

Shura Council continues assessment of social protection benefits system

The review comes in response to rising living costs and increasing economic burdens

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Shura Council's Social Protection Benefits Review Team, chaired by Tahir Mukhout Al Junaibi, Deputy Chairman of the Shura Council, held a meeting on Wednesday as part of a series of sessions aimed at evaluating and reviewing the social protection benefits system in the Sultanate of Oman.

The review comes in response to



rising living costs and increasing economic burdens, in line with the goals of Oman Vision 2040 to ensure social welfare and protection as national priorities.

During the meeting, the team reviewed a technical analysis of the current social protection benefits system in Oman, focusing on financial allocations and the demographic structure—particularly in relation to income levels and eli-

gibility for assistance and benefits.

This assessment was conducted in light of economic and social indicators that reflect the reality of Omani households' incomes, spending, and consumption patterns.

The team also discussed implementation challenges and examined the possibility of revising certain benefits to enhance the level of social welfare.

The review team plans to host specialists from various institutions to gather insights and feedback on the existing social protection benefits system.

This consultative approach aims to ensure social justice and enable timely responses to the needs of the most vulnerable groups, especially in light of the country's rapidly changing economic and demographic landscape.



NATIONAL DEFENCE UNIVERSITY TEAM



Pakistani delegation visits Maritime Security Centre

MUSCAT: A delegation from the National Defence University of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan visited on Wednesday the Maritime Security Centre (MSC).

Upon the delegation's arrival at the centre, they were greeted by Commodore Adil Hamoud Al Bussaidi, Head of the MSC.

During the visit, the guests were briefed about the tactical roles and tasks carried out by the centre in the safety of the Omani maritime environment.

They also toured the centre's facilities and viewed its latest equipment and technologies used in carrying out its national duties. — **ONA**

STRATEGIC LOCATION

Al Nama Real Estate unveils Opal Residence project in Muscat Hills

MUSCAT: Al Nama Real Estate launched Opal Residence project, its largest real estate project for 2025, in Muscat Hills on Monday.

The launch ceremony was held under the patronage of His Highness Sayyid Marwan bin Turki Al Said, Governor of Dhofar.

The project is being developed in an area of 41,000 square metres and includes 279 residential units and 23 commercial units.

The project accommodates two underground floors and one ground floor and other seven floors.

Opal Residence also accommodates an overhead pathway of 400 metres in length with the largest swimming pool in Muscat Hills. In addition the project will have dedicated recreational and sports facilities such as a gym, sauna, and relaxation area among other amenities.

A new qualitative addition

Sheikh Is'haq bin Abdullah Al Hoqani, Chief Executive Officer of Al Nama Real Estate said that the new residential project will be a new qualitative addition to the real estate sector and to the luxury residence segment.

He said that the project is the result of a clear vision, precise



planning and a passion for introducing an unmatched housing experience and amazing architectural design.

He said that the selection of Muscat Hill area for developing the project was its strategic location and the ease of access to

the other vital areas in Muscat Governorate.

He said that the company with its 23 year history since incorporation reaffirmed its commitment to continue development of its services and expand the scope of business on the back of a well-ex-

perienced work team and consistent with principles and values and transparency.

The launch ceremony was attended by a number of members of the Royal Family, ministers, undersecretaries, diplomats, businessmen and developers. — **ONA**

GEMS 2024 INDEX

78% rise in 'public access' indicator

< FROM A1 Its performance in the "service usage and user satisfaction" indicator rose by 63%, compared to 51.95%. Oman also achieved 78% rise in the "public access" indicator in 2024, compared to 73.78% in 2023. In the "level of development of services" indicator on the electronic portal, Oman's performance rose by 94% in 2024, compared to 84.45% in 2023. In the "level of user satisfaction through the electronic portal" indicator, its performance rose to 89% in 2024, compared to 76.44% in 2023.

Oman also achieved 60% rise in the indicator of "application availability on mobile platforms" during 2024, compared to 49.97% in 2023. It further augmented its "mobile user satisfaction" indicator to 62% in 2024, compared to 47.76% in 2023.

It is worth noting that ESCWA launched the GEMS index to be used as a benchmark to assess progress in the digital maturity of government services.

The GEMS index also helps determine necessary national policies and plans to support digital transition programmes in public institutions in the Arab region. This year, 17 countries participated in GEMS 2024 index evaluation, which also saw the expansion of government services being evaluated and a rise in key performance indicators aimed to set out new dimensions for govt digital services. — **ONA**

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Ways to boost Oman and Arab universities ranking discussed

The two-day event is organised by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation under the auspices of Dr. Rahma Ibrahim Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation

MUSCAT: A regional symposium on improving the ranking of Arab universities in international rankings kicked off on Wednesday in Muscat.

The two-day event is organised by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation. It is held under the auspices of

Dr. Rahma Ibrahim Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation.

The symposium is organised in cooperation with the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO) and Oman National Commission for Education, Culture and Science.

It seeks to promote the academic reputation of Omani universities and consolidate their competitive status at regional and international levels.

The symposium provides an opportunity to introduce strategies that align educational institutions' practices with international standards and improve key areas of performance like the quality of academic output, the effectiveness of educational methodologies and the impact of scholarly research.

Besides presenting insights into Arab and international ranking systems and accreditation frameworks, the symposium also provides universities with new measures necessary for enhancing their reputation and augmenting their rankings.

— ONA



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TENDER NOTICE

Oman Water & Wastewater Services Company (NAMA WATER SERVICES) hereby announces the following Tenders: -

Tender No.	Description	Eligibility	Tender Fee (RO)	Last Date of Sale Tender Documents	Bid Submission Date
T/2698100/2025	Renewal of Managed Services Contract for 5 Years	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned	R.O. 1500/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	22/5/2025	16/6/2025
T/2700105/2025	Provision of Maintenance, Equipment Operators and Spare Parts for Compost Plant	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned	R.O. 50/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	22/5/2025	16/6/2025
T/2700103/2025	Asset Management System Implementation Tender (ISO 55001)	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and International Companies specialized in the works mentioned	R.O. 50/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	22/5/2025	16/6/2025
T/2702105/2025	Call off Contract For Supply And Delivery Of HDPE Pipe For Three Years	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned	R.O. 1500/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	22/5/2025	16/6/2025
T/2697102/2025	Asset Criticality and Risk Mitigation Framework Consultancy Services in Zones 1, 2 and 3	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and International Companies specialized in the works mentioned	R.O. 2500/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	22/5/2025	16/6/2025
T/2702114/2024	Consultancy Services for Assessment of Safe Yield of Main Well Fields - Batch Three	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and International Companies specialized in the works mentioned	R.O. 1500/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	22/5/2025	16/6/2025
T/2702111/2024	Consultancy Services for Construction Supervision of a Pilot of Aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) scheme in Jaalan Well Field	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and International Companies specialized in the works mentioned	R.O. 100/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	22/5/2025	16/6/2025

The tender documents can be obtained from the e-tendering page (Supplier Login) from this announcement date. The applicants shall pay the tender fee by logging into their (I-supplier Page).

Applicants who are not registered shall register through the following link: <https://owwsc.nama.om/Business-with-Us/Vendor-Registration> in order to receive the login credentials of the Supplier portal.

All applicants who have paid the tender fee shall have access to the Tender Documents through Nama Water Services e-tendering page (Supplier Login <https://nws.nama.om/en-us/Business-with-Us/Supplierlogin>). All participating companies shall submit a Bid Bond of 1% of the bid value in a sealed envelope. Bid Bonds must be obtained from a local Bank registered in the Sultanate of Oman addressed to Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company (Nama Water Services) Chairman of Tender Committee not later than 2:00 pm on the bid submission date.

The bid along with all required documents shall be uploaded through Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company (Nama Water Services) e-tendering page not later than 2:00 pm on the date specified above. For more details refer to Tender Page of our website www.owwsc.nama.om & in case of general queries you may contact us through the email ID of tender@owwsc.nama.om



1442 Call Center

MUSCAT GOVERNORATE

Workshop conducted

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Muscat Governorate conducted a workshop entitled 'Drafting Contracts' within the 'Knowledge Ambassadors' initiative, targeting the qualification and empowerment of Governorate employees in various fields.

Dr. Abdulmajeed bin Yousef Al-Aghbari, Manager of the Legal Department, delivered numerous topics regarding the understanding and drafting contracts, including the contract definition, its sources of legislation, its pillars, requirements, drafting prohibitions, cases of contract cancellation and Conflict resolution. He also explained the differences between the powers of commissioners in various types of companies such as joint stock companies and limited liability companies.

He explained difference between contract types and stipulations associated with them, highlighting using precise legal expressing and avoiding phrases capable of interpretation can ensure obligations' clarity and reduce the chances of disputes.



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INTEGRATED RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBOURHOODS



Surouh emerges as a model for modern urban living in Oman

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning continues to implement the Surouh initiative, aimed at developing integrated residential neighbourhoods with comprehensive services.

Several projects under the initiative have already achieved high sales rates in their early phases, exceeding 80%, reflecting strong public and investor confidence in this holistic housing model.

The Surouh initiative includes 18 integrated residential projects across Oman's governorates, covering over 6 million square metres and comprising more than 9,950 housing units, with an estimated investment value exceeding OMR500 million.

The ministry highlighted that the initiative has engaged over 360 Omani employees in its execution while benefiting 145 small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in construction works—reinforcing local economic empowerment. Additionally, integrated planning and service coordination have reduced infrastructure costs by more than 45%.

Key ongoing projects:
Al-Naseem Neighbourhood (Barka, South Al Batinah): Spanning 355,000 sqm, it offers 1,051 diverse housing units, with 60% sales recorded and investments worth RO 80 million.
Al Laban Neighborhood (Nakhla): Features 1,442 units across 646,000 sqm, with RO 111 million investment and 26% sales to date.
Hisa Al Zain (Bidbid, Al Dakhiliyah): A standout project with 75% sales, comprising 639 units on 286,000 sqm and OMR30 million investment.
Majd Neighbourhood (Sohar): Attracting significant interest, with 77% of its 1,057 units sold across 370,000 sqm and OMR50 million investment).
Al Shurooq (Salalah, Dho-

far): A modern model with 558 units on 324,000 sqm (OMR35 million investment) and a 79% sales rate.

The Ministry highlighted that in Musandam Governorate, the "Talal Al-Nakheel" (Palm Hills) project in Khasab stands out, comprising 650 residential units including detached and semi-detached villas, townhouses, and apartments across a 635,000 square metre area, complete with public facilities and commercial zones. Meanwhile, in Muscat Governorate, "Al Ahd Neighbourhood" in Al Amerat features 965 residential units with modern architectural specifications and integrated amenities spanning 445,000 square metres.

The private sector plays a pivotal role, with several projects developed in collaboration with local firms, including:
Nusmat Zain (Sur): 407 units on 268,000 sqm.
Al-Mazun (Sumail): 194 units.
Al-Nama (Izki): 182 units.
Al-Salam (Al Buraimi): 521 units on 78,000 sqm.

In a strategic move, the ministry recently signed 24 agreements to expedite infrastructure development—including water, sewage, electricity, and telecom networks—for eight Surouh projects. These partnerships with Nama Water Services, Nama Electricity Distribution, and Oman Broadband Company enhance the readiness of these communities for residents, ensuring carefully planned, service-integrated environments.

The Surouh initiative embodies Oman's vision for modern urban communities that prioritise citizen well-being, stable living conditions, and flexible planning models. By fostering public-private partnerships, it advances housing ownership opportunities, elevates quality of life, and aligns with the goals of Oman 2040. — **ONA**

Preserving cultural and historical sites of Muscat discussed

The meeting also reviewed statistical data on archaeological sites and monuments in Oman, numbering approximately 3,025

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Sayyid Saud bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Governor of Muscat, held a meeting with Engineer Ibrahim bin Said Al Kharousi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism of heritage, on Tuesday, attended by several officials from both sides.

This meeting aims to discuss enhancing cooperation to preserve cultural and historical heritage, enhance the development and tourism in Muscat Governorate, and promote it through the walls' offices.

This meeting reviewed statistical data on archaeological sites and monuments in Oman, numbering approximately 3,025 monuments.

Quriyat has 80 monuments and 287 archaeological sites, whereas Muscat contains 36 monuments and 23 archaeological sites. Mutrah includes 46 monuments and 23 archaeological sites, while Bawshar includes 37 monuments and 62 archaeological sites. Seeb features 23 monuments and 31 archaeological sites, and Al Amerat has 20 monuments and 26 archae-



ological sites. Several landmarks in Muscat Governorate are being restored, according to plans priority and utilising historical landmarks. The Directorate General of Antiquities' efforts to protect and promote Oman's heritage as the national identity's pillar were reviewed. As well as, its implemented and planned projects in Muscat Governorate. The Journal of Oman Studies, the significant reference scientific publication in cultural and natural heritage since its inauguration in 1975, was also introduced.

The Department of Craft Herit-

ing registering archaeological and cultural objects and the transfer stipulations, to protect the national heritage and ensure its documentation in an official database. The department's efforts to establish the 'Omani Heritage Registry' as a national database to protect cultural possessions and enhance monitoring were also introduced.

Directorate General of Museums also reviewed the most remarkable museums in Muscat Governorate, rising awareness of geological heritage, evaluating geological parks projects, collecting and restoring meteorites project, and suggesting to transfer the Natural History Museum to the Oman Botanic Garden.

'Historic Landmarks Linkage Committee' in Muscat and Mutrah outlined its efforts and roles within this regard.

meeting reflects Muscat Governorate's efforts to deepen partnerships with relevant institutions and enhance efforts to preserve heritage and utilise it in urban development projects and achieve sustainable development.

OMAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

OCCI workshop discusses challenges facing private sector in GCC countries

MUSCAT: Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), in collaboration with the Federation of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Chambers, on Wednesday organised a workshop titled "Challenges Facing the GCC Private Sector within the GCC Common Market."

