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MINISTRY OF LABOUR

Ministry stresses compliance with wage protection

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Labour has reaffirmed the importance of adhering to wage transfer regulations under Ministerial Resolution Number 729/2024 on the Wage Protection System, as published in the Official Gazette on 15 December 2024.

The initiative aims to regulate the labour market and help companies avoid financial penalties.

Under the new rules, employers must ensure that at least 75 percent of their workforce is paid through the Wage Protection System, starting with September 2025 salaries, payable in October.

This compliance threshold will increase to 90 percent from November 2025 salaries, payable in December.

The ministry stressed that these measures are vital for pro-

tecting workers' rights and promoting transparency in wage practices across Oman's labour market.

Oman's Wage Protection System is a government-mandated system designed to ensure that private sector employers pay their workers' wages on time and in full through electronic transfers to banks or authorised financial institutions. It aims to protect workers' rights and ensure transparency in wage payments.

OVER 440,000 TOURISTS VISIT KHAREEF DHOFAR BY JULY END

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Samharam Resort: A tourist destination

1 Tourism and entertainment projects are a vital part of Khareef Dhofar season, as they provide comprehensive destinations that meet the needs of visitors, boost commercial activity, and open up broader horizons for investment. **>A4**

OMAN Oman, Armenia hold bilateral talks

2 The 5th round of political consultations between Oman and Armenia was held in Yerevan. The Omani side was headed by Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs. **>A3**

WORLD Over 100 children die from hunger in Gaza

3 UN humanitarian organisations called for urgent action after medical sources in the Gaza Strip announced the deaths of more than 100 children due to malnutrition. **>A7**

The number of Omani visitors increased by 75.6% to 334,399

SALALAH: The number of visitors to the Khareef Dhofar (monsoon) season from 21 June 2025 to 31 July 2025, reached approximately 442,100, a 7% increase compared to the same period in 2024 when the number was 413,122.

These are according to preliminary estimates from the National Centre for Statistics and Information.

The preliminary statistics showed that the number of Omani visitors increased by 75.6 percent to 334,399. The number of visitors from GCC countries was 69,801, while visitors of other

Salalah airport records growth in aircraft, passenger traffic during Khareef season

SALALAH: Salalah Airport has recorded growth in both aircraft movements and passenger numbers during the Khareef Dhofar (monsoon) season 2025, for the period from 21 June to 3 August 2025, compared to the same period last year.

Data released by Oman Airports shows that total aircraft movements increased by 16 percent, reaching 1,849 flights compared to 1,592 flights in the 2024 season. Total pas-

senger numbers also grew by 5 percent, reaching 288,110 passengers compared to 274,030 passengers last year.

Arrival traffic saw an in-

crease in the number of flights from 795 in 2024 to 925 in 2025, a 16 percent growth. The number of arriving passengers rose by 3 percent to 158,301, compared to 153,378 passengers last year.

Departure traffic also registered a 16 percent increase in flights, from 797 to 924 flights. The number of departing passengers grew by 8 percent, reaching 129,809, compared to 120,652 passengers during the last season. **Full report>A3**

SEZAD Duqm expands green cover with integrated afforestation plans

DUQM: The Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD) implemented integrated afforestation plans to increase its green spaces during the period from 2015 to mid-2025.

During the preparatory phase (2015-2021), 3,414 trees and 24,760 square metres of green areas were planted, and modern irrigation systems were installed at several sites. Additionally, projects were carried out to connect these sites to treated wastewater networks, which contributed to reusing treated water, reducing fresh water consumption, and lowering operating costs. The work included afforesting major roads such as Sultan Said bin Taimur Street, Sai Street, and the Tourist Street.

The first phase (2021-2025) saw significant expansion, with 8,398 trees planted and green areas covering 24,144 square metres,

all equipped with modern irrigation systems. The first agricultural nursery in Duqm was also established on an area of 5,000 square metres to produce thousands of seedlings annually to support afforestation projects, replace affected trees, and encourage green initiatives. The projects included vital locations such as Sultan Qaboos bin Said Street, Airport

Street, the commercial district park in Sai, and the beach park in the tourist area.

The total number of trees planted during both phases reached 11,812, and nearly 48,904 square metres of green areas were created, with an implementation cost of approximately OMR4.4 million.

Eng. Ibrahim Zaher Al Rawahi, Head of the Afforestation and

Parks Department at SEZAD, explained that these efforts are part of a comprehensive vision to enhance green spaces and improve the quality of life in the zone. He noted that this contributes to moderating the local climate, mitigating the effects of sandy winds, and providing a natural outlet for residents, visitors, and investors, in addition to promoting environmen-

tal sustainability by using treated wastewater for irrigation.

He pointed out that the next phase will involve implementing broader afforestation projects and connecting additional sites to sustainable irrigation systems, solidifying Duqm's position as a modern city with integrated facilities and an environment attractive for living and investment.

He affirmed that the expansion of green spaces not only improves the local environment but also enhances Duqm's appeal as a promising tourist and investment destination. The planted areas and public parks provide a comfortable and safe environment for family activities and community events, while also supporting the tourism and hotel projects in the region, reflecting the integration of urban planning with a focus on environmental sustainability. **— ONA**

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MUSCAT







OMAN

PRAYER TIMINGS



Dhuhr.....	12:17pm
Asr.....	3:43pm
Maghrib.....	6:47pm
Isha.....	8:02pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	4:22am

ICBT CARDIFF 2025

UTAS wins global research award



ALMUSANNAH: The University of Technology and Applied Sciences (UTAS) in Al Musannah, South Al Batinah Governorate, merited the Best Research Paper Award during the participation of a team from the university's College of Economics and Business Administration in the International Conference on Business and Technology (ICBT Cardiff 2025).

The conference, hosted by Cardiff University in the United Kingdom, was attended by a group of

academics, researchers and experts from around the world.

The research team included Dr. Nasser Salim Al Bimani, Dr. Mangai Raman, Dr. Jaffer Ali Khan and Professor Muhammad Tasleem.

The paper outlined key factors influencing the success of business incubators and their role in promoting innovation and entrepreneurship—eventually contributing to achieving sustainable economic diversification in the Sultanate of Oman. **-ONA**

GCC forum to focus on sustainable transport

The forum will bring together specialists and experts from across the GCC countries with the goal of promoting environmental sustainability in the transport sector



the goal of promoting environmental sustainability in the transport sector and encouraging the use of clean, alternative modes of transport.

Organised by the Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology, the forum aims to foster an exchange of experiences and expertise among GCC nations in sustainable transport and environmentally friendly technologies.

It will also highlight key policies

wait participated to develop practical outputs and joint implementation mechanisms that support the transition to sustainable mobility and enhance environmental and economic integration in the region.

As part of the accompanying events, Dhofar Governorate will host sports and awareness activities for children on 15-16 August. These will include a marathon and a dedicated cycling track, all in a safe environment under the supervision of specialists. The aim is to instill a culture of green mobility from a young age and promote awareness of healthy and sustainable lifestyles.

A series of specialized workshops will precede the main forum, most notably the "Gulf Youth Lead Change" workshop, held at the Sultan Qaboos Youth Compound for Culture and Entertainment in Salalah, and the "Green Corridors for Gulf Ports" workshop. The event will also feature the signing of several agreements that will pave the way for strategic partnerships in the field of green transport. **-ONA**



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RECOMMENDATIONS

Digital transition conference focuses on partnerships and innovation

SALALAH: A conference on government digital transition and sustainable leadership, held recently in Salalah, recommended a set of recommendations related to labour market governance, developing national competencies and espousing digitisation in the government and service sectors.

The 3-day conference was organised by the Ministry of Labour in Salalah on the sidelines of the 2025 Labour Forum, which runs until 14 August 2025, in the presence of experts and officials from the Sultanate of Oman and other GCC states.

The recommendations comprised four main themes. The first theme affirmed that labour market governance and effective partnerships can be achieved by enhancing cooperation with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, business owners and academic institutions.

It stressed that cooperation helps ensure integrated visions in drafting policies and reviewing legislative frameworks towards devising flexible employment programmes.

The second theme focused on



building national competencies and supporting entrepreneurship.

It called for the development of future skills by designing specialised training programmes targeting graduates and national talent, with emphasis on realising green transition and digital transition and motivating innovation and entrepreneurial projects.

The third theme recommended investing in digital infrastructure, expanding the use of electronic authentication and signatures and grooming leaders who operate in digital fields.

The fourth theme was devoted

to ways to benefit from the conference's outcomes, by accessing an interactive electronic platform that allows participants and interested parties to view related documents, presentations and recommendations.

The closing session discussed the concept of smart management. It dealt with how to use artificial intelligence to enhance government transparency, support decision-making and accelerate digital transition in institutions.

The session also showcased an applied model of smart management through a project undertaken by the Ministry of Labour in the Sultanate of Oman. The project aims to convert the potentials offered by technology into future opportunities. **-ONA**



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Passenger, plane traffic rises at Salalah airport

Total aircraft movements increased by 16 percent, reaching 1,849 flights compared to 1,592 flights

SALALAH: Salalah Airport has recorded growth in both aircraft movements and passenger numbers during the Khareef Dhofar (monsoon) season 2025, for the period from 21 June to 3 August 2025, compared to the same period last year.

Aircraft movements
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The number of arriving passengers rose by 3 percent to 158,301, compared to 153,378 passengers last year.

Departure traffic also registered a 16 percent increase in flights, from 797 to 924 flights.

The number of departing passengers grew by 8 percent, reaching 129,809, compared to 120,652 passengers during the last season.

Smooth travel experience
Oman Airports has worked to



provide a smooth and comfortable travel experience for passengers by implementing the latest technologies to streamline procedures, expanding the capacity of airport lounges, and offering diverse hospitality and commercial services.

Easier Travel
This also includes the launch of the “Safar Ashal” (Easier Travel) initiative, which allows passengers to complete travel procedures directly from their cars, saving time and enhancing convenience.

The growth in aircraft and passenger traffic reflects the increasing tourist demand for Dhofar Governorate during the Khareef season.

This is attributed to its mild weather and seasonal rains, in addition to the heritage, cultural, and recreational events that contribute to reinforcing the governorate’s position as a comprehensive tourist destination.

This trend is expected to continue in the coming days, coinciding with ongoing events and the rising number of visitors to the Governorate of Dhofar. -ONA

POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS

Oman, Armenia review bilateral ties in Yerevan



YEREVAN: The 5th round of political consultations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Armenia was held on Tuesday in the Armenian capital, Yerevan.

The Omani side was headed by Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs, while the Armenian side was headed by Vahan Kostanyan, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

During the session, the two sides reviewed bilateral cooperation in various fields and discussed ways to further develop

this cooperation.

Sheikh Khalifa expressed appreciation and welcomed Armenia’s decision to open a resident embassy in Muscat and to exempt Omani citizens from tourist visas for entry to Armenia.

He also informed the Armenian side of Oman’s decision to include Armenian citizens on its list of countries exempted from entry visas to the Sultanate of Oman.

The two sides also exchanged views on a number of regional and international issues of mutual interest. -ONA

CBO

76th issue of Government Development Bonds announced

MUSCAT: On behalf of the Government of Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Finance, the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) announced the new issue of Government Development Bonds (GDBs).

The size of the new issue is OMR75 million, with green shoe option (not exceeding 15 million), with a maturity period of 5 years and will carry a coupon rate of 4.35% per annum.

The issue will be open for subscription from 13 August to 19 August, 2025 while the auction will be held on Wednesday, 20 August 2025.

The issue date will be on Sunday 24 August, 2025. Interest on the new bonds will be paid semi-annually on 24 February and 24 August, every year until maturity date on 24 August 2030.

Noteworthy, the 76th Government Development Bonds issue is offered to all investors, residents and non-residents (irrespective of their nationality). Investors may apply for these Bonds through the competitive bidding process only and may submit bids through commercial licensed banks operating in the Sultanate of Oman during the subscription period.

