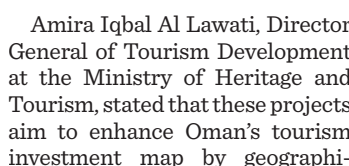
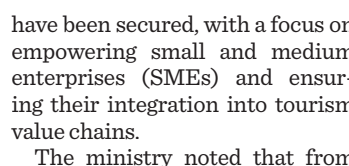
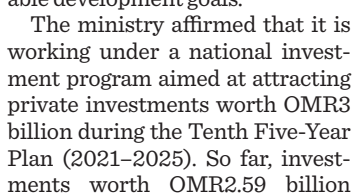


MUSCAT: The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism has clarified that signing usufruct agreements across governorates of Oman contributes to the development of the tourism sector and enhances the quality of the tourism experience, as part of efforts to boost tourism investments and achieve sustainable development goals.



Dar Al Atta’a unveils solar-powered homes for cyclone-affected families

Located in San’aa Bani Ghafir, in Wilayat Al Khabourah, the new neighbourhood includes 36 five-bedroom homes, each spanning approximately 272 sqm

Times News Service

AL KHABOURAH: In a significant step for sustainable community development in the Sultanate, Dar Al Atta’a Association officially inaugurated the first phase of Hay Al Atta’a, Oman’s first solar-powered residential neighbourhood, on June 11, 2025.

The project provides permanent housing for families who lost their homes during Cyclone Shaheen, which made landfall in North Al Batinah in 2021.

The inauguration ceremony was held under the patronage of Eng Khalfan bin Saeed Al Shuaili, Minister of Housing and Urban Plan-



ning, and Dr Laila bint Ahmed Al Najjar, Minister of Social Development.

Located in San’aa Bani Ghafir, in Wilayat Al Khabourah, the new neighbourhood includes 36 five-bedroom homes, each spanning approximately 272 sqm.

The project was developed by Dar Al Atta’a in partnership with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, the Office of the Governor of North Al Batinah, the Municipality of Al Khabourah, and with direct support from the local community.

Speaking to the media, Maryam bint Issa Al Zadjali, founder and Chairperson of Dar Al Atta’a, shared that the idea for Hay Al Atta’a was born in the immediate

aftermath of Cyclone Shaheen.

“The idea for Hay Al Atta’a emerged in the wake of Cyclone Shaheen. In response, we launched a fundraising campaign — ‘A Million from the People to the People.’ By the grace of God, we raised OMR1 million. As an organisation, we always strive to develop sustainable projects. Rather than providing short-term aid like food or furnishings, we envisioned a long-lasting solution — to build permanent homes for families who had no means to rebuild on their own,” said Al Zadjali

“One of the most transformative aspects of the project is its reliance on green energy, a first for housing initiatives of this kind in the area.

“Without a doubt, the most sig-

nificant element is the use of green energy. It reduces residents’ electricity costs, and if they generate a surplus, they can sell it back to the government. This approach hasn’t been implemented here before — it’s an exciting innovation,” said Al Zadjali.

48 rooftop solar panels

Each home is equipped with 48 rooftop solar panels, making the neighbourhood fully energy-integrated and cost-efficient for its residents.

The homes are part of a broader eco-integrated neighbourhood that also includes a sustainable wastewater management system, aimed at recycling water and reducing waste.



When asked why Dar Al Atta’a opted for an eco-conscious approach, Al Zadjali explained the vision extended far beyond shelter: “As an Association, we try to remain attuned to current developments. With this project, our goal wasn’t just sustainability — it was to create a lifestyle. From the community centre we’re building, to the urban planning, landscaping, and architectural design, every detail was carefully thought out.”

Families are expected to move in soon, with all residential units ready for occupancy.

The second phase of Hay Al Atta’a is already under development and will include a community centre, commercial outlets, and a mosque. Completion is expected

within two years.

Dar Al Atta’a is one of Oman’s leading charitable associations, established in 2002 and officially registered in 2006 under Ministerial Decision No. 76/2006. Operating under the supervision of the Ministry of Social Development, the organisation is dedicated to empowering underprivileged families across the Sultanate through sustainable and dignified support.

In 2024 alone, Dar Al Atta’a disbursed over OMR 4 million in aid, including OMR 1.24 million for housing, over OMR 1 million in debt relief, and support across education, family care, disaster response, and children’s literacy programmes such as Let’s Read.

OPAZ

Consultancy tender floated for mining cluster in Shaleem, Halaniyat Islands

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) has announced the tender for consultancy services to prepare the master plan, detailed design, and supervision for the first phase of the integrated mining economic cluster project in the Wilayat of Shaleem and the Halaniyat islands in Dhofar Governorate.

The Authority has invited specialised consultancy offices, registered with the Secretariat General of the Tender Board in the excellent and first categories, to submit their proposals.

The deadline for purchasing the tender documents is set for June 25, while the final date for submitting bids is July 9.

The Board of Directors of the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones reviewed, during its third meeting in 2024, the executive procedures for the results of the Ministry of Economy’s study on establishing integrated industrial clusters in the Shaleem industrial minerals area, cooling chains and food industries



in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD), aluminum-based industries in the Sohar Free Zone, and linking these industrial clusters to the industrial strategy.

