Principal Dr Leena Francis administered the oath to the office bearers to discharge their duties assiduously and earnestly.

The council members were ceremoniously adorned with sashes and badges by the dignitaries and entrusted with the responsibility of leading their school with dedication, confidence and competence. The motivational song that followed uplifted the spirits of everyone present, inspiring a sense of pride and purpose.

In his address, the Chief Guest, G.V. Ramakrishna, inspired the students with his motivating words of wisdom and encouraged them to embrace the true spirit of leadership. He urged them to work diligently, uphold the proud legacy of the school, and strive to become responsible leaders and positive change-makers.

He also emphasized the importance of gratitude towards parents and advised the students to value their sacrifices and repay them with respect, care and achievement.

Sudharshan Karthick, who brought immense pride to the institution by securing centum scores in four subjects in the Class X CBSE Board Examination 2025-26, was felicitated and honoured by the Chief Guest for his

exemplary academic brilliance and remarkable accomplishment.

As a token of appreciation and gratitude, the President of SMC felicitated the Chief Guest by presenting a memento.

This was followed by the acceptance speech by the school Head Boy Manmeet Singh and Head Girl Fida Nisar K of class XII. They vouched to discharge the duties of the student council to the best of their abilities.

The vote of thanks was proposed by the Vice Principal, J Anita Rose, who thanked the chief guest, the management, staff, students, organizers and participants for their contributions towards the programme's grand success. The fabulous function came to an end with the school anthem presented by the school choir and a group photo session of the dignitaries and the student council.

Following the Investiture Ceremony, the Chief Guest also inaugurated the newly developed playground for the primary section - PLAY ZONE, marking a significant addition to the school's recreational facilities for young learners. The inauguration was carried out in the presence of students, staff members, and dignitaries, adding further joy and enthusiasm to the occasion.



Choose your favourite Changan model today!

Easy to own with low monthly installments.



CS95 4WD

Royal

2.0L Turbo Engine, 224 hp, 8-speed AT, 4WD, 7 Seater

EMI
OMR 172*
for 6 years



EMI starting from
OMR 132*
for 6 years

CS75 PLUS 4WD

Platinum

2.0L Turbo Engine, 232 hp, 8-speed AT, 4WD



ALL NEW

CS55 PRO

1.5L Turbo GDI, 180 hp, 7 Speed DCT

EMI
OMR 110*
for 6 years



EMI starting from
OMR 89*
for 6 years

CS35 PLUS

Trend

1.4L Turbo Engine, 156 hp, 7-speed DCT



EADO PLUS

Trend

1.5L Turbo Engine, 170 hp, 7-speed DCT

EMI starting from
OMR 90*
for 6 years



EMI
OMR 69*
for 6 years

ALL NEW EADO

1.5L Engine, 103 hp, 7-speed DCT



ALSVIN

Technology

1.5L Engine, 105 hp, 5-speed DCT

EMI
OMR 62*
for 6 years



Terms and conditions apply. **Super Warranty – 6 Years / 250,000 Kms – Applicable Alsvin, EADO, EADOPlus, CS35Plus, CS55Pro, CS75Plus & CS95 only, whichever is earlier. *Easy Monthly Installment is calculated based on 20% down payment for 6 years loan tenure. Subject to credit approvals from Banks only. Applicable to vehicles purchased for personal use. Images shown are for illustrative purposes only. Specifications may vary as per the model variant. To generate an inquiry, customers are required to visit the CHANGAN showroom to test drive their preferred model and to obtain full details regarding vehicle pricing and applicable offers.

Arabian Gulf Automobiles
and Equipment LLC

Showrooms:

Qurum 94641010, Mawaleh 97888180, Nizwa 96628940
Sohar 95351200, Salalah 96629050, Ibri 96628930,
Barka 96629010, Sur 96628920

800 50800
9662 8909
changanoman
www.changanoman.com