The event was held at the Chamber's headquarters in Muscat. Zakariya Abdullah Al Saadi, CEO of OCCI, stated that the workshop aligns with the Chamber's strategic efforts to support the private sector, in line with the priorities of Oman Vision 2040, which include improving the business environment and expanding economic diversification.

He emphasised that GCC countries have made significant strides toward economic integration, with the GCC Common Market being one of its key outcomes.

Al Saadi stressed the importance of collaborative efforts



among Gulf chambers to address challenges, enhance joint cooperation, and propose practical solutions to improve the efficiency of the GCC Common Market and support its objectives.

The workshop highlighted challenges faced by Oman's private sector in intra-GCC trade, aiming to develop solutions.

Key discussions focused on regulatory and legal hurdles in cross-

border trade, logistics, customs procedures, financing, and investment in intra-GCC trade projects. The session also explored incentives and requirements for boosting trade among GCC states.

Attendees included Noora Abdulrahman Al Salim, Senior Director of Institutional Relations and Communication at the Federation of GCC Chambers, along with several business owners. — **ONA**

ROYAL GARDENS AND FARMS

Experiment for early harvest of Al Khunaizi dates successfully conducted

MUSCAT: The Royal Gardens and Farms of the Royal Court Affairs have successfully conducted an experiment to advance the production of Al Khunaizi date variety for the 2025 season.

This achievement follows multiple trials and monitoring over consecutive seasons using natural methods without chemical intervention, after observing early pollination in certain palm varieties due to inherent genetic traits.

The experiment began by pollinating Al Khunaizi palms in the Wilayat of A'Seeb, selecting the optimal pollination timing and the most suitable pollen type to ensure quality results.

The clusters were carefully monitored and maintained, ensuring continuous fruit development, full growth, and the appearance of ripening indicators—culminating in the formation of Tabasheer (early-stage dates) by early April,

approximately 3 to 4 months ahead of the usual harvest period.

These efforts resulted in a successful harvest, with multi-season monitoring confirming the feasibility of consistently obtaining early dates without any negative impact on the palm's seasonal productivity.

The experiment aimed to transform Al Khunaizi variety from a mid-season to a premium early-season crop, producing exceptionally early Tabasheer—the first of its kind in Oman and the Gulf region. This enhances future economic viability by marketing a premium variety at an ideal time while ensuring 100% natural Tabasheer at all ripening stages.

Eng. Madlen Said Al Mahrouqi, Director of A'Seeb Gardens Services Department, stated: "This experiment was based on prior knowledge of the genetic characteristics of certain palm varieties, which demonstrated a



unique ability to produce pollen twice a year, suggesting possible genetic or environmental factors stimulating this phenomenon."

She added that the best pollina-

tion timing was selected to ensure the experiment's success, along with high-quality pollen to boost production yields with premium-grade fruit. — **ONA**





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MEETING



Muscat Governorate reviews efforts of healthcare sector

MUSCAT: Sayyid Saud Hilal Al Busaidi, Governor of Muscat, met on Wednesday with Dr. Fatima Mohammed Al Ajmi, CEO of the Oman Medical Specialty Board and Chairperson of the Healthcare Sector Employment Governance Committee, to discuss priority employment initiatives.

These include programmes for hiring dentists, medical coders, and pharmacists, as well as an initiative to retrain certain graduates of healthcare academic institutions in adjacent fields. This involves upskilling them to meet labour market demands—such as retraining healthcare management graduates as medical coders.

The meeting aimed to strengthen cooperation between Muscat Governorate and the Healthcare Sector Employment Governance Committee, supporting initiatives that expand job opportunities and Omanisation in the governorate's healthcare sector, aligned with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

The session also introduced the committee's role in assessing the demand for medical and healthcare professionals, determining workforce requirements, and developing initiatives to sustain employment rates and ensure sector stability. Discussions highlighted flexible initiatives to leverage national competencies, such as the freelancing programme, while emphasising the need for coordination between government healthcare entities and private sector institutions. This meeting reflects governorate's commitment to fostering integration among government bodies and advancing national initiatives in partnership with relevant stakeholders. — **ONA**

AL WUSTA GOVERNORATE

Several water projects inaugurated

DUQM: Several water projects were inaugurated on Wednesday in Al Wusta Governorate, most notably the strategic Duqm-Haima Water Supply System, spanning 211 kilometres at a cost exceeding OMR24 million.

The ceremony was held under the patronage of Sheikh Ahmed Musallam Al Kathiri, Governor of Al Wusta.



launched across the governorate, supporting Oman Vision 2040 for carbon neutrality by adopting renewable energy technologies.

Key projects include:

Dhiya 1 Project (Jazzzer): A 60 kW solar-powered well in Wadi Ghadan, replacing diesel.

Rounb Truck Filling Station: 30 kW capacity.

Khamkham Desalination Plant (Haima): Produces 42 kW/hour.

Nafi Water Desalination Plant (Mahout): 400m3 per day output using reverse osmosis, supplying Wadi Nafi and nearby areas.

Dhaher Desalination Plant (Duqm): 38 kW/hour** capacity.

Haji Plant Expansion (Mahout): Reuses 40% of brine via evaporation ponds, adding 500 m3 per day capacity, bringing total output to 3,300 m3 per day.

Jazzzer Hybrid Plant: 240 m3 per day using solar, wind, and electric power.

Al-Kahl Plant Upgrade (Jazzzer): Now operates on reverse osmosis.

Najda Plant Expansion (Mahout): Increased to 500 m3 per day, producing Grade A treated water for agricultural irrigation.

Rehabilitation of 6 Truck Filling Stations in Mahout and Duqm to streamline distribution.

Moreover, two wastewater treatment plants were completed, namely:

1. Mahout Plant: Uses constructed wetlands technology, producing 600 m3 per day of high-quality treated water (Grade 1 standard).

2. Jazzzer Plant: Features aeration ponds, oil/grease separation, and reed beds, ensuring efficient treatment with a 5-day retention period.

These projects underscore Oman's commitment to sustainable water management and renewable energy integration, aligning with national development goals. — **ONA**

Nama Water Services

Implemented by Nama Water Services, the project aims to enhance water security and sustainability in the governorate amid population growth.

The project includes four key stations:

1. Duqm Station: A pumping station with full mechanical, electrical, and electronic equipment, backed by a diesel generator for emergencies.

2. Al-Ajaiz Station: A pumping station with a 1,000 m3 ground tank a 200 m3 overhead tank and a water truck filling station

equipped with a magnetic device system to regulate sales and distribution.

3. Abu Madabi Station: A pumping station with a 1,000 m3 ground tank and a truck filling station with magnetic monitoring.

4. Haima Station: A pumping station with a 5,000 m3 ground tank, a 600 m3 overhead tank, a truck filling facility, an administrative building, and a water laboratory.

Several solar and wind-powered desalination plants were also

REMARKABLE DEVELOPMENT

Investment in Dhofar pharma industry reaches OMR90mn

SALALAH: Dhofar Governorate boasts remarkable development in the field of localising pharmaceutical industries and medical supplies. The drive is aimed to secure the availability of medical drugs in the Sultanate of Oman and meet the needs of the local and regional markets. Investments to this effect stand at OMR90 million.

Ibrahim Nasser Al Rashdi, Director General of the Drug Safety Centre at the Ministry of Health, told Oman News Agency (ONA) that pharmaceutical industry in Dhofar Governorate is burgeoning through three major pharmaceutical factories that help contribute to the needs of the health sector and diminish dependence

on imports.

Al Rashdi said that Dhofar pharmaceutical industries unit in Raysut Industrial City, inaugurated in September 2024, was set up at a total cost of more than OMR15 million.

Intravenous solutions

The unit, he explained, is one of the pharmaceutical projects specialised in producing intravenous solutions and dialysis solutions using advanced technologies in accordance with the highest international quality standards.

He added that the unit in Raysut Industrial City, built on an area of 22,000 square metres, meets the needs of the local market for pharmaceutical solutions,

which contributes to achieving drug security in the Sultanate of Oman, the Middle East and North Africa.

The factory has an annual production volume of 15 million units of intravenous solution, along with 2.3 million units of kidney dialysis solutions, said Al Rashdi, noting that the factory meets the demand of the Omani health sector, thanks to its output estimated at 5 million units a year.

Speaking about another unit, Oman Pharmaceutical Industries Company factory, Al Rashdi said that the company has been one of the most prominent pharmaceutical manufacturers in the Sultanate of Oman since its establishment in 2001. — **ONA**

US-YEMEN CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT

FROM A1 Efforts of Oman welcomed

The GCC Secretary-General also reiterated the importance of de-escalation to safeguard regional security and stability, as well as to uphold the right of maritime navigation in accordance with international law and the provisions of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The Arab Republic of Egypt has also welcomed the efforts of the Sultanate of Oman, which resulted in reaching a ceasefire agreement in Yemen with the United States.

In a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Egypt expressed hope that this agreement would positively impact freedom of navigation in the Red Sea. Egypt also voiced its aspiration that the coming period would see full adherence to the agree-

ment, providing a constructive push toward ending the Israeli war on Gaza and advancing efforts to establish security and stability in the region.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait welcomed the diplomatic efforts undertaken by Oman, which resulted in a ceasefire agreement between the United States of America and the relevant authorities in Sanaa, Yemen.

In a statement, the Ministry expressed hope that this step would contribute to ensuring freedom of navigation and the smooth flow of international commercial shipping.

The State of Qatar also welcomed the efforts of the sisterly Sultanate of Oman, which led to a ceasefire agreement between the United States of America and the

designated authorities in Sanaa in the Republic of Yemen.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said, in a statement yesterday, that the State of Qatar looks forward to seeing this step contribute to the freedom of navigation and the free flow of international commercial shipping.

The Ministry renewed the State of Qatar's full support for diplomacy and dialogue in resolving all regional issues, which stems from its deep-rooted belief in the importance of enhancing security, peace, stability, and development at the regional and international levels. It also expressed the State of Qatar's appreciation for the constructive role played by the Sultanate of Oman, which contributed to reaching this agreement. — **Agencies**



JOB OFFER
Cook & Janitor

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Introduction:

We are currently looking for a dedicated and motivated individual to join our team as a Cook and Janitor at the Swiss Residence. This position offers an exciting opportunity for someone with a strong background in cooking and housekeeping, paired with a commitment to excellence and keen attention to detail. The ideal candidate will be able to work independently, perform well also under pressure, and demonstrate a high degree of flexibility.

Key Responsibilities:

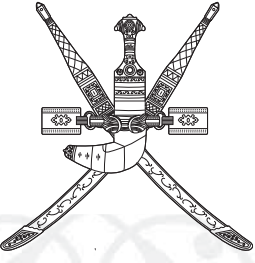
Cooking:

- Prepare and cook meals for the Head of Mission and guests, ensuring high-quality dishes are consistently served.
- Plan and organize menus for special events, considering dietary preferences and restrictions.
- Maintain a clean and sanitary kitchen environment at all times.
- Manage kitchen inventory and ensure the timely procurement of supplies.

Housekeeping:

- Clean and maintain the Residence to the highest standards of cleanliness and hygiene, including regular housekeeping tasks such as dusting, vacuuming, ironing, changing linens and towels, doing laundry, pressing clothing and linens, and properly handling and disposing of waste.
- Supervise refurbishment and repair works at the Residence if applicable.
- Assist with setting up and cleaning up during events or receptions at the Residence.
- Proactively organize repair services in case of malfunctions (e.g., Wi-Fi, electricity, plumbing etc.), and ensure all equipment and appliances are maintained in a safe and sanitary working condition.

To apply send email to muscat@eda.admin.ch no later than 15 May 2025



Tender Announcement

The Internal Tender committee of **Ministry of Social Development** hereby announces the following tender :-

Tender No.	Tender Subject	Grade	Last date for obtainment of tender document	Last date for tender submission	Tender Document Price (non-retundable)	
					Small and Medium companies	Local companies
193/2025	Consulting services (design + supervision) for the construction of the evaluation and rehabilitation building at Al Khoudh	Companies specialized in consulting offices and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board with an excellent or first degree.	Wednesday 28-05-2025 02:00 PM	Wednesday 18-06-2025 10:00 PM	10 R.O	25 R.O

❖ Specialized Companies, registered with the Tender Board may obtain the Tender documents at the Tender Board e-tendering digital portal link (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>), on Thursday 08/05/2025

❖ For Inquiry, please contact through the e-tendering website (reg@tenderboard.gov.om) Tel. (24402200)

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Nizwa University research team discovers new fungal family living inside ant nests

The findings were published in the international journal Studies in Mycology, one of Netherlands' most prominent publications specialised in mycology

NIZWA: A research team from the University of Nizwa took part in a unique scientific breakthrough that led to the discovery of a new fungal family comprising two genera and seven species. The fungal family is distinguished for its unique ability to



coexist inside ant nests. The findings were published in the international journal Studies in Mycology, one of Netherlands' most prominent publications specialised in mycology. The achievement was made through international collaboration with researchers from Brazil, China, the Netherlands and Austria. The team was led by Dr. Abdullah Mohammed Al Hatmi, Assistant Professor at the University of Nizwa and Head of the Microbiol-

ogy Laboratory at Nizwa University's Centre for Research on Natural Sciences and Medical Sciences. Al Hatmi said that the discovery constitutes a milestone in the field of fungal research, noting that the research highlights the complex symbiotic relationships between fungi and ants that date back millions of years. Al Hatmi added that identifying such a new fungal family opens up vistas for understanding ecological balance and the diversity of

microorganisms. He expressed Nizwa University's pride about participating in this global research and its commitment to support quality research and consolidate international scholarly partnerships. Al Hatmi pointed out that the discovery helps deepen our understanding of the ecological role of fungi and enhances the potential for future research into the interactions between microorganisms and insects within their natural environments. The study contributes to the development of knowledge in the fields of biodiversity and the microenvironment of living organisms. The research team collected ant nests from various plants and succeeded in accurately isolating and classifying fungal species based on microscopic, physiological, and genetic analysis. The study resulted in the addition of a new family to the Chaetothyriales phylum, known for its species that are symbiotic with ants and other fungi. — **ONA**

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OIC member states ink landmark Makkah pact

MALE: Member states of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) signed in the Republic of Maldives yesterday the Makkah Al-Mukarramah Convention on Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Cooperation. The convention was initiated by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). The Omani delegation at the signing ceremony was headed by Sheikh Ghosn Hilal Al Alawi, Chairman of the State Audit Institution, as part of his participation in the Saudi-Maldives International Forum on Integrity. The forum, organised by Saudi Arabia and the Maldives, was held in the Maldives on 6-7 May 2025. The Makkah Al-Mukarramah Convention aims to enhance efficient and swift cooperation among law enforcement authorities regarding crimes covered by the convention. It seeks to facilitate the prevention, detection, investigation, and prosecution of corruption offenses, as well as the tracing and recovery of illicit proceeds. — **ONA**

FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION COMMITTEE

GCC Finance Undersecretaries hold key meeting in Kuwait

KUWAIT: The Sultanate of Oman participated on Wednesday in the 73rd meeting of GCC Finance Undersecretaries, held in Kuwait in preparation for the 123rd session of the Financial and Economic Cooperation Committee. The Omani delegation was headed by Abdullah Salem Al-Harthy, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance. The meeting reviewed key agenda items including outcomes from the GCC Central Bank Governors Committee, Customs Union Authority, Heads of Tax Authorities

Committee and the GCC Common Market Committee. Discussions covered technical updates on the GCC Free Trade Agreement negotiations, studies/projects under development by the Economic and Development Affairs Authority and the signing/ratification of the GCC Payment Linkage Agreement. The meeting also addressed the GCC Economic Integration Program and implementation updates on resolutions from the 122nd Financial and Economic Cooperation Committee session. — **ONA**



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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I have the pleasure in presenting the unaudited consolidated financial results for the first quarter ended 31st March 2025 (Q1 2025).