The integrated mining economic cluster in Shaleem and the Halaniyat islands is distinguished by its location along regional maritime trade routes, and its wealth of natural resources such as minerals, fishery resources, and renewable energy sources, in addition to

several tourism assets and oil and gas concessions.

The cluster, overseen by the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madaayn), will stimulate investment in the mining sector and its related industries, enhancing added value and supporting other sectors such as logistics, energy, food security, and tourism.

The cluster aims to drive economic growth across various sec-

tors, strengthen interconnections between economic sectors, expand the production and export base, and enable the sector to increase its contribution to the GDP.

Wilayat of Shaleem and the Halaniyat Islands are promising mineral areas, distinguished by their strategic geographic location overlooking regional maritime corridors and their rich geological content, including gypsum, limestone, and dolomite ores.

DISCUSSIONS

Sayyid Badr making efforts to stop attacks by Israel

< FROM A1 The discussions addressed the volatile regional situation due to ongoing Israeli attacks on the Islamic Republic of Iran, which targeted vital sovereign facilities, resulting in numerous casualties. The talks also covered the ongoing brutal destruction, violence, displacement, and genocide in the Gaza Strip.

The two sides exchanged perspectives, as Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, highlighted Israel’s violations of international laws and conventions, including breaches of state sovereignty.

Two-state solution

He emphasised the two-state solution and the need to expand international recognition of the Palestinian state. Both sides stressed the importance of intensifying diplomatic efforts to support peaceful solutions and restore stability.

Within the same context, the Foreign Minister continues his

series of intensive phone calls with counterparts from Arab, Islamic and friendly nations, aiming to mobilise political and legal pressure to halt Israeli aggression.

The discussions underscored the necessity of rallying international efforts to counter Israel’s violations of international law, which risk exacerbating the regional crisis. They reaffirmed that diplomatic solutions remain the only path to achieving security and peace.

Rational dialogue

These sustained efforts reflect Oman’s unwavering commitment to its steadfast position in support of peace, manifested through purposeful and rational dialogue and the impartial application of justice in accordance with international law.

This approach aims to preserve global stability, safeguard regional security, and ensure opportunities of prosperity and growth for all.

-ONA

INTEGRATED TOURISM

‘Private sector vital for tourism growth’

< FROM A1 These initiatives contribute to the goals of the integrated tourism development plan by increasing hotel room capacity, improving service quality, and enriching tourist experiences across various segments, including ecotourism, mountain tourism, and adventure tourism.

The Director General of Tourism Development added that the Ministry believes tourism development cannot be achieved with-

out genuine partnership with the private sector and ensuring citizens feel the impact of these projects through job opportunities and improved local services.

She stressed that the Ministry continues to open new horizons for tourism investment through a range of facilitations, initiatives, and programmes that ensure project sustainability, quality, and alignment with Omani identity, as well as environmental and social considerations. -ONA



UNIFIED NATIONAL RESPONSE

Ministry launches child protection guide



MUSCAT: Acting in cooperation with the office of United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in Muscat, the Ministry of Social Development on Monday launched Oman’s “Child Protection Guide (CPG)” to enhance unified national response mechanisms.

The guide’s launch ceremony was held under the auspices of Dr. Laila Ahmed Al Najjar, Minister of Social Development.

The CPG serves as a comprehensive practical reference aimed at supporting personnel operating in the field of child protection (including social workers, teachers and healthcare providers). It unifies concepts, simplifies referral procedures and enhances coordination among relevant stakeholders. This ensures rapid and effective intervention deemed necessary for child protection and furnishing a safe and supportive environment for children in the Sultanate of Oman.

Sayyida Maani Abdullah Al Busaidi, Director General of Family Development at the Ministry of Social Development, said in a speech that the CPG constitutes a

strategic step towards enhancing the integration of all national efforts for the protection of children, in addition to enabling national cadres to professionally respond to all cases of abuse, neglect and child exploitation.

Practical measures

For his part, Dr. Bilal Al Kiswani, Program Director at UNICEF Oman, said, “The CPG embodies our collective commitment to take practical measures whenever children are exposed to any form of risks. It reflects the significance of partner-



ship between the UNICEF and the Government of the Sultanate of Oman in building child protection systems.”

The event included a dialogue session titled “Next Steps and Training of Trainers Plan”, run by Safia Abdullah Al Abri, Assistant Director of the Family Protection Department at the Ministry of Social Development.

The session dealt with the CPG training plan, elaboration about general frameworks, basic concepts of the case management system and training on the system’s stages of implementation. -ONA

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Shura panel discusses scholarship criteria for students studying abroad

The committee emphasised the importance of reviewing the regulations due to their implications on groups deemed ineligible

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Education, Scientific Research, and Innovation Committee of the Shura Council hosted a number of specialists from the Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research, and Innovation to discuss the eligibility for financial allocations to students studying at private higher



education institutions. This meeting was held in implementation of His Majesty's directives on the matter. The meeting, chaired by Jamal Ahmed Al-Abri, head of the Committee, and in the presence of their Excellencies members of the committee, focused on the mechanisms behind setting these criteria. The committee emphasised the importance of reviewing the regulations due to their implications on groups deemed ineligible, stressing the principle of equality and the necessity for all domestic scholarship students in private institutions to qualify for these

allocations, consistent with practices in public higher education institutions. The committee also expressed public dissatisfaction regarding the allocation of financial entitlements to specific groups based on certain criteria, especially Omani families with children who do not meet the eligibility conditions. They noted that the current criteria do not necessarily reflect the actual financial status of families. The specialists explained that the eligibility criteria for financial allocations to domestic scholarship students are based on several factors, including family income, number of family members, and

the distance between the student's residence and study location. They added that the ministry has received numerous complaints from parents and various community segments requesting a reconsideration of these criteria. The committee reviewed the report from its meeting with the Oman Authority for Academic Accreditation and Quality Assurance of Education regarding the review of evaluation policies in school education. It also examined the Ministry of Education's 2024 annual report along with several topics listed in the committee's current regular session work plan.

ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENTS



Environment Authority monitors environmental developments linked to regional events

MUSCAT: The Environment Authority has affirmed that current data indicates no abnormal radiation levels or environmental pollutants affecting the atmosphere in the Sultanate of Oman, confirming that the environmental situation remains stable and safe to date. The Authority urged citizens and residents to obtain information from official sources and not to circulate rumors or unverified information. In a statement, the Authority emphasized its close monitoring of ongoing regional developments, as part of its national role in tracking and assessing any potential environmental impacts,

including radiation pollution. It stated that it is coordinating with relevant national units to monitor data issued by regional and international monitoring centers, in addition to analyzing readings from the early warning radiation monitoring system deployed across Oman's governorates. These efforts aim to ensure preparedness and an effective response to any developments concerning environmental safety. The Environment Authority continues its around-the-clock regulatory and technical efforts, in line with its responsibility to preserve the environment and safeguard society and natural resources in the Sultanate of Oman. **ONA**

ROUND-THE-CLOCK SERVICES

National Heart Centre: A leading medical landmark in Oman

MUSCAT: The National Heart Centre at the Royal Hospital stands as a pioneering medical institution in the Sultanate of Oman, continuing to provide cardiology and cardiac surgery services in line with the highest global medical standards. Since its inauguration in 2015, the center has made steady strides toward leadership and excellence in cardiac healthcare, solidifying its status as a reference medical institution at the local, regional, and international levels. Dr. Najib Zahran Al Rawahi, Director of the National Heart Center told Oman News Agency (ONA) that the centre was founded on an ambitious vision aimed at achieving leadership in the treatment of cardiovascular diseases and delivering high-quality healthcare to citizens and residents of Oman—from fetal development to adulthood and advanced age. He added that the centre strives to provide a comprehensive range of advanced diagnostic, therapeutic, and surgical services for heart conditions, including arterial, valvular, and congenital diseases. Equipped with the latest medical technologies and devices, the center ensures the highest standard of healthcare. Dr. Al Rawahi emphasised that through these specialised services, the centre aims to rank among the leading institutions in the region and the world in cardiac treatment, performing advanced surgical procedures and medical interventions such as catheter-based valve implantation and repair, catheter ablation for arrhythmias, and the dilation of narrowed veins and arteries. He noted that the centre is committed to attracting and training distinguished medical professionals to ensure high-quality care, while also keeping its staff updated on the latest techniques and procedures in cardiology and cardiac surgery. The National Heart Centre in Oman has seen remarkable developments since its opening in 2015, with expanded and enhanced services to meet the growing needs of



patients. This includes an increase in surgical procedures to accommodate rising patient numbers and the adoption of cutting-edge technology across all specialised fields of cardiology and cardiac surgery.

The cardiac catheterisation department has undergone significant advancements, including the introduction of state-of-the-art specialised catheters on an international scale. The number of

daily catheterisation sessions has increased from five to six, boosting the department's capacity and reducing waiting times. The centre also provides round-the-clock services for critical and complex

cases, saving numerous lives. As for the number of surgeries performed since the center's opening, Dr. Al Rawahi pointed out that 9,168 procedures have been conducted, including interventional catheterizations, open-heart surgeries, and minimally invasive surgeries. The success rates range between 93% and 96%, depending on the procedure type, aligning with global standards. Additionally, the center performed 49,846 interventional cardiac catheterisations for adults and 7,823 for children during the same period, with success rates between 97% and 99%, consistent with international benchmarks. On the latest medical technologies in cardiac surgery, Dr. Al Rawahi underscored the centre's commitment to adopting cutting-edge advancements, such as minimally invasive heart surgery—one of the newest techniques in the field—which involves small chest incisions to reduce pain and recovery time. The centre has introduced modern cardiac catheterisation techniques, allowing doctors to diagnose and treat heart conditions without open surgery. These include pediatric electrophysiology catheters, cryoablation catheters for atrial fibrillation, and thermal ablation catheters for arrhythmias. Advanced imaging technologies, such as MRI and CT scans, provide precise visuals of the heart and blood vessels, aiding in accurate diagnosis. The centre also employs remote cardiac monitoring systems, enabling close patient observation and early detection of potential issues. Dr. Al Rawahi noted that the center has introduced several innovations in cardiac care, including "Pulsed Field Ablation," a groundbreaking global technology for treating atrial fibrillation with high efficacy and minimal complications. Another milestone is the wire-less pacemaker "Aveir," which regulates heart rhythms without wires, representing a breakthrough in cardiac treatment.