Furthermore, investors with applications of OMR1 million and above may submit their bids directly to CBO. -ONA

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SAMHARAM RESORT



An integrated tourist destination for Khareef Dhofar Season

SALALAH: Tourism and entertainment projects are a vital support for Khareef Dhofar (monsoon) season, as they provide comprehensive destinations that meet the needs of visitors, boost economic and commercial activity, and open up broader horizons for investment and the employment of national talent.

These destinations are particularly important during the Khareef season, as they serve as attractions for visitors from within and outside the Sultanate of Oman.

They offer a mix of cultural, recreational, and commercial experiences while also encouraging entrepreneurship and supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which positively impacts the local economy and the sustainability of tourism.

Samharam Tourist Resort is one such destination for the 2025 Khareef Dhofar season. It provides integrated facilities and services that combine shopping, dining, and cultural and recreational activities, attracting visitors of all ages.

Mohammed Ahmed Al Hadri, a site supervisor at Samharam Tourist Resort, said the resort hosts a consumer exhibition organised by Al Awail Company for the Management and Organization of International Exhibitions and Festivals. The exhibition features 150 to 160 shops from various Arab

and foreign countries, with diverse pavilions to meet visitor needs. Additionally, a handicrafts section includes about 28 shops for SMEs and low-income individuals, supervised by the SME Development Authority (Riyada).

He added that the outdoor area includes a variety of restaurants, cafes, and games for both children and adults. There is also a stage that hosts children's competitions and artistic performances. He noted that the "Rifle" section features cafes, many of which are managed by Omani youth, and enjoys a wide turnout from visitors.

Musallam Abdulsalam Al Rowas, owner of Sar Events Company, stated that this is the first year the "Rifle" event is being held at the resort, marking its third consecutive year during Khareef Dhofar season. He explained that the event includes a large selection of restaurants, a family and youth entertainment area, and a stage with Omani and Gulf performances, in addition to hosting talented artists from Oman and other GCC countries.

He added that the event offers various competitions for all ages and annually employs young Omanis who are job seekers and freelancers. He noted that the number of employees this year exceeded 45 young people, with a public turnout that reflects the event's success as a recreational destination

during the Khareef season.

Regarding visitor impressions, Sufyan Ghassan Al Rashdi from Al Dakhiliyah Governorate said Samharam Resort is an outstanding tourist destination for families and visitors. The variety of modern facilities and events creates a joyful atmosphere that enhances the pleasure of the visit. He emphasized the importance of increasing public facilities in the future to accommodate the large turnout.

In his turn, Ahmed Ali Al Saadi from Musandam Governorate explained that his recent visit to Khareef Dhofar season introduced him to the notable development in tourist and recreational events, with a diversity of programs and integrated services that make the tourist experience more exceptional.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Al Sai'ari, a tourist from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, pointed out that the events and activities at Samharam Resort are a unique addition to Khareef Dhofar season, combining entertainment and education. He expressed his admiration for the consumer exhibition, which features various local products such as incense and perfumes, along with offers that provide visitors with a pleasant shopping experience in an organised and attractive atmosphere. -ONA





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NEW ZEALAND

Omani researcher wins Best Theoretical Paper award

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Dr. Aziza Al-Ghafriya, an Omani researcher, has been awarded the Best Theoretical Research Paper at the 2025 Diana International Research Conference, held at the University of Auckland in New Zealand. The award recognises her outstanding study addressing the challenges faced by women entrepreneurs in Sweden.

Dr. Al-Ghafriya is a postdoctoral researcher at Mälardalen University in Sweden. At the conference, she presented a paper exploring the intersections of gender, race, and social class in shaping the experiences of female entrepreneurs, drawing on her doctoral dissertation completed at the KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Sweden. The study received wide acclaim from participants for its originality and significant theoretical contribution to the field of women's entrepreneurship.

In a statement following the award, Dr. Al-Ghafriya expressed her pride and gratitude, saying:

"I feel a deep sense of pride and appreciation for this recognition. It was truly inspiring to exchange experiences with a distinguished group of researchers from around the world who are passionate

about inclusive entrepreneurship."

She explained that the paper was inspired by her PhD dissertation, which she defended last year, and extended her sincere thanks to her supervisors at KTH – Professor Charlotte Holgersson and Professor Monica Lindgren – as well as to Dr. Wisnyanti Basuki from Solent University in the UK, for their ongoing academic support.

Dr. Al-Ghafriya also expressed her gratitude to Mälardalen University for sponsoring her participation in the conference, and to the MENAGEN Program for Mentoring and Academic Publishing, affiliated with the Babson Global Center for Women's Entrepreneurship, for providing academic guidance throughout the research preparation process.

In a related note, she also thanked the Omani Cultural Attaché in Canberra, Australia, commending its important role in supporting Omani students in New Zealand and continuously offering guidance.

During her participation, Dr. Al-Ghafriya also held side meetings with representatives of Omani students in Sydney and Auckland, where they exchanged academic experiences and discussed opportunities for future collaboration.

GRAND CEREMONY

Pakistani community in Oman marks Independence and Minorities Day

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Indus Social Club and Latifi Sangat Oman have jointly organised a grand ceremony in Muscat on August 11, 2025, to celebrate Pakistan's Independence Day and Religious Minorities Day.

The programme's Chief Guest was Pakistan's Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman, Dr. Naveed Safdar Bukhari. Officials of the Embassy of Pakistan attended the programme, as well.

Other prominent guests who participated were Sayed Fayaz Ali Shah, Mian Mohammed Riaz, Haji Iqbal Haryani, Rab Dino Shar, Dr. Aftab Shah, Dr. Danish Shams Memon, Choudhry Shakoor, Raja Akhmat Hayat, Mian Muneer, Ali Ashfaq, Dr. Sharaf Attaullah, Dr. Ahmed Nawaz Hakro, Shandar Bukhari, Imran Toor, Farhan Gillani, Aftab Gillani, Kashif Zaeem, Vikram Kessani, Dr Rakesh Kumar, Dr. Devi Das, Dr. Prem Chand, Engineer Dileep Kumar, Sandeep Kumar, and from the Christian Community, Zeerash Denial, Asif David, William John and the large number of community members attended the function.

The function was organised at the Park Inn Radisson Hotel in



Azaiba, Muscat.

The programme started with Talawat Quran Pak, Gayatri mantra, and holy prayer of Christianity, and later the Pakistan National Anthem was played.

The Ambassador of Pakistan, Dr. Naveed Safdar Bukhari, Sayed Fayaz Shah Sahab, and Usman Lakhani were decorated with a Lungi gift.

The welcome speech was delivered by Dileep Kumar, who emphasised the August 11, 2025, speech of Quaid-e-Azam, the Founder of the country, and he emphasised that Quaid's vision was that all the believers in the new state would be equally treated.

Dr. Dileep Kumar said they are overseas Pakistanis and are a re-

ligious minority, and the majority must take care of the minority; and the same way, the religious majority must take care of the liberty and beliefs of the religious minority.

The religious minorities play a key role in the development and progress of the country. He prayed and wished together we may create religious harmony and brotherhood of all beliefs and work hard for the prosperity and progress of the country.

The speakers praised the role of the armed forces for their recent victory. On this occasion, Ali Ashfaq Mangi, Dr. Sharaf Attaullah, Raja Akhmat Hayat, and, at the end, HE, the ambassador of Pakistan in Oman, Dr. Naveed Safdar Bukhari addressed the house, and

he emphasised the value of independence and worked hard for the betterment of the country.

He also emphasised that all the religious minorities are equal citizens of the country, and they played a critical and crucial role in the prosperity of the country.

At the end of the programme, the cake-cutting ceremony was held.

The programme was hosted by Barakat Shaikh and the technical organiser, Chattan Balach.

At the end of the programme, Dr. Ahmed Nawaz Hakro thanked all the guests and HE the ambassador, and the organisers.

The programme organisers were Dr. Dileep Kumar, Usman Lakhani, and Asim Siddiqui arranged dinner and group photo.



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COMPANY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

Dear Shareholders,

last year.

We would like to present to you the unaudited consolidated financial statements for the period ended 30th June 2025.

At the group level, the total turnover of the Company for the period ended 30th June 2025 is 13.145 million OMR compared with 9.539 million OMR for the same period of the last year, i.e. an increase of 38%.

The parent Company's total turnover for the period ended 30th June 2025 is 12.407 million OMR compared with 9.198 million OMR for the same period of last year, i.e. an increase of 35%.

At the group level, net loss after tax for the period ended 30th June 2025 is OMR 93,298 compared with net loss of 160,088 OMR for the same period of the

The parent Company's net loss after tax for the period ended 30th June 2025 is 94,038 OMR compared with net loss of 71,508 OMR for the same period of the last year.

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

Thanking you,

Engr. Omar Ahmed Salim Qatan
Chairman

SEPARATE AND CONSOLIDATED UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

	30 June 2025		30 June 2024	
	Parent RO	Group RO	Parent RO	Group RO
Revenue	12,406,462	13,144,539	9,197,716	9,539,100
Cost of sales	(11,977,672)	(12,546,844)	(8,824,837)	(9,115,545)
Gross Profit	428,790	597,695	372,879	423,555
General and administration expenses	(565,415)	(733,258)	(474,276)	(611,237)
Investment and Other Income	42,588	42,588	29,889	29,889
Profit for the period before tax	(94,038)	(92,976)	(71,508)	(157,793)
Provision for Income tax	-	(322)	-	(2,295)
Net Profit for the period after tax	(94,038)	(93,298)	(71,508)	(160,088)
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income	(94,038)	(93,298)	(71,508)	(160,088)
Earnings per share	(0.003)	(0.003)	(0.002)	(0.005)

SEPARATE AND CONSOLIDATED UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT JUNE 30, 2025

	30 June 2025		30 June 2024	
	Parent RO	Group RO	Parent RO	Group RO
ASSETS				
Non-current assets				
Property, plant and equipment	2,560,260	2,889,337	2,751,464	3,037,540
Right of use assets	196,694	196,694	211,094	211,094
Deferred Tax Asset	-	-	-	-
Investment	2,004,118	-	2,004,118	-
Goodwill	-	996,800	-	996,800
Trade Receivable	-	-	-	-
Total Non-current Assets	4,761,072	4,082,831	4,966,676	4,245,434
Current Assets:				
Inventories	1,096,124	1,277,291	1,419,081	1,536,294
Trade and other receivables	4,612,769	4,502,810	4,974,338	4,129,932
Cash and cash equivalents	1,187,350	1,347,544	1,468,122	1,526,029
Total Current Assets	6,896,243	7,127,645	7,861,541	7,192,255
TOTAL ASSETS	11,657,315	11,210,476	12,828,217	11,437,689
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Equity:				
Share capital	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
Statutory reserve	1,000,000	1,015,863	1,000,000	1,013,094
Special reserve	1,457,067	1,457,067	1,457,067	1,457,067
Land revaluation reserve	807,666	807,666	807,666	807,666
Retained earnings	(486,275)	(644,787)	(312,750)	(435,141)
Total Equity	5,778,458	5,635,809	5,951,983	5,842,686
Non-current Liabilities:				
End of service benefits	134,433	166,999	131,358	141,969
Non current portion of Term Loan	-	-	-	-
Non current portion of lease liabilities	252,916	252,916	248,885	248,885
Deferred tax	106,778	112,164	133,189	139,690
Total Non-current Liabilities	494,127	532,079	513,432	530,544
Current Liabilities:				
Trade and other payables	5,281,125	4,938,660	5,923,283	4,622,778
Bank overdraft	74,203	74,203	320,562	320,562
Current portion of Term Loan	-	-	89,554	89,554
Current portion of lease liabilities	9,184	9,184	9,184	9,184
Income Tax	20,218	20,541	20,218	22,381
Total Current Liabilities	5,384,730	5,042,588	6,362,802	5,064,459
Total Liabilities	5,878,857	5,574,667	6,876,234	5,595,003
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	11,657,315	11,210,476	12,828,217	11,437,689
Net Assets Per Share (RO)	0.193	0.188	0.198	0.195

Trump deploys National Guard into Washington to control violent crimes

‘We’re taking our capital back,’ Trump said at a press conference, claiming that the federal government will take over the US capital’s police department

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump late on Monday ordered the deployment of National Guard troops in Washington to fight crimes, a move that more US cities might see.