Operational Overview

During Q1 2025 the container terminal handled a volume of 823 K TEUs compared to 878K TEUs in corresponding period last year, a decrease of 6%. Container Terminal throughput decreased in Q1-2025 vs Q1-2024 driven by the Red Sea disruptions. The Port of Salalah General Cargo segment has handled 6.4 million tons during Q1 2025 as compared to 5.8 million during Q1 2024, a growth of 11%. The overall general cargo volume increase is due to higher demand in export markets for dry bulk (gypsum and limestone).

Financial Overview

The consolidated revenue from operations for 2025 is recorded at RO 18.9 million compared to RO 17.9 million. Consolidated EBITDA is recorded at RO 4.9 million compared to RO 3.6 million. Consolidated Net Profit for Q1 2025 is recorded at RO 24k, as compared to RO 846k during the corresponding period last year. The results are influenced by the anticipated structural cost increase due to the CT upgrade, while the benefits from additional volumes (resulting from increased capacity and capabilities) have yet to be realized.

Employee Development

Our people contribute to the success of the company. In order for the company to stay competitive it needs to remain at the forefront of the industry with continued education on procedures, technologies, and best practices. The company continues to invest in training and development of its workers, with a focus on Omanization and skills development of local talent.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

Port of Salalah strongly believes in a CSR program that is aligned with the pillars of sustainability and volunteerism and it is fundamental to our business. Impacting the local Dhofar region and benefiting the larger segments of communities requiring support are the guiding posts of the company's CSR program.

Outlook

Red Sea situation remains unchanged, and uncertainty extended well into Q2 2025.

However, the longer term outlook remains positive given ramping up of the Gemini network and the interest from Hapag Lloyd to divert business to Salalah. This is seen on both fronts trans-shipment and import/export.

Dry Bulk (limestone and gypsum) demand is strong, and traders are exploring new markets, which will strengthen our forecasts once confirmed. With port equipment capacity re-instated, customers are now more confident to book larger parcels, which puts the port on track to meet volume forecasts for this year.

Interest in wet bulk is encouraging and Salalah's potential as a hub for liquid trading and handling is becoming more solid. This is driven by the well-developed infrastructure in place and the established know-how that the port built over the years. The company is working with prospective customers on opportunities to develop new business in the Port.

Conclusion

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the shareholders of the company, I record the sincere appreciation and gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, for his strategic vision, leadership, and his continued support, without which it would not have been possible to establish and maintain this world-class port. I also thank our customers, investors, and the members of the government for their collaboration.

We place on record our appreciation for the contributions of all our employees, who continue to perform with high distinction. Our consistent performance is made possible by their hard work, solidarity, cooperation, and support.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,

Braik Musallam Al Amri
Chairman of Board of Directors,
Salalah Port Services Co. SAOG

6th May 2025

UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED AND PARENT STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF 31 ST MARCH 2025

Parent Company				Consolidated				Parent Company				Consolidated			
Mar 2024 US \$ '000	Mar 2025 US \$ '000	Mar 2024 US \$ '000	Mar 2025 US \$ '000	Mar 2024 US \$ '000	Mar 2025 US \$ '000	Mar 2024 RO '000	Mar 2025 RO '000	Mar 2024 RO '000	Mar 2025 RO '000	Mar 2024 RO '000	Mar 2025 RO '000	Mar 2024 RO '000	Mar 2025 RO '000	Mar 2024 RO '000	Mar 2025 RO '000
153,526	163,959	153,685	164,089	153,685	164,089	63,061	59,047	63,111	59,108	63,111	59,108	63,111	59,108	63,111	59,108
18,148	54,792	18,199	54,827	18,199	54,827	21,071	6,980	21,087	7,000	21,087	7,000	21,087	7,000	21,087	7,000
1,082	2,270	1,082	2,270	1,082	2,270	873	416	873	416	873	416	873	416	873	416
546	546	-	-	-	-	210	210	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
49,401	49,400	49,401	49,400	49,401	49,400	19,000	19,000	19,000	19,000	19,000	19,000	19,000	19,000	19,000	19,000
222,703	270,967	222,367	270,586	222,367	270,586	104,215	85,653	104,071	85,524	104,071	85,524	104,071	85,524	104,071	85,524
6,294	6,403	6,294	6,403	6,294	6,403	2,463	2,420	2,463	2,420	2,463	2,420	2,463	2,420	2,463	2,420
7,667	4,675	7,667	4,675	7,667	4,675	1,798	2,949	1,798	2,949	1,798	2,949	1,798	2,949	1,798	2,949
15,054	24,982	15,054	24,982	15,054	24,982	9,608	5,789	9,608	5,789	9,608	5,789	9,608	5,789	9,608	5,789
7,522	14,598	7,522	14,598	7,522	14,598	5,615	2,893	5,615	2,893	5,615	2,893	5,615	2,893	5,615	2,893
30,600	25,601	30,600	25,601	30,600	25,601	9,846	11,769	9,846	11,769	9,846	11,769	9,846	11,769	9,846	11,769
13,238	5,461	13,239	5,462	13,239	5,462	2,101	5,092	2,102	5,093	2,102	5,093	2,102	5,093	2,102	5,093
80,375	81,720	80,376	81,721	80,376	81,721	31,431	30,912	31,432	30,913	31,432	30,913	31,432	30,913	31,432	30,913
303,078	352,687	302,743	352,307	302,743	352,307	135,646	116,565	135,503	116,437	135,503	116,437	135,503	116,437	135,503	116,437
46,758	46,758	46,758	46,758	46,758	46,758	17,984	17,984	17,984	17,984	17,984	17,984	17,984	17,984	17,984	17,984
7,666	7,666	7,666	7,666	7,666	7,666	2,949	2,949	2,949	2,949	2,949	2,949	2,949	2,949	2,949	2,949
15,584	15,584	15,665	15,681	15,665	15,681	5,994	5,994	6,031	6,025	6,031	6,025	6,031	6,025	6,031	6,025
123,033	121,973	123,337	122,393	123,337	122,393	46,915	47,325	47,075	47,438	47,075	47,438	47,075	47,438	47,075	47,438
193,041	191,981	193,426	192,498	193,426	192,498	73,842	74,252	74,039	74,396	74,039	74,396	74,039	74,396	74,039	74,396
17,056	48,514	17,105	48,550	17,105	48,550	18,658	6,560	18,673	6,578	18,673	6,578	18,673	6,578	18,673	6,578
13,377	13,847	13,377	13,847	13,377	13,847	5,326	5,145	5,326	5,145	5,326	5,145	5,326	5,145	5,326	5,145
8,923	5,208	8,910	5,196	8,910	5,196	2,003	3,432	1,998	3,427	1,998	3,427	1,998	3,427	1,998	3,427
39,356	67,569	39,392	67,593	39,392	67,593	25,987	15,137	25,997	15,150	25,997	15,150	25,997	15,150	25,997	15,150
5,540	21,016	5,551	21,027	5,551	21,027	8,083	2,131	8,087	2,135	8,087	2,135	8,087	2,135	8,087	2,135
52,401	66,619	51,634	65,666	51,634	65,666	25,617	20,144	25,256	19,855	25,256	19,855	25,256	19,855	25,256	19,855
9,598	446	9,598	446	9,598	446	172	3,692	172	3,692	172	3,692	172	3,692	172	3,692
3,142	5,056	3,142	5,077	3,142	5,077	1,945	1,209	1,952	1,209	1,952	1,209	1,952	1,209	1,952	1,209
70,681	93,137	69,925	92,216	69,925	92,216	35,817	27,176	35,467	28,891	35,467	28,891	35,467	28,891	35,467	28,891
110,037	160,706	109,317	159,809	109,317	159,809	61,804	42,313	61,464	42,041	61,464	42,041	61,464	42,041	61,464	42,041
303,078	352,687	302,743	352,307	302,743	352,307	135,646	116,565	135,503	116,437	135,503	116,437	135,503	116,437	135,503	116,437
1.07	1.07	1.08	1.07	1.08	1.07	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41

UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED AND PARENT STATEMENT OF INCOME FOR THE PERIOD 31 ST MARCH 2025

Parent Company				Consolidated				Parent Company				Consolidated			
Mar 2024 US \$ '000	Mar 2025 US \$ '000	Mar 2024 US \$ '000	Mar 2025 US \$ '000	Mar 2024 US \$ '000	Mar 2025 US \$ '000	Mar 2024 RO '000	Mar 2025 RO '000	Mar 2024 RO '000	Mar 2025 RO '000	Mar 2024 RO '000	Mar 2025 RO '000	Mar 2024 RO '000	Mar 2025 RO '000	Mar 2024 RO '000	Mar 2025 RO '000
46,616	49,131	46,616	49,172	46,616	49,172	18,896	17,929	18,912	17,929	18,912	17,929	18,912	17,929	18,912	17,929
(34,221)	(35,257)	(34,224)	(35,260)	(34,224)	(35,260)	(13,562)	(13,161)	(13,563)	(13,162)	(13,563)	(13,162)	(13,563)	(13,162)	(13,563)	(13,162)
(5,028)	(8,333)	(5,035)	(8,345)	(5,035)	(8,345)	(3,205)	(1,934)	(3,209)	(1,936)	(3,209)	(1,936)	(3,209)	(1,936)	(3,209)	(1,936)
(5,620)	(5,501)	(5,622)	(5,501)	(5,622)	(5,501)	(2,116)	(2,163)	(2,116)	(2,164)	(2,116)	(2,164)	(2,116)	(2,164)	(2,116)	(2,164)
(118)	(11)	(118)	(11)	(118)	(11)	(4)	(45)	(4)	(45)	(4)	(45)	(4)	(45)	(4)	(45)
202	216	202	216	202	216	83	78	83	78	83	78	83	78	83	78
1,831	245	1,819	271	1,819	271	92	704	103	700	103	700	103	700	103	700
1,142	1,032	1,142	1,032	1,142	1,032	397	439	397	439	397	439	397	439	397	439
(358)	(1,447)	(359)	(1,447)	(359)	(1,447)	(556)	(137)	(557)	(138)	(557)	(138)	(557)	(138)	(557)	(138)
2,615	(170)	2,602	(144)	2,602	(144)	(67)	1,006	(57)	1,001	(57)	1,001	(57)	1,001	(57)	1,001
(402)	212	(402)	207	(402)	207	82	(155)	81	(155)	81	(155)	81	(155)	81	(155)
2,213	42	2,200	63	2,200	63	15	851	24	846	24	846	24	846	24	846
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2,213	42	2,200	63	2,200	63	15	851	24	846	24	846	24	846	24	846
2,213	42	2,200	63	2,200	63	15	851	24	846	24	846	24	846	24	846
0.01	-	0.01	-	0.01	-	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01

The complete accounts of the company will be delivered or sent by mail to any shareholder who requests them, in either Arabic or English as requested, within seven days of receipt of the request.

IPL: Gujarat Titans beat Mumbai Indians by 3 wickets via DLS

With this win, GT moved to the top of the IPL points table, ending MI's six-match winning streak

MUMBAI: In a rain-interrupted match between Mumbai Indians (MI) and Gujarat Titans (GT), GT edged past MI by three wickets via the DLS method in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) on Tuesday at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai.

Drizzle began at the start of the second innings and became heavier in the 14th over, leading to the first interruption. Rain returned again after the 18th over when GT needed 24 runs from 12 balls. Although GT were ahead of the par score for most of the innings, they fell behind by five runs when the game was stopped in the 18th over.

With this win, GT moved to the top of the IPL points table, ending MI's six-match winning streak.

Chasing a target of 156, GT skip-



per Shubman Gill and Sai Sudharsan opened the innings. Trent Boult struck early, removing Sudharsan for five -- his first single-digit score of the season.

GT played steadily during the

powerplay despite light drizzle and reached 29/1 after six overs.

Gill and Jos Buttler added 72 runs for the second wicket before Ashwani Kumar dismissed Buttler for 30 (27), an innings that includ-

ed three fours and a six.