The center has also pioneered advanced catheterization techniques, such as transcatheter aortic and pulmonary valve replacements and chronic coronary artery occlusion interventions. A recent landmark achievement was Oman's first successful heart transplant from a brain-dead donor, performed by a multidisciplinary Omani medical team on a patient suffering from heart failure. The five-hour surgery marks a pivotal moment in Oman's healthcare sector, reflecting years of meticulous planning, hard work, and investment in national expertise. Regarding international partnerships, the centre collaborates with leading global institutions, including the American Heart Association, which certifies it for advanced cardiac life support training. It also partners with educational institutions like Sultan Qaboos University's College of Medicine and Nursing for clinical training and with Oman Medical Specialty Board to oversee residency programmes in adult cardiology, pediatric cardiology, and pediatric intensive care. Looking ahead, the centre is committed to expanding and enhancing its services through ambitious future plans, including modernising operating rooms and catheterisation labs, increasing specialised clinics, and promoting scientific research in cardiology. Dr. Al Rawahi highlighted the center's community initiatives, such as the "Heart of the Nation: One Pulse, One Goal" campaign, which aims to raise awareness about heart disease and early detection across Oman's governorates. Through its advanced infrastructure, skilled workforce, and world-class technologies, the National Heart Centre continues to transform its vision into reality, elevating cardiac care in Oman and the region while cementing its status as a regional and international reference institution—setting a benchmark for comprehensive and advanced cardiac healthcare in service to Oman's society.



OMAN



SMEs opportunities in manufacturing sector highlighted

Key discussion topics included policies, regulations, licensing, and enabling frameworks to support SMEs in developing innovative solutions



ships with relevant entities and improve the business environment for SMEs.

The session aimed to strengthen the role of SMEs in developing these key sectors through innovative ideas, operational efficiency improvements, and encouraging public-private partnerships.

It also sought to raise awareness about the sector's vital contribution to supporting the national economy.

Key discussion topics included policies, regulations, licensing, and

enabling frameworks to support SMEs in developing innovative solutions and partnerships within the retail, construction, and manufacturing sectors.

The event was attended by Qais Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and Halima Rashid Al Zarei, Chairperson of the SMEs Authority, along with several officials from related entities and SMEs owners in the retail, construction, and manufacturing sectors.

TRANSPORT MINISTRY

Construction for parts of Sultan Said bin Taimour Road starts

SALALAH: The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology announced the commencement of work on the dual-carriageway of Sultan Said bin Taimour Road for parts (3, 4, and 5), spanning approximately 400 kilometres with a total cost exceeding OMR258 million.

Eng. Said Mohammed Tabook, Director General of Roads and Land Transport in Dhofar Governorate, told Oman News Agency (ONA) that the executing companies have begun construction work on the three parts, with a project duration of 36 months.

He explained that Part 3 extends from Haima to Maqshin over 132.5 kilometres, Part 4 covers about 135 kilometres from Maqshin to Dokha, while Part 5 stretches 132.5 kilometres from Dokha to Thumrait.

He added that the project will enhance Oman's road network efficiency and improve connectivity between governorates.

The road is designed for year-round accessibility across vari-



ous weather conditions and will improve traffic safety through concrete/steel barriers, reflectors, road markings, and warning signs. It will also support economic, tourism, commercial, and social development.

Sultan Said bin Taimour Road is Oman's longest dual carriageway at approximately 857 kilometres. The ministry awarded the remaining three parts to specialised companies through an Omani-Saudi consortium. -ONA

DATA

41 tonnes of honey produced in Al Dhahirah Governorate

IBRI: Local honey production in the wilayats of Al Dhahirah Governorate exceeded 41 tonnes in 2024, with an estimated market value of over OMR615,000.

According to data from the Directorate General of Agricultural Wealth and Water Resources in A'Dhahirah, the number of registered beekeepers reached 992 by the end of 2024, managing a total of 23,680 beehives.

The governorate is distinguished by its rich vegetation, including sidr and samar trees, making it an ideal region for hon-



ev production.

Al Dhahirah's honey products include sidr honey, samar honey,

comb honey, pollen grains, and various medicinal honey derivatives. -ONA

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CABLE

HM the Sultan greets President of Iceland

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik greeted President Halla Tomasdóttir of Iceland on the occasion of her country's National Day.

In his cable, His Majesty the Sultan wished the Republic of Iceland further progress and prosperity under the leadership of President Tomasdóttir and members of the government.

His Majesty lauded the depth of relations binding Oman and Iceland, hoping that bilateral relations would continue to develop and serve the two countries' mutual interests.

— ONA

CONSUMER PROTECTION AUTHORITY

E-commerce forum highlights consumer rights

MUSCAT: The Consumer Protection Authority (CPA) on Monday organised an e-commerce forum titled "E-commerce Amid Consumer Rights and Supplier Duties". The forum was held in cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, under the auspices of Eng. Omar Hamdan Al Ismaili, Chairman of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority. The forum highlighted e-consumer rights, the duties and obligations of e-commerce licensees, e-commerce legislation, commercial fraud and electronic fraud in the age of digital economy and the role of government institutions amid the e-commerce experience.

The forum saw a large turnout of representatives of government and private establishments and an elite group of experts and specialists in the field of e-commerce, who underscored the significance of the forum in showing a safe and sound culture of e-commerce.

