

Times

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OF OMAN



50

YEARS OF LEGACY

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HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN RECEIVES PRESIDENT OF BELARUS



His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik yesterday received Alexander Lukashenko, President of the Republic of Belarus, at Al Barakah Palace. During the meeting, areas of investment and economic partnership between the two countries were reviewed, as well as means of enhancing them to serve common interests and contribute to the growth of the Omani and Belarusian economies. The meeting was attended by HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, and Abdulsalam bin Mohammed Al Murshidi, Chairman of Oman Investment Authority (OIA). The meeting was attended on the Belarusian side by the two sons of the President, Viktor Lukashenko, Special Envoy of the President of the Republic of Belarus and President of the Olympic Committee, and Nikolai Lukashenko, along with a number of Belarusian officials. — **ONA** **See also >A4**

HM TO PARTICIPATE IN GCC SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING

His Majesty will visit the Kingdom of Bahrain on Wednesday

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik will visit the Kingdom of Bahrain on Wednesday to participate in the 46th Session of the Supreme Council of the GCC countries. A statement issued by the Diwan of Royal Court to this effect reads as follows: “In response to the kind invitation extended to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik from King Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain, His Majesty the Sultan will visit the Kingdom of Bahrain to participate in the 46th Session of the Supreme Council of the GCC countries, scheduled to be held in Manama on Wednesday, 3 December 2025. The Royal participation stems

from His Majesty’s keenness to meet with his brothers, Their Majesties and Highnesses, to strengthen the Council’s march and push it towards broader horizons of growth and prosperity. The participation also aims to discuss topics that embody Gulf joint action and enhance its course in light of regional and international developments. His Majesty the Sultan will be accompanied during the visit by a high-ranking official delegation comprising HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu’amani, Minister of the Royal Office, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Sultan bin Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance, Dr. Hamad bin Said Al Aufi, Head of the Private Office, Abdulsalam bin Mohammed Al Murshidi, Chairman of Oman Investment Authority, and Sayyid Faisal bin Harib Al Busaidi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Kingdom of Bahrain. — **ONA**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES



OMAN Shura Council discusses State General Budget

1 The members of the Shura Council yesterday listened to statements from both Sultan bin Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance, and Dr. Said bin Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy. They discussed about State General Budget for 2026 and Five-Year Plan. **>A5**

WORLD Flood death toll rises in Southeast Asia

2 Severe flooding and landslides across Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and Sri Lanka left at least 960 people dead. **>A7**

BUSINESS Green Hydrogen Summit Oman begins

3 The 2025 edition of the Green Hydrogen Summit Oman opened on Monday. Ministry of Energy and Minerals and Hydrom are organising it. **>B1**

YAMAL AND JOOD PROJECTS

HH Sayyid Theyazin graces ceremonial cornerstone laying for investment projects

MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, yesterday graced the ceremonial cornerstone laying for two landmark urban developments: the “Yamal” and “Jood” projects. These ventures, spearheaded by Talaat Moustafa Group (TMG) with a combined investment of RO 1.7 billion, were inaugurated at Sultan Haitham City and the coastal precinct of Al Manuma. The momentous occasion was attended by distinguished assembly of their highnesses, excellencies and senior officials from pertinent national sectors. The realization of these two visionary projects is a direct embodiment of national directives aimed at cultivating exemplary partnerships with world-renowned developers, whose proven mastery lies in crafting modern, holistic urban environments. This strategic initiative is in perfect consonance with the core priorities of “Oman Vision 2040,” which champions economic diversification, the empowerment of the private sector, the stimulation of investment and the enhancement of indigenous economic value.



The “Jood” project will rise upon a sprawling 2.7 million square metre canvas, destined to become a smart and sustainable community. It promises over 7,000 diverse residential units, interspersed with verdant landscapes, and complemented by a full suite

of educational, healthcare, commercial, and recreational amenities, alongside a dedicated social and sports club. The inaugural phase of this offering presents 600 units, marking the commencement of sales for this comprehensively planned

community. The project’s name, “Jood,” draws inspiration from the quintessential Omani virtues of boundless generosity and magnanimity, reflecting profound human and social dimensions. It aspires to epitomize abundance, harmonious balance, and an elevated quality of life within a modern, green city where the built environment exists in seamless synergy with nature. Conversely, the “Yamal” project will command a majestic 2.2 million square metre domain with an impressive 1,760-metre waterfront along the Sea of Oman. This premier coastal destination is set to feature an international marina, a collection of world-class hotels, a vibrant array of marine activities, and more than 6,000 residential and hospitality units offering panoramic views of the sea and marina. The first phase here introduces 700 units, forming part of a contemporary coastal enclave deeply inspired by Oman’s timeless and profound bond with the sea. It seeks to express the enduring values of giving, discovery, and openness that have forged the nation’s distinctive maritime identity across centuries. **>A4**

MINISTRY OF HERITAGE AND TOURISM

Archaeological Expeditions Season 2025-2026 kicks off

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism has announced the launch of Archaeological Expeditions Season 2025-2026. The programme forms part of Ministry’s efforts to protect the Omani heritage, document Oman’s centuries-old historical evidence and enhance the country’s position as a leading regional research centre in the field of archaeological studies. **Exploration projects** This year’s season includes the implementation of surveys and exploration projects, lab-based analytical studies, 3-D documentation and field training programmes aimed at raising the ef-



iciency of national cadres. As part of the programme, an Italian mission from Sapienza University has embarked on exploring archaeological sites in

the Wilayats of Nakhl and Wadi Al Ma’awil. The Italian mission excavated sites dating back to the third and first millennia BC. It also con-

ducted archaeological surveys that have so far documented 77 relics. The findings affirm the historical importance of the newly discovered sites, proving that human activity prevailed in the region during the Bronze Age and the Iron Age. An exhibition featuring the discovered artefacts is scheduled to be held at the conclusion of the Italian mission’s activities during this season, with the prime aim of raising public awareness about the importance of Omani heritage and history. The roots of Italian-Omani relations can be traced back to the ancient maritime trade routes that once connected Europe and

the Arabian Peninsula. Italian merchants and explorers frequently visited Oman, drawn by its strategic position along the trading waters of the Arabian Sea. Over the centuries, these encounters laid the foundation for deeper cultural understanding and highlighted shared interests in trade and heritage. In modern times, collaboration between the two nations has expanded across several creative and economic fields. Notably, joint projects in architecture and design have flourished, with Italian designers contributing to Omani developments that blend traditional Omani aesthetics with contemporary influences. — **ONA**

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MUSCAT





HH Sayyid Asa’ad, Algerian Minister discuss various areas of cooperation



The meeting explored means of developing partnerships in agriculture, fisheries sectors

MUSCAT: HH Sayyid Asa’ad bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs, Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan, yesterday held a meeting with Eng. Yacine El-Mahdi Oualid, Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, who is on an official visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

Areas of cooperation
The meeting dealt with existing areas of cooperation between the Sultanate of Oman and the People’s Democratic Republic of



Algeria in agriculture, fisheries and food sectors. It also discussed means of developing partnerships in a manner that achieves the common interests of the two countries.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Saud bin Hamoud Al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, and officials from the two sides. -ONA

Enhancing legislative policies and exchanging expertise discussed at workshop in China

MUSCAT: The Shura Council, represented by Council Members Dr. Ahmed Ali Al-Saadi and Abdullah Ali Al-Balushi, took part in a workshop titled “Enhancing Cooperation between Legislative Bodies and Advancing the Building of a Community with a Shared Future between China and Arab Countries.”

The event was held in the Chinese capital, Beijing, with the wide participation of representatives from Arab and Chinese parliaments and legislative councils.

During the workshop, participants discussed ways to develop parliamentary relations between China and Arab countries, focusing on mechanisms to strengthen cooperation through legislative institutions across various sectors and levels. The discussions also addressed the role of global development, security, and governance initiatives in supporting the establishment of an Arab Chinese community with a shared future.

The workshop further explored avenues for expanding economic and trade cooperation between China and Arab countries, highlighting opportunities for boosting joint investments under the Belt and Road Initiative.

The discussions underscored the importance of enhancing legislative cooperation and exchanging expertise among parliaments to improve decision-making processes and support institutional reforms needed to keep pace with global developments.

The delegation also emphasised the strategic geographic position of the Sultanate of Oman, whose advanced ports, economic zones, and logistics capabilities serve as a key enabler of the Belt and Road Initiative strengthening trade and economic connectivity between the Sultanate of Oman, the region, and the world.

The Council’s delegation highlighted the importance of advancing economic and cultural cooperation between the People’s Republic of China and the Sultanate of Oman, in line with the aspirations of the leaderships of both friendly nations. They noted that fostering collaboration between legislative bodies constitutes a fundamental pillar for shaping a shared vision that will positively contribute to growth and prosperity in both China and Oman, thereby enhancing bilateral relations and achieving common goals in an effective and sustainable manner.

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



Oman marks World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Social Development, marked the World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse.

The celebration aimed to promote the culture of child protection, raise awareness on the forms of abuse, highlight the systems and laws related to child protection, reporting mechanisms and procedures, and emphasise the role of competent authorities and care institutions in prevention, intervention, and psychological and social support.

The ceremony was held under the auspices of Dr. Abdullah Mohammed Al Saidi, Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs.

The event included a theatrical performance carrying an awareness message to promote the concept of children’s rights, affirming the shared responsibility to protect them, and ensuring the provision of a safe environment for the child that preserves their dignity and supports their proper growth.

The ceremony also included two discussion sessions. The first session, titled “Integration of Roles between Justice and Social Care”, included presentations from various specialised bodies.

It is worth noting that the Ministry of Social Development accords great attention to enhancing child care and preserving their rights and raising the level of community prevention. Last September, the Ministry launched the “Child Protection Guide”, which aims to develop the social protection system for children by defining the roles of relevant authorities and unifying national procedures related to cases of abuse and neglect. -ONA

ENVIRONMENT AUTHORITY

Oman participates in major United Nations Environment Programme meeting in Nairobi

NAIROBI: The meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR) to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), discussed on Monday the preparations for initiating negotiations on the resolutions scheduled to be presented to the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) at its seventh session. Dr. Abdullah Ali Al Amri, Chairman of the Environment Authority, will chair the UNEA session. The participation of the Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Environment Authority, comes within the framework of its continuous preparations for chairing the seventh session of the Assembly, and its role in supporting international consensus



on environmental issues and promoting pathways for sustainability at the global level.

The meeting, held in the Kenyan capital Nairobi and continuing until 5 December, is part of a series of preparatory meetings for the convening of the Seventh Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7).

The meeting is examining negotiation mechanisms on 16 draft technical resolutions that include enhancing climate action, combating pollution, protecting biodiversity, and supporting sustainable production and consumption policies, along with proposals related to the optimal management of mining and minerals and chemical management. -ONA



BUSINESS DIALOGUE

Oman explores investment partnerships in South Africa

MUSCAT: Invest Oman, represented by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, began its visit to the Republic of South Africa on Monday, to hold the “Advantage Oman – South Africa” business dialogue. The goal is to enhance investment partnerships and explore economic cooperation opportunities between the two countries.

This visit comes within the framework of the Sultanate of Oman’s direction towards expanding its network of international partnerships and strengthening investment relations with one of the most important industrial economies in the African continent.

The dialogue will gather an elite group of major investors, CEOs, and leading South African companies, focusing on four key sectors: mining, agriculture, manufacturing, and information technology.

This is intended to showcase promising investment opportunities in the Sultanate of Oman and



enhance bilateral cooperation in priority areas.

The “Advantage Oman – South Africa” business dialogue will provide a direct platform for communication between the Omani business community and their counterparts in South Africa.

Comprehensive presentations
The Omani delegation will deliver comprehensive presentations on the competitive advantages of the Sultanate of Oman, including its strategic geographic location, political and economic stability, supportive legislative environ-

ment, as well as government incentives and major ongoing projects that enhance the Sultanate of Oman’s competitiveness as a regional investment hub.

It is worth noting that trade exchange between Oman and South Africa reflects a promising economic base for cooperation. Omani exports to South Africa reached approximately OMR17.1 million until June 2025, compared to OMR17.2 million in imports, in addition to OMR4.36 million in re-exports, which enhances the opportunities for developing partnerships in various sectors during the coming period. -ONA

**AUCTION
ANNOUNCEMENT**

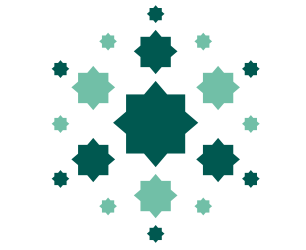
The Internal Tender Committee at the Ministry of Labour announces the following tender:

Tender No.	Tender title	Last date for tender purchase online	Bid submission date
53/2025 Re-floated	Development of the infrastructure and configuration of the wireless network at the Salalah Vocational College	Thursday 27/11/2025 2:00 p.m.	Thursday 04/12/2025 10 a.m.

- Specialized establishments may obtain the tender's documents online through the following link, starting from Friday 21/11/2025 at 08:00 a.m. <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>
- Bids shall be opened at 11:00 am on Thursday 04/12/2025.

(The Ministry shall not be bound to accept the lowest or any other bid)

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Sayyid Badr: Foreign interventions must be unanimously condemned

Oman’s Foreign Minister told policymakers at the Muscat Mediation Retreat that those behind foreign interventions often misunderstand local conditions and lack the relationships needed to achieve their political goals

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Foreign interventions rarely succeed because they almost always complicate the task of conflict resolution, Oman’s Foreign Minister His Excellency Sayyid Badr Hamad Hamood Al Busaidi told policymakers attending the Muscat Mediation Retreat.

In his address, on Sunday evening, the Foreign Minister expressed in public what many well-informed people think in private.

He explained that those ordering and executing interventions typically do not understand local conditions, nor have they formed the necessary relationships to achieve their political goals. Their actions

increase the number of parties involved in a conflict, introduce additional issues into the resolution process, and, most concerningly, undermine international law.

Rather than focusing on clear violations of international law - such as Russia’s war in Ukraine or Israel’s actions in Palestine - Sayyid Badr highlighted less explicit violations: cross-border assassinations of politicians, mediators, and scientists, citing Israel’s actions in Iran, Lebanon, Yemen, Palestine, Qatar, and other states; foreign support for parties in civil wars, as seen in Syria, Yemen, and Sudan; and threats of annexation, judicial interference, and invasion, for example, U.S. statements regarding



Brazil, Canada, Greenland, and Venezuela.

He warned that the world may be descending into a state where foreign intervention is increasingly seen as an acceptable element of multilateralism rather than a violation of shared principles and legal frameworks.

Oman called for collaboration to protect the frameworks and con-

ventions that have limited conflict since the end of World War II.

Sayyid Badr explained that agreements such as the 1945 UN Charter helped reduce the seizure of territory to less than 10% of what it had been in the late 1800s. While violent interventions continued - such as in Afghanistan in 1979, Vietnam in the 1960s, and Grenada in 1983—they were no

longer the norm, and perpetrators were subject to near-unanimous condemnation and punitive action.

He cited NATO’s 1999 intervention in Yugoslavia as a turning point. The objective was honourable: to stop ethnic cleansing and bring the perpetrators to trial. But inadvertently, it sparked a devastating “global mission

creep,” where states began justifying violations of international law by claiming their actions were ethical.

In Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Yemen, and Sudan, this global mission creep has had detrimental and deadly repercussions for the people of each country, the region, and the wider international community.