Sherfane Rutherford then launched an aggressive attack, smashing Will Jacks for 15 runs in his first over with two fours and a six. The match was halted due to

rain after the 14th over.

GT skipper Gill held the innings together before being bowled by Jasprit Bumrah for 43 (46), which included three fours and a six. Shahrulkh Khan joined Rutherford in the middle.

Boult returned in the 16th over and dismissed Rutherford for 28 (15). Rahul Tewatia joined Khan, but Bumrah cleaned up Shahrulkh in the 17th over. Rashid Khan then joined Tewatia at the crease.

Bumrah finished with figures of 2/19. Ashwani Kumar delivered a brilliant yorker to dismiss Rashid Khan for 2.

Boult, Bumrah, and Ashwani Kumar all picked up two wickets each.

Earlier, fifties from Will Jacks and a cameo by Corbin Bosch powered MI to 155/8 in their 20 overs.

GT skipper Shubman Gill won the toss and opted to bowl. Rohit Sharma and Ryan Rickelton opened for MI, but Mohammed Siraj dismissed Rickelton on the second ball of the innings.

Will Jacks, who was dropped on 0 by Sudharsan, joined Rohit at the crease. Arshad Khan removed Rohit for 7 (8) in the fourth over, bringing Suryakumar Yadav to the middle.

MI ended the powerplay at 56/2. Jacks and Suryakumar add-

ed 50 runs for the third wicket in just 26 balls. Mumbai were 89/2 after 10 overs.

Jacks reached his fifty in the 11th over off 29 balls. In the same over, Sai Kishore removed Suryakumar for 35 (24), an innings that included five fours.

Tilak Varma came to the crease, but Rashid Khan dismissed Jacks in the 12th over for 53 (35), which featured five fours and three sixes.

MI skipper Hardik Pandya joined Varma but fell for 1 to Sai Kishore. After Suryakumar's dismissal, MI struggled and lost wickets regularly.

Gerald Coetzee removed Varma for 7 (7), and Corbin Bosch tried to stabilise the innings with Naman Dhir. However, Dhir was dismissed by Prasidh Krishna for 7 (10) in the 17th over.

Deepak Chahar joined Bosch, who smashed two sixes off Krishna in the final over but was run out for 27 (22). MI ended at 155/8.

For GT, Sai Kishore was the standout bowler with 2/34, while all other bowlers picked up a wicket each.

Brief scores: MI 155/8 (Will Jacks 53, Suryakumar Yadav 35; Sai Kishore 2/34) vs GT 132/6 in 18 overs (Shubman Gill 43, Jos Buttler 30; Jasprit Bumrah 2/19) - GT won by 3 wickets via DLS. -ANI

FOOTBALL



Watford sack Tom Cleverley, becomes 10th manager to be dismissed in 5 years

WATFORD: Watford sacked Tom Cleverley on Tuesday after the club secured just five victories in 2025 and finished 14th in the Championship.

Cleverley, a former Watford player, was appointed as the club manager on an interim basis in March 2024. He was handed a full-time role after Watford lost once in seven games under his watch.

However, Watford's fortune changed as they endured a mediocre run in the second half of the 2024/25 season, losing six fixtures out of nine from the beginning of the year till mid-February.

Watford struggled to recover from their shambolic run and found solace towards the end. With the latest sacking, Cleverley became the 10th manager to be removed in the past five years.

The Hornets stood four points shy of breaching the playoffs mark, but a solitary win in their last seven fixtures saw them end the season 11 points adrift.

Club's Sporting Director Gian Luca Nani opened up about Clev-

erley's departure and said, as quoted from the club's official website, "We thank Tom for his service - not just in his role as Head Coach but for everything he has given Watford as a player and member of staff. But the time has come for a change and to build on what we believe is a young and talented squad that will have benefited from the experience of the Championship this season."

"It has been a privilege to work closely with Tom; to understand how he sees the game and his enthusiasm for everything here. He deserves to be recognised for this, and I'm sure he will have a bright future in the game.

"Tom will always be part of Watford in recognition of all that he has achieved over so many years," Nani concluded.

Cleverley leaves as the first coach to last more than a season since Javi Gracia was dismissed in 2019. Since 2012, Watford have appointed 21 permanent managers, and 15 of them didn't last for a full campaign. - ANI

BOND WITH KOHLI

We are friends, people have said lot for TRP: Gambhir on his relationship with Virat Kohli

NEW DELHI: India head coach Gautam Gambhir opened up about the bond he shared with batting stalwart and his "friend" Virat Kohli.

Gautam and Virat have had a history of engaging in heated arguments on the field, which have sparked rumours about the relationship status between the duo.

The rumours spiked especially after their animated interaction during a fixture between the Lucknow Super Giants and Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2023.

During the group stage encounter between both sides, Gambhir, who was serving as LSG mentor, was involved in a fiery exchange with Virat. It all began with the RCB batting maestro, and Naveen had a heated exchange when players from both teams shook hands after the match.

Moments later, Gambhir was seen animatedly speaking to Virat. Other players, including then LSG skipper KL Rahul and support staff, were seen separating the two.

While speaking at the ABP News Summit on Tuesday, the Indian head coach clarified that people said a lot to gain TRP out of



their heated exchange.

"We were friends, we are friends, and we are going to stay friends. On the field, when you represent two different teams, you have the right to fight for your side. But off the field, the relationship you share, everyone doesn't need to know it. People have said a lot to gain TRP. More importantly, we should love what he has done for Indian cricket," Gambhir said. Gambhir went on to jokingly describe his relation with Virat and said that he would ask the BCCI to stop posting about them on social media and said, "It's just two Delhi boys having fun. If that's a problem, I'll tell the BCCI to stop posting about it."

He even admitted that if he had the opportunity to enter someone's body for a single day, it would be Virat because of his incredible fitness level. "If I could enter a cricketer's body, it would be Virat Kohli, because he is the fittest player on the team," he added.

Since Gambhir took over the head coach role from Rahul Dravid, a new dawn began in Indian cricket. There were various lows that the team endured but defied all the odds to lift the Champions Trophy earlier this year. -ANI

CRICKET

Bangladesh optimistic on fitness of Taskin Ahmed

DHAKA: Bangladesh pacer Taskin Ahmed is expected to make his international cricket comeback during the team's multi-format tour of Sri Lanka in June, after having played his last international match during the ICC Champions Trophy in February, the ICC's official website reported.

Bangladesh are confident that pace spearhead Taskin Ahmed will be fit to return to action for next month's ICC World Test Championship series in Sri Lanka. The Asian side will travel to Sri Lanka for a multi-format series that commences next month, with the two-match Test series the highlight as the teams start the next World Test Championship cycle.

Injury

While Taskin has been battling an Achilles tendon injury and missed Bangladesh's recent two-match Test series at home against Zimbabwe, there is internal optimism that the right-arm will be fit to return to action next month and feature against Sri Lanka. -ANI

BRAZILIAN FOOTBALL

Brazil close to appointing new manager, says official

RIO DE JANEIRO: The Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) aims to name a new men's national team manager by next week, sporting director Rodrigo Caetano said on Monday.

The position has been vacant since March 28, when Dorival Junior was sacked following a 4-1 World Cup qualifying defeat to Argentina in Buenos Aires.

Caetano said he continued assessing potential candidates with CBF president Ednaldo Rodrigues and technical coordinator Juan Santos.

"We are constantly in internal meetings ... and we are trying to confirm this name as quickly as possible," Caetano told Sportv.

"Due to the confidential nature of our negotiations, it is practically impossible for us to talk about probabilities. We know that it is a national issue and that the choice of the head coach for the Brazilian national team is an extremely important one. We hope to be able to confirm the new manager next week at the latest."

Real Madrid boss Carlo Ancelotti is understood to remain the CBF's preferred choice, with Jorge Jesus and Abel Ferreira



also contenders. The CBF previously said it intended to appoint a new manager in time for Brazil's World Cup qualifiers against Ecuador and Paraguay in June.

"We are working with a very small number of names ... and we have our targets," Caetano said. "But it's very difficult to talk about any specific name right now because it could be counter-productive."

Brazil is currently fourth in the 10-team South American qualifying group, 10 points behind leader Argentina with four matchdays remaining.

The top six teams will earn an automatic place at football's showpiece tournament in the United States, Mexico and Canada next year. The seventh-ranked side will advance to an intercontinental playoff. -Xinhua

OMAN OIL PRICE RISES
The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by July 2025 reaching \$63.76, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by \$1.99 from the price of Tuesday, which was \$61.77. -*ONA*

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,353.15 points, up by 0.26% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.06% at 403.77 points. Oman Chromite, up 10.00%, was the top gainer while, Takaful Oman, down 6.52%, was the top loser.

REPORT

Mena region saw 14 IPOs valued at \$2.1bn in 2025 first quarter

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Mena markets saw 14 IPOs during first quarter (Q1) of 2025, raising \$2.4bn in proceeds. When compared year-on-year to the Q1 2024 listings, the number of IPOs increased by four, with a significant rise in proceeds of 106%, according to a new report. "The IPOs in Q1 2025 were listed across the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Oman," according to the EY Mena IPO Eye Q1 2025 report.

"The listing for Umm Al Qura for Development & Construction raised the highest proceeds in the quarter, contributing 22% of the overall IPO proceeds, followed by Almoosa Health, which contributed 19%. Both companies are listed on the Tadawul Main Market in KSA," the report further added.

In terms of MENA stock exchange performance, the Boursa Kuwait Premier Market Index emerged as the top performer, recording a gain of 10.7%, followed by the Egyptian Exchange (EGX30), which saw an 8% gain. At the end of the quarter, 11 out of the 14 MENA IPOs showed a positive return compared to their IPO price.

Brad Watson, MENA EY-Parthenon Leader, says: "This year started on a positive note. MENA capital markets continue to show resilience, with the total IPO value more than doubling compared to the same period last year. KSA continues to dominate the MENA region's market in terms of activity as well as proceeds. In addition, the IPO pipeline for the rest of the year remains robust across various sectors and multiple countries."

In KSA, the Tadawul Main Market welcomed the largest offering in the MENA region for Q1 2025 with Umm Al Qura for Development & Construction raising US\$523m and contributing 22% of the overall IPO proceeds. This was followed by Almoosa Health Group, which accounted for 19% with US\$450m, and DeRayah Financial with US\$400m.

In the first quarter of the year, KSA led the region in IPO activity again, accounting for 12 out of the 14 listings. During this period, five IPOs took place on the Tad-



awul Main Market, generating total proceeds of US\$1.8b, while the remaining seven IPOs listed on the Tadawul Nomu Parallel Market totaled US\$69m. The Kingdom also witnessed one direct listing on the Tadawul Nomu Parallel Market with Twareat Medical Care Company (TMC). The IPO funds raised in KSA during Q1 2025 came from diverse sectors, with the largest contributions from real estate management (28%), healthcare equipment and services (24%), financial services (21%) and consumer discretionary distribution and retail (17%).

During Q1 2025, the UAE saw one IPO listed on the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX) with Alpha Data PJSC, a company in the software and IT services sector, raising US\$163m. Oman's Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) witnessed one IPO, with Asyad Shipping Company SAOG raising US\$333m.

Gregory Hughes, EY MENA IPO and Transaction Diligence Leader, says: "The increased demand for MENA listings has led to developments in market infrastructure through new products, enhanced governance standards, and a focus on transparency and accountability. The upward trajectory in the number of IPOs across the region reflects a wider trend of sector diversification, with investors and companies increasingly looking beyond traditional oil-based industries. In 2025, we can potentially expect to see an increase in IPOs from the technology sector, including online retail, FinTech, foodtech, and classifieds."

The outlook for MENA IPOs for the rest of 2025 remains positive, with 21 companies intending to list on the region's exchanges across various sectors.

TERM SHEET AGREEMENT

Abraj, Sonatrach solidify strategic partnership

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Abraj Energy Services, Oman's leading oil and gas services provider marked a significant presence during the historic state visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria. The visit witnessed the strengthening of bilateral economic ties and the opening of new horizons for strategic partnership and investment between the Sultanate of Oman and Algeria.

Under the patronage of His Majesty the Sultan and President Abdelmadjid Tebboune of Algeria, a Term Sheet agreement was signed between Abraj Energy Services and Sonatrach to establish a joint venture specializing in drilling and well services as well as integrated project management.

The signing ceremony took place at the Presidential Palace in Algiers and was attended by Eng. Saif bin Said Al Hamhami, CEO of Abraj Energy Services, and Rachid HACHICHI, Chairman and CEO



of Sonatrach. The agreement is the result of extensive efforts that followed the signing of an MoU between the two parties in April 2024 and months of collaboration between their joint working teams.

Commenting on the occasion, Eng. Saif Al Hamhami, CEO of Abraj Energy Services, said: "We are deeply honoured and proud

of this moment, representing a national and strategic milestone for Abraj Energy Services and the Sultanate of Oman. Being part of His Majesty's official delegation to Algeria reflects the trust and vital role Abraj plays locally and regionally. This visit has significantly deepened our cooperation with Sonatrach and marks a true

starting point for a sustainable and impactful partnership."

The signed key terms agreement aims to lay the legal, technical, and commercial foundations for assessing the feasibility of launching a joint venture company focused on delivering drilling and well services, along with integrated project management. The initial focus will be on the Algerian market, with plans to expand regionally and internationally in the future.

This strategic initiative is expected to establish a joint energy entity that strengthens bilateral cooperation in the energy services sector. It also supports knowledge transfer and operational expertise sharing, aligning with the growing demand for integrated and sustainable energy solutions.

The announcement follows an exceptional year for Abraj Energy Services in 2024. The company recorded revenues exceeding OMR 152.6 million, an EBITDA margin of 32%, and completed three consecutive years with zero Lost Time Incidents (LTI).