The event included a visual introduction display, followed by a presentation on an e-shopping campaign. The presentation was made by Dr. Munira Al Fikry, a media specialist at the CPA.

The forum included an exhibition featuring the authority's most important electronic systems and applications related to the e-shopping process. It also included the launch of an opinion poll to measure cognitive awareness.

A public awareness campaign was launched under the slogan "Safe Shopping". The campaign aims to promote the culture of safe shopping in the digital business environment, in line with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040, which places the economy and development at the heart of sustainable development strategies and technology-based economy. — ONA

Event explores ways to enhance business readiness, innovation

The three-day event is organised by the Global Development Academy for Training and the Al-Marji Academy for Consultancy and Administrative Development, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and the OCCI



Al Batinah Governorate, with the participation of several specialists and speakers from eight countries.

The forum examined the role of institutions in developing effective strategies by fostering a culture of strategic foresight, empowering national competencies, and enhancing business readiness to address rapid economic and technological shifts.

The event aims to strengthen the business environment, stimulate innovation, attract investments, and build effective public-private partnerships.

Abdullah Mohammed Al-Saidi, CEO of the Global Development Academy for Training, emphasised that rapid technological and economic developments require a shift from reactive to proactive approaches, adopting an institutional framework based on analysis, innovation, and strategic decision-making.

Meanwhile, Dr. Abdulsalam Yahya, an economic expert at the OCCI discussed Oman's economic outlook amid global economic and geopolitical fluctuations. He highlighted that effectively navigating these changes demands long-term strategic vision and continuous updates to economic policies to ensure resilience and adaptability to regional and global developments.

The first day of the forum featured specialised panel discussions on key themes, including economic trends amid geopolitical shifts, artificial intelligence as a tool for future foresight, institutional governance, and the digital economy.

On its second day, the forum will explore leveraging technology to enhance institutional effectiveness and drive innovation, the role of foresight leadership in shaping economic development pathways, and Oman Vision 2040 in future foresight processes.

The final day will address strategies for building a digital economy, foresight horizons and leadership dialogue. — ONA

A UNIFIED DESIGN



Ministry of Heritage and Tourism unveils visual identity of Bahla Fort

MANAH: The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, in collaboration with UNESCO's Chair for World Heritage Management and Sustainable Tourism in the Arab Region and Marasim Tourism & Investment Company, on Monday unveiled the visual identity of Bahla Fort.

This initiative aims to highlight the fort's historical, cultural, and architectural significance through a unified design.

The event took place at Oman Across Ages Museum.

Eng. Ali Ahmed Al Shaqsi, Director General of Bahla Fort Management and Operation Project, stated: "This fort has stood through the ages as a testament to Omani ingenuity and a symbol of our deep-rooted civilization, whose eternal glories continue to be recounted across generations."

He emphasised that the launch of Bahla Fort's official identity marks a renewed vision that harmonises form and substance.

Dr. Hussein Sulaiman Al Salmi, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Administrative and Financial Affairs at the German University of Technology, noted that the visual identity competition attracted 31 participants from nine countries



— the first such initiative for a UNESCO World Heritage site in the GCC. He highlighted Bahla Fort's 1987 UNESCO listing, recognising its significance as a medieval defensive structure featuring unique earthen architecture and ancient irrigation systems.

The ceremony, held under the patronage of Eng. Ibrahim Said Al Kharousi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism for Heritage, featured a visual presentation on Bahla Fort, its historical mosque, and surrounding facilities.

The visual identity represents a strategic step toward unifying all visual communications related to the fort's projects and activities, enhancing its position on Oman's cultural tourism map while raising public awareness of its civilizational value. — ONA



TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Nama Dhofar Services invites the specialized companies to participate and submit their offers for the below said tenders:

Tender Number	Tender Name	Last Date for Collection of Tender Documents	Time & Last Date for Proposal Submission	Tender Fee (OMR) Including VAT (5%)
DISC/2025/088	Hosting services for Oracle C2M system applications	01-July-2025	10-July-2025	52,500
DISC/2025/089	UTILITY NETWORK EXTENSION – Lot – 05D/2025	01-July-2025	10-July-2025	52,500
DISC/2025/090	UTILITY NETWORK EXTENSION – Lot – 05E/2025	01-July-2025	10-July-2025	52,500
DISC/2025/091	UTILITY NETWORK EXTENSION – Lot – 05F/2025	01-July-2025	10-July-2025	52,500
DISC/2025/092	UTILITY NETWORK EXTENSION – Lot – 05G/2025	01-July-2025	10-July-2025	52,500

- To purchase the tender document website via the link or the Barcode below:
https://supplier.nama.om:4443/OA_HTML/OA.jsp?OAFunc=XXTEN_TENDER_FLOAT_DISC_F
- Every company wishing to participate in this tender must attach with its bid a bid bond in the form of a bank guarantee from one of the banks operating in the Sultanate of Oman. Any bid that does not contain the bid bond will be disqualified.
- The original bid bond must be submitted in an envelope sealed with red wax and addressed to the chairperson of the minor tender committee and written on outside the Tender name and the Tender number and it should be paced in the tender box in Nama Dhofar Services in Salalah before 03:00 pm of the last day for submitting Bids.
- Bids shall be submitted online through using "supplier portal". No hard copies are accepted.
- The Tender fees are not refundable. However, Tenderers who are holding "Riyada" card issued from public authority for SME development will be exempted from providing the tender fee and the Bid bond.
- The company is not obliged to accept the lowest or any other bid.
- In the event of receipt of the tender document on behalf of another company, the interested purchasers in the above tender document should provide details of the person's name and the company details.