“We’re taking our capital back,” Trump said at a press conference, claiming that the federal government will take over the US capital’s police department. “I’m announcing a historic action to rescue our nation’s capital from crime, bloodshed, bedlam and squalor, and worse,” Trump said.

Trump’s announcement came on the heels of a widely reported assault of a former staffer of the Department of Government Efficiency, 19-year-old Edward Coristine, which occurred earlier this month during an attempted carjacking by juveniles.

Senator Dick Durbin, an Illinois Democrat and the ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, blasted the president’s takeover of the capital’s police department as “political theater.”

“His idea in federalising the police force of DC ignores the reality



they are making dramatic progress in reducing violent crime in DC,” Durbin said at a press conference with Democratic members of the Texas state House who traveled to Illinois to block Republicans from pushing for a new congressional district map.

Some statistics indicate that crime levels are going down in US cities.

In 2024, Washington DC experienced 112 homicides, according to the DC Metropolitan Police Department’s website. Total violent crime in the district decreased 35 percent from 2023, marking the lowest in over 30 years.

Trump suggested he might later deploy National Guard troops to fight crime in cities including Chicago and Los Angeles.

“We’re not going to lose our cities over this,” Trump said. “And this will go further. We’re starting very strongly with DC, and we’re going to clean it up real quick, very quickly.” At a press conference in Washington DC Mayor Mu-

riel Bowser said that the federal government’s takeover of the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department was “unsettling” and “unprecedented,” calling it an “intrusion on our autonomy.”

Regarding Trump’s use of the military in domestic affairs, Bowser responded that she does not believe the U.S. military should be used against American citizens on American soil.

It remains to be seen whether city mayors will resist the White House on National Guard deployments in what they believe to be their territory.

“Mayors do not want the national government to take over local police because they lose control of law enforcement. That is true in DC as well as other leading cities,” Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Darrell West told Xinhua.

“We don’t know whether this will become a trend, but a number of other places will be following the DC deployment carefully to see how it is implemented and what it

means for local residents,” West said.

Christopher Galdieri, a political science professor with Saint Anselm College, said: “It’s possible we’ll see other deployments as we did (in Los Angeles) earlier this year.”

“There are always ways to fight back, mainly by throwing metaphorical shoes into the bureaucratic machinery,” Galdieri said.

Clay Ramsay, a senior research associate at the Center for International and Security Studies at the University of Maryland, told Xinhua that Washington is “a special case.” “It has no governor, and the president does have legal authority to use the DC National Guard and the DC police, not to mention the host of different federal law enforcement entities.”

“In other major cities like New York and Chicago, the governor and the mayor acting together may have some options (to resist any National Guard deployment from Trump),” Ramsay said. — Xinhua



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UKRAINE-RUSSIA WAR

Ukraine’s Zelenskyy and Indian PM hold detailed discussion

KYIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Monday held a detailed discussion with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, focusing on key issues related to bilateral cooperation and the ongoing conflict with Russia.

Zelenskyy expressed gratitude for PM Modi’s warm words of support for the Ukrainian people, emphasising the importance of international solidarity during these challenging times.

Sharing the details in a post on X, the Ukrainian President said that the two leaders held discussions on wide-ranging topics.

Zelenskyy wrote on X, “I had a long conversation with the Prime Minister of India @narendramodi. We discussed in detail all important issues – both of our bilateral cooperation and the overall diplomatic situation. I am grateful to the Prime Minister for his warm words of support for our people.”

“We agreed to plan a personal meeting in September during the UN General Assembly and to work on an exchange of visits,” he added.

This conversation comes amid heightened tensions between Russia and Ukraine, with the US and other countries exploring

ways to end the conflict. India has maintained a balanced approach, advocating for peaceful resolution while also strengthening ties with both Russia and Ukraine.

The Ukrainian president briefed PM Modi on recent Russian attacks, including a strike on a bus station in Zaporizhzhia that injured dozens of people. Zelenskyy stressed that these attacks occur at a time when diplomatic efforts could potentially end the war, yet Russia shows no willingness to cease fire.

“I informed about the Russian attacks on our cities and villages, about yesterday’s strike on the bus station in Zaporizhzhia, where dozens of people were injured in a deliberate Russian bombing of a regular urban facility. And this is at a time when there is finally a diplomatic possibility to end the war. Instead of demonstrating readiness for a ceasefire, Russia is showing only its desire to continue the occupation and killings,” Zelenskyy posted on X.

Meanwhile, PM Modi reaffirmed India’s steadfast and consistent position for the peaceful settlement of the Ukraine conflict and support for efforts aimed at the restoration of peace. — ANI



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Over 100 Palestinian children die from acute malnutrition in Gaza

The World Food Programme

indicated that more than 300,000 children in Gaza are at severe risk, with more than a third of the population reported going without food for days at a time

GAZA: UN humanitarian organisations called for urgent action after medical sources in the Gaza Strip announced the deaths of more than 100 children due to malnutrition since the beginning of the war in October 2023. On Monday night, the United Nations Office for the Coordi-

nation of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) described the child death toll exceeding 100 as “a catastrophic milestone that stains the world’s reputation and calls for urgent, long-overdue action.” The World Food Programme indicated that more than 300,000 children in Gaza are at severe risk, with more than a third of the population reported going without food for days at a time. It confirmed that meeting food needs requires more than 62,000 tons per month, while the quantities allowed to enter remain far below the minimum necessary for the survival of approximately two million people. OCHA added that the United Nations and its partners managed to bring limited food, fuel, and supplies through the Kerem Shalom crossing on Sunday, but the shipments were unloaded before reaching their destinations. According to the report, the Israeli authorities allow the entry of approximately 150,000 liters of fuel per day, far less than what is required to ensure the continuation of life-saving operations. More than half of Gaza’s ambulances have reportedly stopped operating due to fuel shortage and and spare parts.



The Food and Agriculture Organization warned that only 1.5 percent of the Strip’s agricultural land remains suitable for agriculture, indicating a near-total collapse of the local food system.

Palestinian Prisoners’ Society warns of escalating abuses, health crisis inside Israeli imprisonment The Palestinian Prisoners’ Society (PPS) has issued a new briefing summarizing the most prominent findings of legal teams’ visits to

detainees in occupation prisons, which took place between the end of July 2025 and the beginning of August. In a statement, the PPS reiterated that Israeli prison system continues to commit systemic crimes and violations against Palestinian detainees. The visits revealed that the vast majority of those interviewed suffering from health problems, some of which are chronic and serious. The testimonies revealed the continued spread of diseases,

particularly scabies, which has infected thousands of detainees over the past period, threatening an ongoing and worsening health catastrophe. The Israeli prison administration, in a systematic and planned manner, imposes conditions aimed at depriving prisoners of their humanity and targeting their consciousness. It also causes chronic diseases that are difficult to treat later, and drives them to a state of physical and psychological exhaustion, which may lead to their death. The PPS described the current situation inside imprisonment as revolving around three main categories of crimes: torture, starvation, and denial of medical treatment. Since the beginning of the genocide brutality nearly 76 detainees have died in jails, making this the bloodiest phase in the history of the Palestinian prisoner movement. It also noted that all detainees face the same violations, although the intensity of their implementation varies from time to time. In Gilboa Prison recently witnessed a significant escalation in repression, including severe beatings, electric shocks, and the reduction of already meager food supplies.

One of the prisoners reported that “the repression is recurrent, occurring on average once a week, and includes beatings, electric shocks, and the use of police dogs, in addition to constant insults and humiliation.” Moving to Ofer Prison, which is currently witnessing an unprecedented and accelerating spread of scabies, despite historically low infection rates there. All testimonies confirmed that the prison administration deliberately keeps infected prisoners alongside healthy ones, accelerating the spread. All detainees share blankets, dishes, and bathrooms, amidst a lack of hygiene. Twelve prisoners receive one bottle of shampoo, which is not enough for three people, while the shower time allocated to each prisoner does not exceed one minute and is not permitted daily. In addition, prisoners are denied ventilation and sunlight, and some sections have been banned from “freezing” for more than a month, under the pretext of the spread of the disease. Prisoners have described the cells as having been transformed into “ovens” due to the high temperatures, lack of ventilation, a shortage of clothing, and severe overcrowding. — Wafa

AHEAD OF ALASKA TALKS

Donald Trump criticises Zelensky’s resistance to ‘land swap’ with Russia

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump late on Monday criticised Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky over his refusal to cede territory to Russia, saying he “disagrees very, very severely” with the Ukrainian leader’s stance, according to media report. “I get along with Zelensky, but, you know, I disagree with what he’s done. Very, very severely disagree. This is a war that should have never happened,” Trump said referring to Russia’s more than three-year conflict with Ukraine. The Hill reported. Trump announced last week that he will meet Russian President Vladimir Putin in Alaska on Friday. The meeting will reportedly include discussions about some territorial swapping for “the betterment of both” countries, a proposal Zelensky strongly opposed on Saturday. “Of course, we will not give Russia any awards for what it has done.

The Ukrainian people deserve peace,” Zelensky said, adding that “all partners” must understand peace and that “Ukrainians will not give their land to an occupier.” Trump expressed frustration with Zelensky’s resistance to territorial concessions. “I was a little bothered by the fact that Zelensky was saying, ‘Well, I have to get constitutional approval.’ I mean, he’s got approval to go into war and kill everybody, but he needs approval to do a land swap -- because there’ll be some land swapping going on,” Trump stated, according to The Hill. The US President emphasised that the land swap would be “for the good of Ukraine,” while acknowledging the complexities involved. “So, it’s good and there’s bad, but it’s very complex, because you have lines that are very uneven, and there’ll be some swapping. There’ll be some changes in land,” he added. — ANI

AT 3RD MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE IN NEW DELHI

India, Singapore to ‘deepen cooperation’

SINGAPORE CITY: The third India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR) will be held in New Delhi on August 13, marking an important ministerial-level platform to drive cooperation in new and emerging areas between the two countries, according to an official statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) in Singapore. The third ISMR will review the progress made since the second roundtable held in Singapore in August 2024 and identify new growth opportunities to deepen bilateral collaboration, the statement added. Leading the Singapore delegation is Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry Gan Kim Yong. The delegation also includes Coordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Home Affairs K Shanmugam, Minister for Foreign Affairs Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Digital Development and Information Josephine Teo, Minister for Manpower and Minister-in-charge of Energy and Science and



Technology Tan See Leng, and Acting Minister for Transport and Senior Minister of State for Finance Jeffrey Siow. The Indian delegation comprises Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar, Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal, and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, Railways, and Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw. This roundtable continues the momentum of high-level visits and exchanges between India and

Singapore, coinciding with the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations in 2025. The milestone reflects the importance both nations place on their bilateral ties and joint commitment to expand collaboration for mutual benefit, the statement said. Singapore-India relations are deep and broad-based, with 2025 marking the 10th anniversary of the Strategic Partnership. Earlier this year, Singapore President Tharman Shanmugaratnam visited India, meeting President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In September 2024, Prime Minister Modi visited Singapore, engaging with Singapore’s President, Prime Minister, and other leaders. During that visit, both countries agreed to elevate their relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, reflecting growing ties. Economic cooperation remains a key pillar, anchored by the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) signed in 2005. Bilateral trade has grown from \$820 billion in 2005 to \$852.2 billion in 2023. Singapore is India’s top foreign investor, accounting for 24 per cent of India’s FDI equity inflows since 2000. Indian investments in Singapore have also grown from \$481 million in 2004 to about \$31.6 billion in 2023. Singapore companies are actively investing in India’s sectors such as manufacturing, sustainability, data centres, and technology innovation. Singapore also serves as the regional hub for many Indian start-ups, especially in fintech and healthcare. — ANI

Full story at timesofoman.com/world

POLLUTION CRISIS

The recycling dilemma: Most plastic still ends up as waste

STUTTGART: It is often said that the world can’t recycle its way out of the plastic pollution crisis. And statistics underscore the reality of that statement. To date, less than a tenth of all the plastic ever made has been given a new lease of life. And just 1% has been recycled twice. The rest ends up in landfills and incinerators. Or it lands in the environment, contaminating soil, air and the oceans — which take up roughly one garbage truck of plastic every minute. “Just because something is recyclable doesn’t mean it’s getting recycled,” said Moritz Jäger-Roschko, a plastics expert at Greenpeace Germany. “Currently, it is simply cheaper to just make a new plastic product than to collect it and recycle it.”