SIGNIFICANT STEP

Karwa Motors partners with BAT to strengthen after-sales service network

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Karwa Motors, a leading manufacturer of innovative and reliable buses proudly made in Oman, has entered into a strategic After-Sales Service Support partnership with Bahwan Automobiles & Trading (BAT). This partnership marks a significant step in Karwa Motors' commitment to delivering world-class service to its coach and school bus customers across Oman.

Founded in 2017, Karwa Motors is a joint venture between Mowasalat Qatar, the state-owned transport company of Qatar, and the Oman Investment Authority, the sovereign wealth fund of Oman. The company specializes in producing state-of-the-art buses that meet the highest standards of safety, innovation, and reliability, proudly bearing the label "Made in Oman."

Bahwan Automobiles & Trading (BAT), a key entity under the Bahwan International Group, brings decades of expertise and excellence in the automotive sector. With a wide presence across the Sultanate of Oman, the Gulf Region, North Africa, and South Asia, Bahwan International Group's network of over 45 associate com-



panies is renowned for delivering world-class products and services to a global clientele.

The collaboration between Karwa Motors and BAT reinforces Karwa Motors' dedication to ensuring safe, efficient, and high-quality after-sales support for its customers. Under the terms of the agreement, BAT will oversee the comprehensive maintenance and service operations for Karwa Motors' buses. This includes:

- Pre-Delivery Inspections (PDI)
- Scheduled Periodic Maintenance Services (PMS)
- Warranty Repairs and Replacements (WR)
- Body Paint and Repairs (BP)

Parts Warehousing and Supply of Genuine Parts (GP)

Through this partnership, customers can expect swift and efficient repair solutions, prompt availability of genuine spare parts, and minimized vehicle downtime — ensuring that Karwa Motors' buses remain in optimal working condition throughout their service life.

"This strategic partnership is a testament to our unwavering focus on quality and customer satisfaction," said Dr. Ibrahim Bin Ali Al-Balushi from Karwa Motors. "Partnering with a reputable and experienced organization like Bahwan Automobiles & Trading ensures that our customers receive

exceptional after-sales service, reinforcing our promise of safety, reliability, and operational excellence."

Sheikh Abdullah bin Ahmed bin Suhail Bahwan Al-Mukhaini "We are thrilled to partner with Karwa Motors, a leader in the bus manufacturing sector. This collaboration aligns perfectly with our vision to provide cutting-edge, reliable automotive services in Oman. We are committed to delivering exceptional after-sales support, ensuring that Karwa Motors' buses continue to operate at peak performance."

The collaboration also highlights the mutual commitment of Karwa Motors and BAT to enhancing the quality and reliability of travel, tourism, and school transportation services in Oman. It represents a strong contribution to the country's broader vision of supporting public services and the educational infrastructure, aligning with Oman's national development goals.

Together, Karwa Motors and Bahwan Automobiles & Trading are poised to deliver an unparalleled service experience, driving forward the standards of excellence in the transportation sector in the Sultanate of Oman.

OIA localises technological solutions in water and wastewater treatment

This investment relationship was also characterised by local initiatives, the most important of which was 'Gradiant's' cooperation with Nama Water to launch the 'Oman Laboratories Innovation Centre'

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Through its investment in the American company 'Gradiant', the Oman Investment Authority (OIA) succeeded in strengthening its strategic portfolio and diversifying its investments in the water sector.

This deal is among OIA's most prominent steps in localising global technologies and utilising them in the local sector. Gradi-



ant is a leading global provider of advanced solutions for water and wastewater treatment with 166 registered patents, in addition to 67 patent applications awaiting approval.

This investment relationship was also characterised by local initiatives, the most important of

which was 'Gradiant's' cooperation with 'Nama Water Services Company' to launch the 'Oman Laboratories Innovation Center', in addition to the cooperation with 'Turing Company', one of Gradiant's subsidiaries, to discuss opportunities to leverage artificial intelligence in addressing water

sector challenges in the Sultanate of Oman, as reported in the latest issue of 'Enjaz&Eejaz' bulletin.

In addition, the bulletin touched on OIA's divestment from two investments with international real estate companies, the first of which was divesting from its investment with the Australian

company 'Scape', which achieved an internal rate of return of 17%, multiplying its investment by 2.3 times. OIA also divested from its investment in 'Zurich Apart Hotel' as part of the Elba Hospitality portfolio with 'Westmont Hospitality Group', achieving an internal rate of return of 22%, which multiplied the investment by 4.4 times.

Eng. Abdulrahman Al Hatmi, CEO of ASYAD Group, revealed the Group's current and upcoming projects, the most prominent being the expansion of Salalah Port and the southern expansion of Sohar Port, in addition to the development of Port Suwaiq and Port Sultan Qaboos. The Group also focused on developing free zones, as it started construction of the Muscat Airport Free Zone in addition to developing the second phase of the Sohar Free Zone. Regarding its future projects, the Group has completed the necessary studies for two projects aimed at enhancing trade movement with both the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. In addition, the engineer touched on Asyad Shipping Company's IPO and its outcomes, and the Group's initiatives and efforts to raise Omanization rates and train Oman talents.

In the context of highlighting Omani talents, the issue featured the story of Ayham Al Riyami, Senior Director at the Public Markets Directorate, who shared his professional journey since joining OIA in 2009, and his role

in managing the global investment portfolio. The issue also shed light on a group of topics that reflect OIA's trend to support innovation, enhance sustainability, and build national capabilities.

Among those is the 'Qimam' hackathons, which toured the various governorates of the Sultanate of Oman. 150 teams participated and worked to provide solutions for realistic challenges. The issue also showcased a project to plant 30,000 Omani lemon trees on 'Rahab Farm', which is the first carbon sequestering project launched by 'Nakheel Development Oman'. The project aims to contribute to achieving net-zero emissions and raising national production of Omani lemons by 38%.

To follow up on its projects, this issue introduces a new section entitled 'From the Field' to document OIA's visits to the projects under implementation, embodying OIA's fieldwork culture and highlighting their contribution to supporting national development. The issue concluded with featuring the 'Hujrat Al-Sheikh' neighbourhood in the Wilayat of Wadi Al-Ma'awal, one of the oldest Omani neighborhoods. It highlighted the famous walkway project, which breathes new life into its ancient alleys and connects between its most prominent heritage landmarks through a sustainable tourist path that supports local economic efforts.

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Oman Chromite, up 10.00%, was the top gainer while, Takaful Oman, down 6.52%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,353.15 points, up by 0.26% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.06% at 403.77 points. Oman Chromite, up 10.00%, was the top gainer while, Takaful Oman, down 6.52%, 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 1177 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 3.97 million, with more than 23.8 million shares changing hands. Out of 65 traded securities, 24 advanced, 12 declined, and 29 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for RO 337K while foreign investors were net sellers for RO 272K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 65K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,700.24 points, up 0.09%. Prices of Muscat Insurance, Al Omaniya Financial Services, Al Madina

Investments, Dhofar Insurance, Bank Muscat were up by 8.19%, 5.93%, 4.65%, 2.56%, 0.76% respectively. Prices of Takaful Oman, Oman Arab Bank were down by 6.52%, 0.67% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,958.39 points, up 0.58%. Prices of Oman Chromite, Al Anwar Ceramics, Oman Cement, Galfar Engineering, Voltamp Energy were up by 10.00%, 2.89%, 1.80%, 1.64%, 0.80% respectively. Prices of Jazeera Steel Products, Oman Flour Mills, Gulf International Chemicals, Oman Cables Industry were up by 10.00%, 2.89%, 1.80%, 1.64%, 0.80% respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.42% before closing at 1,553.46 points. Prices of OIFC, Muscat Desalination, SMN Power Holding, Barka Water & Power Company, Phoenix Power were up by 2.99%, 2.90%, 2.38%, 2.17%, 1.67% respectively. Prices of Abraj Energy, Barka Desalination, Oman Telecom, Oman Oil Marketing were down by 0.85%, 0.78%, 0.24%, 0.15% respectively.— **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS									
MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE									
INDICES									
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%			
MSX 30 INDEX	4,353.15	4,323.80	4,353.15	4,342.06	11.09	0.26			
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,708.07	7,653.24	7,700.24	7,693.28	6.96	0.09			
Industry Index	5,962.48	5,907.92	5,958.39	5,924.13	34.26	0.58			
Services Index	1,553.46	1,543.91	1,553.46	1,546.93	6.52	0.42			
MSX Shariah Index	406.53	402.92	403.77	403.55	0.22	0.06			
MSX TR INDEX	6,434.60	6,391.22	6,434.60	6,418.21	16.39	0.26			
FINANCIAL TR IDX	9,125.03	9,070.04	9,125.75	9,117.50	8.25	0.09			
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	7,326.99	7,259.94	7,321.97	7,279.87	42.10	0.58			
SERVICES TR INDEX	1,975.27	1,963.13	1,975.27	1,966.98	8.30	0.42			
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,166.89	1,166.89	1,166.89	1,166.89	0.00	0.00			

Trading Summary						
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal
23,801,966	3,973,857	1,177	27,308,276,726	24	12	29
						65

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (M)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PREV VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000000268	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	22,832	3,983	7	0.172	0.178	0.172	0.178	0.173	0.005	2.890	0.178	0.175	0.177	0.100	39,180.00
OM0000000149	OMAN CEMENT	123,731	48,968	13	0.391	0.395	0.391	0.395	0.388	0.007	1.804	0.395	0.395	0.400	1,100,694.72	
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	7,794	538	3	0.069	0.070	0.069	0.070	0.069	0.001	1.449	0.070	0.069	0.075	0.100	50,008.44
OM0000004735	SEMRORP SALAH	506,745	53,836	36	0.106	0.107	0.105	0.107	0.106	0.001	0.943	0.107	0.097	0.107	0.100	102,139.99
OM0000007786	BANK MUSCAT	2,857,041	748,190	112	0.263	0.264	0.263	0.264	0.262	0.002	0.763	0.264	0.265	0.264	0.100	1,981,688.82
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	3,962,026	523,144	39	0.132	0.133	0.131	0.133	0.132	0.001	0.758	0.133	0.133	0.133	0.100	880,993.75
OM0000003968	GOREDOO	102,519	17,406	23	0.169	0.170	0.169	0.170	0.169	0.001	0.592	0.170	0.170	0.171	0.100	110,660.51
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	11,375	4,549	2	0.389	0.400	0.389	0.400	0.399	0.001	0.251	0.400	0.399	0.400	0.100	48,000.00
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	6,924	1,489	2	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.000	0.000	0.215	0.213	0.215	0.100	21,500.00
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	1,035,142	290,817	8	0.285	0.285	0.280	0.285	0.285	0.000	0.000	0.285	0.285	0.285	0.100	479,654.17
OM0000001553	OMINVEST	52,000	11,440	8	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.000	0.000	0.220	0.218	0.220	0.100	205,854.55
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO	198,155	13,078	13	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.000	0.000	0.066	0.066	0.068	0.100	8,043.75
OM0000000275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	9,525	5,429	3	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.070	0.513	0.070	0.100	54,150.00
OM0000000440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO	5,000	970	3	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.000	0.000	0.074	0.073	0.081	0.100	6,660.00
OM00000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	40,800	3,345	3	0.081	0.082	0.081	0.082	0.082	0.000	0.000	0.082	0.080	0.082	0.100	16,400.00
OM00000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	98,200	28,282	5	0.288	0.288	0.288	0.288	0.288	0.000	0.000	0.288	0.287	0.288	0.100	68,086.08
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	34,446	2,652	7	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.000	0.000	0.077	0.075	0.077	0.100	13,475.00
OM0000004825	ALBATHIN POWER	17,964	1,257	5	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.070	0.067	0.070	0.100	47,242.12
OM0000000672	QOGAS NETWORKS	2,884,526	374,127	142	0.131	0.132	0.131	0.132	0.132	0.000	0.000	0.132	0.133	0.132	0.100	571,642.35
OM00000003026	OMAN TELECOM	69,503	56,772	29	0.817	0.820	0.815	0.818	0.818	-0.002	-0.244	0.815	0.815	0.816	0.100	612,000.00
OM00000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	1,074,246	250,399	23	0.235	0.235	0.232	0.233	0.235	-0.002	-0.851	0.232	0.232	0.233	0.100	179,456.60
OM00000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	3,670	1,355	1	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.360	-0.010	-2.778	0.350	0.345	0.360	0.100	43,474.28
Total		22			13,055,064	2,441,285										
Parallel Market																
OM00000001020	OMAN CHROMITE	200	704	2	3.520	3.520	3.520	3.520	3.200	0.320	10.000	3.520	3.520	3.500	1.000	11,616.00
OM0000001806	MUSCAT INSURANCE	215	115	2	0.500	0.555	0.500	0.555	0.513	0.042	8.187	0.555	0.500	0.555	1.000	6,118.901
OM00000002077	AL OMANIYA FINANCIAL SERVICES	5,000	525	1	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.118	0.007	5.952	0.125	0.121	0.125	0.100	39,427.125
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	400,000	18,000	11	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.043	0.002	4.651	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.100	3,825.000
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	23,967	1,671	5	0.070	0.071	0.070	0.071	0.069	0.002	2.999	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.100	1,944.078
OM00000010120	ASYAD SHIPPING	1,522,301	171,532	107	0.111	0.114	0.111	0.114	0.111	0.003	2.703	0.114	0.110	0.114	0.100	595,796.848
OM0000001095	DHOFAH INSURANCE	1,800	360	1	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.195	0.005	2.564	0.200	0.000	0.214	0.100	22,550.516
OM0000004246	SMN POWER HOLDING	20,070	4,417	7	0.210	0.215	0.210	0.215	0.210	0.005	2.381	0.215	0.210	0.214	0.100	45,921.654
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	2,000	470	1	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.230	0.005	2.174	0.235	0.207	0.235	0.100	37,600.00
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	363,471	21,941	29	0.060	0.061	0.060	0.061	0.060	0.001	1.667	0.061	0.060	0.061	0.100	88,210.689
OM00000003521	GALFAR ENGO & CONTRACTING	745,552	46,286	72	0.062	0.063	0.062	0.062	0.061	0.001	1.639	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.100	12,585.160
OM00000008447	OMAN RETT FUND	106,471	8,465	10	0.078	0.079	0.078	0.079	0.078	0.001	1.282	0.079	0.078	0.079	0.100	40,181.872
OM0000005861	VOLTAMP ENERGY	4,450	2,676	6	0.156	0.156	0.156	0.156	0.156	0.000	0.000	0.156	0.156	0.156	0.100	366,544.565
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	9,097	1,735	10	0.193	0.193	0.190	0.193	0.192	0.001	0.521	0.193	0.190	0.193	0.100	10,615.000
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	4,000	340	1	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.000	0.000	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.100	2,550.000
OM0000001509	DHOFAH INTL DEVT & INVESTMENT HO	27,233	6,808	2	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.000	0.000	0.250	0.250	0.260	0.100	102,311.579
OM0000001580	MUSCAT FINANCE	18,179	801	1	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.000	0.000	0.047	0.047	0.048	0.100	14,533.677
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	1,232,580	101,072	29	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.000	0.000	0.082	0.082	0.086	0.100	23,539.750
OM00000002026	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	104	15	1	0.144	0.144	0.144	0.144	0.144	0.000	0.000	0.144	0.144	0.000	0.100	2,537.807
OM00000002200	LIVA GROUP	58,744	9,194	6	0.156	0.156	0.156	0.156	0.156	0.000	0.000	0.156	0.156	0.156	0.100	366,544.565
OM00000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	10,000	2,200	3	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.000	0.000	0.220	0.000	0.220	0.100	10,068.476
OM00000002549	BANK DHOFAH	30	4	1	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.000	0.000	0.148	0.149	0.000	0.100	449,804.183
OM00000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	21,785	2,658	4	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.000	0.000	0.122	0.121	0.122	0.100	74,191.438
OM00000004420	BANK NIZWA	15,274	1,512	15	0.099	0.100	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.000	0.000	0.099	0.099	0.100	0.100	221,458.350
OM00000007943	QOGAS HOLDING	30,000	7,700	4	0.255	0.257	0.255	0.257	0.257	0.002	0.920	0.257	0.257	0.257	0.100	102,362.206
OM00000009759	Q&Q EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	2,654,900	745,605	212	0.260	0.263	0.260	0.262	0.262	0.000	0.000	0.263	0.262	0.263	0.100	296,000.000
OM00000009098	Q&Q BASE INDUSTRIES (SPZ)	3,041,495	316,420	85	0.104	0.105	0.104	0.105	0.105	0.000	0.000	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.100	1,002,096.000
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	700	481	2	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.088	0.001	0.145	0.087	0.000	0.087	0.100	42,098.925
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	3,000	717	1	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.000	0.000	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.100	183,885.000
OM00000002690	OMAN AERIAL BANK	210	618	1	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.000	0.000	0.148	0.147	0.148	0.100	347,072.880
OM00000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	3,000	381	1	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.128	0.001	0.316	0.127	0.117	0.127	0.100	9,591.294
OM00000008862	THE BARKA RETT	3,000	381	1	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.128	0.001	0.316	0.127	0.117	0.127	0.100	9,591.294
OM00000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	85,000	4,875	11	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.078	-0.001	-1.731	0.075	0.074	0.075	0.100	1,575.000
OM00000004400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	73,362	35,025	20	0.450	0.460	0.450	0.458	0.458	-0.008	-1.747	0.450	0.450	0.457	0.100	74,415.750
OM00000004776	BAKARA RETT	8,610	301	1	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.000	0.000	0.046	0.046	0.047	0.100	107,600.00
Total		35			10,684,241	1,521,227										