West Bank life paralysed as Israeli closure enters third day amid regional tensions

Palestinian security sources said that Israeli forces have shut down major roads connecting the northern, central, and southern areas of the West Bank

RAMALLAH: Daily life for Palestinians across the West Bank has ground to a halt for the third consecutive day, as Israeli forces maintain a comprehensive closure of the territory amid heightened regional tensions.

On Friday, the Israeli army declared a state of emergency, announcing a full-scale closure of the West Bank.

The measure, which bars movement between cities, towns, and villages, was described by Israeli media as a precautionary step following recent regional developments, including the escalation between Israel and Iran.

The Israeli Broadcasting Corporation reported that the restrictions would remain in place “until further notice,” while newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth said additional military units have been deployed across key locations in the West Bank.

Palestinian security sources told Xinhua that Israeli forces



have shut down major roads connecting the northern, central, and southern areas of the West Bank. Iron gates and mobile checkpoints have been placed at strategic locations, significantly restricting movement.

“The closure has effectively paralysed daily life in the West Bank,” a Palestinian security official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told Xinhua.

Local eyewitnesses described extensive military activity, including the use of live ammunition, rubber-coated bullets, sound grenades, and tear gas to disperse gatherings and vehicles in several areas. Many urban centres and



refugee camps have been encircled, resulting in the isolation of neighborhoods and communities, according to the locals.

Medical services have been particularly impacted. In a press statement, the Palestinian Red Crescent Society said that its

emergency teams are encountering serious obstacles in reaching patients and transferring them to hospitals.

Local residents expressed growing concern about the continued closures’ impact on daily life and economic activity.

Ashraf Saeed, a 43-year-old taxi driver from the northern West Bank city of Nablus, told Xinhua that the closure has severely disrupted his ability to work, leaving thousands of other drivers and daily wage earners in a similar situation.

“Each morning, I leave the house before sunrise, hoping to find a route that isn’t blocked, but most

of the time I end up stuck for hours at military checkpoints,” Saeed said. “Sometimes, the soldiers fire warning shots or sound grenades just to clear the area, even if we’re only waiting quietly in our cars.”

Saeed, who supports a family of six, said the closure has stopped his only source of income. “With no passengers and no access to nearby cities, I’ve barely made any money in days. My children need food, school supplies, and medicine, but right now, I can’t provide any of that,” he lamented.

Residents describe closures as a form of collective restriction affecting all aspects of life. In Ramallah, commercial activity has slowed considerably. Shop owner Ali Akram told Xinhua that customer traffic has declined sharply over the past three days.

“People aren’t coming out, and we can’t restock our supplies,” Akram said. “The economy is suffering, and the longer this continues, the worse it will get for small businesses like ours.”

Similar conditions were reported in Hebron, the largest city in the southern West Bank. Residents said streets and marketplaces appeared largely deserted.

Samira Aziz, a mother of three from Hebron, described the current closure as one of the most severe in recent memory.

“There’s an overwhelming military presence,” she told Xinhua, saying, “We’re used to restrictions, but this level of closure is something new.”

Palestinian officials have condemned the Israeli measures, calling them violations of international humanitarian law and urging international intervention to ease restrictions on civilians. — Xinhua

UNITED NATIONS



UN cuts back aid plan amid ‘brutal funding cuts’

NEW YORK: The United Nations (UN) Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said on Monday said it was forced to drastically scale back aid plans due to “brutal funding cuts.”

OCHA is seeking \$29 billion (€ 25.7 billion) in funding in a drastic budget revision.

That’s in contrast to the amount sought in December when the UN had said it needed \$44 billion to help in over 70 countries, providing assistance to “180 million people, including refugees” under the Global Humanitarian Overview 2025 (GHO).

The OCHA said that as the year’s halfway mark approached, only \$5.6 billion — less than 13% — had been received.

“We have been forced into a triage of human survival,” said Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief, Tom Fletcher.

In a statement OCHA said it was presenting “the global ‘hyper-prioritized’ appeal aiming to help 114 million people facing life-threatening needs across the world.”

Under the new guidelines, OCHA aid will be directed so that it can “reach the people and places facing the most urgent needs.”

Support will be directed “on the planning already done for the 2025... This will ensure that limited resources are directed where they can do the most good — as quickly as possible,” the OCHA said.

Fletcher said that “brutal funding cuts leave us with brutal choices.”

“All we ask is 1% of what you chose to spend last year on war. But this isn’t just an appeal for money — it’s a call for global responsibility, for human solidarity, for a commitment to end the suffering.” — DW

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Indian PM completes successful leg of Cyprus visit; emplanes for Canada

NICOSIA: Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrapped up the Cyprus leg of his three nation tour and has now emplaned for Canada where he will be attending the G7 Summit.

Upon the conclusion of PM Modi’s visit, MEA Secretary (West), Tanmay Lal delivered comprehensive remarks.