To prevent a return to pre-20th-century disorder, Sayyid Badr made three recommendations: first, all interventions must be clearly, unanimously, and formally condemned; second, a global conference should be held for states to reaffirm their commitment to international law; and third, the judgments of the International Court of Justice must be made enforceable. He expressed hope that the Oslo Forum would work diligently and collaboratively to achieve these goals.

The Muscat Mediation Retreat is part of the Oslo Forum, a world leading platform for peacemaking. Attendees in November 2025 included ministers and officials from Iran, Egypt, Norway, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, Jordan, Libya, UK, Lebanon, Türkiye and Switzerland, as well as representatives from the United Nations and the Secretary General of the GCC.

RAO COMMANDER

Royal Commission Certificates handed over to graduate officers

IZKI: Maj. Gen Mattar bin Salim Al Balushi, Commander of the Royal Army of Oman (RAO), handed over the Royal Commission Certificates and Diploma Certificates in Military Science to the graduates of the Sultan Qaboos Military College.

He also felicitated the top gradu-

ating officers, on the occasion of the Royal Army of Oman’s celebration of the graduation of officer batches. This took place on Monday at the military parade ground at Shafe’ Camp.

The Commander of the Royal Army of Oman congratulated the graduating officers on their

distinguished performance during their graduation ceremony, which reflected the efforts exerted to bring them to this honorable level. He urged them to continue their effort, dedication, and devotion in performing their duties and tasks, wishing them continued success. — **ONA**



RECEPTION CEREMONY

Oman embassy in Iran celebrates glorious National Day in Tehran

TEHRAN: The Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman in the Islamic Republic of Iran held a reception ceremony on the occasion of the glorious National Day.

Sayyid Yarub Qahtan Al Busaidi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Islamic Republic of Iran, delivered a speech in which he pointed out the significance of the National Day, which embodies the Sultanate of Oman’s pride in its ancient history, extending since the founding of the Al Busaid State on 20 November 1744, when the Founding Imam Ahmad bin Said Al Busaidi united the nation’s banner.

He emphasised the Omani diplomatic approach based on dialogue and respect for the UN Charter and international law, and the call to prioritise wisdom, contain escalation in the region, and adopt peaceful means for dispute settlement. The ceremony was attended by Abbas Araguchi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran, a number of Iranian officials, and heads of diplomatic missions.

The event included visual presentations that highlighted the most important tourism and economic components distinguishing the Sultanate of Oman in all its Wilayats and Governorates, as well as documentary presentations narrating its history and promoting tourism and investment in the Sultanate of Oman. — **ONA**





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BILATERAL RELATIONS

His Majesty the Sultan receives President of Belarus



JAMAL AND JOOD PROJECTS

Projects underscore a commitment to establishing modern urban communities

FROM A1 These monumental undertakings represent a tangible manifestation of the Sultanate of Oman’s strategic vision to forge distinguished alliances with global development leaders. They underscore a commitment to establishing modern urban communities founded upon exceptional quality of life and sustainable planning principles. This endeavour operates within a cohesive framework aligned with the National Urban Strategy, the cardinal blueprint guiding the nation’s urban future and a principal catalyst for the aspirations of “Oman Vision 2040.”

The entry of eminent global developers into the Omani market signals the escalating allure of Oman’s investment landscape. It affirms the robustness of the national regulatory framework in fostering sustainable urban ecosystems capable of accommodating growth and diversifying development opportunities, thereby curating a more competitive and enticing market for premium investments.

The comprehensive transformation currently underway in the Sultanate of Oman is predicated on elevating planning efficacy and synthesising governmental endeavours within a unified strategic

outlook. This vision opens expansive horizons for growth and underpins the sustainability of urban development across all governorates. It is a phase that solidifies Oman’s standing on the world stage and attests to its capacity to attract high-calibre international partnerships and investments.

These projects are poised to deliver substantial added value to both the national economy and society by creating integrated communities that offer a globally benchmarked quality of life. They will provide advanced services underpinned by sustainability, meticulously designed to cater to the needs of generations to come.

The phased sales launch for the “Yamal” and “Jood” projects within Sultan Haitham City and the coastal Yamal city will commence on Tuesday as part of the initial offering stages for these pioneering developments.

Talaat Moustafa Group (TMG) is ranked within the elite top 6 percent of companies operating in the emerging markets of Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America, a testament to its international stature and vast, accumulated expertise in city-making and integrated community development. With a legacy exceeding 55 years in crafting holistic urban spaces, its projects are home to over 1.5



million residents. The Group’s portfolio encompasses a land bank exceeding 115 million square metres, dedicated to residential, commercial, and touristic projects in numerous strategic locales.

The Group’s operational prowess is further evidenced by its management of several international hotels under the prestigious Four Seasons brand in Cairo, Sharm El-Sheikh, and Alexandria, alongside historic properties and new hospitality ventures under development across Egyptian governorates. This demonstrates its

profound experience and capability to deliver urban and tourism destinations that meet exacting international standards.

In recent years, the Sultanate of Oman has registered remarkable advancements across key economic and investment indicators. Foreign direct investment (FDI) demonstrated robust growth between 22 and 23 percent in the first quarter of 2025, accelerating to over 30 percent by the end of the first half, with a total value surpassing OMR30 billion. This trajectory offers

a clear testament to the global investment community’s confidence in the resilience of the national economy and the stability of its financial architecture.

In the domain of business facilitation, Oman has achieved commendable competitive benchmarks. The average timeframe for company establishment has been streamlined to a mere 4–5 days, necessitating only four principal procedures and eliminating minimum capital requirements. This has significantly enhanced procedural

fluidity and amplified the Omani market’s appeal to new investors.

Concurrently, international metrics reflect qualitative progress, with Oman ascending in regional rankings for quality of life and securing notable gains in assessments of economic competitiveness. This progress is paralleled by the continuous refinement of the legislative and regulatory framework, which has bolstered transparency, augmented the efficiency of the business environment, and smoothed the pathway for investment inflows.

The Omani real estate market sustains a performance indicative of robust investor confidence and regulatory steadfastness. The total traded value up to September 2025 exhibited a 9.2 percent growth compared to the corresponding period in 2024. Furthermore, revenues accrued from legal property transactions—encompassing sales, mortgages, and transfers—surged by a substantial 74 percent year-on-year, reflecting a broadening investor base and increased transactional depth within the sector. The sector’s growth, exceeding 29 percent in traded value during 2024, confirms the enduring positive momentum characterising Oman’s real estate landscape. — **OMA**

MILITARY SHOW

Royal Army of Oman marks graduation of officer cadets

IZKI: The Royal Army of Oman (RAO) celebrated yesterday the graduation of several batches of officers. These included the Candidate Officers Course, the Specialized University Officers Course, the Conversion Course for Medical and Allied Medical Professions Occupants, and the Limited Service Officers Course.

The ceremony was held under the auspices of HH Sayyid Taimur bin Asa’ad Al Said, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Central Bank of Oman (CBO).

The graduates presented a varied military show that embodied the skills of its personnel, highlighting the great attention and Royal care bestowed upon the Royal Army of Oman by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander.

The celebration began with a



military salute to the chief guest of the occasion. Following this, the parade commander requested permission from chief guest of the occasion, to inspect the front row of the graduates’ parade. The graduates then presented a military display with a military march passing the main dais of the celebration ground, led by the banner of Sul-

tan Qaboos Military College. The parade then advanced in review formation.

Afterward, HH Sayyid Taimur bin Asa’ad Al Said, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Central Bank of Oman presented the Sword of Honour to Lieutenant Al Muhallab bin Rashid Al Subhi of the Royal Army of Oman, who



achieved first place at the level of the Candidate Officers Course. This was followed by the handover ceremony of the Sultan Qaboos Military College banner, where the banner bearers of the graduating Candidate Officers Course handed the banner over to the banner bearers of the current course, whose personnel swore to protect

it and keep it flying high. The National Anthem was then played, and the banner bearers paraded the banner among the ranks of their course.

The ceremony included performances by the Royal Army of Oman Music Band, presenting various musical pieces and a military musical show featuring numerous

formations that embodied the high capabilities and skills enjoyed by the band’s personnel.

The graduates chanted the Royal Army of Oman anthem, took the oath of allegiance, delivered the call of endorsement, and cheered three times for the life of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander. The graduates’ parade then performed the military salute, the Royal Salute music was played, and the parade commander requested permission from the chief guest to depart. The graduates marched past the main dais, rendering the military salute to chief guest of the celebration.

The graduating courses included a number of graduates from the Sultan’s Armed Forces and other military and security agencies, and graduates from the Kingdom of Bahrain. — **OMA**

Shura discusses State General Budget for 2026, Five-Year Plan

Sultan bin Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance and Dr. Said bin Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy made their statements



MUSCAT: The members of the Shura Council on Monday listened to statements from both Sultan bin Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance, and Dr. Said bin Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy, regarding the Draft State General Budget for 2026 and the Eleventh Five-Year Development Plan (2026-2030). This took place in a closed session as stipulated by Article (52) of the Oman Council Law. This occurred during the Council's third regular session of the third ordinary convening (2025-2026) of the tenth term (2023-2027), which was held under the chairmanship of

Khalid bin Hilal Al Maawali, of the Chairman of the Council, and in the presence of Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Nadabi, Secretary-General of the Council and members of the council. Sultan bin Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance, delivered the Ministry's statement on the Draft State General Budget for the Fiscal Year 2026, reviewing some positive economic indicators achieved in the national economy in recent years. He explained that the economic policies adopted by the government contributed to enhancing levels of financial stability and raising the efficiency of public fi-

nancial resource management, which reflected in the improvement of the Sultanate of Oman's credit rating and a significant decrease in public debt levels compared to previous years. He pointed out that the structural reforms and fiscal balance programmes contributed to strengthening international confidence in the Sultanate of Oman's economy and opened wider horizons for attracting foreign investments. The Minister of Finance also reviewed the foundations and pillars upon which the State General Budget for 2026 was based, including estimates of public revenues,

public spending, public debt management, the estimated oil barrel price in the budget, deficit and financing, and inflation rates. He highlighted development and investment spending for 2026. The discussion also touched upon the most prominent financial, economic, and monetary indicators for 2025, as well as the main potential economic and financial risks during 2026. He added that the estimates of the State General Budget for 2026 took into account providing coverage and social protection for various segments of society, maintaining the level of spending

on essential services such as education, health, and housing, and stimulating the national economy by promoting the growth of companies and projects that support economic diversification activities and operations. During Monday's session, the Council members also listened to the statement of the Minister of Economy regarding the Eleventh Five-Year Development Plan (2026-2030), which addressed the main themes of the project, the methodology for preparing the plan, its main features, the priorities of economic sectors, and development projects. The financial and economic framework of the plan and its key strategic programs, in line with the goals and priorities of Oman Vision 2040, were also discussed. The statement by the Minister of Economy indicated that the plan aims to build a sustainable developmental economy by promoting economic diversification. It also seeks to transition towards clean energy and promote a low-carbon economy by increasing reliance on renewable energy projects and developing policies that incentivize investment in green hydrogen and alternative energy-related industries. Furthermore, it aims

to enhance economic decentralization for the governorates, raise the efficiency of the labor market and employment, sustainable social development, and enhance governance and institutional efficiency. He added that the methodology for preparing the Eleventh Five-Year Plan (2026-2030) was based on a comprehensive evaluation of the performance of the Tenth Plan (2021-2025), and an examination of growth indicators in various sectors, including developing the investment environment, employment programmes, expanding economic infrastructure, and improving legislation regulating economic activity, among other sectors. For their part, the Council members presented their inquiries and observations regarding the Draft General Budget for 2026 and the Eleventh Five-Year Development Plan (2026-2030). Their discussions focused on financial policies and the fundamentals and assumptions relied upon when preparing the Draft State General Budget for the Fiscal Year 2026, enabling it to deal with oil prices and global changes, thereby ensuring financial, economic, and social stability.

BILATERAL RELATIONS



Oman and European Union review areas of cooperation

MUSCAT: Sheikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs, met with Luigi Di Maio, the European Union's Special Representative for the Gulf region, at the Ministry's headquarters yesterday.

The discussions provided a substantive overview of the diverse and expanding areas of cooperation between the Sultanate of Oman and the European Union (EU), with particular focus on the strategic fields of energy, education, and maritime security. The

dialogue also encompassed a productive exchange of perspectives on pivotal regional and international matters of shared concern. The meeting was attended by officials from the Foreign Ministry and the EU. — ONA



**SMARTEN UP
DRIVE SAFE**



A TIMES OF OMAN HANDS-FREE DRIVING INITIATIVE

AL BURAIMI GOVERNORATE

Arrested for theft



Times News Service

MUSCAT: An Asian national was arrested by Al Buraimi Governorate Police Command for stealing money from a commercial store in the Wilayat of Al Buraimi. Legal proceedings are being completed against him.

ANNOUNCEMENT



This is to inform all concerned that **Mr. MARIA NATHAN VANATHAIYAN**, holder of **Indian Passport No. C7787115** Resident card No.72737715 has been terminated from our company **GULF OCEAN INTERNATAIONAL TRAD. LLC (SREE SARAVANA'S RESTAURANT)** from 30-11-2025. Therefore, all the concerned are requested to stop dealing with the above named in favor of the company. If anyone is dealing with him it is at their own risk and company will not take any responsibility hereafter. If anybody has any claim, he/she should report to the company within next 3 working days.



MUSCAT GOVERNORATE
MUSCAT MUNICIPALITY

Advertisement No. 48/2025

Muscat Municipality invites Companies specialized in the field and registered with Authority of Projects, Tenders & ICV, to participate and obtain tender documents from the website via the following link: (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>) starting from the date of this announcement and until the end of deadline stipulated below:

Tender Number	Description of Tender	Last date to collect the tender	Tender return date
PRF/25/034	Concerts & Play Shows - Muscat Nights 2026	09/12/2025	16/12/2025

1. Bidders shall submit their offers electronically.

2. Clarification and Support:

- For any inquiries regarding tenders, please visit e-tendering website: (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>) .
- For technical support of e-tendering system please send an email to (etenderhd@gstb.gov.om) or call (+96824402200).

Website: www.mmm.gov.om



Sultanate of Oman سلطنة عُمان
وزارة التراث والسياحة
Ministry of Heritage and Tourism

Announcement of an Internal Tenders - 2025

Tender No.	169/2025/MHT/HQ-39	Tender Name	Consultancy Services for Designing Recreational Fishing Tourism Experience in Al Shuwai'miyah,- Dhofar Governorate
Fees of Tender Documents (Non-refundable)	25 R.O		
Tender Document Sales End Date	21/12/2025		
Last Date for Bid Submission	13/1/2026		
Grade	First		
E-Tendering Portal	https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om		
- Interested Companies registered with Tender Board (in the mentioned Grade) may obtain Tender documents from the E-Tendering website: https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om, against non-refundable payment as mentioned above for each set of documents. - The Tenderers must acknowledge commitment to the bid. - All companies submitting bids for this tender are required to attach a valid and recently issued Omanization Compliance Certificate from the Ministry of Labour, provided that the certificate is not older than 30 days from the date of issuance. - This certificate is considered a mandatory document, and failure to submit it — for any reason — shall result in the outright disqualification of the bid, without being evaluated technically or financially. - The certificate must also demonstrate the company's compliance with the Omanization percentage required by the Ministry of Labour. If the required percentage is not met, the bid shall be automatically disqualified. - The Ministry shall not be obligated to accept the lowest or any other bids - The bid submission period starts after the end of the inquiry period shown in the e-tendering system, until the last date for submitting bids before (10:00 am, Oman time).			
Support and inquiries	For more information, related to the tender, kindly communicate through the web-site of the e-tendering system: https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om For inquiries related to the technical support for the e-tendering system, kindly communicate through etenderhd@ptlc.gov.om or 24402200		
For further information	Email : sotic@mht.gov.om Phones : 22088348 - 22088085		

VOICE OF THE SEASON 2025

Two Omanis occupy top places at contest in Dhofar

SALALAH: Omani contestant Khalid bin Salim Al Amri claimed first place at “Voice of The Season 2025” competition held during the closing of Al Sarb cultural festival, which marks Dhofar Governorate’s spring tourism season.