DISNEY THEME PARK RESORT TO OPEN IN YAS ISLAND, ABU DHABI

The park will be the first in the Middle East and Disney’s seventh global destination. The announcement was made in presence of H H Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council



Times News Service

ABU DHABI: In a landmark announcement that marks Disney’s entry into the Middle East, The Walt Disney Company, in partnership with Abu Dhabi-based Miral, will develop a world-class Disney Theme Park Resort on Yas Island, Abu Dhabi – the seventh Disney theme park destination globally and it’s most technologically advanced to date.

Disney Park Abu Dhabi follows existing parks in California (USA), Florida (USA), Tokyo (Japan), Paris (France), Hong Kong (China) and Shanghai (China).

The announcement was made at a press conference in Abu Dhabi, UAE, on Wednesday in the presence of His Highness Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council.

Also present at the press conference were Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak, Chairman of Department of Culture and Tourism, Abu Dhabi and Chairman of Miral and Mohamed Abdulla Al Zaabi, Group CEO of Miral, Bob Iger, CEO of The Walt Disney Company.

Sheikh Khaled highlighted that the new project underscores Abu Dhabi’s emergence as a premier global leisure tourism destination and reflects the United Arab Emirates’ commitment to diversifying its economy through the creative and cultural sectors. He also noted that the creative and cultural economy has become a key pillar in supporting economic diversification and enhancing GDP growth.

Yas Island, already home to leading entertainment landmarks such as SeaWorld, Warner Bros. World, and Ferrari World, will soon welcome Disney’s most “tech-forward” park – a destination ex-

pected to blend local identity with the timeless magic of Disney. The resort will feature a unique waterfront setting, a crystal-inspired castle, and cutting-edge immersive experiences.

Miral will fully develop, build, and operate the resort, while Disney Imagineers will lead the creative design and attraction development.

“Abu Dhabi stands as a unique model where authentic heritage meets a bold vision for the future,” said Al Mubarak. “The collaboration between Abu Dhabi and Disney demonstrates the remarkable results of combining visionary leadership and creative excellence. What we are creating is a whole new world of imagination – an experience that will inspire generations.”

Disney CEO Iger called the project “an extraordinary opportunity” to extend Disney’s iconic storytelling to a new audience.



“Abu Dhabi’s position as an international crossroads, its embrace of global culture, and its ambitious vision for the future make it a perfect location for Disney to reach millions of new families and captivate guests for generations to come,” Iger said, describing the new destination as “authentically Disney and distinctly Emirati.”

Josh D’Amaro, Chairman of Disney Experiences, emphasised that the new resort will not be a replica of any existing Disney Park but a reimagined experience for the region. “The concept for this resort will push the boundaries of theme park design, showcasing groundbreaking technology and visionary architecture, including a modern castle unlike anything we’ve ever created,” he said. “This will be our most modern, most tech-forward park – like a living Tomorrowland.”

The project is strategically located to serve a vast population. With access to neighbouring GCC and Middle East nations, India, Africa, Asia, and Europe, and supported by Abu Dhabi’s infrastructure, the resort is positioned to be a magnet for international tourism.

This new venture marks Disney’s first theme park announcement in 15 years and comes at a time when international expansion is a key pillar in Disney’s growth strategy, especially as domestic markets stabilise. In 2023, Disney parks attracted over 140 million visitors worldwide – the most of any theme park operator.

As Disney prepares to usher in a new era of expansion alongside its investments in California and Florida, Abu Dhabi is poised to become the next capital of family entertainment – where the dreams of tomorrow begin today.

SPORTS

Inter Milan down Barca 4-3 in semifinal, book ticket to Munich

With this victory, Inter Milan, chasing their fourth UEFA CL title and their first since the 2009-10 season, have beaten Barcelona by 7-6 on aggregate, after a 3-3 draw in their first match



MILAN: In what turned out to be one of the most memorable UEFA Champions League semifinals ever, an extra-time goal from Davide Frattesi helped Inter Milan book their ticket to the title clash after beating Barcelona by 4-3 in their second-leg clash at San Siro, Milan on Tuesday night.

With this victory, Inter Milan, chasing their fourth UEFA CL title and their first since the 2009-10 season, have beaten Barcelona by 7-6 on aggregate, after a 3-3 draw in their first match.

In the first half, Inter Milan had things very comfortable with a 2-0 lead. In the 21st minute, it was Lautaro Martinez who broke the deadlock. Just before the end of half-time, a penalty conversion from Hakan Calhanoglu doubled the lead for the hosts.

Barcelona, who seemed down and out in the first half, emerged back in the game strongly in the second half. A volley from Eric Garcia in the 54th minute gave Barca their first goal of the match. A powerful header from Dani

Olmo in the 60th minute infused a new life into the game during the 60th minute, equalling the scoreline at 2-2.

Raphina did his magic in the 87th minute. After his first effort at scoring was denied by Yann Sommer, a rebound from him found the far corner of the goal, giving Barcelona the lead in the match and overall on aggregate as well.

Francesco Acerbi, who was thrown out on the field for the final few minutes, justified the faith put up in him as he scored his



first-ever goal in European football, sending the match into extra time. The joy for Barca supporters was short-lived as their lead lasted barely five minutes. The scoreline was 3-3 and the score on aggregate was 6-6.

In the 99th minute, Frattesi delivered the final blow, giving Inter Milan the lead during the match and overall, helping them reach their second UEFA Champions League final in three years. He celebrated this incredible moment by climbing on the metal barriers,

giving a massive crowd of overjoyed and relieved home fans some star-studded company in their celebrations.

Following the match, Inter Milan boss said, as quoted by Sky Sports, "First of all, I have to congratulate Barcelona - a really strong team."

"It took a super Inter - a round of applause for these guys, who put in two monstrous performances. I am happy to be their coach. They gave me everything they had. It is right that they enjoy their suc-

cess in this stadium. We had some problems, but with heart, we went over every obstacle. We tried to play it with the qualities we have."

"After the first leg, we had the game plan in mind, but without the sacrifice and the help of all of us together, you cannot do it. They [the players] deserve this final," he concluded.

On the other hand, Barcelona boss Hansi Flick said that his team deserved the finals, but their players could still be proud of their effort.

"I know that everybody is disappointed now. We invested a lot in this game. Personally, I am proud of my team, who gave everything. We will be back next season to try to win the Champions League," said Hansi.

"When you see the atmosphere of tonight's game, you want to come back. We have to accept the result. Inter's strikers are strong and experienced. We have a young team, and we will improve. Our job is to make this team better and better. We can improve in defence, but also in attack."

"In the second half, we played better as a team compared to the first half. This is a tough defeat, but we have to stand up. This is a message I want to give to my players. I think my players deserved the final. When they will look at themselves in the mirror tonight, they can be really proud," he concluded. -ANI

TURNED 40

Ex-Aston Villa defender backs Ronaldo to play on until 45

NEW DELHI: Former Tottenham and Aston Villa defender Alan Hutton has rooted for Portugal's goal-scoring machine, Cristiano Ronaldo, to continue to play till the age of 45.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner turned 40 in February and is yet to show signs of slowing down. In the ongoing season, the ever-green forward has netted 33 goals for Al Nassr.

As he continues to shatter records and thrive in his current form, the likelihood of Ronaldo extending his stay in Saudi Arabia is increasing.

According to Hutton, if Ronaldo is able to maintain his fitness and the current standard barring the injuries, he expects the Portuguese to play till 45.

"Cristiano Ronaldo probably feels that he could play to 45, no problem. Where he's playing at this moment in time, it's not the highest level. I know there's some big names out there, the way he looks after himself' day to day, there's no reason that he can't go and play for another few years," Hutton told BoyleSports as quoted from Goal.com.

"He'll feel that he can, no problem. He'll feel that he can still score goals. So I feel that he would go on for as long as possible. And rightly so. If you feel good, why shouldn't you?" he added.

During his playing days, Hutton came up against Ronaldo once on the field. He took a trip down memory lane and reminisced about how it felt when he witnessed Ronaldo's magic on the field.



"Playing against Cristiano Ronaldo, there's no getting away from it. It's very difficult. I mean, the size of him, especially when I first moved down, I think my first game at Tottenham was against Manchester United, actually, and was against Ronaldo," he said.

"But I loved that. I was young. I played with freedom myself, and what an opportunity to go and test yourself against one of the best. But I think in the back of the mind, you always know that he could take you apart at any moment if you switch off."

"He had that ability to just go past you. He had pace, he had pow-

er, and goals. He could score from anywhere," he added.

As Hutton looks back at the moment, he believes he played against one of the best in the world and as he continues to dazzle on the field, Hutton believes it is a testament of how much Ronaldo has maintained himself.

"I think it's one now that I've retired, I look back on it and you think, I've played against one of the best in the world. I think that's a brilliant thing. And for him to still be playing at the age that he is, it's just a testament to him and how he's looked after himself. What an incredible player," he said. -ANI

CLASICO

FC Barcelona to host Real Madrid next weekend

MADRID: FC Barcelona hosts Real Madrid next weekend in the fourth Clasico of the season, with the Catalans holding a four-point lead over Madrid with four games remaining. Here are some things we learned this weekend in Spain as the season draws to a dramatic conclusion.



Barca looks exhausted and midweek game won't help

Although Real Madrid would love to also be in the semifinals of the Champions League, it's also true that Barca's semifinal against Inter Milan is draining an already tired side, while Real Madrid was able to rest last week and will have all next week to prepare for next weekend's decisive match, which looks likely to decide this season's league title. Barca coach Hansi Flick made sweeping changes as his team scraped past already relegated Real Valladolid on Saturday, but with his side losing at the break, players such as Lamine Yamal, Frenkie de Jong and Raphinha all played more minutes than he would have wanted ahead of a decisive week both in Europa and in La Liga.

Defensive injuries will worry Ancelotti

Real Madrid looked to be cruising against Celta Vigo as Arda Guler and Kylian Mbappe turned on the style in the first 50 minutes on Sunday.

However, Madrid's defensive injuries and the lack of a holding midfielder, with Aurelien Tchouameni forced to play as a cen-

tral defender, came back to bite them in the closing stages as Celta fought back to 3-2 and almost sneaked an equalizer.

Mbappe and company will always score goals, but with Antonio Rudiger, Eduardo Camavinga, Eder Militao, David Alaba and Ferland Mendy all injured, Barca will think they should also find the net against Real Madrid.