Noting that the visit was the first visit to Cyprus by Prime Minister Modi and the first by an Indian Prime Minister in over two decades, he said, “This landmark visit highlights the enduring friendship and trusted partnership between our two countries.”

“In his remarks to the media, Prime Minister Modi spoke of the strategic direction of the India-Cyprus partnership. Our partnership also assumes importance in the larger context of the India-EU strategic partnership and India’s growing engagement with the Mediterranean region,” he added.

Noting that the Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides conferred upon Prime Minister Modi the Grand Cross of the Order of Macarios III, Ranmay Lal said, “This is the highest honour bestowed by Cyprus on foreign heads of government.”

Lal noted that the leaders discussed trade and investment, defence, fintech, maritime and shipping, connectivity including IMEC initiative, mobility, and people-to-people ties.

He said that the visit took place “against the backdrop of serious global challenges. The leaders discussed various pressing regional and global conflicts and issues. Prime Minister Modi expressed appreciation for the steadfast sup-



port of Cyprus to India in its fight against the cross-border terrorism. Cyprus takes over the presidency of the Council of the European Union during the first half of next year. This comes at a time when there is strong interest in significantly enhancing the India-EU strategic partnership. The leaders exchange views on this strategic partnership, including the ongoing India-EU-FTA negotiations”.

Describing India-Cyprus ties, Lal said, “The friendship and the trusted partnership between India and Cyprus has a long history. In 1950s, India had advocated for the independence of Cyprus. Later, the two countries worked together in the Non-Aligned Movement and the Commonwealth. Both countries have supported each other on issues of core interest to either side at multilateral fora, especially at the United Nations. Cyprus supports India for a permanent membership in a reformed and expanded UN Security Council, and India supports Cyprus on the Cyprus issue, the Cyprus question. After

the heinous terror attack in Pahalgam, our external affairs minister and the foreign minister of Cyprus have been in regular contact.”

Highlighting the importance of Cyprus, Secretary (West) said, “With its strategic location, Cyprus can act as a gateway to Europe and the Mediterranean.”

In his concluding remarks, Lal said, “To sum up, this historic visit of Prime Minister Modi to Cyprus has provided stimulus and a strategic direction to the partnership between our two countries as important, and trusted partners.”

He received a heartfelt welcome from the Indian diaspora in Limassol.

Upon his arrival, PM Modi, along with Cyprus President Christodoulides, interacted with leading CEOs during the business roundtable. During the interaction, PM Modi spoke about India’s reform trajectory in the last decade.

Prime Minister will travel to Canada’s Kananaskis to attend the G7 Summit on June 16-17. This will be PM Modi’s sixth con-

Modi awarded highest civilian honour of Cyprus

NICOSIA: Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded the Grand Cross of the Order of Macarios III - the highest honour in Cyprus, by President Nikos Christodoulides at the Presidential Palace in Nicosia on Monday.

The Order of Macarios III, the highest merit honour awarded in Cyprus, is named after Makarios III, the first president of the Republic of Cyprus. It is conferred upon heads of state and other people of significant status in recognition of meritorious service to the nation.

PM Modi expressed gratitude to President Christodoulides, the government and people of Cyprus for the honour.

— ANI

secutive participation in the G7 Summit.

The G7 Summit is an international forum held annually for the leaders of the G7 member states of the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Japan, Italy, and Canada and the European Union (EU). — ANI

POLITICALLY MOTIVATED ASSASSINATION

US police arrest suspected shooter of Minnesota lawmakers

MINNESOTA: A man suspected of killing a lawmaker in Minnesota and wounding another was taken into custody on Sunday evening, police said.

The arrest concludes the nearly two-day manhunt that put the mid-western state on edge.

“After a two-day manhunt, two sleepless nights, law enforcement have apprehended Vance Boelter,” Governor Tim Walz said at a press conference after the arrest. “One

man’s unthinkable actions have altered the state of Minnesota.”

“A moment in this country where we watch violence erupt, this cannot be the norm. It cannot be the way that we deal with our political differences. Now is the time for us to recommit to the core values of this country, and each and every one of us can do it,” he said. Walz has previously called the shooting a “politically motivated assassination.”

Shooter posed as police officer

Police said that a man, posing as a police officer, shot and killed former Democratic House Speaker Melissa Hortman and her husband, Mark, in their Brooklyn Park home early on Saturday in the northern Minneapolis suburbs.

Before the arrest, authorities had said they had found a car, hat and other items belonging to the suspected shooter. The man had

fled on foot early on Saturday when officers confronted him at Hortman’s home.

Police say this was the same person who shot and injured Senator John Hoffman, also a Democrat, and his wife at their home nine miles (14 kilometres) away.

Hoffman was undergoing surgery after being hit with nine bullets, according to a text message his wife sent to Democrat Senator Amy Klobuchar. — DW



SPORTS

Al Harthy's Le Mans dream cut short by electrical fault



MUSCAT: Ahmad Al Harthy's dream of securing a historic 24 Hours of Le Mans victory for Oman was dashed in the early hours of Sunday morning, as a sudden and terminal electrical fault brought a commanding LMGT3 challenge to a cruel halt.