The competition, which began on 9 October 2025, was organized by Dhofar Centre for Culture,

Heritage and Creativity, affiliated to the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth. The contest winners’ felicitation ceremony was held under the auspices of HH Sayyid Mohammed bin Salim Al Said.

Omani contestant Said Al Shammali Zaabanoot occupied second place at “Voice of the Season 2025” competition, while Ku-

waiti contestant Abdul-Hadi Al Murri ranked third. The results were based on a combination of scores noted by the adjudicating panel and a public vote.

A “National Operetta” signalled the conclusion of the competition. It saw the participation of 8 finalists who presented thrilling chanting performances. – **OWA**





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GCC leaders charting a future of enhanced integration, prosperity

His Majesty the Sultan will lead the delegation of Oman participating in this pivotal gathering, alongside Their Majesties and Highnesses the esteemed leaders of the GCC member states



MUSCAT: The convening of the forty-sixth Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Summit, to be held this Wednesday in the Bahraini capital of Manama, embodies the collective aspirations of the member states’ citizens for deeper cooperation, comprehensive integration, and strengthened bonds across all levels. His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik will lead the delegation of the Sultanate of Oman participating in this pivotal gathering, alongside Their Majesties and Highnesses the esteemed leaders of the GCC member states.

The summit deliberations are anticipated to encompass a thorough review of the joint Gulf cooperative journey across all political, economic, and security domains. This review will be guided by the directives of Their Majesties and Highnesses the Council’s leaders. The agenda will also facilitate a strategic exchange of perspectives on current international and regional developments and their implications for regional security and stability. Furthermore, discussions will focus on the concerted endeavours of the GCC member states to propel initiatives aimed at establishing comprehensive peace in the region and forging unified stances in response to evolving regional dynamics.

Jassem Mohammed Al Budaiwi, GCC Secretary-General, underscored the imperative to reinforce the various pillars of Gulf, regional, and international collaboration. He expressed his profound hope that the Bahrain Summit will yield constructive resolutions and recommendations, thereby contributing a new cornerstone to the illustrious edifice of the Council’s blessed march. He affirmed that the substantive breadth and depth of these agenda items vividly reflect the Council’s considerable regional and international stature. They also cement the reality that the achievements secured by the member states on the path to Gulf integration—a paramount objective of Their Majesties and Highnesses the Council’s leaders—are advancing resolutely in the correct direction, fully aligned with the Gulf peoples’ aspirations and ambitions for greater unity and shared prosperity.

The forty-fifth Gulf Summit, hosted by the State of Kuwait in December 2024, achieved consensus on several key fronts. These included expanding the adoption of clean energy, boosting the investments of Gulf sovereign wealth funds in technology sectors and the green transition, and reaffirming support for the trajectory of economic integration and the advancement of joint action in the fields of energy, food security, and climate. The summit also saw the adoption of unified positions regarding emerging issues, the

endorsement of several joint economic initiatives, and the approval of an executive plan for the GCC states’ economic vision initiatives. This plan includes linkages to strategic transportation projects, electrical interconnection grids, and artificial intelligence, while reiterating a commitment to financial stability and the development of harmonized policies to attract foreign investment.

The GCC economies demonstrated balanced and resilient performance throughout 2024. The aggregate real gross domestic product growth rate reached approximately 1.9 percent, primarily propelled by robust growth in non-oil sectors, which expanded by 4.4 percent. Economic projections indicate a gradual acceleration in real growth across the GCC, forecast to reach 2.8 percent in 2025, 3.7 percent in 2026, and ascend to 4.3 percent by 2027. This positive trajectory is underpinned by expanding investments in pivotal sectors such as tourism, renewable energy, manufacturing industries, and advanced technology.

Data from the GCC Statistical Centre revealed that foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows to the member states amounted to approximately \$523.4 billion in the year 2023. This substantial figure serves as a resounding affirmation of the escalating confidence of the international community in the Gulf’s business and investment landscape. The detailed statistics further illustrate that FDI flows into the GCC states constituted roughly 5 percent of total global flows during 2023. Concurrently, the volume of intra-Gulf investments has demonstrated significant growth, ascending from \$88.2 billion in 2015 to \$130.3 billion in 2023—a sum equivalent to 20 percent of the total foreign investment stock within the region.

The external merchandise trade of the GCC bloc registered a modest growth of 1.1 percent throughout 2024. This resilience is noteworthy given the backdrop of declining average oil prices, which fell from \$82.5 per barrel in 2023 to \$80.5 per barrel in 2024.

Non-oil exports from the member states achieved a marked and commendable increase, a clear testament to the tangible progress being made in diversifying the economic and export base. Re-export activities also enjoyed sustained growth, bolstered by the region’s advanced and sophisticated logistical hubs.

Aggregate public revenues for the GCC nations reached approximately \$670.2 billion in 2024, representing an annual increase of 2 percent. Public expenditure was recorded at \$659.3 billion. This fiscal performance underscores the prudent commitment of Gulf governments to advancing public financial discipline and strategically channelling expenditure towards vital national development, infrastructure enhancement, and social welfare programmes.

The data also highlighted a growing contribution of non-oil

revenues to the total public income. This positive trend is attributed to the implementation of indirect taxation frameworks, such as value-added tax (VAT) and selective taxes, coupled with enhanced fiscal collection efficiency achieved through digital transformation in public financial management.

Gulf financial markets showcased robust and positive performance indicators in 2024. The aggregate market capitalisation of the region’s exchanges ascended to approximately \$4.2 trillion. This strong showing persisted despite a climate of global market uncertainty, largely driven by monetary policy tightening in the United States. The performance was underpinned by improved corporate profitability, moderated inflation levels, and the steady influx of institutional investment into key economic sectors.

The GCC summits stand as the paramount forum for crafting cooperative policies and strategic frameworks among the member states across the critical domains of security, economy, defence, and sustainable development. These gatherings embody the enduring spirit of solidarity and integration that has been the foundation of the Cooperation Council for over four decades.

In a special interview with Oman News Agency (ONA), Sheikh Ahmed bin Hashel Al Maskari, Head of the Department for the Gulf Cooperation Council and Regional Neighborhood, affirmed that the Sultanate of Oman, under the sagacious leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, reiterates its unwavering commitment to bolstering the march of the Gulf Cooperation Council and strengthening the frameworks for collective action among its sisterly nations. He emphasised that the Council’s cohesion and the unity of perspectives on shared regional concerns constitute indispensable pillars for safeguarding security and stability and propelling comprehensive development trajectories across the member states.

This principled Omani stance, he noted, is consistently manifested through active and constructive participation in all GCC summits, ministerial meetings, and specialized committees. This engagement springs from the Sultanate of Oman’s profound conviction in the imperative of deepening integration across all political, economic, social, and developmental spheres—a commitment that amplifies the Council’s collective capacity to navigate regional challenges and forge a more prosperous future for its peoples.

He further indicated that Oman Vision 2040 is strategically aligned with the overarching visions of fellow GCC states, all of which prioritise citizen welfare and quality of life at the heart of their joint endeavours. The Sultanate of Oman places particular emphasis on collaborative projects in trade, services, connectivity, and infrastructure, recognizing

these as fundamental components of the Gulf economic integration journey. It is anticipated that these pivotal subjects will command prioritised attention in the deliberations of the leadership and specialised ministerial committees, thereby fulfilling the objectives of the common Gulf market and reinforcing all concerted efforts to advance economic and investment cooperation.

The forthcoming summit is anticipated to concentrate decisively on advancing the agenda of economic integration and fortifying shared developmental frameworks, alongside the coordination of political positions regarding regional and international developments. The Sultanate of Oman approaches these pivotal matters from a foundational principle dedicated to consolidating the unity and solidity of the Gulf front. It underscores the paramount importance of adopting dialogue, diplomacy, and mediation rooted in positive neutrality as the principal methodology for addressing regional issues and securing enduring peace and stability. The Sultanate of Oman further posits that sustainable economic cooperation necessitates the cultivation of broader strategic partnerships and a more profound diversification of income sources.

Sheikh Al Maskari clarified that the Sultanate of Oman stands firmly in support of all endeavours aimed at deepening economic integration among the Council’s member states. Oman accords supreme priority to the development, expansion, and enhancement of the GCC electrical grid interconnection project. This commitment is paralleled by robust support for cooperative ventures in both conventional and renewable energy sectors, including green hydrogen initiatives, all of which serve to strengthen energy supply security and market stability.

On the commercial front, the Sultanate of Oman endorses any measure that contributes to amplifying the volume of intra-Gulf trade and investment, reducing customs tariffs, and improving the overall business climate. This support is strategically aligned with a focus on empowering the private sector and bolstering non-oil economic sectors, in full consonance with the strategic directives of Oman Vision 2040. Within the Council’s institutional framework, Oman works diligently to extend bridges of cooperation with parallel economic blocs and influential global economic actors.

The Sultanate of Oman monitors regional developments through a principled approach that advocates for de-escalation and champions dialogue as the indispensable pathway for resolving regional disputes. It maintains a firm conviction that its steadfast policy of moderation, positive neutrality, and mediation actively contributes to the enhancement of regional security and stability. Oman perceives that the complex challenges encircling the region mandate ex-

ceptionally close coordination among Council members to safeguard their collective interests, ensure the security of vital maritime passages, and uphold the tenets of international law. It is noteworthy that the unified positions of the Gulf Cooperation Council in regional and international fora represent a significant strategic asset. These positions amplify collective Arab action on the global stage and make a substantive contribution to the achievement of both regional and international security and stability.

The Council states are actively deliberating the initiative for a unified Gulf tourist visa, often referred to as the “Gulf Schengen.” This visa is slated for implementation following the fulfilment of requisite technical and legal prerequisites. Once operational, it will permit travellers streamlined access to all member states with a single visa, a development poised to significantly stimulate tourism and economic circulation within the GCC bloc.

Addressing the critical importance of a unified Gulf stance in the face of global challenges and conflicts, Sheikh Al Maskari affirmed that coordination and consultation among Council members are both continuous and deeply institutionalised. The Sultanate of Oman holds the view that harmonizing Gulf positions has evolved from a strategic preference into an imperative necessity. This is particularly true in light of multifaceted global political and economic challenges, encompassing geopolitical crises, volatility in energy markets, and transformative shifts within the international order. There is no doubt that concerted coordination and consultation aimed at presenting a united front significantly augments the Council’s collective bargaining power. It enables the alignment of economic, fiscal, and monetary policies, safeguards member states’ interests in engagements with international powers, and plays a crucial role in protecting energy security and ensuring market stability.

He elaborated that the upcoming phase presents a tangible opportunity to substantially deepen cooperation across a spectrum of critical areas, including trade, energy, investment, advanced technologies, and future-oriented industries. The comprehensive national modernisation visions pursued by the Council states—among them Oman Vision 2040—are actively creating a more attractive and conducive environment for joint investments. These visions prioritize the development of key sectors such as tourism, logistics, and technology-driven industries, with the overarching goal of reducing hydrocarbon dependence through systematic income source diversification.

Regarding strategic partnerships and cybersecurity, he stated that the competent Omani government bodies lend their full support to the ongoing steps designed to enhance collective cybersecurity capabilities among GCC states. This vital cooperation is centered on harmonising policies, developing national and regional capacities, facilitating the timely exchange of threat intelligence, and ultimately constructing a cohesive and resilient Gulf cybersecurity architecture capable of effectively countering evolving threats.

He highlighted that the GCC electrical interconnection grid is now fully operational and has already yielded considerable economic and technical benefits. The Sultanate of Oman is committed to its further development and the expansion of its capacities. Concerning the landmark Gulf Railway project, implementation is advancing with determined and

steady progress. This transformative initiative represents a qualitative leap forward in the Gulf integration journey, promising to significantly enhance the fluidity of goods trade and the ease of cross-border movement for citizens.

In conclusion, Sheikh Al Maskari, stated that the Council states are expected to concentrate their collective efforts on reaffirming Gulf unity, protecting regional security and stability, endorsing diplomatic solutions and peaceful conflict resolution, respecting state sovereignty, coordinating on energy security and global market stability, fostering balanced regional and international partnerships, and invigorating constructive dialogue with neighbouring states. The imperative for coordination and cooperation across all domains commands attention at the highest levels, ensuring a unified and influential GCC position in international forums.

Dr. Youssef Abdulkarim Al Boujairi, Director General of Legal Affairs and Human Rights of Bahrain, remarked that the Kingdom of Bahrain has the honour of hosting the forty-sixth session of the GCC Supreme Council. This occasion follows nearly four decades of sustained joint Gulf action, a journey that has attained remarkable levels of solidarity and tangible achievement across the Council’s diverse cycles.

He added, “We look to this year’s Bahrain Summit to fulfill a portion of the lofty aspirations of Their Majesties and Highnesses, the leaders of the GCC states, and to correspondingly meet the hopes of the Gulf peoples for greater progress, welfare, and prosperity. We are presented with an extensive agenda encompassing social, economic, cultural, and investment files. This is in addition to examining several axes of the strategic relations that bind the Council states to nations across the globe, alongside the promising future trajectories these relations entail.”

He indicated that the economic dimension remains a cornerstone for reinforcing Gulf interconnectivity and social cohesion, and for facilitating the seamless movement of people and goods—factors indispensable to the region’s continued prosperity.

He pointed out that among the most salient items on the summit’s agenda is the pivotal agreement for the Gulf Railway project, which will physically link all six member states. This monumental undertaking stands today as a crucial milestone in materializing the vision of the Council’s leaders and the aspirations of its citizens. This long-held vision is now on the cusp of realisation, with the agreement anticipated for formal signing during the proceedings of the forty-sixth summit.

He noted that the file pertaining to connectivity in civil aviation is of particular significance. The civil aviation authorities within the GCC have achieved substantial strides in enhancing air connectivity, thereby cementing the region’s status as a vital global aviation hub. The establishment of the GCC Civil Aviation Organisation marks a significant institutional advancement within the framework of joint Gulf action.

He clarified that the summit will also deliberate on numerous initiatives designed to strengthen linkages and foster greater communication and solidarity among member states. While certain challenges may arise in pursuit of these ambitious goals, the concrete accomplishments attained thus far offer resounding proof that the collective Gulf vision continues to advance steadily, day by day. – **OWA**

Nearly 1,000 dead as floods wreak havoc in Indonesia and Sri Lanka



Emergency teams have been coordinating rescue efforts and military aid as the death toll from the floods rise

JAKARTA: Severe flooding and landslides across Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and Sri Lanka left at least 960 people dead on Monday, with hundreds more missing.

Authorities across the region continued clearing blocked roads, removing debris and searching for the missing after days of intense rainfall, flash floods and landslides.

Which countries have been worst hit by the floods?

Indonesia has been the hardest hit, recording at least 442 deaths



and 402 missing, according to the national disaster management agency.

Two cities on Sumatra — the most severely affected island — remain inaccessible. Authorities said two naval vessels were dispatched from Jakarta to help provide assistance.

“Two cities require special attention due to their isolation, namely Tapanuli Central and Sibolga,” said Suharyanto, the

head of the national disaster management agency, noting that the warships were expected to reach Sibolga on Monday.

Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, who arrived in North Sumatra on Monday, said “the worst has passed, hopefully.” He said the priority was now on how to immediately send the necessary aid, with a particular focus on several isolated villages.

In Sri Lanka, the Disaster

Management Center (DMC) said 340 people were confirmed dead after a week of heavy rains driven by Cyclone Ditwah, with around 400 still missing. As the cyclone moved toward India on Saturday, entire areas north of the capital, Colombo, were flooded, affecting more than one million people.

President Anura Kumara Dissanayake declared a state of emergency, granting broad powers to



coordinate relief. The military was also mobilized.

Anger over response in Thailand

Thailand has recorded at least 176 deaths in what officials describe as one of the worst flood events in a decade.

Authorities continued delivering aid to tens of thousands left homeless on Monday and began repairing large-scale damage.

Criticism of the national response has grown, with two local officials suspended.

Malaysia reported two deaths in the floods that submerged large parts of the state of Perlis in the country’s north. Scientists say climate change is altering storm patterns across the region, increasing rainfall intensity, extending storm duration and heightening the risk of sudden flooding and stronger wind gusts. **-DW**

OPERATION SAGAR BANDHU

IAF evacuates over 50 stranded foreigners from flood-hit Sri Lanka

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of External Affairs said that the Indian Air Force has evacuated stranded people in Sri Lanka, including citizens from Germany, South Africa, Slovenia and the United Kingdom.

In a post on X, Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, “Together in times of need.

As part of India’s ongoing Operation Sagar Bandhu, the Mi-17 helicopters of the Indian Air Force evacuated stranded people in Sri Lanka, including citizens from Germany, South Africa, Slovenia and United Kingdom.”

According to a statement from the Indian Air Force, IAF helicopters conducted a hybrid rescue mission to extricate stranded passengers from a restricted zone during Cyclone Ditwah in Sri Lanka.

A Garud commando was winched down to guide the group through a cross-country route to



a pre-briefed helipad at Kotmale, from where 24 passengers—including Indians, foreign nationals and Sri Lankans—were evacuated to Colombo.

In a parallel effort, three critical casualties were airlifted to Colombo for immediate medical attention.

Earlier, five teams of Sri Lankan Army personnel (40 troops) were

airlifted from Diyathalawa Army Camp to the landslide-affected Kotmale region to support relief operations, the statement said.

In the first leg of rescue operations at Kotmale-Colombo Port, IAF rescued two people from Germany, four South African citizens, two from Slovenia, two from the UK, 12 Indians and five Sri Lankans. In the second leg of the res-

cue, IAF rescued three citizens from Poland, six from Belarus, five from Iran, one Australian, one Pakistani, three Bangladeshis and nine Sri Lankans.

The Indian Air Force on Sunday said that under Operation Sagar Bandhu, the IAF C-17 airlifted NDRF teams and equipment from Pune. The ongoing operation has tapped into domestic support operations.

In a post on X, it said, “Cyclone Ditwah - Ongoing Ops: Even as relief efforts continue in Sri Lanka, the Indian Air Force has simultaneously pressed into domestic support operations. An IAF C-17 has airlifted NDRF teams and equipment from Pune and Vadodara to Chennai, enabling rapid deployment of over 300 NDRF personnel and around 35 tonnes of essential gear.”

India has launched ‘Operation Sagar Bandhu’ to aid Sri Lanka following Cyclone Ditwah’s devastation. **-ANI**

30,000 PARTICIPANTS

Oxford names ‘rage bait’ as Word of the Year 2025

LONDON: The publisher Oxford University Press on Monday announced it had chosen the term “rage bait” as its Word of the Year for 2025 after a three-day public vote involving more than 30,000 participants. According to Oxford’s language data, rage bait has tripled in usage over the past 12 months, emerging as a defining expression of 2025’s digital climate.

The term refers to “online content deliberately designed to elicit anger or outrage by being frustrating, provocative, or offensive, typically posted in order to increase traffic to or engagement with a particular web page or social media content.”

Experts say the term captures how online culture has evolved from click-driven attention to emotion-driven manipulation. They noted that 2025’s news cycle, dominated by social unrest and debates on regulating online content,

contributed to rage bait becoming a widely recognized linguistic marker of the moment.

Rage bait was first documented in 2002 on Usenet, where it described a driver’s deliberate provocation of another motorist. It later shifted into internet slang, particularly around viral posts on platforms such as Twitter, and has since become a standard reference in newsrooms and creator communities.

“The fact that the word rage bait exists and has seen such a dramatic surge in usage means we’re increasingly aware of the manipulation tactics we can be drawn into online,” said Casper Grathwohl, President of Oxford Languages.

“Before, the internet was focused on grabbing our attention by sparking curiosity in exchange for clicks, now we’ve seen a dramatic shift to it hijacking and influencing our emotions, and how we respond.” **-DW**

DIGNITAS

Swiss founder of right-to-die body ends life at 92

BERLIN: The founder of Swiss right-to-die group Dignitas has died through assisted death, the association said Saturday.

Ludwig A. Minelli was a pioneer in the field of assisted death, having led efforts to decriminalize it in Germany in 2020.

Minelli died November 29, 2025, shortly before his 93rd birthday.

He founded the association “Dignitas – To live with dignity – To die with dignity” in 1998 and faced numerous legal challenges. He made several successful appeals to the Swiss Supreme Court and the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR).

Minelli began his career as a journalist with a Swiss newspaper in 1956 and was the first correspondent for the German news magazine Der Spiegel in Switzerland between 1964 and 1974.

He later studied law and went on to make a lasting impact on Swiss legislation. Dignitas noted a 2011 ECHR ruling that recognized the right of a person capable of judgment to decide the manner and timing of their own end of life.

The organisation described Minelli as a “tenacious and unflinching warrior” when it came to defending people’s autonomy to make fundamental decisions about their lives. Dignitas said Minelli’s work was crucial to the decriminalization of assisted sui-



cide services in Germany.

In 2020, Germany’s Federal Constitutional Court ruled that individuals have a constitutional right to a self-determined death.

In a recent interview with German outlet FOCUS Online, Dr. Martin Goßmann, head of the medical team at the German Assisted Dying Association, said third parties can offer assistance such as medical or legal advice, but the patient must carry out the act of ingesting the life-ending drug. Euthanasia, where another person actively helps someone die at their request, remains punishable by law in Germany.

Dignitas said it currently has about 10,000 members and offers assisted death or accompanied suicide services to people from around the world.

Assisted death is fully or conditionally available in Australia, New Zealand, and several European countries, including Austria, Belgium, Italy, and the Netherlands. **-DW**

TESLA CEO

US benefited immensely from talented Indians: Elon Musk

WASHINGTON, DC: Amid ongoing discussions about immigration policies and the importance of attracting global talent, Tesla CEO Elon Musk acknowledged the significant contributions of Indian talent to the United States, noting that the country has significantly benefited from skilled Indians.

In an interview with Nikhil Kamath, Co-Founder of Zerodha, Musk discussed immigration policies and entrepreneurship.

“I think America has benefited immensely from talented Indians who have come to America. I mean, America’s been an immense beneficiary of talent from India,” he said.

Musk’s comments highlight the value of diversity and the impact of Indian professionals in various sectors, including technology and innovation.

Many individuals of Indian origin have made significant contributions to the US economy, driving growth and innovation.

He emphasised the need for balanced immigration policies, criticising the Biden administration’s lack of border controls. “I think there are different schools of thought.

It’s not unanimous, but under the Biden administration, it was basically a total free-for-all with like no border controls. Unless you’ve got border controls. So you had massive amounts of illegal immigration under Biden, and actually, it also had like somewhat of a negative selection effect,” he said.

Musk said that open borders



were detrimental as they allowed even criminals to enter the US.

“If there’s a massive financial incentive to come to the US illegally and get all these government benefits, then you’re going to necessarily create a diffusion gradient for people to come to the US. It’s an incentive structure that obviously made no sense. Like, you got to have border controls. It’s kind of ridiculous not to. Then that’s what the left wants to basically have: open borders. It doesn’t matter if someone knows what the situation is; it could be a criminal- doesn’t matter,” he said.

Elon Musk addressed concerns that talented immigrants are taking jobs from native-born citizens, saying he’s unsure about the validity of this perception.

Based on his experience, he believes there’s a scarcity of talented people, suggesting that skilled immigrants are filling gaps rather than taking jobs.

“On the right, you’ve got a per-

ception that somehow their jobs are being taken by talented people from other countries. I don’t know how real that is. My direct observation is that there’s always a scarcity of talented people,” he said.

Musk advised budding entrepreneurs to focus on creating value, working hard, and being prepared for failure.

“From my standpoint, we have a lot of difficulty finding enough talented people to get these difficult tasks done, and so more talented people would be good. But I guess some companies out there are making it more of a cost thing, where it’s like, okay, if they can employ someone for a fraction of the cost of an American citizen, then I guess these other companies would hire people just to save costs. But at my company, the issue is we are just trying to get the most talented people around the world,” he said.

When asked for advice for budding Indian entrepreneurs, Musk

said that anyone who wants to make more than they take has his respect.

“I’m a big fan of anyone who wants to build. So I think anyone who wants to make more than they take has my respect. So that’s the main thing you should aim for,” he said.

He said that if one contributes to society, it is a pursuit of happiness.

“Aim to make more than you take. Be a net contributor to society. It’s kind of like the pursuit of happiness. If you want to create something that’s financially valuable, you don’t pursue that. It’s best to actually pursue making useful products and services. If you do that, then money will come as a natural consequence of that as opposed to pursuing money directly,” he said.

Musk further said that anyone who wants to make a company should work hard and brace for failure.

“Just like you can’t pursue happiness directly. You pursue things that lead to happiness, but it’s not like a direct pursuit. You do things like fulfilling work or study or friends, loved ones, that, as a result, make you happy. So this sounds like it’s self-evident, but generally, if somebody’s trying to make a company work, they should expect to grind super hard. Except that there’s like some meaningful chance of failure. But just focus on making the output worth more than the input. Are you a value creator? That’s what really matters,” he said. **-ANI**

SPORTS

Seeb regain HM's Cup for Youth

After two successive seasons as runners-up, Seeb rose to the top and reaffirmed their status as one of Oman's most accomplished multi-activity clubs

Times News Service

MUSCAT: After finishing second in the previous two editions, Seeb Club reclaimed the prestigious His Majesty's Cup for Youth for 2023-2024, the ultimate benchmark of club performance and youth empowerment across the Sultanate.

The awards were presented by Eng. Salim Nasser Al Aufl, Minister of Energy and Minerals, in the presence of Basil Al Rawas, Undersecretary for Sports at the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, ministers, and clubs representatives.

Seeb Club's board member H H Sayyid Melek bin Shihab Al Said received the trophy from Al Aufl at the ceremony. A record-time winner, Seeb won their 13th title and also have to their credit of winning five times in a row.

Seeb Club vice-chairman Yousuf Al Wahaibi said: "This is a proud moment for the club and it underlines the overall progress. We missed the titles for the last two editions narrowly but we worked hard to get the most prestigious club honour."

Last year's champions Salalah Club finished second, while Saham Club retained their third-place position. Oman Club and Al Bashayr Club rounded out the top five.

In addition to the main competition, four clubs were recognised for excellence across key strategic focus areas of the Oman Sports Strategy 2040, which aims to strengthen governance, improve financial sustainability, and promote environmentally conscious sports development.

Taqah Club received the In-



centive Award in the Activities category, Quriyat Club in the Economy category, Fanja Club in Governance of Sports Bodies, and Al Amerat Club in Sports and

Sustainable Environment.

The ceremony included a visual presentation tracing the evolution of the HM's Cup for Youth, alongside a detailed explanation of the

revised evaluation framework introduced this year, which features updated scoring mechanisms and clearer criteria for assessing club performance.

Speaking on the occasion, Al Rawas emphasised the Cup's enduring value in nurturing young talent and elevating club standards across Oman. "This competition aims to achieve a comprehensive vision for club management based on governance, planning and community responsibility," he said. "It encourages clubs to diversify income sources, support promising athletes, strengthen volunteerism, and serve as true incubators for youth in alignment with Oman Vision 2040."

He added that this year's edition was enhanced to align more closely with the Oman Sports Strategy

2040, with increased prize values and a two-track award system: competitive awards for the top five clubs overall and incentive awards for leaders in each strategic category. Since its inception in 1998, the HM's Cup for Youth has evolved into a cornerstone of Oman's sports and youth development framework - driving clubs to broaden activities, adopt modern management standards and contribute meaningfully to society. The coveted trophy continues to reinforce the nation's long-term vision for a dynamic, empowered generation.

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OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS
The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by February 2026 reaching \$64.26, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by 10 cents. - **ONA**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER
The MSX index closed at 5,710.38 points, up by 0.08% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.09% at 498.19 points. Global Financial Investments, up 6.63%, was the top gainer while Financial Services, down 9.52%, was the top loser.



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Oman showcases impact driven progress at Green Hydrogen Summit

The summit serves as a platform for a sector update that confirms Oman's transition from strategy to execution

MUSCAT: The 2025 edition of the Green Hydrogen Summit Oman (GHSO) opened on Monday under the theme "Bridging Gaps, Driving Action."

Organised by the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, and in partnership with Hydrom, the summit served as a platform for a sector update that confirms the Sultanate of Oman's transition from strategy to execution. While international market conditions continue to reshape developer expectations, Oman's achievements to date signal a decisive, impact-driven commitment that positions the nation as a credible first-mover in the global hydrogen economy.

Opening the summit, Eng. Salim bin Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals, said: "The Green Hydrogen Summit Oman 2025 reflects our ongoing efforts



to strengthen energy security at home and abroad, and to position Oman as a central hub for the development of low-carbon hydrogen industries. Over the past years, we have worked to build clear policies and strong regulatory foundations that can support this sector as it grows and adapts to global market realities. Our approach has always been rooted in the responsible use of our natural resources and in creating lasting economic value across the supply chain."

He added: "Oman's progress in energy has always been about turning challenges into opportunities. What began decades ago with the use of associated gas became a cornerstone of the global energy system. Today, we are seeing a similar evolution in renewables such as solar and wind, which are now among the fastest-growing energy technologies in the world. The same spirit drives our work in hydrogen. Together with our partners, we are addressing technical and financial challenges, building the infrastructure, and establishing national companies capable of leading this transition and enhancing Oman's competitiveness in clean-fuel production and exports."

Delivering the Summit's opening keynote, Abdulaziz Al Shidhani, Managing Director of Hydrom, outlined how Oman's green-hydrogen

framework, built around clear policy, structured land allocation, and defined investment mechanisms, has evolved into an integrated national programme. Less than three years after setting the framework for a new energy industry, Oman's green-hydrogen programme has entered a phase of coordinated execution, linking projects, infrastructure, and regulation within one ecosystem built for scale and long-term competitiveness. Today, seven developments, representing a combined production capacity of one million tonnes of green hydrogen annually by 2030, are progressing through defined milestones, while two projects were concluded

by mutual agreement following developer reassessment in response to market dynamics.

Within this portfolio, the ACME Duqm Project represents a defining milestone as Oman's first large-scale green hydrogen development to reach construction. Designed as a three-phased development, its first phase is now under construction, targeting 100,000 tonnes of green ammonia and 17,000 tonnes of green hydrogen per annum by 2027. Phases 2 and 3 will scale production significantly, with the full development targeting over 150,000 tonnes of green hydrogen and 800,000 tonnes of green ammonia annually. With investment deployed, equipment ordered, and construction in progress, the project stands as tangible proof of Oman's shift from strategy to implementation.