Champions League battle gets tighter

Villarreal won comfortably at home to Osasuna on Saturday night to temporarily close the gap on fourth-placed Athletic Bilbao to two points, while Real Betis netted two late goals away to Espanyol to keep the pressure on Athletic on Sunday evening.

Athletic did well to overcome the tiredness of Thursday's Europa League defeat at home to Manchester United to draw 0-0 in the Basque derby away to Real Sociedad last Sunday, but its lead over Villarreal is now just three points, while Betis is another

point behind. Five sides from Spain will play in next season's Champions League and Villarreal may have the easiest end to the season in what has become a very close race.

Relegation candidates crawling forwards

The struggle to avoid joining Valladolid in next season's second division continues to be two from five, with Sevilla, Alaves, Girona, Las Palmas and Leganes all striving to avoid the drop.

Las Palmas suffered a painful defeat to Valencia on Saturday, which allowed Alaves to edge a point closer to safety with a valuable draw at home to third-placed Atletico Madrid.

Sevilla and Leganes drew 2-2, which leaves Leganes second from bottom, and while Sevilla has failed to win any of three matches since Joaquin Caparros replaced Garcia Pimienta, the point leaves the club with six points more than Las Palmas, with just 12 to play for. -Xinhua

F1

Chaos at Alpine as team boss Oakes leaves amid driver swap

BEIJING: The Alpine Formula 1 team has been plunged into chaos with news that Oliver Oakes has resigned as Team Principal just ten months after joining the team.

"BWT Alpine Formula One Team announces that Oliver Oakes has resigned from his role as Team Principal," read a team statement.

"As of today, Flavio Briatore will continue as Executive Advisor and will also be covering the duties previously performed by Oliver Oakes."

Oakes' resignation comes one day after it was widely reported that driver Jack Doohan was to be replaced from the next Grand Prix onwards by reserve Franco Colapinto.

Briatore, 75, has long been associated with the Enstone-based team, serving as Team Principal



during its Benetton and Renault eras. Under his leadership, the team captured three Constructors' and four Drivers' Championships.

However, his tenure ended in disgrace after the 2008 Crashgate scandal, in which driver Nelson Piquet was instructed to crash deliberately during the Singapore Grand Prix to help teammate Fernando Alonso win.

Briatore's exit

The fallout led to Briatore's exit from Renault and a subsequent ban from FIA-sanctioned events, later overturned by a French court.

The Italian made a shock return to the F1 paddock in July 2024 - and was widely thought to wield considerably more power at Alpine than his title would suggest, with Oakes having little influence behind the scenes.

Oakes' resignation is the latest in a series of senior management departures at Alpine, reflecting deep-rooted instability at the top of the organization.

Otmar Szafernauer took over as Team Principal in early 2022, but left in July 2023 as part of a sweeping leadership shakeup that also saw the exits of Chief Technical Officer Pat Fry and long-serving Sporting Director Alan Permane.

Bruno Famin briefly succeeded Szafernauer but stepped down in August 2024, making way for Oakes. The upheaval at Alpine has also extended beyond the leadership tier. Technical Director Matt Harman and Head of Aerodynamics Dirk de Beer both resigned in early 2024, while Rob White, a veteran with over two decades at Renault and Alpine, stepped down as Operations Director in May 2024. -Xinhua

Alizz Islamic Bank celebrates graduation of 4th batch of Ruwad Alizz Leadership Programme

A group of 41 delegates successfully completed the Ruwad Alizz programme bridging candidates from both the government institutions and the private sector establishments

MUSCAT: Alizz Islamic Bank recently celebrated the graduation of the fourth batch of the Ruwad Alizz Leadership Development Programme. The ceremony was attended by Ali Al Mani, CEO of Alizz Islamic Bank, members of executive management and strategic partners. The course conceptualised in collaboration with Harvard Manage Mentor, from the prestigious Harvard University, aims to develop future leaders. A group of 41 delegates successfully completed the Ruwad Alizz programme bridging candidates from both the government institutions and the private sector establishments. Ruwad Alizz is a six month program that included a group of exceptional leadership guest speakers, who shared their experiences and professional guidance. This provided a unique opportunity for participants to learn from diverse leadership styles, which is essential for future success. The programme's philosophy is based on the belief that personal growth is driven by the accumulation of experiences from individuals, societies and various organisations. Speaking about the graduation ceremony, Sumaya Al Nabhani,



Head of Learning & Development of Alizz Islamic Bank said, "At Alizz Islamic Bank we are focused on collectively serving our beloved country and continuously striving to develop future leaders in alignment with Oman's Vision 2040. We reiterate the bank's dedication to this by equipping talented Omanis with suitable opportunities for innovation and sustainable growth. The commitment of the delegates in this program speaks volumes about their investment in themselves and the development of our nation". Ruwad Alizz is a comprehensive programme in which employees of other institutions are also invited to participate to maximise its benefits. The participants' progress is closely monitored through a specific system that evaluates their performance. The programme includes exploring and self-inquiring on various topics related to leadership. This brings the number of graduates of the Ruwad Alizz Leadership Development programme to over 135 graduates overall from various government and private sector institutions, in addition to Alizz Islamic Bank employees.

PREMIUM SMARTPHONE



ZTE launches multiple Nubia smartphones in Oman: Covering entry-level, imaging, gaming and music segments

MUSCAT: In response to the growing demand for diverse smartphone experiences in the Omani market, ZTE's premium smartphone brand Nubia has officially launched a comprehensive range of devices. These include the entry-level Nubia A35E (2GB+64GB), the flagship V70/V70 Design/V70 Max series (starting from 14GB+256GB), the Nubia Focus imaging series, the RedMagic gaming lineup, and the all-new Nubia Music series—each catering to distinct user needs with cutting-edge technology and standout design. **Reliable backup device** Designed for first-time smartphone users, students, or as a reliable backup device, the Nubia A35E offers a 2GB+64GB configuration with a lightweight, efficient system—ideal for basic communication, daily apps, and essential mobile tasks. The Nubia V70, V70 Design, and V70 Max models strike a balance between powerful performance and artistic aesthetics. Equipped with advanced chipsets, starting at 14GB RAM and 256GB storage, high-resolution eye-protective displays, and long-lasting batteries, they are built for both work and play. The V70 Design, in particular, features a unique exterior crafted for users who value creativity and sophistication in their tech. With Nubia's deep roots in mobile photography innovation, the Focus series boasts high-resolution AI-powered cameras, multi-scene optimization, and enhanced night photography. It's the perfect tool for content creators and users who want to capture life's highlights with clarity and vibrance. Targeting competitive gamers and mobile enthusiasts, RedMag-

ic smartphones feature high-refresh-rate displays, dedicated gaming engines, active cooling systems, and touch-sensitive shoulder triggers. Combined with RGB lighting and dedicated game space, they deliver a truly immersive and professional mobile gaming experience. Specifically designed for music lovers, the Nubia Music series comes equipped with large speaker chambers, Hi-Fi audio chips, and AI audio enhancements. With impressive volume, rich details, and music-centric features, this phone is perfect for playback, creation, and sharing—turning your device into a portable concert. WenYi Leo and Nasir Imran ZTE regional managers, stated: "This extensive Nubia lineup launch reflects our commitment to the Omani market — bringing together top-tier performance, artistic design, and diversified features to meet users' evolving lifestyles. Whether you're a casual user or a power gamer, there's a Nubia device designed for you." All newly launched Nubia devices will be distributed exclusively through Marjan Phone, ZTE's official partner in Oman. Products will be available across major retail outlets and online platforms nationwide. Sahil MP, CEO and Founder of Marjan Group, emphasized the importance of this exclusive distribution partnership, stating: "This collaboration with ZTE reflects our commitment to bringing world-class technology to Oman and delivering value to both retailers and consumers." Karan Kumar Khatri, Chairman and Founder of Marjan Group, added: "We are honoured to host this groundbreaking launch. ZTE's innovation aligns perfectly with our group's mission of tech-forward growth across the region."

TAYBAT RESTAURANT

Grand Millennium Muscat unveils Seven Theme Nights, promises culinary journey across continents

MUSCAT: Grand Millennium Muscat is transforming its Taybat Restaurant into a global culinary stage, inviting guests to embark on a sensory journey with seven distinct and captivating theme nights. Designed to elevate the dining experience beyond the plate, each evening celebrates the vibes and flavours of a different region, offering an exciting and interactive gastronomic journey in the heart of Muscat. Guests will find themselves enveloped in the aromas of each region, with live cooking stations, interactive culinary experiences, and an array of authentic dishes prepared with passion and care. From the bustling street markets of Asia to the sun-drenched shores of the Mediterranean, the hotel is curating an atmosphere that is as much about the vibrant ambience as it is about the exquisite cuisine. Kicking off the week is the Tex-Mex Carnival - 'The Tex-Mex Twist' - every Sunday, blending bold Texan and Mexican flavours including slow-cooked brisket, chili con carne, and live taco, fajita, and quesadilla stations. Mondays are dedicated to 'Asia Unwrapped,' where delicacies from India, China, Japan, Thailand, and more are dished right under the stars. Live JelloBev making stations and unique treats like Kafir lime flavored popcorn add a playful twist, while interactive sushi rolling sessions delight diners at the Asian Night. Arabian Nights on Tuesdays is a 'Feast of the Middle East', showcasing the rich culinary heritage of Egypt, Iran, Lebanon, Oman, Turkey, and Cyprus with a rich spread of mezze, grilled meats, and traditional dishes. Vegetarian and ve-



gan options abound, with popular dishes like falafel, shawarma, and kebabs taking centre stage. Wednesdays bring the sun-kissed flavours of the Mediterranean to Muscat with 'Mediterraneo'. Guests can savour ratatouille, paella, tzatziki, and more, while enjoying live churros con chocolate and handmade pasta stations as part of the 'Mediterranean Feast'. Olive oil and cheese tastings add a touch of sophistication to the evening. Thursdays are reserved for 'Surf & Turf'. The perfectly curated 'Seafood & Steak Soirée' is an indulgent celebration of the best of land and sea. High-end steaks are paired with locally sourced fresh seafood, from lobster and more, creating a luxurious and harmonious dining experience. Fridays introduce the new 'International Night', a diverse exploration of continental cuisine. Guests can pamper their tastebuds with a selection of classic dishes from around the world, featuring flavours from Europe, Africa, and beyond. The evening presents a spectrum of global culinary diversity, with refined dishes and elegant presentations. Saturdays take diners on a 'Street Food Safari', showcasing the authentic flavours and cultural experiences of street food from around the world. Live stations serve up Pani Puri, Pav Bhaji, Thai satays, Chinese Jianbing, and more, creating a lively and engaging atmosphere. Commenting on the carefully planned theme nights, Glenn Nobbs, General Manager of the Grand Millennium Muscat, said, "Our new theme nights are all about celebrating cultures, connections, and cuisines. We have taken inspiration from kitchens across the globe to craft evenings where our guests can savour not just a meal, but a complete sensory experience. We want to create memories and evoke a sense of wanderlust, right here in Muscat." Each night offers an engaging blend of taste, culture, and entertainment, making Taybat Restaurant the go-to dining destination in Muscat for food lovers and cultural explorers alike.

COLLABORATION

Valvoline Global Operations partners with Muscat International Automobiles in Oman

MUSCAT: Muscat International Automobiles (MIA), a prominent name in Oman's automotive distribution sector, announced its official partnership with Valvoline Global Operations (VGO), a globally recognized leader in high-performance lubricants and automotive solutions. This collaboration represents a major step forward in bringing premium vehicle care products to customers across the Sultanate of Oman. The launch event, held at the esteemed Crowne Plaza Hotel in Muscat, brought together key industry stakeholders, automotive experts, and media representatives to witness the beginning of a promising collaboration. With over 150 years of heritage and innovation, Valvoline is globally recognized for its premium motor oils, lubricants, and automotive service, trusted by millions across over 140 countries. Speaking at the event, a senior official from Muscat International Automobiles stated: "We are proud to bring Valvoline's legacy of excellence to Oman. This partnership aligns with our vision to provide only the highest quality automotive solutions to our customers. Valvoline's cutting-edge technology and proven performance will significantly enhance the driving experience and longevity of vehicles across the Sultanate." Valvoline's product range avail-



able in Oman will include a full suite of engine oils for passenger cars, commercial vehicles, and industrial applications, along with transmission fluids, coolants, and maintenance products tailored to meet the extreme climate and driving conditions in the region. This launch reinforces MIA's commitment to expanding its portfolio with globally trusted brands and offering innovative, reliable automotive solutions that exceed customer expectations.