Not all plastics are equal One of the main hurdles to greater re-use is plastic type. Of the thousands out there, some, like cross-linked polymers, are hard to handle. “Recycling doesn’t really work in the mechanical sense because you cannot split them up and bring them back into their original state,” said Marc Kreutzbruck, head of the institute of plastics engineering at Germany’s University of Stuttgart. But being robust, durable and heat-resistant, they are exactly the type of plastics used in aerospace, electronics and automobiles. “Everything in transportation that is focused on lightweight construction relies on these kinds of



plastics,” Kreutzbruck added.

Hazardous chemical additives Another major sticking point is that plastics are often custom formulated with additives that make them more flexible, stronger or cheaper to produce. Sarah Perreard, co-director of global Plastic Footprint Network coalition, said the number of additives that have been invented and used in the past decade “has increased drastically.” “We have almost created this sort of monster that we don’t fully control anymore,” Perreard said. The problems are as complex as the plastics themselves. Firstly, many additives are hazardous to both human health and the environment and can leach out during recycling or even during use in recycled products. And recycling streams contaminated with hazardous additives can be flagged as toxic waste by regulatory agencies, making re-use more complicated or even illegal.

Equally, when recycled together, additives can mix unpredictably and degrade the quality of end material, making it unattractive to manufacturers. Other types of plastics — like PET and HDPE, used in drinking and detergent bottles respectively — are easier to recycle because the materials they’re made from are easier to identify. Yet still, they are often discarded. “If it is technically recyclable but there is no infrastructure in many of the places where this plastic is put on the market, it will not be recycled. It will not even be well managed,” Perreard said. Then there is composite packaging — like chip bags or coffee pods — made from a combination of plastic and aluminum or paper. They are nearly impossible to separate, and most recycling plants can’t process them at all.

Searching for solutions Experts say it is critical to rethink the way plastics are recycled — and some are already finding new ways

to turn even the most difficult-to-recycle waste into something useful. Veena Sahajwalla, a materials scientist at the University of New South Wales in Australia, challenges the notion that every product must come back in the exact same form when recycled. “The journey for us started at that point where we’re saying, what do people mean when they say this is not recyclable? But what if we could remanufacture completely different products out of it?” she said. Sahajwalla is pioneering ‘microfactories’ that transform mixed plastic waste like e-waste plastics — which are usually difficult to recycle — into high-value materials. “We create pools of plastic filaments that are made from 100% recycled materials out of all the difficult plastics that are in all the hardware like IT printers. And these recycled plastic filaments are then fed into a 3D printer,” she said. The idea is to use the new mate-



rial for remanufacturing — right at the source. “So, for example, our microfactory is located in the warehouse where our industry partner is basically now taking that plastic and producing these plastic filaments right there in the warehouse itself in Sydney.” A piece that’s needed to fix a broken computer or printer, for instance, can be created right there in the 3D printers from recycled plastic. “So, let’s not say the problem is with the raw material. Let’s talk about how we can design and redesign our manufacturing processes,” Sahajwalla said.

The role of policy Recycling alone won’t fix the crisis without cutting production, though, according to Jäger-Roschko. That’s why policy matters, too. What’s really needed, experts say, is effective regulation. And Perreard from the Plastic Footprint Network calls for global rules that apply to every coun-

try. “Even businesses want these rules,” she said. The latest round of UN Plastic Treaty negotiations offers a historic chance to tackle plastic pollution and recycling issues. Greenpeace is calling for a 75% reduction in plastic production by 2040, according to Jäger-Roschko. Yet, the fossil fuel industry, which provides the oil and gas from which plastic is derived, is holding firm. “Countries that produce oil are not in favor of a strong treaty because we see that with the shift towards renewable energy, a lot of the oil is going to be reduced over time, and plastic is a great outlet for countries that produce oil,” Perreard said. She is pushing for policies that would hold companies accountable for packaging throughout their lifecycle. After all, experts say these big companies helped create the plastic crisis, and they have a responsibility to redesign packaging, cut down on single-use plastics, and invest in real reuse systems. — DW

SPORTS

FOOTBALL LEGEND

Cristiano Ronaldo gets engaged to long-time girlfriend Georgina



NEW DELHI: Legendary Portugal and Al-Nassr striker Cristiano Ronaldo is finally engaged to his long-time girlfriend Georgina Rodriguez, with the latter taking to social media to show the engagement ring.

The football legend's partner took to social media, showing off a shiny ring with caption, "Yes I do. In this and in all my lives." Cristiano also appears and is tagged in the picture.

It has almost been a decade since both have been dating and have four children together.

Also, Georgina shared some pictures on Instagram, showcasing a grand arrangement as the couple hosted some close friends on the occasion of Friendship Day, which fuelled speculations of the superstar footballer's engagement to his girlfriend.

The 40-year-old icon is aiming for a brilliant season with Al-Nassr, with an eye on the biggest

prize, the Saudi Pro League title, a trophy which he has not been able to win since he arrived in the Middle East way back in 2023. The squad has been strengthened with the presence of his national team-mate Joao Felix, while Kingsley Coman is also going to join the Saudi giants, as per Goal.com.

Back in June, Cristiano renewed his contract with Al Nassr till 2027.

The superstar footballer signed with the Club in 2022 after the World Cup that year, leaving Manchester United to become a free agent. His deal was for two and a half years.

Showing no signs of ageing and decline, he led Portugal to the UEFA Nations League title earlier this month, defeating Spain in the final. With over 930 goals scored across his career already, he is aiming for the 1,000-goal mark. -ANI

Brevis' record knock levels series for SA

Dewald Brevis' record-shattering 125* powered South Africa to a commanding 53-run win over Australia, levelling the three-game T20I series

DARWIN: South Africa levelled the T20I series 1-1 with a commanding 53-run win, powered by a sensational knock from Dewald Brevis in the second T20I in Darwin. The 22-year-old became the youngest South Africa batter to score a T20I century and the second-fastest to achieve the feat for the Proteas in Men's T20Is, finishing unbeaten on 125.

Brevis' ton, which came in merely 41 balls, sits behind David Miller's 35-ball century against Bangladesh in 2017.

Australia made a good start after opting to bowl, restricting South Africa's early scoring. Ben Dwarshuis struck first, removing Ryan Rickelton in the fourth over, before Glenn Maxwell added two more quick wickets, leaving South Africa reeling at 57-3 by the end of the seventh over.

Dewald Brevis turned the game



on its head for the Proteas with a stunning unbeaten 125 off just 56 balls, with 12 fours and eight sixes to his name. The 22-year-old forged a 126-run partnership with Tristan Stubbs and went on to record the highest individual score in T20Is by a South African batter.

While South Africa lost batters in the later overs, Brevis kept going from his end, helping South Africa go past 200.

His knock was also the highest

score against Australia in T20Is, surpassing Rituraj Gaikwad unbeaten 123 in 2023. His innings, which is also the highest individual score in T20Is on Australian soil, lifted the tourists to a formidable total of 218.

South Africa carried their momentum into the second innings, striking early to remove key batters: Travis Head and Cameron Green, putting Australia on the back foot. Tim David maintained his fine form from the first T20I

with another brisk half-century, but Kagiso Rabada managed to draw a loose shot from David, bringing his innings to an end.

Alex Carey offered some resistance as the hosts tried to make a comeback late in the game, but the target ultimately proved too steep for Australia, as they fell to a 53-run defeat — their second-biggest loss in a home T20I.

The series deciding final T20I will be played in Cairns on August 16th. -ANI

THRILLING DAY OF ACTION

It's an amazing experience, says Aaron Finch on playing with tennis ball

GHAZIABAD: The inaugural season of the LEGEN-Z T10 League got off to an electrifying start in Ghaziabad, with cricketing legends and fresh young talents sharing the stage in a thrilling day of action on Monday.

International stars such as Jesse Ryder, Aaron Finch, Ross Taylor, and Tillakaratne Dilshan took the field in the ongoing LEGEN-Z T10

League, showcasing their adaptability and flair.

In the opening clash, Jesse Ryder's Mumbai Stars defeated Aaron Finch's Bengal Tigers by six wickets. T20 World Cup-winning captain Finch lauded the unique experience of returning to a tennis-ball format after years.

"After a long time, I got the chance to play with the tennis ball,

and it was an amazing experience. This (referring to a player) young 20-year-old played exceptionally well. Playing with the hard ball is different, but his technique is impressive. I wish him all the very best on and off the ground," said Finch after the match as quoted by a press release.

Mayank Walia, who made an impressive debut in the LEGEN-Z

T10, scoring 35 runs with 4 sixes in 15 balls, taking two wickets. Speaking about his performance, Walia said, "Today was my day. This was my first match on a professional platform -- from gully cricket to the big pitch, I'm finally here. This is just beginning. Thank you, LEGEN-Z T10 for trusting me."

The second encounter of the day saw Ross Taylor's Royal Challengers

Delhi overpower Herschelle Gibbs' MP Spartans by six wickets. Taylor's side showcased composure in their chase, making a strong statement early in the tournament.

The local Indian players are sharing the field with global icons they once idolised on television. This transformation, from "Gali Se TV Tak", represents the very essence of the LEGEN-Z T10

League.

In the final match of the day, Southern United outclassed Rajasthan Raiders by 28 runs, capping off an action-packed opening day.

On Tuesday, all six teams will return to the field as the league stage enters Day 2, with the qualifiers and eliminator slated for August 15, followed by the grand finale on August 16. -ANI

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OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES
The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by October 2025 reaching \$68.46, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 48 cents from the price of Monday, which was \$67.98. - **ONA**

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER
The MSX index closed at 4,893.61 points, up by 0.62% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.98% at 476.10 points. SMN Power Holding, up 9.50%, was the top gainer while United Finance, down 3.00%, was the top loser.

New pacts signed for mining and exploration in Al Buraimi, Al Wusta

These projects will contribute to diversifying the economic base, increasing the competitiveness of Omani products, and raising the mining sector's contribution to the GDP

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Energy and Minerals has signed three new agreements for exploration and mining with two specialised companies. The aim is to strengthen the mining sector, enhance the added value of mineral resources in the Sultanate of Oman, open new horizons for investors in geologically prioritised areas and boost national production.

The first agreement grants exploration and mining rights to Gulf Mining Materials Company in Concession Area C-11 in Al Buraimi Governorate. This area spans 1,089 square kilometres and is characterised by the ophiolite rock series and indicators of copper and chromium ores. The first phase of the project, which will last for



two to three years, will include topographical, geochemical, and geophysical surveys, in addition to drilling and exploratory trenching. The second and third agreements cover Concession Areas G1-51 and G2-51 in Al Wusta Governorate. The Ministry signed these agreements with Novel Muscat International Company to implement an integrated industrial project in Area G2-51, which spans 30 square kilometres. A factory will be built to produce salts and sodium carbonate (soda ash) through water channels that transport seawater to specialised evaporation, drying, and production basins.

In Area G1-51, which covers 558 square kilometres, a factory will be established to produce hydrated lime. The company will begin with exploratory studies to identify the locations and quality of ores and estimate their reserves in geological

formations rich in silica, limestone, and various clays.

The total investment in these projects, which includes factories, studies, and mining plans, is estimated at OMR192 million (\$500 million) and in accordance with approved international standards.

Eng. Salim Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals, stated that the mining sector is one of the main engines of economic growth in Oman. He explained that the Ministry is working to attract qualitative investments capable of creating a tangible economic impact, not just through the extraction of mineral resources, but also by transforming them into advanced processing industries that support value chains and open new opportunities for national competencies.