As Oman strengthens its international reach, equal focus is being placed on shaping domestic demand pathways that will complete the value chain. Hydrom is working with partners to advance new industrial uses of hydrogen across green steel, hydrogen-based fuels, and heavy mobility sectors that will form the backbone of future local offtake. A double-sided auction mechanism is also under study to connect domestic producers with emerging industrial consumers and establish price discovery within the national market.

The third auction round marks the continuation of Oman's phased

approach to developing its green hydrogen portfolio. With more than 130 companies registered, the process serves as a test of market depth under the current global conditions, while maintaining the transparency and structure that define Oman's model. Furthermore, the incentive measures announced earlier this year, valued at \$3.6 billion across the sector, were introduced to reflect lessons from previous rounds and to improve the financial resilience of early-stage projects. Taken together with the regulatory framework, land allocation system, and growing local supply capabilities, these elements indicate a sector moving forward with confidence.

In its fourth edition, the summit brings together senior government officials, chief executives, and global energy leaders, alongside international representatives and institutions.

Over three days, the technical programme will explore the latest advancements in hydrogen production, storage, transport, and industrial applications.

Sessions will examine international case studies, evolving business models, certification standards, and regulatory frameworks, while also highlighting progress in Oman's hydrogen projects in Duqm and Dhofar and the growing opportunities for integration between renewable energy and digital technologies. - **ONA**

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MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Global Financial Investments, up 6.63%, was the top gainer while, Financial Services, down 9.52%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 5,710.38 points, up by 0.08% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.09% at 498.19 points. Global Financial Investments, up 6.63%, was the top gainer while, Financial Services, down 9.52%, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded while Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 4,412 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 36.29 million, with more than 137.59 million shares changing hands. Out of 63 traded securities, 23 advanced, 14 declined, and 26 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net buyers for RO 888K while GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for RO 516K, followed by domestic investors for RO 372K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 9,271.13 points, up 0.64%. Prices of Global Financial Investments, Oman & Emirates Investment,

Al Sharqia Investment, United Finance, and DIDIC were up by 6.63%, 6.45%, 4.71%, 3.13%, and 2.00% respectively. Prices of Financial Services, Al Omaniya Financial Services, Sohar International Bank, and Ahli Bank were down by 9.52%, 3.70%, 1.27%, and 0.68% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 7,278.65 points, up 0.08%. Prices of Al Anwar Ceramics, Gulf Mushroom Products, Oman Cement, and A'Saffa Foods were up by 1.79%, 1.40%, 0.63%, and 0.22% respectively. Prices of Galfar Engineering, and Voltamp Energy were down by 1.59%, and 1.38% respectively.

Services Index was down by -0.13% before closing at 2,354.64 points. Prices of Majan College, Renaissance Services, Barka Desalination, OQ Exploration & Production, and Oman Telecom were up by 3.08%, 2.95%, 1.41%, 0.79%, and 0.78% respectively. Prices of Sharqiyah Desalination, Al Batinah Power, and Phoenix Power were down by 2.69%, 1.18%, and 0.67% respectively.

— United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	5,723.65	5,673.86	5,710.38	5,705.72	4.66	0.08
FINANCIAL INDEX	9,297.01	9,192.04	9,271.13	9,212.15	58.98	0.64
Industry Index	7,278.82	7,251.30	7,278.65	7,272.84	5.81	0.08
Services Index	2,362.96	2,340.03	2,354.64	2,357.79	-3.15	-0.13
MSX Shariah Index	499.37	493.93	498.19	497.75	0.44	0.09
MSX TR INDEX	8,596.59	8,521.80	8,576.66	8,569.66	7.00	0.08
FINANCIAL TR IDX	11,045.17	10,920.46	11,014.42	10,944.35	70.07	0.64
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	8,974.15	8,940.22	8,973.94	8,966.78	7.16	0.08
SERVICES TR IDX	3,070.26	3,040.47	3,059.46	3,063.55	-4.09	-0.13
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,205.12	1,205.12	1,205.12	1,205.12	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
137,593,090	36,285,582	4,412	31,658,402,863	23	14	26	63

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
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REGULAR MARKET

OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	7,569,112	1,576,690	249	0.198	0.214	0.198	0.209	0.196	-0.013	-6.633	0.209	0.209	0.209	0.100	41,800,000
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO	8,000	703	3	0.086	0.089	0.086	0.089	0.085	0.004	4.706	0.089	0.087	0.082	0.100	8,010,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	1,689,850	110,274	51	0.065	0.066	0.065	0.066	0.064	0.002	3.125	0.066	0.065	0.067	0.100	23,504,402
OM0000003234	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	374,153	115,670	34	0.306	0.314	0.306	0.308	0.304	0.004	0.951	0.314	0.313	0.314	0.100	24,232,740
OM0000002188	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	221,744	37,681	21	0.169	0.172	0.169	0.171	0.168	0.003	1.786	0.171	0.152	0.172	0.100	37,620,000
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	41,219	11,427	9	0.275	0.278	0.275	0.278	0.274	0.004	1.460	0.275	0.275	0.274	0.100	27,800,000
OM0000004788	MADINA TAKAFUL	291,253	28,321	32	0.089	0.091	0.089	0.090	0.088	0.001	1.124	0.090	0.088	0.084	0.100	15,750,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	5,068,787	5,268,501	330	1.032	1.042	1.031	1.040	1.032	0.008	0.775	1.040	1.135	1.040	0.100	780,000,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	5,980	2,211	8	0.315	0.317	0.315	0.317	0.315	0.002	0.635	0.317	0.316	0.320	0.100	296,820,576
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	27,482,967	9,235,741	514	0.335	0.338	0.334	0.337	0.335	0.002	0.597	0.337	0.368	0.337	0.100	2,529,655,810
OM0000002256	AL JAZEERA SERVICES	20,010	3,680	7	0.184	0.184	0.183	0.184	0.183	0.001	0.546	0.184	0.184	0.200	0.100	7,883,110
OM0000000972	OQ GAS NETWORKS	9,004,517	1,675,694	557	0.185	0.188	0.184	0.187	0.186	0.001	0.539	0.187	0.187	0.187	0.100	809,808,672
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	888	415	2	0.470	0.470	0.466	0.466	0.465	0.001	0.215	0.466	0.444	0.466	0.100	55,920,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	10,000	3,680	1	0.368	0.368	0.368	0.368	0.368	0.000	0.000	0.368	0.360	0.370	0.100	598,348,259
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	1,000	575	1	0.575	0.575	0.575	0.575	0.575	0.000	0.000	0.575	0.555	0.600	0.100	71,816,327
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	20,085	2,109	1	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.000	0.000	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.100	234,880,068
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	121,400	30,334	17	0.167	0.169	0.167	0.168	0.168	0.000	0.000	0.168	0.168	0.168	0.100	120,020,265
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	1,982,483	629,723	374	0.317	0.320	0.315	0.319	0.319	0.000	0.000	0.319	0.317	0.318	0.100	245,893,800
OM0000004825	ALBATINAH POWER	223,562	37,648	29	0.169	0.170	0.167	0.167	0.169	-0.002	-1.183	0.167	0.153	0.167	0.100	112,706,201
OM0000003386	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	37,418,309	5,837,767	546	0.157	0.157	0.155	0.156	0.158	-0.002	-1.286	0.156	0.156	0.173	0.100	1,032,250,418
OM0000003681	VOLTAMP ENERGY	650	606	1	0.932	0.932	0.932	0.932	0.945	-0.013	-1.376	0.932	0.935	0.950	0.100	872,474,667
OM0000003968	COREDOO	1,176,100	338,370	75	0.282	0.285	0.282	0.288	0.286	-0.008	-2.703	0.288	0.288	0.295	0.100	18,471,938
Total		92,738,082	24,936,349	2,852												

Parallel Market

OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO	668,701	64,053	74	0.095	0.099	0.094	0.099	0.093	0.006	6.452	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.100	12,065,625
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	32,882	4,358	15	0.131	0.135	0.130	0.134	0.130	0.004	3.077	0.134	0.130	0.134	0.100	12,060,000
OM0000008447	OMAN RET FUND	1,580	145	2	0.089	0.091	0.089	0.091	0.089	0.002	2.247	0.091	0.089	0.092	0.100	580,61,719
OM0000001509	DHOFAH INTERNATIONAL DEV & INV	9,723	2,434	3	0.250	0.255	0.250	0.255	0.250	0.005	2.000	0.255	0.250	0.255	0.100	126,494,316
OM0000001085	MUSCAT INSURANCE	3,060	673	1	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.216	0.004	1.852	0.220	0.200	0.225	0.100	25,397,218
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	3,000	432	1	0.144	0.144	0.144	0.144	0.142	0.002	1.408	0.144	0.138	0.148	0.100	10,875,168
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	101,461	29,423	22	0.290	0.290	0.288	0.290	0.286	0.004	1.399	0.290	0.259	0.303	0.100	13,272,081
OM0000001772	AL ANWAR INVESTMENT	553,896	54,243	34	0.097	0.099	0.096	0.098	0.097	0.001	1.031	0.099	0.100	0.099	0.100	471,168,772
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	17,420,161	6,669,999	488	0.381	0.384	0.381	0.384	0.381	0.003	0.787	0.384	0.419	0.384	0.100	3,072,000,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	1,090	526	2	0.463	0.463	0.463	0.463	0.460	0.003	0.625	0.463	0.460	0.463	0.100	59,811,519
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INV	40,400	5,494	2	0.134	0.136	0.134	0.136	0.136	0.000	0.000	0.136	0.135	0.136	0.100	20,400,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	141,909	12,217	34	0.086	0.087	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.000	0.000	0.085	0.085	0.087	0.100	7,225,000
OM0000001178	OMAN TRAKSES	4,000	440	1	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.000	0.000	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.100	2,300,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	64,961	3,313	2	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.000	0.000	0.051	0.051	0.055	0.100	15,964,463
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	8,650	397	5	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.000	0.000	0.069	0.067	0.073	0.100	1,449,000
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAH	134,200	20,801	10	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.000	0.000	0.155	0.154	0.155	0.100	471,168,772
OM0000002580	OMAN EDUCATION & TRAINING INV	100	155	1	1.550	1.550	1.550	1.550	1.550	0.000	0.000	1.550	1.550	1.550	0.100	108,500,000
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	67,025	9,652	7	0.144	0.144	0.144	0.144	0.144	0.000	0.000	0.144	0.144	0.144	0.100	87,570,221
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	5,640	804	1	0.221	0.221	0.221	0.221	0.221	0.000	0.000	0.221	0.219	0.243	0.100	44,119,468
OM0000004735	SEMBOCOR SALALAH	8,283	1,502	7	0.182	0.182	0.180	0.182	0.182	0.000	0.000	0.182	0.180	0.185	0.100	17,332,095
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	52,000	2,756	3	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.000	0.000	0.053	0.051	0.054	0.100	13,250,000
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	2,500	693	3	0.277	0.277	0.277	0.277	0.277	0.000	0.000	0.277	0.272	0.277	0.100	15,235,000
OM0000007043	LIVA GROUP	6,500	1,935	3	0.280	0.300	0.280	0.300	0.300	0.000	0.000	0.300	0.272	0.300	0.100	119,512,303
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	208	21	2	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.000	0.080	0.078	0.080	0.100	12,444,022
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	16,000	1,264	3	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.000	0.000	0.079	0.072	0.085	0.100	15,800,000
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REEF	9,910	1,478	2	0.150	0.150	0.149	0.149	0.149	0.000	0.000	0.149	0.148	0.150	0.100	28,124,065
OM0000008908	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	10,894,491	1,911,304	375	0.176	0.177	0.174	0.176	0.177	-0.001	-0.565	0.176	0.176	0.176	0.040	608,870,390
OM0000001020	ASTAD SHIPPING	14,086,029	2,427,121	416	0.173	0.174	0.171	0.172	0.173	-0.001	-0.578	0.172	0.172	0.173	0.000	896,904,016
OM0000005983	PHOENIX POWER	136,300	20,189	17	0.148	0.148	0.146	0.148	0.148	0.000	0.000	0.148	0.148	0.158	0.100	216,465,016
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	108,638	15,865	7	0.147	0.147	0.146	0.146	0.147	-0.001	-0.680	0.147	0.161	0.147	0.100	395,192,847
OM0000004669	SHARQIYAH DESALINATION	6,882	849	1	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.148	-0.004	-0.285	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.100	14,181,181
OM0000002027	AL OMANYAH FINANCIAL SERVICES	15,000	1,500	1	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.000	0.000	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.100	14,181,181
OM0000001384	FINANCIAL SERVICES	0	0	0	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	-0.924	0.095	0.105	0.100	0
		44,745,210	11,884,708	1,539												



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Contact: 92106856.
Email: lizmarytherese@gmail.com

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FINANCE

Indian Male B.Com, MBA, with 18 yrs in healthcare, trading, logistics, IVMS up to finalization with MIS, LC, LTR software expertise, ERP, tally, Odoo & online Accounting, valid Omani D/L, can be join with short notice period.

Contact : 99279626

ENGINEER

Indian, B.Tech-Mech Engineering Holder having 13 years of experience in Oman specialized in Steel Fabrication looking suitable position.

Contact: Mobile : 95945230
Email : Arungopalakrishnan85@yahoo.com

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Contact: 77336141
Email: confession.mercy@gmail.com

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **STEVEN D SOUZA** holder of Indian Passport No. AB 895576 son of **ANTONIO MARIA DE SOUZA** having permanent residence in India (H. No: 183/4, Firguem, St. Anthony Chapel Tiswadi, North Goa -Pin: 403108) and presently residing in Oman (Qurum Heights, P.O. Box 1455, Muscat, 112, Oman) intend to change my name from **STEVAN D SOUZA** to **STEVEN D SOUZA** for all practical purpose. Any objection towards my name may please be communicated to Embassy of India, Muscat, Diplomatic Quarters, Al Khuwair, P.Box.No.1727, Postal Code 112, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman.