ROUND-UP

Escape the heat: Discover a world 15 degrees cooler at Alila Jabal Akhdar

The 15 degrees offer invites you to enjoy daily à la carte breakfast at the award-winning Juniper Restaurant, along with a 25% resort credit redeemable across our dining venues, Spa Alila, and a collection of curated experiences designed to inspire and restore



MUSCAT: As the summer sun scorches the lowlands and urban heat intensifies, Alila Jabal Akhdar invites guests to escape to an elevated world of cool tranquility. Perched 2,000 meters above sea level, Alila Jabal Akhdar enjoys temperatures that average 15 de-

grees Celsius cooler than the cities below, offering the perfect antidote to summer's heat. Framed by the dramatic Al Hajar mountains, Alila Jabal Akhdar blends raw natural beauty with curated luxury. Here, azure skies, sun-drenched terraces, and crisp

mountain air set the scene for a summer unlike any other. This summer, rise above the heat and retreat to where the mountain air whispers calm and the temperatures linger 15 degrees cooler. At Alila Jabal Akhdar, reconnect with loved ones over panoramic

views and refreshing breezes. The 15 Degrees offer invites you to enjoy daily à la carte breakfast at the award-winning Juniper Restaurant, along with a 25% resort credit redeemable across our dining venues, Spa Alila, and a collection of curated experiences designed to inspire and restore. Whether you seek adventure or stillness, our summer experiences are crafted to suit every traveler. Discover scenic trails or challenge yourself on the Via Ferrata – a heart-pumping climb with panoramic views. For those in search of serenity, indulge in yoga sessions surrounded by nature, unwind at Spa Alila overlooking the canyon, or soak in the infinity pool with vistas that stretch beyond the horizon. “As the temperatures rise across the GCC, we welcome guests to a destination that truly offers a breath of fresh air,” says General Manager Puneet Singh. “With Jabal Akhdar’s climate averaging 15 degrees cooler, we’ve designed enriching experiences that help our guests reconnect with nature,

themselves, and the joy of summer.” **15 degrees cooler offer:** Celebrate summer with your loved ones with our 15 degrees cooler package, designed to elevate your stay: • Daily à la carte breakfast for two adults and two children at the award-winning Juniper Restaurant • 25% resort credit on the room rate, redeemable across dining, Spa Alila, and curated experiences • Complimentary dinner and curated in-room refreshments for all Villa bookings • Access to weekly scheduled Alila Experiences • Play Alila kids’ club and outdoor activities for young explorers **Terms & Conditions:** • Room rates are exclusive of 22.85% taxes and VAT per night • Package includes breakfast for up to 2 adults and 2 children under 11 years • Offer valid for stays until 30 September 2025, subject to blackout dates

EXCLUSIVE BENEFITS



Dhofar Islamic unveils salary transfer campaign to enhance customer benefits

MUSCAT: Dhofar Islamic, the Islamic Banking Window of Bank Dhofar, launched the “Salary Transfer” campaign, offering customers a comprehensive package of exclusive benefits designed to enhance their banking experience. The four-month campaign will offer a range of exclusive benefits and privileges for individuals who open new salary accounts or transfer their existing salaries to Dhofar Islamic. Customers with a minimum salary credit of RO 700 will enjoy first-year annual fee waiver on credit cards, as well as benefit from competitive financing rates, faster processing times, and flexible terms. In addition, the campaign features special debit and credit card offers; free debit card issuance for accounts opened through Dhofar Islamic mobile banking, and access to standby cash credit facilities via Dhofar Islamic credit card cash advance facility at competitive pricing. Commenting on the launch, Amor Al Amri, GM & Chief Dhofar Islamic Banking Officer, stated, “This campaign reflects our commitment to delivering meaningful value to our customers while supporting our growth trajectory. “By offering tailored benefits and enhanced digital access, we aim to strengthen our relation-

ship with customers and make Dhofar Islamic their preferred banking partner.” The Salary Campaign aligns with Dhofar Islamic’s long-term strategy to expand its customer base, improve market share and enhance brand visibility across the Sultanate. It underscores the bank’s commitment to providing innovative and customer-centric financial solutions while contributing to the economic growth of the Sultanate of Oman. The bank has made significant strides in expanding its offerings, launching innovative products like the Savings Plan and MasterCard World Credit Card, and supporting the financing of major projects across sectors such as energy, real estate, and infrastructure. It has also established a 10-Year OMR 250 million Sukuk Al Musharaka Program enabling it to tap into Islamic capital markets. Dhofar Islamic’s 25 branches network and its growing portfolio of Sharia-compliant products are testaments to its commitment to meeting the diverse needs of its customers. By continually innovating, embracing sustainability and supporting national development, Dhofar Islamic is set to play an even greater role in shaping the future of Islamic banking in Oman.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Sohar International signs MoU to sponsor Omani freediving champion Omar Al-Ghailani

MUSCAT: As a progressive and purpose-driven institution dedicated to cultivating homegrown talent, Sohar International – serving as the gold sponsor – has recently formalized its sponsorship of Omar Al-Ghailani, a globally acclaimed Omani freediving champion. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was officially signed by the bank’s Chief Executive Officer, Abdulwahid Mohamed Al Murshidi. This strategic partnership not only reflects the bank’s steadfast commitment to empowering Omani youth but also, through Omar’s ongoing community engagement. Commenting on the support, Abdulwahid Mohamed Al Murshidi, Chief Executive Officer of Sohar International, said, “Freediving is a discipline that demands exceptional mental fortitude, physical control, and a deep harmony with nature—qualities that set it apart from conventional sports. At Sohar International, we take pride in supporting a broad spectrum of athletic pursuits that resonate with our national identity and future aspirations. By standing behind Omar’s remarkable journey, we celebrate not only personal excellence but also the enduring spirit of perseverance



deeply rooted in Oman’s maritime legacy. Through this partnership, we aim to inspire a new generation of Omanis to dream boldly and pursue their goals with purpose.” Expressing his gratitude to Sohar International for their support, Omar Al Ghailani stated, “I am honoured to collaborate with Sohar International—a partner

whose values closely align with my own. Having the backing of an institution that champions commitment, discipline, and national pride is both empowering and affirming. This support not only strengthens my journey as an athlete but also reinforces the importance of fostering meaningful partnerships that elevate

individual potential and national representation.” Omar Al Ghailani’s remarkable track record includes over 30 national records, several continental achievements, and podium finishes at prestigious international championships—cementing his status as one of the region’s most accomplished freediving athletes. Through this initiative, Sohar International once again demonstrates its role as a catalyst for community progress. This initiative underscores the bank’s willingness to invest resources, expertise, and goodwill beyond its core financial services, affirming its commitment to social betterment. In doing so, Sohar International not only elevates its own standing—both at home and abroad—but also sets a benchmark for corporate citizenship, proving that true leadership lies in empowering others and fostering collective advancement. With a legacy of supporting individuals who contribute to Oman’s long-term development, Sohar International continues to invest in purposeful partnerships that foster national identity, nurture youth ambition, and drive meaningful impact across diverse sectors.

REWARDING CAMPAIGN

NBO launches limited-time cashback campaign in partnership with Oman Oil

MUSCAT: The National Bank of Oman (NBO) has announced a limited-time cashback campaign in collaboration with Oman Oil, offering 20% cashback in the form of reward points on purchases made with NBO Retail VISA Credit Cards. The offer is valid from 1st to 31 May across Oman Oil fuel stations nationwide. Available to the first 3,000 customers, the cashback will apply to their first transaction during the campaign period on Oman Oil with a maximum reward of OMR 3 per customer. During the campaign period, Oman Oil will reward 10 NBO



Debit Card holders with Basma fuel card, pre-loaded with OMR 50. These cards will be issued to 10 top spender NBO Debit Card holders at Oman Oil. The next 20 highest Debit Card spenders on Oman

Oil will receive Basma fuel card, pre-loaded with OMR 25 each. Maha Al Raisi, Assistant General Manager and Head of Retail Products at NBO said, “At National Bank of Oman, we are always looking for ways to provide added value and rewards to our customers. We are delighted to partner with Oman Oil for this exclusive campaign. This campaign offers tangible benefits such as significant cashback rewards ensuring that our customers can enjoy complete value and savings on their everyday expenses, thereby making their experience with NBO even more rewarding.”

NBO credit cards also help our customers save every time they shop, with cashback in form of NBO Rewards and NBO offers. Customers can enjoy complementary chauffeur service to and from Muscat and Salalah Airport, complementary Airport Lounge access, 50% discount on Vox cinema and many such offers. Through this exciting offer, NBO ensures significant benefits to both its existing and new customers, reinforcing its dedication to enhancing the customer experience and fostering strong partnerships with leading brands such as Oman Oil.

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

OMR 50 ONLY

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

OMR 20 ONLY

EXCLUSIVE
Ramadan and Eid Offer

Promotion duration: 1st March to 10th June 2025

800 71 222
9275 5522

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C.R. No: 1/36545/2 MM 06/235/2025

Enroll Now

oman
OASIS
BALANCED DRINKING WATER

E max

**COOL
SUMMER
Deals**

HOT DEALS ON AC'S, REFRIGERATORS, AIR COOLERS & MORE

FREE INSTALLATION with 4 Mtr Pipe (without Bracket) on All Split AC or OMR 15 GIFT VOUCHER

AC with Default Pipe @10 OMR Gift Voucher without Installation

FREE INSTALLATION on All Window AC Or OMR 5 GIFT VOUCHER

**شيجو
CHIGO**

EXCLUSIVE

Split AC

تركيب أنبوب ٤ متر
(من غير مسند)
Installation with 4 mtr Pipe
(without Bracket)

**27000 BTU
2 Ton
CSA-30C0**

خصم
DISCOUNT
34.3%
وفر
SAVE
Rial 104.4

سابقاً
WAS RIAL 304.3

الآن
NOW RIAL 199.9

**22500 BTU
2 Ton
CSA-24C0**

خصم
DISCOUNT
36.49%
وفر
SAVE
Rial 80.4

سابقاً
WAS RIAL 220.3

الآن
NOW RIAL 139.9

**18000 BTU
1.5 Ton
CSA-18C0**

خصم
DISCOUNT
41.82%
وفر
SAVE
Rial 79

سابقاً
WAS RIAL 188.9

الآن
NOW RIAL 109.9

SK
أجهزة تكييف هواء
AIR CONDITIONING EQUIPMENT

Split AC

تركيب أنبوب ٤ متر
(من غير مسند)
Installation with 4 mtr Pipe
(without Bracket)

**22000 BTU
2 Ton
MSKMP-24CVTC10**

السعر الحالي
CURRENT PRICE OMR 185
قسمة شرائية
GIFT VOUCHER OMR 25.1
تدفع
*PAY OMR 159.9

السعر بعد خصم جميع قسمة شرائية لواء
*PAY PRICE IS AFTER THE REDEMPTION OF ABOVE GIFT VOUCHERS

**18000 BTU
1.5 Ton
MSKMP-18CVTC10**

خصم
DISCOUNT
21.27%

وفر
SAVE
Rial 35.1

سابقاً
WAS RIAL 165

الآن
NOW RIAL 129.9

Get GIFT VOUCHER from OMR 20 to OMR 115 on Purchase of Any Refrigerator 300 Ltr & Above

SHARP

**Refrigerator
SJ-HM540-HS3**

540 Ltr

- Inverter Compressor
- External LED Display
- Electronic Temperature Control
- With Lock & Key

EXCLUSIVE

السعر الحالي
CURRENT PRICE OMR 231.5

قسمة شرائية
GIFT VOUCHER OMR 71.6

تدفع
*PAY OMR 159.9

Gross: 540 Ltr
& Net: 437 Ltr

Hisense

**Refrigerator
RT3R488NCSE0**

488 Ltr

- Multi Air Flow
- Deodorizing Filter
- Digital Sensor
- Inverter

السعر الحالي
CURRENT PRICE OMR 189

قسمة شرائية
GIFT VOUCHER OMR 49.1

تدفع
*PAY OMR 139.9

Gross: 488 Ltr
& Net: 375 Ltr

Haier

**Side by Side
Refrigerator
HRF-525MB**

469 Ltr

- Multi Air Flow
- Humidity Control
- Twin Inverter Compressor with 10 Years Warranty

السعر الحالي
CURRENT PRICE OMR 459.9

قسمة شرائية
GIFT VOUCHER OMR 70

تدفع
*PAY OMR 389.9

Gross: 469 Ltr
& Net: 433 Ltr

SUPER GENERAL

**Water Dispenser
SGL1971N**

- Hot and Cold Tap
- with Cabinet

خصم
DISCOUNT
28.80%
وفر
SAVE
Rial 12.1

سابقاً
WAS RIAL 42

الآن
NOW RIAL 29.9

AFTRON
expect more

**Chiller
AFSC425F**

425 Ltr

- Defrost Cooling
- Case inner white liner
- Compressor switch off function
- Inner light

السعر الحالي
CURRENT PRICE OMR 212.6

قسمة شرائية
GIFT VOUCHER OMR 27.7

تدفع
*PAY OMR 184.9

Gross: 425 Ltr
& Net: 322 Ltr

Panasonic

**Water Dispenser
SDM-WD3128TG**

3 Taps

السعر الحالي
CURRENT PRICE OMR 51

قسمة شرائية
GIFT VOUCHER OMR 5

تدفع
*PAY OMR 46

KELON

**Chest Freezer
KFC19DT4SAW**

190 Ltr

- Super Freeze
- Easy Cleaning
- LED Lighting
- Super Silent
- Electronic Control

خصم
DISCOUNT
33.37%
وفر
SAVE
Rial 30

Gross: 190 Ltr
& Net: 136 Ltr

سابقاً
WAS RIAL 89.9

الآن
NOW RIAL 59.9

Buy Now! Pay Later

FINANCE YOUR ELECTRONICS IN 10 MINUTES WITH

**آيفن للتمويل الفوري
IFIN INSTANT FINANCING**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

**بنك العز الإسلامي
alizz islamic bank**

AND

**بنك نزوى
Bank Nizwa**

**0%
فائدة
الدفع الميسر
Interest
Payment Plan**

**بنك مسقط
bank muscat**
الحد الأدنى للمشتريات ١٥٠ ريال
ON A MINIMUM PURCHASE OF 150 R.O.
Offer valid for Bank Muscat credit card holders only
Upto 12 months

**البنك الوطني العماني
NBO**
الحد الأدنى للمشتريات ١٥٠ ريال
ON A MINIMUM PURCHASE OF 150 R.O.
Offer valid for NBO credit card holders only
12 months

**بنك عمان العربي
OMAN ARAB BANK**
الحد الأدنى للمشتريات ١٠٠ ريال
ON A MINIMUM PURCHASE OF 100 R.O.
Offer valid for OAB credit card holders only
3 / 6 / 9 and 12 months

**بنك ظفار
Bank Dhofar**
الحد الأدنى للمشتريات ١٠٠ ريال
ON A MINIMUM PURCHASE OF 100 R.O.
Offer valid for Bank Dhofar credit card holders only
3 / 6 / 9 and 12 months

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SEEB: MUSCAT CITY CENTRE (LEVEL 1) TEL: +968 24558062 | **BARKA:** BARKA GRAND CENTRE MALL (GROUND FLOOR) TEL: +968 26981873

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