He noted that the agreements signed are part of this direction,



as they focus on leveraging the knowledge and technical expertise of specialised companies and enhancing cooperation between the public and private sectors to ensure optimal utilisation of resources.

The Minister pointed out that these projects will contribute to diversifying the economic base, increasing the competitiveness of Omani products, and raising the mining sector's contribution to the GDP. They will also provide meaningful job opportunities for the people of the governorates and wilayats where these projects are located, in addition to providing support services for local small and medium enterprises.

Abdullah Ahmed Al Hadi, CEO of Gulf Mining Materials Company, explained that the company has successfully developed a ferrochrome factory in the Wilayat

of Sohar, North Al Batinah Governorate, in alliance with strategic international partners. The aim is to increase production capacity to 7,200 tons per month by 2026 and improve the efficiency of operational processes.

Al Hadi noted that the company is committed to enhancing operational sustainability according to best global practices, localising modern technologies, developing national cadres, attracting foreign direct investment, and contributing to economic diversification.

He emphasised that national cadres will be prioritised for employment and that sufficient opportunities will be provided to small and medium enterprises through subcontractors.

Hamoud Said Al Aufi, Managing Director of Novel Muscat International Company, stated that with the signing of the con-

cession agreement, the company will begin the phase of national manufacturing by establishing an integrated industrial complex that transforms mineral resources into locally processed products. This will enhance added value and create job opportunities. He explained that this agreement will contribute to developing processing industries and maximising the added value of natural resources, in line with national sustainable development goals.

These agreements reflect the Ministry of Energy and Minerals' direction toward building an integrated mining sector that keeps pace with global developments in mining industries and enhances Oman's competitiveness at the regional and international levels. They also confirm the Ministry's commitment to creating a flexible and attractive investment environment that draws in specialised companies with high technical expertise and opens the door for qualitative partnerships between the public and private sectors.

Through these projects, the Ministry of Energy and Minerals seeks to develop processing industries related to mineral resources, improve the efficiency of national resource utilisation, expand the base of local production, create qualitative job opportunities for the residents of the targeted governorates, and increase the mining sector's contribution to supporting the national economy and diversifying income sources. This solidifies Oman's position as a regional hub for advanced mining industries. - **ONA**

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Duqm Summer Series focuses on how to keep talent switched on and ready for change

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad) continued its inaugural Duqm Summer Series on Tuesday with a one-hour session on workforce development – a subject increasingly at the heart of business strategy.

In a world of rapid change, finding, keeping and growing the right people has become as important as securing investment or winning new markets.

Organised by Hanan Al Siyabi, Section Head, Marketing & Business Development at Sezad, the lunchtime session was led by Auf Al Aufi, Talent Management Section Head at Development Bank. His focus, how to build teams that is not only resilient, but able to adapt quickly, work with purpose and see opportunity in change.

“The most successful organizations are those that understand talent is not a fixed asset, it's a living, evolving capability,” said Al Aufi. “We spoke Tuesday about developing leaders who are comfortable with ambiguity and teams that can adapt quickly without losing focus. That means investing in skills, culture and the systems that allow people to work at their best.”



The case for such investment is clear. Gallup's State of the Global Workplace 2024 report found that only 21% of employees worldwide are actively engaged at work, with disengagement costing the global economy US\$8.8 trillion a year – around 9% of GDP. The Society for Human Resource Management estimates that replacing an employee can cost up to twice their annual salary when recruitment, training, lost productivity and cultural impact are factored in. And with Gallup reporting that more than half of the global workforce is actively seeking new opportunities, retention is no longer an HR side issue, it is a decisive factor in

business performance.

Tuesday's discussion moved beyond traditional HR fixes. It explored the full employee journey, from thoughtful onboarding that embeds organisational purpose, to career paths built on fairness, inclusion and wellbeing.

Participants examined how development opportunities can be made transparent and how to create workplaces people actively choose to stay in, contribute to and innovate from.

The conversation also drew a line back to last week's session on AI and automation. As technology reshapes skills needs, the consensus was clear – successful AI strat-

egies go hand in hand with equally ambitious people strategies – reskilling, continuous learning and leaders ready to guide teams through transformation.

For Al Siyabi, the link between talent and competitiveness is obvious. “Duqm has always been about building for the long-term,” she said. “These sessions give our tenants the tools and perspective to develop their people with the same care they put into developing their infrastructure. Workforce resilience is not just an HR concern it's a competitiveness concern.”

The Duqm Summer Series began on 5 August with Saeed Abul Ghafoor, CEO of Star Drones, leading a session on AI and automation. It continues through August with discussions on global supply chains and workplace culture, each a focused, one-hour exchange designed to give participants practical insights they can put to work immediately.

In an era where talent is as valuable as capital, Duqm is positioning itself not just as a logistics and industrial hub, but as a place where organisations invest in the people who will shape their future and the region's contribution to the global economy.

REPORT

Mena region saw 14 IPOs raise \$2.5bn in second quarter

Times News Service

MUSCAT: According to the latest EY Mena IPO Eye report, markets in the Mena region saw 14 IPOs during Q2 2025, raising \$2.5 billion in proceeds. This marks a 4% increase in capital raised when compared to Q1 2025, demonstrating sustained investor appetite and the resilience of regional capital markets.

In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), the second quarter's largest IPO was flynas, which debuted on the Tadawul Main Market and accounted for 44% of Q2's total proceeds. This was followed by Specialized Medical Company, which raised US\$500m, and United Carton Industries Company with US\$160m.

In the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the Dubai Financial Market (DFM) welcomed Dubai Residential REIT, which raised US\$584 million. The listing marks a significant milestone as the largest Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) by market capitalization in the GCC and the first pure-play residential leasing REIT in the region.

Brad Watson, Mena EY-Parthenon Leader, says: “The second quarter of this year has reinforced the Mena region's position as a resilient and dynamic IPO market. In spite of investors practicing caution, we have seen strong growth. The diversity of sectors represented, along with milestone listings such as Dubai Residential REIT, highlights the depth of opportunities across the region. With a healthy pipeline for the remainder of 2025, we expect this momentum to continue.”

While after-market performance varied, with 10 of the 14 IPOs closing below their offer price on debut, five listings recorded gains, reflecting a cautious investor sentiment. Companies are increasingly strategic about market timing, carefully assessing investor sentiment and macroeconomic conditions before going public.

In terms of equity market per-



formance, the Boursa Kuwait Premier Market Index led regional gains in Q2 2025, rising 17.2%, while other markets posted mixed results.

Shift toward secondary listings

The nature of IPO proceeds in Q2 2025 reflects a notable shift, with secondary listings accounting for 64.3% of all IPOs, up from 35.7% in Q1 2025. This suggests a preference among issuers for shareholder exits over new capital raising, further demonstrating a more cautious approach amid ongoing market uncertainty.

Gregory Hughes, Mena EY-Parthenon IPO Leader, says: “KSA continues to set the pace for IPO activity in the Mena region, attracting strong interest across multiple sectors. At the same time, landmark transactions in the UAE show how regional exchanges are evolving to meet the needs of a broadening investor base. This diversity, combined with continued enhancements in market governance, is key to sustaining long-term growth.”

The outlook for Mena IPOs in the second half of 2025 remains strong, supported by a healthy pipeline of 14 planned listings across a range of sectors. KSA continues to lead with 10 anticipated offerings, while upcoming activity from Egypt, Tunisia, and Morocco highlights the region's expanding market depth and diversification.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

India's retail inflation eases to 1.55% in July 2025, lowest since June 2017

NEW DELHI: India's retail inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), eased sharply to 1.55 per cent in July 2025 on a year-on-year basis, marking the lowest level since June 2017, according to data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on Tuesday.

The decline of 55 basis points from June 2025's headline inflation reflects easing prices across key categories and a favourable base effect.

Food inflation, based on the Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI), dropped further into nega-

tive territory at -1.76 per cent in July, compared to -1.01 per cent in June. This marks the lowest level of food inflation since January 2019. The fall is attributed to a broad-based decline in prices of pulses and products, vegetables, cereals, eggs, sugar and confectionery, as well as transport and communication services.

Urban inflation

In rural areas, headline inflation fell to 1.18 per cent in July from 1.72 per cent in June, while rural food inflation declined to -1.74 per cent from -0.87 per cent over

the same period. Urban inflation also eased, falling to 2.05 per cent in July from 2.56 per cent in June, with urban food inflation slipping further to -1.90 per cent from -1.17 per cent.

Sector-wise, the housing inflation rate stood at 3.17 per cent in July, nearly unchanged from 3.18% in June. Education inflation eased to 4.00 per cent in July from 4.37 per cent a month earlier. Health inflation, however, edged up slightly to 4.57 per cent from 4.38 per cent in June.

A notable decline was recorded in the transport and communica-

tion category, where inflation fell sharply to 2.12 per cent in July from 3.90 per cent in June. Fuel and light inflation inched up to 2.67 per cent, compared to 2.55 per cent in the previous month.

The sharp moderation in both headline and food inflation is expected to provide some relief to policymakers and consumers, particularly in a period of global economic uncertainty.

The data reflects continued softening of price pressures in both rural and urban segments, suggesting a favourable inflation outlook in the near term. - **ANI**

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

SMN Power Holding, up 9.50%, was the top gainer while, United Finance, down 3.00%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,893.61 points, up by 0.62% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.98% at 476.10 points. SMN Power Holding, up 9.50%, was the top gainer while, United Finance, down 3.00%, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 3010 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 28.39 million, with more than 120.5 million shares changing hands. Out of 68 traded securities, 29 advanced, 19 declined, and 20 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for RO 391K while foreign investors were net sellers for RO 246K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 145K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 8,181.58 points, up 0.10%. Prices of Muscat Finance, Financial Corporation, Takaful Oman, Al Madina Takaful, Bank Nizwa

were up by 3.77%, 2.13%, 1.92%, 1.19%, 0.97% respectively. Prices of United Finance, National Finance, Al Madina Investments, Al Sharqia Investment, Ominvest were down by 2.99%, 2.96%, 2.33%, 1.18%, 0.88% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 7,103.10 points, up 1.03%. Prices of A'Saffa Foods, Jazeera Steel Products, Oman Cement, Al Anwar Ceramics were up by 6.00%, 4.26%, 2.13%, 0.54% respectively. Prices of Construction Materials, Dhofar Cattle Feed, Muscat Thread Mill, Gulf International Chemicals, Voltamp Energy were down by 2.94%, 2.78%, 2.17%, 1.33%, 1.21% respectively.

Services Index was up by 1.06% before closing at 1,865.60 points. Prices of SMN Power Holding, Muscat Gases, Abraj Energy, National Gas, Al Batinah Power were up by 9.55%, 6.67%, 4.09%, 1.19%, 1.06% respectively. Prices of Muscat Desalination, Oman Oil Marketing were down by 2.67%, 0.13% respectively.