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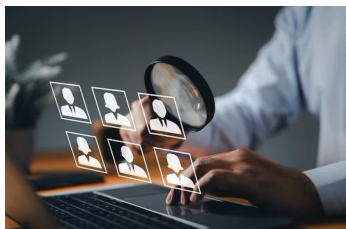
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Indian (M), 28, Accountant with overall exp. 3 yrs valid D/L. Contact: 78624277

Sri Lankan Accountant, reading CA. 3+ yrs of experience. Expertise in accounting, audit, bookkeeping, VAT, finalization. Contact: +968 76297279

Indian Male, M.com (Finance), 10 years accounting experience in Oman. Seeking suitable position. Noc & D/L available Contact: 99859141

Accountant available immediate joiner, Indian male, B.Com, 10+ yrs exp (4 yrs Oman) Expert in Tally & Accounts Contact: 91417133

Indian Male MBA, B.Com, with 5+yr experience in Facility management and accounting looking for suitable positions in finance and facility management. Can join short notice. Contact: 75034297

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Indian Male MBA, Senior accountant, admin having 10 yrs experience. Contact : 95416322, Email: aabynarayan@gmail.com

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Indian Female 5 yrs of experience in accounts, administration, and customer care looking for suitable job. Currently in Muscat. Contact: 75019077, 79718900 Email. Hmakwana995@gmail.com

Indian Male, Bcom, MBA finance, 14 yrs of Oman and Indian experience, seeking suitable jobs in accounts. Have valid Oman D/L. Contact: 97436925.Email: sasdsrk@gmail.com

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ADMINISTRATION

Indian (M) 29 yrs, MBA graduate with 4 yrs experience in operations, stores management, office administration, yard management, accounts, finance and graphic designing. Looking for suitable job. Contact: 78439875

ADMINISTRATION

Indian Male, 29 yrs, MBA with NEBOSH certified with 2+ yrs experience in administration looking for safety or administration jobs. Contact +968 74105832, Email : ashikthahir@gmail.com

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Highly skilled accounting and administrative professional with diverse experience in technical and office administration roles Contact: 90473476. Email: kpsanjay202@gmail.com

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Driver with 25 yrs experience, PDO licence looking for job. Contact: 99116288

EDUCATION/TRAINING

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

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Electrical Engineer, experience 17 year in Oman . Contact 98148034

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Procurement Engineer 19 yrs experience construction and trading. whatsapp: +96895839964

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Indian Male, 08 yrs experience having Oman D/L, looking for suitable placement in Sales and Marketing. Contact: 94566786

Indian Senior Sales & Operations, 7+ yrs exp, with D/L. Seeks suitable position. Cont: 71713865 | Email: praveenmkg@gmail.com

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Indian Male MMS (Master in Management Studies) with 2 yrs of experience in Data Entry and Sales , looking for suitable position. Contact: 91415250 Email: tambesalwan@gmail.com

Court sentences Sheikh Hasina to 5 years in jail for corruption

The court also sentenced Sheikh Rehana, the younger sister of the former Prime Minister, to 7 years in prison in this case and Rehana’s daughter, Tulip Siddique, a British MP to 2 years in prison

DHAKA: A Dhaka court on Monday has sentenced Bangladesh’s former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to 5 years imprisonment on corruption charges.

The court also sentenced Sheikh Rehana, the younger sister of the former Prime Minister, to 7 years in prison in this case and Rehana’s daughter, Tulip Siddique, a British MP to 2 years in prison.

Dhaka’s Special Judge - 4 Rabiul Alam announced the verdict

of Sheikh Hasina sentenced to 5 years in prison a plot fraud case. Bangladesh’s Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed six separate cases against Sheikh Hasina and her family members last January for allegedly illegally allocating government’s plots at Purbachal area in Dhaka.

Earlier, a Dhaka court on Thursday sentenced Bangladesh’s former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to 21 years imprisonment on



corruption charges.

Dhaka’s Special Judge - 5 Mohammad Abdullah Al Mamun announced the verdict of Sheikh Hasina sentenced to 21 years in prison, 7 years each, in three plot fraud cases.

Bangladesh’s Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed six separate cases against Sheikh Hasina and her family members last January for allegedly illegally allocating government’s plots at Purbachal area in Dhaka. The verdict in the

remaining three cases will be announced on December 1.

Court sentenced Sheikh Hasina’s son Sajeeb Wazed Joy to five years in prison and a fine of Tk 100,000. Court sentenced Sheikh Hasina’s daughter Saima Wazed Putul to five years in prison.

The International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) of Bangladesh has already sentenced Sheikh Hasina to death, finding her guilty of crimes against humanity for her efforts to suppress the July 2024 anti-government protests.

Sheikh Hasina and her family did not have a lawyer in the cases as they were absconding. However, they have denied any involvement in any corruption allegations in various speeches and statements.

Meanwhile on Wednesday, the Minister of External Affairs on Wednesday stated that the Indian government is currently examining the request from Bangladesh’s interim government seeking the extradition of its former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who was sentenced to death by the country’s International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) in a case related to crimes against humanity during last year’s July-August unrest.

Addressing a weekly media briefing, MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that New Delhi had formally received Dhaka’s communication over the matter, stressing that India remains committed to Bangladesh’s stability and the well-being of its people as part of its “ongoing judicial and internal legal processes.”

“Yes, we have received the request, and this request is being examined. As part of ongoing judicial and internal legal processes, we remain committed to the best interest of the people of Bangladesh, including peace, democracy, inclusion and stability in that country, and will continue to engage constructively in this regard with all state stakeholders,” Jaiswal said. -ANI

MEETING

REVENUES FROM THE SALE OF WEAPONS

President Asif Zardari calls for stronger Egypt, Pakistan ties



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Foreign Affairs, Emigration and Expatriates of Egypt Dr Badr Ahmed Mohamed Abdelatty, called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan e Sadr here Sunday and discussed matters of mutual interest.

The President said Pakistan values its longstanding ties with Egypt, which are rooted in shared faith and mutual respect, and looks forward to advancing the relationship in a more structured and forward-looking direction. He also conveyed warm greetings for President Abdel Fattah El Sisi.

The President noted that this year marks 77 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries and expressed the hope that both sides would reinvigorate

cooperation in trade, investment and people-to-people exchanges.

He encouraged greater Egyptian investment in sectors where opportunities are expanding, including energy, logistics, construction, agriculture, mining and IT.

Dr. Badr Ahmed Mohamed Abdelatty delivered a message from the Egyptian President and expressed Egypt’s keen interest in expanding its partnership with Pakistan in various fields.

The two sides also exchanged views on key regional and international issues, reaffirming their resolve to work together for peace, stability and prosperity.

Earlier, the two leaders held a one-on-one meeting and exchanged views on key issues of mutual interest. -APP

War in Ukraine boosts arms manufacturers’ profits: SIPRI

LONDON: Arms manufacturers have never earned as much as they did in 2024. This is according to a report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) on the 100 most important arms manufacturers worldwide. Their revenues from the sale of weapons and military services amounted to \$679 billion (€582 billion) last year.

This represents an inflation-adjusted increase of 5.9% compared to 2023. Even then, increasing geopolitical tensions and, above all, the war in Ukraine had led to increased demand for arms. In 2024, this trend accelerated even further.

So is Russia’s war in Ukraine good for business elsewhere? “For the defense sector, for sure,” Nan Tian of SIPRI, one of the authors of the report, told DW.

“In the last two years, the revenues have gone up substantially in these arms companies,” Tian said. This means developing new military equipment, restocking supplies and replacing equipment that has been destroyed.

German companies with particularly high growth rates

Of the 100 companies listed, 39 are based in the US, by far the leading country. These 39 companies account for just under half of global arms sales revenue. However, their growth rate of 3.8% is still relatively modest.

The situation is different for the 26 European companies (excluding Russia). Taken together,



they have seen a 13% increase in revenue.

German companies have been particularly successful, growing by as much as 36%. “It’s almost all linked to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine,” said Nan Tian.

“There has been an increase in demand from the German armed forces. Whether it’s Rheinmetall or Diehl, building tanks, armored personnel carriers, ammunition, of course, for the German armed forces to replenish what they’ve sent to Ukraine as military aid, but also to expand their number of tanks, infantry fighting vehicles, etc.”

Russia’s war economy thrives despite sanctions

Russia is listed separately in the

SIPRI ranking. And it is not surprising that Russian arms manufacturers have seen significant growth. While Russia’s export revenues fell due to international sanctions, the sharp increase in domestic demand more than offset the losses.

But Russia is a special case, said Nan Tian of SIPRI. “The country has completely changed its priorities. The production has now, for the last three years, been geared to a war economy.” All resources have been channeled into the war, said Tian. According to the SIPRI report, Russia increased its production of 152mm artillery shells by 420% between 2022 and 2024: from 250,000 to 1.3 million.

Due to international sanctions, the Russian arms industry lacks

parts from abroad, especially electronics for aircraft. However, the belief that the Russian economy would collapse as a result has proven to be false, said Nan Tian.

Quite resilient

“The country is far worse off now than it would have been if it hadn’t invaded (Ukraine), because of course there wouldn’t be sanctions, but the country has proven to be quite resilient to these various sanctions and economic issues.”

Nan Tian thinks that the transformation of the Russian economy has now gone so far that, if a lasting peace is achieved in Ukraine, it will be difficult for Russia to return to a non-war economy. -DW

TOLL HITS 151

SEA BABY MARITIME DRONES

Hong Kong fire: Netting blamed for death

HONG KONG: The number of deaths recorded from the deadly apartment complex blaze that broke out in Hong Kong last Wednesday has reached 151, authorities said on Monday.

Officials also said Monday that an investigation had shown that netting around scaffolding proved not to meet fire-safety code.

What do we know about the netting on apartments?

Wednesday’s fire at the Wang Fuk Court complex broke out on the netting around the lower levels of one of the buildings before spreading to foam panels that quickly caught fire.

Winds then blew the flames onto the other buildings, with seven out of eight buildings affected. It took until Friday for the fire to be fully extinguished.

Tests on the netting had showed it to be up to code, but further tests from other parts of the building, especially in hard-to-reach areas, were found to be of substandard materials, failing the safety tests.

Eric Chan, Hong Kong’s Chief Secretary, blamed contractors for skimping on materials to make greater profits.



“They just wanted to make money at the expense of people’s lives,” he told reporters.

Residents had complained about netting

Police continue to sweep the area of the blaze, with more than 40 people still missing. Some 4,600 people had been living in the complex.

“Some of the bodies have turned into ash, therefore we might not be able to locate all missing individuals,” Tsung Shuk Yin, a police official told reporters on Monday.

Amy Lan, a senior police official, said on Sunday the final part of the search may take weeks with the remaining buildings that need to be scoured being “the difficult ones.”

Residents of the complex had

complained last year of the netting used by the contractors to cover the scaffolding while renovation was underway. They were told by authorities that there were “relatively low fire risks.”

The Chinese government has warned against “anti-China” protests in the wake of the blaze. Legislative elections are due to be held in the city over the weekend. -DW

Ukraine hits Russian oil tankers with drones

KYIV: Ukrainian underwater drones have struck two tankers belonging to Russia’s so-called shadow fleet in the Black Sea, a Ukrainian security official has confirmed -- marking the latest escalation in Kyiv’s campaign to disrupt Moscow’s oil exports, CNN reported.

Ukraine claimed responsibility after explosions hit the vessels on Friday and Saturday. A security source confirmed that Sea Baby maritime drones were used in a joint operation involving Ukraine’s Security Service (SBU) and its navy. Russia has not issued any immediate response.

According to the Ukrainian source, both tankers suffered critical damage and were effectively knocked out of operation. “This will deal a significant blow to the transportation of Russian oil,” the source said.

Russia uses hundreds of tankers - many sailing under different flags of convenience - to ship its oil to customers in defiance of sanctions, as per CNN.

One of the targeted vessels, the Gambian-flagged tanker Virat, was struck for a second time on

Saturday after already sustaining damage the previous day, Turkey’s Transport Ministry said.

Turkish maritime authorities reported minor damage above the waterline and confirmed there was no fire on board. The ship was roughly 30 miles (50 km) off the Turkish coast at the time. Tracking data showed it slowing down and turning toward land late Friday, according to CNN.

“There is no request from the personnel to abandon the ship,” the Turkish transport ministry said, but a firefighting tugboat had been sent to the scene.

The Turkish foreign ministry later voiced concern over the attacks, saying they posed “serious risks to the safety of navigation, life, property, and the environment in the region.”

Virat’s destination remained unclear. Shipping data indicated it was waiting for orders somewhere in the Black Sea. The tanker was sanctioned by the United States in January -- under a different name at the time -- and later faced sanctions from both the United Kingdom and the European Union. -ANI



LIFESTYLE



GIVING UP a large share of revenue in a thriving business — all for a fly? Hans-Dietrich Reckhaus, the owner of the Reckhausen family-owned chemical company in Deppendorf, Germany, did exactly that.

When the 59-year-old CEO took over his family's insecticide company from his father in 1995, he didn't pay much attention to flies or insects. Like his father before him, he was manufacturing everything needed to eliminate them — bug spray, ant powder, moth paper and fly traps.

One day, more than a decade ago, he designed a new fly trap for which he wanted to boost sales with an art project.

But when he reached out to German conceptual artists Frank and Patrik Riklin, they politely declined, saying fly traps and the eradication of insects were unethical — a rebuttal that would completely change Reckhaus's outlook on his business.

A transformation through art

Reckhaus realised the art project, nevertheless, but this time the focus was on saving insects rather than killing them.

Many of the 1,000 or so residents of Deppendorf where his company is based took part in the project. For one week, they were catching flies without harming them — with one fly they named Erika even chauffeured in a limousine and flown in a helicopter and airplane to a pampering session at a five-star wellness hotel.

This publicity stunt took place 13 years ago, but the impact continues to this day. It marked the starting point for Reckhaus's research into the importance of insects for nature and turned his business completely upside down.

Today, the back of every product includes information on the importance and vulnerability of insects, as well as tips for keeping them out of homes without killing them. Some even carry a warning on the front: "Caution, kills valuable insects."

Reckhaus says consumers should "buy the product, be shocked by the information, and then reflect on their relationship with insects."

"They will learn how to keep insects outside their homes and eventually stop buying the product," Reckhaus told DW.

Costly but meaningful transformation

But what kind of entrepreneur does something that subsequently undermines their own business model?

"What drove me before was earning as much money as possible and do something meaningful with it, [for exam-

ple] support social organisations, set up a foundation and so on," said Reckhaus. But today it's more about "doing as much meaningful work as possible and earning some money through that," he added.

Just as he now hopes his customers will do, he began to engage with the ecological significance of insects after the art project and reevaluated his previously unquestioned business model from scratch.

The transformation has come at a cost. "Over the past ten years, I've lost 30% of my revenue and more than 80% of profits," he says. But what he earns from his business today is still enough for him to "lead a good live."

Changing the market from within

Simply shutting down the production of insecticides didn't seem sensible to him. Instead, he wants to change the insecticide market "from within" by selling products that allow insects to be captured alive.



PESTICIDE
MAKER
SACRIFICES
PROFITS FOR
BEING NICE TO
INSECTS



Some of the company's products are made to still kill insects, he admits, but he wants to offset the ecological damage. Reckhaus had experts calculate how many insects his products likely kill and created special compensation areas to provide insect-friendly habitats.

Since insect decline is largely due to the loss of habitat from urban sprawl and industrial agriculture, the compensation was only "the first step that soothed my conscience a little."

What followed was the so-called Insect-Respect label he initiated and which is granted to certified products that also support the creation of insect-friendly areas.

Reckhaus's immediate competitors, however, show little interest in joining the label initiative, but German retailers have come forward, he said.

European grocery giant Aldi, for example, is among them, as well as German retailers such as Budnikowski, dm, Migros, Rossmann and Spar, who all display the label on their private brands, include warnings about product use.

In 2024, 14 million packages carrying the Insect-Respect seal were sold in Europe as other major companies have joined the initiative to show their commitment to biodiversity.

Swedish furniture maker Ikea, for example, has created insect habitats in Italy, Serbia and Romania. Consulting firm KPMG and bag manufacturer Halfar have turned the rooftop terraces of their headquarters into insect-friendly areas, as well as the green spaces surrounding the buildings of chocolate producer Ritter Sport.

"We're getting inquiries from across Europe, we can barely keep up," Reckhaus said proudly. Since there are only a few landscape gardeners with the required expertise, he has launched "Insectemy" — an academy that trains landscape gardeners to design insect-friendly areas using regional plants.

Praise — and rejection

The transformation of his company earned Reckhaus numerous awards and recognitions. He also receives support from business leaders when giving talks about his turnaround.

But he still doesn't see himself as a role model for other entrepreneurs. "They're trying to make their business models climate-neutral, but they don't question them per se," he said.

He argues that climate neutrality alone isn't enough, because without a healthy animal and plant world, it has no impact. Businesses should rethink their models instead of preserving what's wrong.