— United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,900.465	4,853.844	4,893.613	4,863.319	30.294	0.62%
FINANCIAL INDEX	8,187.073	8,137.840	8,181.579	8,173.273	8.306	0.10%
Industry Index	7,115.897	7,018.910	7,103.102	7,030.773	72.329	1.03%
Services Index	1,867.453	1,845.193	1,865.599	1,846.054	19.545	1.06%
MSX Shariah Index	476.377	470.545	476.102	471.489	4.613	0.98%
MSX TR INDEX	7,252.443	7,183.447	7,242.302	7,197.468	44.834	0.62%
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	8,744.369	8,625.185	8,728.645	8,639.764	88.881	1.03%
SERVICES TR IDX	2,388.468	2,359.997	2,386.096	2,361.098	24.998	1.06%
FINANCIAL TR IDX	9,726.528	9,668.037	9,720.001	9,710.134	9.867	0.10%
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,204.641	1,204.641	1,204.641	1,204.641	0.000	0.00%

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
29,565,612.42	120,502,278.	28,393,583	3,010.	29	19	20	68

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, AUGUST 12

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAID VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	400	212.000	1	0.530	0.530	0.530	0.530	0.500	0.030	6.00%	0.530	0.500	0.550	0.100	63,600,000.000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	16,965	8,066.830	7	0.470	0.490	0.470	0.490	0.470	0.020	4.26%	0.490	0.475	0.490	0.100	61,200,000.000
OM0000008854	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	7,343.938	1,981,415.846	174	0.268	0.280	0.268	0.280	0.268	0.011	4.09%	0.273	0.272	0.273	0.100	215,650,000.000
OM0000002786	BANK MUSCAT	27,775.054	8,628,149.167	358	0.310	0.315	0.307	0.315	0.312	0.003	0.98%	0.315	0.315	0.315	0.100	2,364,515,745.530
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	2,128.124	1,940,985.134	33	0.913	0.914	0.911	0.914	0.912	0.002	0.23%	0.914	0.913	0.914	0.100	685,500,000.000
OM0000003968	QOREDOO	18,865	4,754.575	7	0.251	0.253	0.251	0.252	0.250	0.002	0.80%	0.251	0.250	0.253	0.100	164,079,456.960
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	318,216	56,209.552	27	0.185	0.188	0.185	0.187	0.186	0.001	0.54%	0.187	0.185	0.187	0.100	41,500,000.000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	312.368	89,023.423	37	0.284	0.286	0.282	0.286	0.285	0.001	0.35%	0.286	0.283	0.286	0.100	67,632,280.000
OM0000002226	AL JAZEERA SERVICES	42,650	8,001.550	10	0.186	0.187	0.186	0.187	0.186	0.001	0.54%	0.187	0.186	0.200	0.100	8,011,638.317
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	54,900	7,631.100	3	0.139	0.139	0.139	0.139	0.138	0.001	0.73%	0.139	0.139	0.150	0.100	27,800,000.000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	38.331	3,965.257	10	0.104	0.104	0.103	0.104	0.103	0.001	0.97%	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.100	232,643,115.328
OM0000004789	MADINA TAKAFUL	213.988	17,594.857	14	0.084	0.085	0.084	0.085	0.084	0.001	1.19%	0.085	0.084	0.085	0.100	14,875,000.000
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	361.073	33,952.412	21	0.093	0.095	0.093	0.095	0.094	0.001	1.06%	0.095	0.093	0.096	0.100	64,114,305.850
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	549.007	170,192.170	4	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.000	0.00%	0.310	0.304	0.310	0.100	504,943,770.650
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	637.962	59,762.351	38	0.094	0.095	0.093	0.094	0.094	0.000	0.00%	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.100	67,154,195.960
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	12,361.066	1,912,166.609	252	0.155	0.156	0.153	0.155	0.155	0.000	0.00%	0.155	0.156	0.155	0.100	671,246,707.600
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	42.603	10,627.311	7	0.236	0.239	0.235	0.237	0.238	-0.001	-0.42%	0.237	0.235	0.237	0.100	23,700,000.000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	25,165.967	3,483,914.030	204	0.139	0.140	0.138	0.139	0.139	-0.001	-0.72%	0.138	0.138	0.126	0.100	913,179,985.260
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO.	31.000	2,604.000	2	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.085	-0.001	-1.18%	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.100	7,560,000.000
OM0000002274	UNITED FINANCE	202.500	13,171.000	8	0.067	0.067	0.065	0.065	0.067	-0.002	-2.88%	0.065	0.065	0.066	0.100	21,148,274.370
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	112.103	25,267.739	14	0.226	0.226	0.225	0.225	0.227	-0.002	-0.88%	0.225	0.224	0.225	0.100	210,535,109.100
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	166	126.120	1	0.820	0.820	0.820	0.820	0.820	0.000	0.00%	0.820	0.820	0.827	0.100	76,762,792.840
Total	22	77,727,376	18,460,543.734	1,236												

Parallel Market

OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	398.946	86,362.468	63	0.208	0.218	0.208	0.218	0.199	0.019	9.55%	0.218	0.218	0.217	0.100	43,520,560.800
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	1,200	1,245.000	2	0.480	0.480	0.480	0.470	0.480	0.010	2.13%	0.480	0.471	0.480	0.100	158,818,900.800
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	17,256.973	8,129,223.681	1,195	0.351	0.359	0.351	0.359	0.351	0.008	2.28%	0.359	0.316	0.359	0.100	2,872,000,000.000
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	50.247	3,398.182	4	0.106	0.112	0.106	0.112	0.105	0.007	6.67%	0.112	0.107	0.115	0.100	3,360,000.000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	73,819	3,986.326	11	0.054	0.055	0.054	0.055	0.053	0.002	3.77%	0.055	0.053	0.055	0.100	16,893,047.875
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	253.115	45,589.400	10	0.180	0.182	0.180	0.181	0.180	0.001	0.56%	0.181	0.176	0.181	0.100	28,960,000.000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	15.189	1,291.065	4	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.084	0.001	1.19%	0.085	0.082	0.086	0.100	7,225,000.000
OM0000002911	FINANCIAL CORPORATION	20	0.960	1	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.047	0.047	0.001	2.13%	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.100	3,361,438.680
OM0000002200	ABRAJ BANK	342.150	50,352.004	9	0.148	0.148	0.147	0.148	0.147	0.001	0.68%	0.148	0.147	0.150	0.100	404,964,477.804
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVE	2,000	242.000	1	0.121	0.121	0.121	0.121	0.120	0.001	0.83%	0.121	0.121	0.121	0.100	18,150,000.000
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	58.070	3,073.110	5	0.052	0.053	0.052	0.053	0.052	0.001	1.92%	0.053	0.051	0.053	0.100	13,250,000.000
OM0000007811	MISANDAM POWER	4,848	9,051.646	4	0.286	0.286	0.286	0.286	0.286	0.000	0.00%	0.286	0.286	0.286	0.100	128,708,828.480
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	3,900	514.800	2	0.132	0.132	0.132	0.132	0.131	0.001	0.76%	0.132	0.132	0.137	0.100	9,968,904.000
OM0000009908	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SEFZ)	18,313.903	2,625,255.453	226	0.143	0.145	0.142	0.144	0.143	0.001	0.70%	0.144	0.143	0.144	0.100	45,148,252.400
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	48,809	30,748.670	1	0.630	0.630	0.630	0.630	0.630	0.000	0.00%	0.630	0.620	0.630	0.100	59,850,000.000
OM0000001722	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	25.370	2,131.080	3	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.000	0.00%	0.084	0.084	0.086	0.100	25,079,448.204
OM0000002267	MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	1,000	1,175.000	2	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.000	0.00%	0.235	0.227	0.235	0.100	10,715,982.530
OM0000001085	DHOFAR INSURANCE	25.320	5,190.600	3	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.000	0.00%	0.205	0.202	0.205	0.100	23,891,952.745
OM0000001681	OMAN EMBASSIES HO.	5,000	350.000	2	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.000	0.00%	0.070	0.066	0.070	0.100	8,431,250.000
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	9,450	4,403.700	2	0.466	0.466	0.466	0.466	0.466	0.000	0.00%	0.466	0.466	0.466	0.100	77,094,720.000
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALLAH	34,007	59,632.765	47	0.180	0.181	0.155	0.180	0.180	0.000	0.00%	0.180	0.159	0.180	0.100	152,751,512.000
OM0000005963	PHOSNIA POWER	129,902	11,406.300	16	0.087	0.088	0.087	0.088	0.088	0.000	0.00%	0.088	0.086	0.088	0.100	36,177,809.160
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	35.250	2,714.250	10	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.000	0.00%	0.077	0.077	0.079	0.100	17,112,480.000
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	207.869	31,007.523	9	0.150	0.150	0.147	0.149	0.149	0.000	0.00%	0.149	0.148	0.149	0.100	248,162,260.000
OM0000001020	ASADY SHIPPING	4,486.824	559,522.400	64	0.125	0.125	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.000	0.00%	0.124	0.124	0.125	0.000	64,584,200.720
OM0000001682	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	27.700	1,163.400	4	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.043	-0.001	-2.33%	0.042	0.042	0.047	0.100	3,570,000.000
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	10,011	1,301.430	4	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.131	-0.001	-0.79%	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.100	36,177,809.160
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	74,331	55,673.919	1	0.749	0.749	0.749	0.749	0.750	-0.001	-0.13%	0.749	0.700	0.750	0.100	45,894,975.000
OM0000003028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	12,366	1,384.666	6	0.073	0.076	0.073	0.074	0.075	-0.001	-1.33%	0.074	0.074	0.075	0.100	1,554,000.000
OM0000003027	23503 SHEET FUND	2,500	235.000	1	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.000	0.00%	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.100	235,000.000
OM0000001301	DHOFA FOODS AND INVESTMENT	9,217	645.190	3	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.072	-0.002	-2.78%	0.070	0.070	0.078	0.100	13,837,384.610
OM0000003028	CONSUMER MATERIAL INDUSTRIES	7,000	700.000	3	0.065	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.069	-0.002	-2.82%	0.068	0.066	0.069	0.100	4,100,000.000
OM0000007084	USCATA CITY DESALINATION	4,000.000	2,000.000	3	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.000	0.00%	0.073	0.073	0.077	0.100	11,055,177.000
OM0000003036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	1,800	255.000	3	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.184	-0.004	-2.17%	0.180	0.180	0.190	0.100	21,727,259.340
OM0000002846	MUSCAT FINANCE	73,800	3,980.000	11	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.000	0.00%	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.100	16,893,047.875
Total		423,971.987	97,926.999,227	1,734												



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Civil Engineer with 10 yrs of experience in Oman.D/L & transferable visa.Contact 94037606 Email Urdijamu299@gmail.com.

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Indian male accountant M.Com 12 yrs exp. in Oman with DL/NOC looking for suitable job Contact: 95061334 Email: eliasbeig87@gmail.com

Indian female M.Com (Finance) & B.Ed. looking for an Accountant or teaching job. Contact +969 99899620. Email anjaliajayan1998@gmail.com

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Indian male 14 yrs of sales & marketing experience in construction related materials looking for suitable placement with valid D/L. Contact: 95136784

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LIFESTYLE

INSTAGRAM

ROLLS OUT

NEW ‘REPOST’, ‘INTERACTIVE MAP’,

AND ‘FRIEND TAB’

FEATURES



The Repost feature will help users share others’ content with your own followers and friends. The feature will also give credit to the original poster

Instagram has launched three new major features -- Repost, Interactive Map, and Friends tab -- for its users. The Repost feature will help users share others’ content with your own followers and friends. The feature will give credit to the original poster. ‘Interactive Map’ feature will remind you of Snapchat Map. With this option, one can share their last active location with a chosen group of friends. The user can see their locations and content they’ve posted from interesting places. Also, the feature is designed with safety as a priority--parents of supervised teen accounts will be notified if their child turns on location sharing.

“Share locations with friends and see what’s happening around you on the Instagram map. And if you’re a parent with supervision set up for your teen, you have control over whether they can share their location, and who they’re sharing with,” said Instagram. The Maps feature is off until users choose to turn location sharing on. The Friends tab within Reels helps users see what their friends have liked, commented on, or recommended via Blends. On Wednesday, Instagram shared these updates through an official blog post, accompanied by a reel from platform chief Adam Mosseri, where he opened up about the new features in detail. -ANI

SPORTS

OMAN SAIL

Oman’s young sailors head to Lake Geneva for the 2025 Optimist Team Race

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A team of four Optimist sailors from Oman Sail will represent the nation at this year’s International Optimist Team Race in Cologny, Switzerland, from 14-17 August 2025.

Led by Hashim Al Rashdi, Oman Sail’s Head Coach – Performance, and coached by Sultan Al Zadjali, the team will join 12 teams from around the world on Lake Geneva for an unforgettable sailing experience.

The team comprises Khamis Nasser Al Meshaihi, Mohammed Ziyad Al Qasmi, Tarteel Zaid Al Hasani and Hadeel Yousuf Al Mushaifri. Racing will be in teams of four, beginning with a round-

robin phase, to give all teams the opportunity to compete against each other. From there, the quarterfinals and semifinals will see competition intensify, before the coveted finals.

Hashim Al Rashdi, Head Coach - Performance, said, “This is another exciting opportunity for our young sailors to gain experience in a high-calibre competition. The waters of Lake Geneva have been home to elite sailing for decades and it is an honour to take part at the 2025 International Optimist Team Race. We will be aiming for a good performance and continue the progress we have made together this season.”

Khamis Nasser Al Meshaihi, member of the Optimist team, added, “It will be a great experience to



test ourselves against other young sailors from around the world. We are all improving with each race, and in training, so this gives us the chance to put those learnings into

practice and see where we rank as a team. There are several competitions in the coming months, so every race is important in terms of our development.”

The 2025 International Optimist Team Race is organised by the Société Nautique de Genève (SNG). More information about the event is available [here](#).

The team will arrive in Switzerland after competing in the African Optimist Championship from 2-9 August in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, which featured 75 sailors from 14 nations. Khamis Al Meshaihi finished 18th overall, followed by Tarteel Al Hasani in 36th, Hadeel Al Mushaifri in 45th, Mohammed Al Qasmi in 47th, and Khalid Al Sarhi in 52nd.

Following the conclusion of the event, the team will head to Sur for the Oman Sailing Championship from 18-22 August, before beginning their preparations for 14th edition of Mussanah Race Week from 15-22 October and the IODA Optimist Asian & Oceanian Championship, also held in Mussanah, from 25 October – 1 November.

Lloyd expresses apprehensions about two-tier system for WTC

If the two-tier WTC system comes in place in future, it is a possibility that West Indies cricket administrators are wary of and are hoping to have a say in it



ST JOHN’S [ANTIGUA]: Former West Indies (WI) captain Clive Lloyd expressed his apprehensions about a possible, much-debated two-tier system for the ICC World Test Championship (WTC), saying that the team is “just two years out of being in that group for 100 years”.

If the two-tier WTC system comes in place in future, it is a possibility that WI cricket admin-

istrators are wary of and are hoping to have a say in it, as Cricket West Indies (CWI) chief executive Chris Dehring put it.

“All of that we have a role to play in, we have a seat at the table at the ICC,” Dehring said during the presser as quoted by ESPNcricinfo,

organised after CWI’s emergency meeting involving the team’s legends over the years. This meeting took place in the aftermath of WI being skittled out for 27 runs, the second-lowest Test total ever, during the third Test against Australia last month.

“We have to just stay as close as possible to all the changes that could happen, position ourselves, hedging our bets so to speak, to make sure we are in there as West Indies cricket, no matter which way the wind blows and try to take advantage of it,” he added.

Last month, the International Cricket Council (ICC) formed a working group, led by former New Zealand cricketer Roger Twose, to look into, among many things, improving the WTC ahead of the 2025-27 cycle.

A two-tier system for the same was discussed significantly during the body’s annual conference in July. Twose, the New Zealand Cricket (NZC) representative on the ICC Board, is expected to make recommendations to the board.

The debate about a two-tier WTC has been around even before the WTC was a proper league-based tournament with a title clash. This topic has proven to be a divisive one among Full Members of the ICC who enjoy the privilege of playing Tests.

WTC campaigns

In all WTC campaigns so far, WI finished at eighth out of nine teams, having notched just 10 wins across these three editions in 39 Tests, losing 23 and drawing six.

Lloyd, invited to the meeting along with the legends from yesteryears like Brian Lara, Viv Richards and others, pointed his finger at the share of ICC money that member boards are given.

He said that West Indies deserves consideration financially despite their falling standards over the years, given their status as a top team from the 1970s to the 1980s and an extremely competitive unit in the 1990s and 2000s.

“We have to look at what is happening at the ICC with the share-out of the money. India, Australia and England get 180 million and West Indies will get 80 million like Bangladesh and Afghanistan, and we are just two years out of being in that group for 100 years,” Lloyd said.

“To me, it is not right. We have to stand up. We have to go to the ICC and ask for special dispensation. Because when we were in the ascendancy, and we were playing so well, everyone wanted to play with us.”

“We were playing Australia very often, with England very often, and when we went to Pakistan or India, getting millions of people [to the grounds]. We need to get a better share of the pie, because we were the cash cows for a long time. And we need to get some of that. I am hoping the board follows up on that recommendation where we can be adequately given the money that is needed,” he concluded. -ANI

ROOM FOR SURPRISES

Premier League ‘middle-class’ looking for surprises and upsets



LONDON: Crystal Palace’s thrilling win on penalties against Liverpool in the Community Shield at Wembley on Sunday showed there is still room for surprises in an English top-flight and the ability of the so-called ‘middle-class’ to spring surprises will be a key factor in the coming season.

Although the Premier League title race does look as if it has four main candidates (Liverpool, Arsenal, Manchester City and Chelsea), Palace’s win shows upsets can always happen.

It seems strange to consider Manchester United and Tottenham the “middle-class”, but their performances last season in the Premier League were dreadful, with United finishing 15th and Tottenham an embarrassing 17th.

Although neither was in danger of relegation with the bottom three a long way adrift long before the end of the season, Spurs’ 38 points from 38 matches, and Manchester United’s 42 points leave them a world behind Liverpool’s 84 points

for the campaign.

Tottenham brought in Brentford coach Thomas Frank to replace Ange Postecoglou, made Mathys Tel’s loan move permanent and has signed Mohammed Kudus from West Ham and Joao Palhinha on loan from Bayern Munich in what looks like a smart move.

Austrian international Kevin Danso should strengthen central defense, while Kota Takai is also an interesting prospect, although perhaps one for the future.

Tottenham has said goodbye to Son Heung-min as he moves to LA, while James Maddison’s knee injury is a big setback for Tottenham with the aim of a top-six finish.

Manchester United has no European commitments, meaning Ruben Amorim’s side can focus on the league.

The jury is still out on the Portuguese coach, but the club has given him its back in terms of arrivals and departures, adding considerable firepower in Bryan Mbeumo, Matheus Cunha and Benjamin

Sesko, while shipping out Marcus Rashford and others, such as Antonio Garnacho, also likely to leave.

Amorim could argue last season that he wasn’t working with a squad of his making, but he has no excuses now and needs his team to perform from the start.

Nottingham Forest was last season’s surprise package under Nuno Espirito Santo and will be happy to have fended off Tottenham’s interest in Morgan Gibbs-White, with Dan Ndoye in to replace Anthony Elanga.

Playing in Europe may stretch Forest’s squad, but under Nuno, they won’t give much away, even though another top-seven finish looks difficult.

Crystal Palace has already shown its giant-killing abilities under coach Oliver Glasner, although uncertainly over which European competition it will play next season has limited summer signings to just Walter Benitez and Bornha Sosa.

The good news is that so far,

Palace has held on to key players, Marc Guehi and Eze Eberechi, although the rest of the month could see more movement in the market.

Everton begins life in its new Everton Stadium, which has created a buzz around the club, although coach David Moyes has indicated he wants more action in the transfer market, with activity speeding up in recent days with the arrival of midfielder Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall and striker Thierno Barry, who impressed last season at Villarreal.

Expect Moyes’ side to be solid if unspectacular

Brighton maintained its reputation for entertaining football last season under young coach Fabian Hürzeler and although the club has lost Joao Pedro to Chelsea, youngster Tom Watson looked good at Sunderland last season, while the signing of teenager Charalampos Kostasoulas, could be another example of Brighton moving early to sign a player. -XINHUA

CINCINNATI MASTERS



Sinner marches to round 4, continues winning streak on hard courts

CINCINNATI [US]: Defending champion Jannik Sinner advanced to the fourth round of the ongoing Cincinnati Masters, defeating Gabriel Diallo in a third-match interrupted by a fire alarm on Tuesday.

The world number one experienced something he had never seen before, his match getting interrupted during the second set, when a fire alarm at the 1899 club grandstand began to sound. It was several minutes before the game could start once again, and players played through sounds and flashes, with Sinner winning the battle 6-2, 7-6(6) after saving a set point with a clutch forehand service return in the tie-break.

Following his win, Sinner said, as quoted by ATP’s official website, “It was a very difficult day at the office. He was serving very well, especially in the second set... If you do not play well in

tough situations like this you can lose these matches.”

The start of Sinner’s match was delayed as Taylor Fritz’s match against Lorenzo Sonego faced a 75-minute delay due to a power outage.

Sinner has won 22 matches on the bounce at hard court since his loss to Carlos Alcaraz in the Beijing Open back in October and improved 46-0 versus players ranked outside the Top 20 on hard courts since losing to World No. 66 Dusan Lajovic at Cincinnati two years back.

Sinner is playing his first tournament since his Wimbledon title win over Alcaraz and is on a roll, with a win-loss record of 27-3.

He stands just 10 wins away from 300 career wins. He has already qualified for the season-ending ATP Finals, where he will defend his title. -ANI

IN PICTURES



Elephants seen at Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage in Sri Lanka
Elephants are seen at the Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage in Sri Lanka. Since its establishment in 1975, the elephant orphanage has adopted many orphaned and injured elephants. *Xinhua*



Participants perform at dance show in Riga, Latvia
Participants perform during a grand folk dance show “The song dances. The dance sounds” in Riga, Latvia. *Xinhua*



Hybrid rice project launched at Nepal's sci-tech park
Workers transplant experimental seedlings of hybrid rice varieties at the Nepal South Agricultural Science and Technology Park in Bharatpur. Experimental seedlings of hybrid rice varieties were transplanted into Nepal South Agricultural Science and Technology Park as part of efforts to help the South Asian country achieve food self-sufficiency. *Xinhua*



Summer vacation in Rome, Italy
Tourists visit the Trevi Fountain in Rome, Italy. Italians enjoy various activities during the summer holiday season. *Xinhua*



Celebrating the 100th birth anniversary of the late film actor, producer and director Guru Dutt
Bollywood actress Divya Dutta attends the special screening of the Indian Hindi drama film ‘Pyasa’, celebrating the 100th birth anniversary of the late film actor, producer and director Guru Dutt, in Mumbai. *ANI Photo*



Kickboxing at World Games
Andi Maswara of Indonesia reacts before competing against Aybuke Kilinc of Türkiye during the Kickboxing Women's Point Fighting -50kg Quaterfinal Bout at The World Games 2025 in Chengdu, southwest China's Sichuan Province. *Xinhua*

ROUND-UP

Go electric – Elevate your life with Kia’s fast-charging EVs

As part of its e-mobility range, the all-new Kia EV6, an all-electric crossover, and the SUV EV9 deliver an exceptional electric driving experience



MUSCAT: Electric vehicles are becoming increasingly popular, transforming both habits and mindsets. Preferred for zero fossil fuel dependability and lower carbon emissions, the EV trend has taken the world by storm. Marking a new era of automotive excellence, Kia is excited to embark on the futuristic journey with its in-

novative EV range for the customers in Oman. As part of its e-mobility range, the all-new Kia EV6, an all-electric crossover, and the SUV EV9 deliver an exceptional electric driving experience. Based on Kia's advanced E-GMP platform, the Kia electric series offers ultra-fast charging capabilities that make long trips and everyday use easier

than ever. With its distinctive, bold, and futuristic appearance, the electric series more than just looks – it provides the freedom to do more. Each vehicle has been crafted with a bold approach to sustainability without compromising on luxury and performance. The cabins feature vegan leather and recycled PET materials, reflect-

ing Kia's commitment to the environment. But it's not just about sustainability—the interior is designed for comfort, with a spacious layout that makes every ride feel like a surreal experience with extra storage in the front trunk, ventilated relaxation seats with 2nd-row comfort seats, and a Meridian premium sound system, which delivers rich and clear sound, uplift-

ing the inside mood. Moreover, specific to Kia EV6, it features cutting-edge technology that keeps you connected, ensuring seamless journeys. Integrated 12.3" Navigation + 12.3" Cluster LCD, 64-color Ambient Mood lighting, for a more immersive experience, the integrated panoramic curved display, wireless charging, and USB ports on the seatbacks, make it easier than ever to stay connected on the go. The smart power tailgate is another innovative feature, it can be programmed to open to a specific height, making loading and unloading more convenient. Whereas for the SUV enthusiast, the EV9 provides an ideal solution for city driving while ensuring minimal environmental impact. It is a great family car that is perfect for a large family of 7 members. Enjoy seamless connectivity with Apple, Android, and Bluetooth voice recognition. There's also a cup holder tray with USB ports for third-row passengers, along with a wireless charging tray on the front centre console to keep your devices powered.