Rethinking existing business models isn't very much in demand in chemical industry, he said, which is why he hasn't been invited to the events of the German Chemical Industry Association "in more than 10 years."

"The industry insists that all insects are harmful and that it offers the best ways to get rid of them quickly," he criticised, adding that none of his competitors had adopted the Insect-Respect label.

Martin May of the German agricultural industry association IVA denies that, saying Reckhaus is regularly invited and "always welcome to contribute to the association."

What was even more difficult for Reckhaus to accept was his late father's refusal to support him in the transformation. He's founded the company but during his entire life "didn't understand, or didn't want to understand" it's significance.

"He remained very skeptical until the end, and it became a topic we had to avoid in the family," he said.

Before the transformation, the Reckhaus company was very successful, according to its CEO, "but I wasn't happy."

And yet, through his commitment, many doors opened to people who care about insects and who are now "my allies, my friends, my supporters."

"And this brings immense joy, every single day." -dw



A philanthropic
German business
owner makes his
money selling
insecticides,
which he
campaigns for
people not to use
in order to protect
biodiversity. Why?

SPORTS

Ten-man Chelsea hold Arsenal; Liverpool, Man United triumph



Moises Caicedo was sent off after 38 minutes for Chelsea, Gunners stay five points clear at top

LONDON: Makeshift striker Mikel Merino scored a crucial equaliser against 10-man Chelsea as leaders Arsenal moved five points clear at the top of the Premier League after their 1-1 draw on Sunday. Also, Manchester United came from behind to win 2-1 at Crystal Palace, ending a five-year wait for

a league victory at Selhurst Park and Liverpool won 2-0 at West Ham as coach Arne Slot left Mohamed Salah on the bench for the first time in a league match under his tenure. At Stamford Bridge, the game's big moment came in the 38th minute, when Chelsea midfielder Moises Caicedo was sent off following a video assistant referee (VAR) review for a late tackle that connected with Merino's shin - his side's sixth red card of the season. But 10-man Chelsea took the lead shortly after half-time when Trevoh Chalobah's flicked header from a corner looped over David Raya and into the bottom corner. Arsenal levelled 11 minutes later when Spain international Merino headed in Bukayo Saka's in-swinging cross at the far post. There were seven yellow cards to add to Caicedo's red in a tense,

feisty contest as Chelsea dominated much of the first half, with Estevao Willian having two good chances. Arsenal were without first-choice centre-backs Gabriel and William Saliba for only the second time since 2021 and their only real effort of the first half fell to Saka, who fired at Robert Sanchez at the near post. The dismissal was a turning point and it came when VAR John Brooks advised referee Anthony Taylor to upgrade Caicedo's yellow card to red after his studs caught Merino above the ankle - a decision confirmed following a pitch-side review. Chelsea continued to attack, however, after introducing Alejandro Garnacho at half-time, with Reece James first setting up Joao Pedro's close-range header - well saved - before delivering the cross for Chalobah's deft headed goal.

However, Saka got the better of Marc Cucurella - who fouled him four times and was booked - to cross for Merino to equalise at the far post. The draw means Arsenal move five points clear of second-placed Manchester City, while Chelsea are a further point back in third. The Gunners are now unbeaten in 17 games in all competitions, stretching back to 30 August. **Isak scores for Reds** At London Stadium, Alexander Isak scored his first Premier League goal for Liverpool since his record £125m move from Newcastle United as Arne Slot's side ended their wretched run with a much-needed victory at West Ham United. On an occasion of high emotion following the announcement of the death of legendary former Hammers captain and manager

Billy Bonds, the Reds ended a dismal sequence of nine defeats in 12 games - their worst since 1954 - with a deserved success. Head coach Slot dropped Mohamed Salah from a league starting line-up for the first time since April 2024, also at West Ham - a run of 53 games - under his predecessor Jurgen Klopp, and was rewarded with a much-improved display. Liverpool dominated a subdued West Ham, with Florian Wirtz excelling in a role behind the strikers, before Isak ended his personal struggles - and 310-minute league goal drought - with a fine half-volley from Cody Gakpo's cross on the hour. The home side's misery was compounded six minutes from time when Lucas Paqueta was shown two yellow cards for dissent by referee Darren England in quick succession for arguing over

a decision to award a foul against his team. Liverpool then added a second goal their superiority deserved when Gakpo finished well in stoppage time, and moved up to eighth place in the table - three points off the top four. At Selhurst Park, Manchester United came from behind to win 2-1 against Palace. Jean-Philippe Mateta put Palace ahead with a twice-taken first-half penalty, before Joshua Zirkzee equalised and Mason Mount struck the winner. Also, Aston Villa edged Wolverhampton Wanderers 1-0 in the Midlands derby thanks to Boubacar Kamara's second goal for the club, while Brighton moved into European places with a 2-0 home win over Nottingham Forest through goals from Maxim De Cuyper on halftime and 19-year-old Stefanos Tzimas late on. **Agencies**

TWO-TIME FRENCH OPEN WINNER



Italian tennis great Pietrangeli dies at 92

MILAN: Italian tennis great Nicola Pietrangeli, a two-time French Open champion, died at the age of 92, on Monday. Pietrangeli became the first Italian to win a Grand Slam singles title with his first triumph at Roland Garros in 1959 and retained the trophy a year later. With 48 career titles, Pietrangeli was widely considered the country's greatest ever player until the emergence of current world No.2 and four-time major winner Jannik Sinner. "Italian tennis is mourning an icon. Nicola Pietrangeli, the only

Italian inducted into the World Tennis Hall of Fame, has died," the Italian Tennis Federation (FITP) confirmed on Monday. In addition to his two French Open successes, Pietrangeli also finished runner-up in Paris in 1961 and 1964. He played a record 164 matches at the Davis Cup for Italy, winning 120, and led his country to its first title in 1976. Organisers of the Italian Open, where he was a two-time winner, said: "It is with deep sadness that we say goodbye to Nicola Pietrangeli, a true legend of Italian tennis... Ciao, Nicola." **Agencies**

SPANISH LA LIGA

Mbappe penalty earns Real draw at Girona

GIRONA: Kylian Mbappe's penalty rescued Real Madrid from defeat at Girona 1-1, but a point meant they missed the chance to move back to the top of La Liga on Sunday. The French striker tucked a low effort past the reach of Paulo Gazzaniga to equalise from the spot in the 67th minute after Vinicius Jr was tripped by Hugo Rincon in the box. It was Mbappe's 23rd goal in 19 matches for Real this season, having scored four in the midweek Champions League win at Olympiacos. Girona, who are third from bottom with just 12 points, had led with Azzedine Ounahi's effort just before half-time. They made it difficult for Real throughout with adept marking, and made the most of a lack of end product from the visitors. It was an improved second half which made the difference for Xabi Alonso's side after a sluggish opening period which saw them register just one shot on target. Mbappe thought he had opened the scoring in the first half when he managed to keep the ball under control and bundle it home in a crowded area, but it was ruled out for hitting his hand as he steadied himself.



Real were soon punished for their lack of efficiency in the final third when Girona struck on the counter-attack, working the ball back to Moroccan Ounahi who sent a first-time effort into the top corner from the edge of the box. A change in approach eventually helped Real trouble the hosts as they focused on quick attacking moves through the middle, with Vinicius also dragging players out of position to mark him on the wing. Vinicius turned home from close range after an intricate pass-

ing move, but the Brazilian had strayed offside before receiving the final pass. But Mbappe stepped up to spare his side a second league defeat with his spot-kick as Alonso's side have now won just one of their past five games in all competitions. After Sunday's action, Barcelona have 34 points, one more than Real Madrid, to top the table. Villarreal sit a further point back, with Atletico Madrid on 31. Real Madrid have dropped six points with three consecutive draws.

Also on Sunday, Villarreal stayed in the title race with a 3-2 win at Real Sociedad, sealed by Alberto Moleiro's 95th-minute strike after Ayoze Perez and Moleiro had put the visitors 2-0 up. Carlos Soler and Ander Barrenetxea brought Sociedad level before the late winner. Real Betis won 2-0 away to Sevilla through goals from Pablo Fornals and Sergi Altimira. Isaac Romero was sent off for Sevilla, and the match was halted temporarily due to objects thrown from the stands; the club faces a fine and possible ground closure. Elsewhere, Kike Garcia's 86th-minute goal gave Espanyol a 1-0 victory at Celta Vigo. **Levante sack coach Calero** Levante announced on Sunday that it has sacked Julian Calero as first team coach in the wake of Saturday's 2-0 defeat at home to Athletic Bilbao. The defeat leaves Levante second from bottom of La Liga with just nine points from the first 14 matches of the season. He is the second coach to be sacked in La Liga this season after Veljko Paunovic was dismissed by Oviedo in October. Paunovic also lost his job after guiding Oviedo to promotion last season. **Agencies**

WORLD ATHLETICS AWARDS

Duplantis, McLaughlin-Levrone named World Athletes of the Year

MONACO: Sweden's pole vault star Armand Duplantis and American sprinter Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone were named the World Athletes of the Year at the 2025 World Athletics awards ceremony on Sunday. In 2025, Duplantis broke the men's pole vault world record four times and was unbeaten in all 16 of his competitions, including sweeping both the indoor and outdoor world titles. According to World Athletics, the 26-year-old has become the first male pole vaulter in modern athletics history to remain undefeated in a single event for two consecutive years. He set world records of 6.27m

in Clermont-Ferrand, 6.28m in Stockholm, 6.29m in Budapest and 6.30m at the World Athletics Championships Tokyo 25, and won a fifth consecutive Diamond League title. "Thank you so much. This is such a huge honour. Thank you to the jury and World Athletics for voting me in yet again," said Duplantis. "I hope to keep pushing it. I hope to keep irritating everyone who has to vote for me for years to come. I'm proud to represent everyone who supports me - my family and my future wife. It's really important for me to win this for the field eventers. It's very special, I'm going to really cherish this one."



McLaughlin-Levrone won the women's 400m title in Tokyo with a time of 47.78 seconds, breaking a 42-year-old World Championships record. She became the first athlete in history to win world titles in both



the 400m flat and the 400m hurdles. She also helped Team USA secure gold in the 4x400m relay at the Tokyo Worlds. Duplantis was also announced as the men's field athlete of the year and McLaughlin-Levrone as the

women's track athlete of the year. Spanish racewalker Maria Perez and Kenyan long-distance runner Sebastian Sawe were confirmed as the out-of-stadium athletes of the year, while Kenya's 800m runner Emmanuel Wanyonyi received the men's track athlete of the year honour and Australia's high jumper Nicola Olyslagers claimed the women's field athlete of the year accolade. This year's Rising Stars went to world medalists Edmund Serem of Kenya and China's Zhang Jiale. Zhang improved the world U20 hammer record to 77.24m at the Chinese Championships in Quzhou and clinched bronze at the

World Championships in Tokyo. Serem also won bronze in the 3,000m steeplechase at the Tokyo Worlds. He was runner-up in the Diamond League final and achieved top four finishes in four other Diamond League meetings during the season. "I want to thank all the athletes present for their inseparable contribution to a memorable 2025, with its crescendo World Athletics Championships in Tokyo - the most widely covered and commercially impactful edition of our sport's flagship event in its history," said World Athletics president Sebastian Coe during the awards ceremony. **Agencies**

Verstappen’s Qatar victory takes title fight to final race

Just 12 points separates Red Bull driver and leader Lando Norris in the championship battle with Piastri also in the fray

LUSAIL CITY: Max Verstappen claimed a crucial victory in the Qatar Grand Prix on Sunday night at Lusail City from Oscar Piastri, with the title battle set to go down to the final round as the drivers’ championship leader Lando Norris could only finish fourth.

With Verstappen’s seventh Grand Prix win of the season, by a margin of eight seconds, it means the Dutchman sits just 12 points behind Norris, with Piastri a further four points back ahead of the final race in Abu Dhabi.

“This was an incredible race for us,” said Verstappen. “We made the right call as a team to box under the Safety Car. That was smart. Of course, I’m super happy to win here and stay in the fight until the end. Incredible.

“I think [the pace] was a little bit offset because of it all, but for us I think it was a very strong race on a weekend where it was a little bit tough. We still won the race and that was the most important thing.”

Verstappen’s win was courtesy of McLaren’s alternative strategy which came as a consequence of an early Safety Car intervention and an enforced 25-lap maximum stint length on all Pirelli tyre sets.



The Red Bull driver jumped Norris on the run to the first turn from P3 on the grid and shadowed poleman Piastri in the opening laps before a clash between Nico Hulkenberg and Pierre Gasly at Turn 1 several laps later turned the race on its head.

While all drivers pitted for the first of two mandatory pit stops in the 57-lap race, both Piastri and Norris remained out on track, which ultimately put them behind Verstappen in the final order.

Piastri was able to comfortably rejoin in a net-P2 after his final pit stop having shown strong pace out front all race, but Norris was unable to clear the chasing Carlos Sainz and Kimi Antonelli after his pit stop.

Norris passed Antonelli on the penultimate lap as the Mercedes driver ran wide, and means a 22-point margin ahead of the race



has been reduced to just 12 points from Verstappen with Piastri 16 adrift ahead of the final race.

Sainz claimed his second podium of the season for Williams, having jumped Antonelli through the opening pit stop phase, while Antonelli ensured Mercedes moved closer to P2 in the Constructors’ Championship with P5.

Behind Antonelli, Isack Hadjar’s Racing Bulls was on course for P6 before a left-front puncture three laps from the end, which promoted George Russell, the Mercedes

driver having lost three positions on the opening lap.

The top-10 was completed by Fernando Alonso, via a full 360-degree spin for the Aston Martin driver, Charles Leclerc’s Ferrari, the second Racing Bulls of Liam Lawson and Yuki Tsunoda (Red Bull).

Alex Albon (Williams) was P11 from Lewis Hamilton (Ferrari), Gabriel Bortoleto (Kick Sauber) and Franco Colapinto (Alpine).

Esteban Ocon finished P15 as the Haas driver was handed a five-second penalty for a false start, finishing ahead of Gasly. Lance Stroll (Aston Martin) and Hadjar eventually recorded DNFs at the end.

Ollie Bearman retired after serving a 10-second stop/go penalty over his car being in an unsafe condition, while Hulkenberg’s race ended in the gravel after his collision with Gasly. - Agencies

QATAR GRAND PRIX

Norris laments team’s strategy

LUSAIL CITY: Lando Norris claimed “we shouldn’t have done what we did” as McLaren’s alternative strategy allowed Max Verstappen to take victory in the Qatar Grand Prix on Sunday, with the title battle set to go down to the wire in Abu Dhabi.

The McLaren driver entered this weekend at Lusail circuit with a 24-point margin over both Verstappen and team-mate Oscar Piastri, with P3 in the Qatar Sprint ensuring that if Norris could win the 57-lap Grand Prix on Sunday, he would claim a maiden Formula One world title.

Having started P2, Norris immediately lost a position on the run to the first corner as Verstappen moved ahead, with the pivotal moment coming on Lap 7 following a collision between Nico Hulkenberg and Pierre Gasly.

With the Kick Sauber stranded in the gravel at Turn 1, the Safety Car was called with McLaren taking the decision to leave both Piastri and Norris out as the rest of the field pitted.

With a 25-lap stint limit for



every set of Pirelli tyres, it locked all drivers into a two-stop strategy which ultimately meant Piastri slipped to second, while Norris could only salvage fourth.

“The car was good, Oscar finished second and was very quick,” said Norris when asked to reflect on the race.

“Nothing to complain about, just strategy as the second car is always a bit worse and had me over today.

It wasn’t even the fact we were the second car, we shouldn’t have done what we did. Simple as that.”