Kia's EV series hosts a plethora of advanced safety features including Advanced Driver Assistance System technologies to help ensure the ultimate in occupant and pedestrian safety. The Highway Driving Assist assists you when you're driving on the highway and issues alerts during risky changes. Forward Collision-Avoidance Assist, Blind-Spot Collision-Avoidance Assist, Safe Exit Assist, Remote Smart Parking Assist, and Rear Cross-Traffic Collision-Avoidance Assist, among others. Electric vehicles are gaining rapid popularity in the Middle East with Kia's electric footprints expanded to Nizwa City. The transition to electric mobility is both practical and sustainable, allowing better resource utilization in other areas. Are you ready to embrace the future of mobility? The Kia EV6 and EV9 is available for a test drive at Kia showrooms across Oman. Embrace the change with Kia. Reliable International Automotive (RIA), the distributor for Kia in Oman provides a rewarding ownership experience for customers.

DIVERSIFIED INVESTMENT



Bank Muscat awarded Best Investment Bank in Oman award

MUSCAT: In affirmation of its leading roles in the banking sector and its excellence in delivering diversified investment solutions, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, was honored with the Best Investment Bank in Oman Award by MEED during the distinguished MENA Banking Excellence Awards event held recently in Dubai. These prestigious awards recognize the most innovative and customer-focused financial institutions across various sectors in the region. The Bank's award was received by Salim Said Al Shanfari, the representative of Bank Muscat's office in UAE, attended by prominent figures from across the Middle East and the world. Bank Muscat was selected following a rigorous and comprehensive evaluation process, including in-depth assessments and consultations with industry experts. This accolade stands as a testament to the bespoke financial advisory and fundraising solutions offered by Bank Muscat to businesses in Oman. The Bank, represented by its Investment Banking & Capital Markets Di-

vision, provides a wide range of advisory services encompassing corporate finance, project finance, debt capital markets, debt refinancing, structured financings, quasi-equity financings, private placements, mergers and acquisitions as well as managing initial public offerings (IPOs) in multiple business sectors. With a strong track record of pioneering achievements, Bank Muscat continues to deliver innovative and customized financial solutions that cater to the diverse needs of its customers. On this occasion, Khalifa Abdullah Al Hatmi, Deputy General Manager - Investment Banking & Capital Markets at Bank Muscat, expressed his pride in winning the Best Investment Bank in the Sultanate. He said: "This recognition reflects the confidence of our customers in the Bank's outstanding financial advisory and fundraising solutions. The Bank is dedicated to developing tailored fundraising solutions through a strategic focus on innovation and flexibility. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all customers for their continued trust and confidence in the Bank's investment banking team."

DEPENDABLE

GWM Haval H7: Refined five-seater SUV where practicality meets power

MUSCAT: GWM Oman invites customers to experience the Haval H7, a refined five-seater SUV that blends space, safety, and modern technology in one versatile package. Designed for long drives and everyday ease, the Haval H7 is perfect for families, professionals, and long-distance drivers. It delivers strong performance, practical features, and lasting comfort, setting a new standard for value-driven SUVs. "The H7 has earned its place as a dependable and capable SUV," said a senior spokesperson at OTE Group. "It combines power, comfort, and utility, making it a smart choice for customers who want every day ease without compromising on quality."

Powered by a turbocharged engine with 228 hp and 385 Nm of torque, the Haval H7 offers confident performance alongside available 4WD and six airbags for enhanced safety. The premium cabin includes power-adjustable front seats, tri-zone climate control, and an intuitive touchscreen interface, all tailored for both city drives and road trips. In line with GWM's commitment to customer satisfaction, genuine spare parts for the Haval H7 are readily available through its regional distribution center located in Jebel Ali. This ensures reliable access to parts and reinforces the trust customers place in GWM vehicles across the region.



FOR 8TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

Douglas OHI secures RoSPA Gold Award



MUSCAT: Douglas OHI has once again demonstrated its unwavering commitment to health and safety excellence by securing the prestigious RoSPA Gold Award for the eighth consecutive year. This significant achievement recognises Douglas OHI's ongoing efforts to uphold and continually improve health, safety, and well-being standards across all areas of its operations. The RoSPA Health and Safety Awards are among the most highly respected in the industry, attracting entries from organisations around the world and acknowledging excellence in risk control, accident prevention, and employee welfare. Aaron Hennessy, Group Managing Director, said: "Receiving the RoSPA Gold Award for the eighth year running reflects our collective focus and dedication to embedding a proactive health and safety culture across the business. This award is a testament to the com-

mitment of our people, whose vigilance and professionalism ensure we continue to meet the highest standards. I am extremely proud of our teams across the region." Peter Baker, Regional HSSE Manager, added: "Sustaining this level of recognition year after year requires more than compliance, it demands a consistent drive for improvement, engagement at all levels, and a shared responsibility for safety. This award reaffirms our ongoing investment in our people, processes, and the broader culture of care that underpins everything we do." Douglas OHI's achievement reinforces its position as a leading contractor with a robust safety-first approach and a strong alignment with international best practices. The organisation continues to invest in its HSSE systems, training, and leadership to maintain and exceed industry standards.

EXCELLENCE AWARDS CEREMONY

ISD celebrates academic brilliance

MUSCAT: Indian School Darsait organized Academic Excellence Awards Ceremony on 7 August at the Senior School Auditorium to honour the remarkable achievements of its students. The function commenced with a soulful invocation dance followed by the lighting of the ceremonial lamp. Ajmal Ayooob, IT Secretary of the Student Council, welcomed the Chief Guest, Dr. Moosa Abdullah Al Kindi, Dean, Modern College of Business and Science, along with the Guest of Honour, Dr. Samiya Al Raisi, Director, National Rehabilitation House, National University of Science and Technology, all members of the School Management Committee and invitees, awardees and their parents. The highlights of the day were



the distribution of prizes and certificates honouring the exceptional accomplishments of students who achieved outstanding results in Class X and XII Board Examinations as well as students who attained commendable success. The chief guest did the honours for the toppers of Class XII - Malavika Manoj (Science Stream) and Raano John Roby (Commerce

Stream); Subject National Toppers: Davis Puthenpurackal Thomas, Akshay Pramod Thadathil, and Raano John Roby; Class X Topper, Heshitha Ramesh Jayanthi; Subject National Toppers Nakshatra Rajeshkumar Panganchariyadath, Ruffaiq Hassan Ibrahim, Heshitha Ramesh Jayanthi, Heranya Ramesh Jayanthi, and the students who secured A1 in all subjects in classes XII and X.

AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR

Mitsubishi Oman honoured with Leadership Award for Excellence

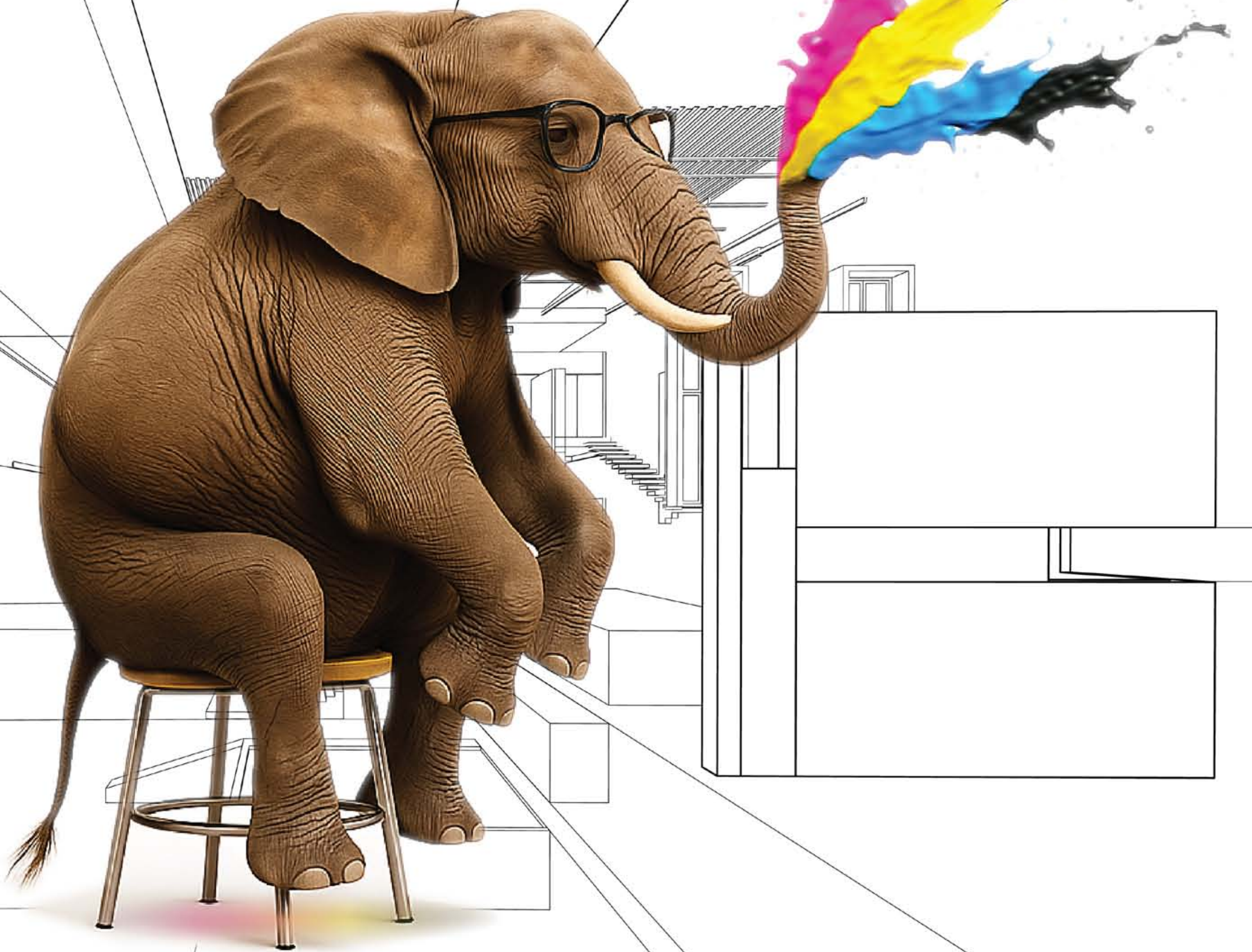
MUSCAT: General Automotive Company (GAC), part of the Zubair Corporation and the authorized distributor of Mitsubishi Motors in Oman, is honoured to announce that it has received the prestigious Oman Leadership Award 2025 for Excellence in the Automotive Sector. Organised in affiliation with the World Marketing Congress and Awards, this independent recognition celebrates achievements in brand-building and marketing excellence, while aiming to nurture innovation and inspire professional growth across industries. The accolade reflects Mitsubishi Oman's enduring appeal and



General Automotive Company's unwavering commitment to delivering exceptional automotive experiences in Oman. With over five decades of dedicated partnership, General Automotive Com-

pany and Mitsubishi Motors have built a legacy of trust and innovation, marking 50 years of driving excellence together in Oman. Renowned for advanced technology, reliability, and long-lasting performance, Mitsubishi vehicles continue to connect with Omani motorists across generations. Through strategic leadership, Mitsubishi Oman has positioned itself at the forefront of Oman's automotive sector, supported by its superior sales and after-sales network. This award also highlights Mitsubishi's strong brand presence in Oman, resonating across diverse customer demographics

We make your Business bigger than your problems.



We get you ahead on

- Booth production
- Event conceptualisation
- Event management

Wait, there's more

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