The Briton said he had “no idea” if he had any damage having asked his team to investigate and then struggling to get up to pace on the hard tyre in the final stint.

Asked how he felt ahead of the title-decider, Norris replied: “I feel good. Not the best day but it is what it is. Looking ahead.” - Agencies

WILLIAMS DRIVER

Carlos Sainz ‘over the moon’

LUSAIL CITY: Carlos Sainz achieved his second podium finish with Williams in superb fashion at the Qatar Grand Prix, keeping Lando Norris at bay on the final laps to finish the race in third.

As the sole Williams driver to progress to Q3, the Spaniard was already in a strong position to bring home a decent points haul, but it was clear that more was on the table on the opening lap – Isack Hadjar and George Russell both lost positions, giving Sainz the chance to improve to P5 early on.

“I’m so happy, so proud of the whole team for what we’ve done today,” he said after the race. “We came into this weekend thinking it was going to be the most difficult weekend of the year, and suddenly we came out of it with a podium.

“We nailed the race pace – I was super quick, much quicker than expected. We nailed the strategy, we nailed the tyre management, nailed the start, nailed all the defending and that brought us an unexpected podium so I could not be prouder.”



Despite reporting late problems with understeer, his impressive drive secured P5 in the Constructors’ Championship for the Grove-based outfit, marking their highest finish since 2016.

With Sainz’s team-mate Alex Albon narrowly missing out on the points in P11, he was keen to emphasise that his rapid pit stops were what made the difference amid remarkably tight competition.

He said: “That’s why we got everything right today. We had a tough first half of the season where things didn’t come together but we’ve improved in so many areas through the year.

“Today, there were a few opportunities out there to grab and we grabbed all of them by executing a perfect race. Honestly, I’m over the moon with this podium because I absolutely didn’t expect it.” - Agencies

STAR INDIA BATTER

If I’m arriving somewhere I’ll arrive at 120%’, says Virat Kohli

RANCHI: Despite having played over 300 ODIs in a career of over 17 years, and 226 international matches across formats all over India, Virat Kohli arrived early in Ranchi ahead of the first ODI of the series against South Africa.

Despite the wealth of experience he has and being an ODI great, he wanted to suss out the conditions and get a few batting sessions out of the way as he plays just the one format for India these days. And his mantra remains the same: giving 120%.

It translated into a fine ODI hundred, his 52nd in the format, and helped India to a 17-run win in the opening ODI.

“I’ve said it before, if I’m arriving somewhere I’ll arrive at 120%,” Kohli said after receiving his 44th Player-of-the-Match award in ODIs.

“[I came early] because I wanted to get a hold of the conditions a

little bit, but a couple of sessions in the day and one in the evening, so my prep work was done. I took a day off before the game because I’m 37, I also need to look after the recovery. I visualise the game a lot in my mind, and as long as when I think about the game, if I see myself being as intense, as sharp, taking the fielders and bowlers on, then I know I’m in a good space and I kind of relax and play out there.

“Today was really nice to get into the game like that. The pitch played quite decently in the first 20-25 overs before it started to slow down. I just felt like let me just go out there and just hit the ball, not think too much about any of the other stuff, it’s just me and the ball coming at me and just enjoy the game of cricket which was the very reason I started playing this game. It was just about staying in the space of enjoyment, and



of course, when you get a start and you get a situation then you know what you’ve done over so many years, the experience kicks in, and you understand the situation and you’re able to build an innings.”

Being asked to bat, Kohli went

out to bat in the fourth over to join Rohit Sharma after Yashasvi Jaiswal was caught behind for 18. Kohli got to his fifty off 48 balls and then his century off 102 balls in good batting conditions with captain KL Rahul at the other end.

He finished on 135 off 120 balls that was studded with seven sixes – only the fifth time in his ODI career of 294 outings that he struck more than five in an innings and led India to a strong total of 349 in front of a packed house in Ranchi. It was his second ODI century of the year, the other being the unbeaten 100 against Pakistan in the Champions Trophy earlier this year in Dubai.

“If you play 300-odd ODI games and so much cricket over the last 15-16 years, as I said if you’re in touch with the game and you know that when you’re hitting balls at practice, your reflexes are there, your physical ability is there to bat long, if you can bat an hour and half to two hours in the nets without taking a break, you’re kind of meeting all those markers. I understand if there’s a dip in form, you look for games and you try to get that form back. But as long as you’re hitting

the ball well and you’re playing good cricket, I think at this stage with the experience that I have for me, it’s about being physically fit, mentally ready and excited to play the games that I’m playing, and more or less everything else should take care of itself.

“I’ve never been a big believer of a lot of preparation. All my cricket has been mental. As long as I feel mentally I can play the game, I work physically very hard every day of my life it’s got nothing to do with cricket anymore, it’s just the way I live. So as long as my fitness levels are up and my enjoyment and mental sharpness is there, then you can visualise the game and you see yourself running as hard, reacting fast on the ball, then you know it’s fine. [I know] one of the days when the game opens up and you get a start, you’ll be able to score some runs.”

(With inputs from ESPNcricinfo.com)

ROUND-UP

Jetour unveils all-new G700 and T2 i-DM at Bidiyah Carnival 2025

The reveal brought together the thrill of motorsport, the richness of Omani heritage, and Jetour’s evolving Travel+ philosophy, capturing the attention of automotive enthusiasts, media, and festival visitors

MUSCAT: Under the golden desert sky of the Sharqiyah Sands, Jetour unveiled its latest hybrid innovations, the all-new G700 and T2 i-DM, during a spectacular launch event held at Bidiyah Carnival 2025.

The reveal brought together the thrill of motorsport, the richness of Omani heritage, and Jetour’s evolving Travel+ philosophy, capturing the attention of automotive enthusiasts, media, and festival visitors.

Hosted amidst the high-energy atmosphere of one of Oman’s most anticipated annual events, the launch showcased Jetour’s commitment to elevating mobility through performance, luxury, intelligent design, and environmental responsibility.

Running from November 19–29, the Bidiyah Carnival is an iconic celebration held in the Wilayat of Bidiyah, North A’Sharqiyah. With more than 14 cultural, sports, and tourism activities, the festival blends modern entertainment with deep-rooted Omani heritage.

The Jetour reveal stood as a key highlight of the carnival, drawing crowds to the specially curated desert stage at Bidiyah Sands.

New Jetour G700
Positioned as an all-terrain luxury electric hybrid off-road SUV, the G700 embodies the brand’s future-ready engineering. With advanced hybrid powertrain efficiency, premium interior comfort, and robust



off-road capability, the G700 is designed for drivers seeking refinement in every landscape.

New Jetour T2 i-DM (4WD)
The T2 i-DM introduces a bold combination of rugged 4-wheel drive performance with modern luxury and intelligent technol-

ogy. Built to handle Oman’s diverse terrains from dunes to mountain roads, the SUV delivers durability, advanced connectivity, and enhanced efficiency through its plug-in hybrid system.

Speaking at the launch, Mohsin Hani Al-Bahrani, CEO of MHD ACERE, said: “Unveiling the G700

and T2 i-DM under the Sharqiyah desert sky reflects our unwavering commitment to bringing advanced, future-forward mobility solutions to Oman. These vehicles born from Jetour’s Travel+ philosophy symbolise a new era of exploration, innovation, and sustainable progress for our customers and for the nation.”



The launch of the G700 and T2 i-DM marks a significant step forward for MHD ACERE and the Jetour brand, aligning with the Sultanate’s vision for sustainable innovation and enhanced mobility experiences. With growing demand for hybrid and environmentally conscious vehicles, Jetour contin-

ues to position itself as a leader in modern automotive evolution.

The event’s immersive desert setting, combined with the energy of motorsport and cultural celebrations, created a powerful platform to introduce these breakthrough hybrids to the Omani market.

BankDhofar’s Ladies Account wins ‘Best Banking Product for Women’ at global Women’s Tabloid Awards 2025

MUSCAT: BankDhofar’s Ladies Account has been named the ‘Best Banking Product for Women’ at the 2025 edition of the Women’s Tabloid Awards, reinforcing its standing as Oman’s most trusted and empowering financial product for Omani and expatriate women.

Hosted by the UK-based Women’s Tabloid Magazine, the Women’s Tabloid Awards have emerged as a global platform celebrating the achievements of women and organisations that exemplify leadership, innovation, and social impact. The prestigious awards recognise excellence across multiple sectors—including business, banking, technology, health, and education—and spotlight initiatives that advance inclusion, equality, and purpose-driven leadership.

Designed to meet the unique financial needs and aspirations of women across the Sultanate, BankDhofar’s Ladies Account continues to set benchmarks in customer experience and financial empowerment. The account offers an array of exclusive benefits, including Preferential Interest rates on high-yield savings accounts and tailored lifestyle privileges through merchant offers.

Open to Omani nationals and expatriate women aged 23 years and above—or 18 years for those with salary accounts—BankDhofar’s Ladies Account exemplifies the bank’s commitment to inclusivity, innovation, and customer-centric growth. Its broader strategy focuses on delivering exceptional value



through distinctive, relationship-based banking services built on accountability, collaboration, and performance excellence.

Beyond individual recognition, the Women’s Tabloid Awards represent a global celebration of progress and inclusion—honouring women who are redefining

leadership, work, and sustainability. By recognising BankDhofar’s Ladies Account, the awards reaffirm Oman’s growing influence in the region’s financial innovation landscape and the bank’s enduring commitment to empowering women to thrive financially and socially.

Bank Muscat supports Omani youth with job and training opportunities at CBFS Fair

MUSCAT: As part of its ongoing commitment to providing job and training opportunities for Omani youth, Bank Muscat, the leading financial institution in the Sultanate of Oman, participated in the recent Career and Training Opportunities Exhibition at the College of Banking and Financial Studies, which was inaugurated under the patronage of Khalid bin Salim Al-Ghamari, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Labour.

The exhibition saw the participation of more than 20 institutions representing various sectors of the workforce.

As part of its involvement, Bank Muscat’s dedicated booth at the exhibition introduced students to the job and training opportunities available at the Bank, as well as the benefits offered to employees, and its role in fostering a positive work environment. Additionally, the Bank highlighted the types of job and training specialisations available; while also providing information on how to apply for the opportunities the Bank offers annually across various sectors of the banking industry.

Bank Muscat prioritizes participation in job and training fairs organized by higher education institutions. These exhibitions are crucial as they provide an excellent platform for students to meet with both public and private sector institutions under one roof, enabling them to learn about the respective recruitment policies. The Bank is committed to engaging with students and providing them with comprehensive insights into the roles available.



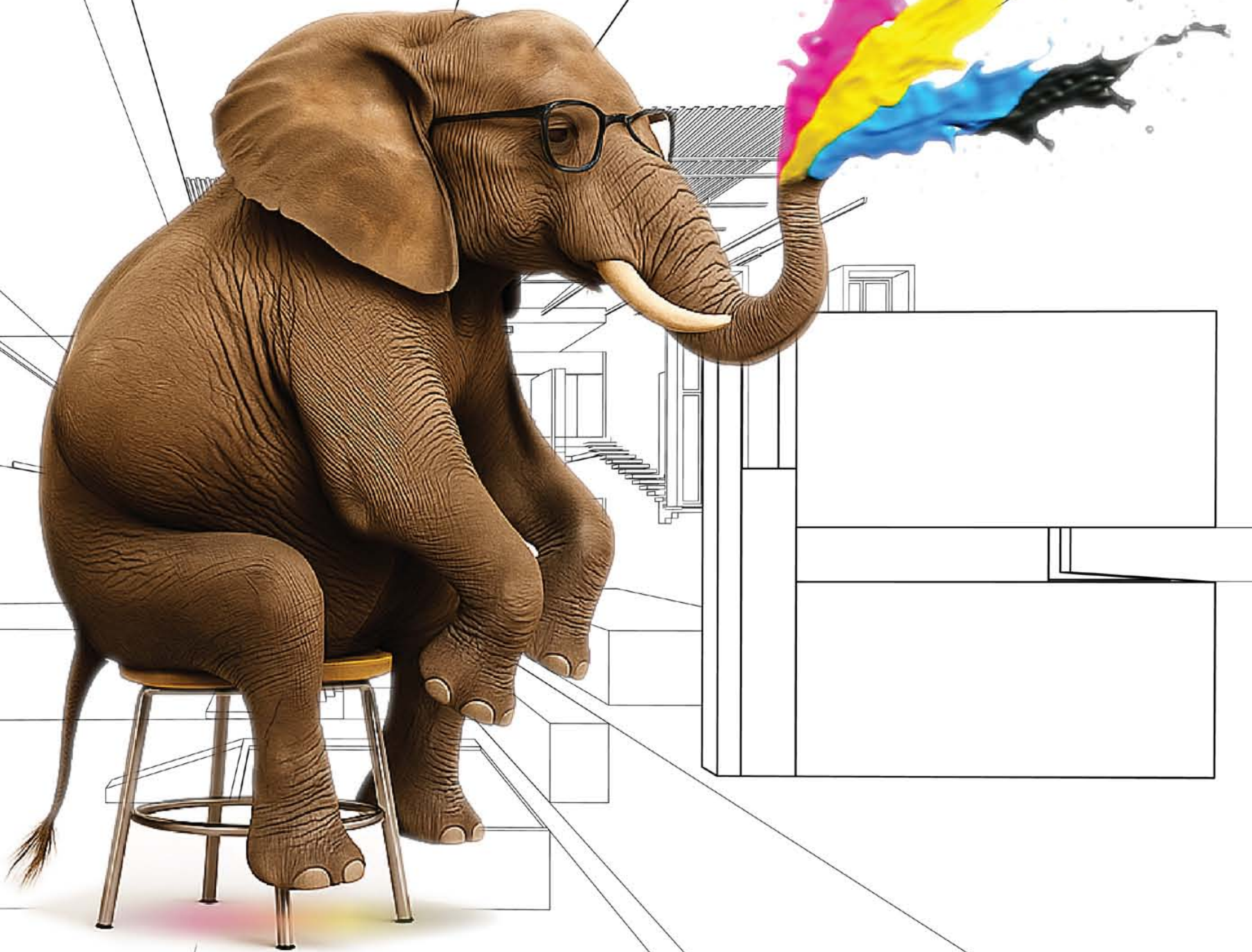
The Bank continues to collaborate with a number of educational institutions—universities and colleges—to achieve its goals of sustainable human capital development. Since the beginning of this year 2025, Bank Muscat has provided 198 job opportunities and 616 training opportunities for students in disciplines related to the banking sector. This annual initiative is designed to provide students with the best possible opportunities to develop their practical skills in various fields, especially in banking and finance. The Bank’s training department deploys trainees’ students across various departments and branches nationwide, monitoring their performance throughout the training period. Last year 2024, Bank Muscat provided 637 training opportunities for students from various educational institu-

tions across the Sultanate.

Bank Muscat remains deeply committed to the continuous development of its human resources, ensuring the provision of an ideal working environment for employees to carry out tasks to the best of their abilities.

The Bank also motivates and incentivizes its workforce through various development programmes. With pride, Bank Muscat reports that the Omani workforce now constitutes 92.25% of the total employees, numbering more than 4,500 staff members, of which 46.34% are female employees. The Bank recently was honoured with the Company of the Year for HR Empowerment Award from Muscat Media Group for its pioneering role in empowering youth through investing in the various training and development initiatives.

We make your Business bigger than your problems.



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- Event conceptualisation
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- Flex banners
- Vinyl stickers
- Back drops with metal frames
- Wooden standalones
- Backlit flex banners