Teaming up with motorsport legend Valentino Rossi and South African ace Kelvin van der Linde in the No. 46 Team WRT BMW M4 LMGT3 at Le Mans in France, Al Harthy looked set to fight for the win after a faultless showing in the opening half of the classic.

"We were in the top two for nearly 10 hours, and that really got us dreaming of what might be possible," said Al Harthy. "We showed strong pace and consistency, and I truly believe we were on course to fight for the win at the end. But that's racing – especially at Le Mans."

From the very start of the epic at Circuit de la Sarthe, the WRT trio were a force to be reckoned with. Van der Linde took the green flag after a strong qualifying performance placed the BMW third on the LMGT3 grid, and within minutes was up to second.

In hour two, Al Harthy climbed aboard and wasted no time in closing the gap to the front, hitting the lead shortly afterward and pulling out a 25sec advantage. As darkness fell over Le Mans, that margin had ballooned to nearly a minute as Al Harthy's pace was electric.

"I was proud of my first stint," Al Harthy said. "We were able to lead comfortably

and everything just felt in sync – the car, the team, the strategy. Everyone gave it their all."

Rossi maintained the lead during a strong maiden stint before handing back to van der Linde just before 10pm local time. At the 100-lap mark near 11pm, the trio were 30 seconds clear of the competition and executing a near-perfect strategy.

But at around 2am, with the No. 46 still among the front-runners and nearly halfway through the race, disaster struck. The BMW M4 LMGT3 lost power and came to a halt. Despite efforts to recover the car to the pits, the team confirmed the issue was an electrical failure – one that could not be fixed in time to continue.

Team WRT, winners of major international titles and among the most respected names in GT and endurance racing, were left devastated by the sudden retirement. "It's heartbreaking for the whole crew," said van der Linde. "We had everything clicking this weekend – pace, execution, pit stops. But unfortunately, these technical gremlins sometimes strike when you least expect it."

The retirement marked a second consecutive Le Mans disappointment for Al Harthy and Team WRT, after a similar blow in 2024.

Still, the Omani remains resolute. "These moments make you appreciate the highs even more," Al Harthy added. "We'll come back stronger. Brazil is next (July 12-13), and we're already focused on bouncing back."

Mercedes' Russell wins Canadian GP

McLaren duo of Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri collided late on in the race held in Montreal

MONTREAL: George Russell clinched Mercedes' first victory of the season in the Canadian Grand Prix on Sunday, a race that ended in dramatic style after a collision between McLaren team-mates Oscar Piastri and Lando Norris that saw the latter crash out.

It had been a strong start from pole position for Russell, the Briton launching away cleanly to hold the lead from Max Verstappen. What followed was a race of different strategies across the pack, with some opting for a two-stop plan while others tried to nurse their tyres on a one-stop.

Most of the frontrunners executed a two-stop strategy, setting up for a thrilling finale as the gaps amongst the top five cars became increasingly close in the closing stages. While Russell was leading from Verstappen, Piastri was trying to catch Kimi Antonelli for third – but the Australian also had Norris hot on his tail.

The McLaren pair then engaged in a feisty battle and contact occurred between them after Norris hit the back of Piastri's car, resulting in Norris parking up at the side of the track. The Briton went on to apologise for the incident over the radio.

With the Safety Car being deployed as Norris' stricken car was recovered, Russell crossed the line to seal his fourth career Grand Prix victory while Verstappen followed in second. There were also double celebrations at Mercedes as Antonelli claimed third, marking the Italian's debut F1 podium.

Piastri managed to hold onto fourth, the Australian having pitted under the Safety Car, while Charles Leclerc took fifth for Ferrari ahead of team-mate Lewis



Hamilton in sixth.

Fernando Alonso, meanwhile, added to his points tally by claiming seventh for Aston Martin, while Nico Hulkenberg bolstered Kick Sauber's total with a solid eighth.

Esteban Ocon was ninth in Haas' 200th Grand Prix, while Carlos Sainz rounded out the top 10 for Williams after a tricky day for the team. Haas' Ollie Bearman just missed out on points in P11, while Red Bull's Yuki Tsunoda recovered from P18 to a final result of P12.

Franco Colapinto was 13th for Alpine, ahead of Kick Sauber's Gabriel Bortoleto in 14th and the other Alpine of Pierre Gasly in 15th. Isack Hadjar ended the race down in 16th for Racing Bulls, while Aston Martin's Lance Stroll endured a tough home race as the final classified runner in 17th.

Norris was one of three drivers not to reach the chequered flag following his aforementioned crash, and subsequently received a five-second post-race time penalty for the collision.

Liam Lawson earlier recorded a DNF after seemingly experiencing an issue with his Racing Bulls machine, and Alex Albon retired from the running, having suffered a power unit problem on his Williams throughout the race.

Protest rejected

Meanwhile, Red Bull had a post-race protest lodged against Russell following the Canadian GP – in relation to alleged incidents during the late-race Safety Car phase – rejected. - Agencies

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OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES
The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by August 2025 reaching \$73.15, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 37 cents from the price of Friday, which was \$72.78. - **ONA**

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER
The MSX index closed at 4,535.16 points, up by 0.7% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.73% at 433.62 points. United Finance, up 5.17%, was the top gainer while, Salalah Mills, down 8.13%, was the top loser.

Oman’s oil exports top 100mn barrels



Average daily oil production saw a slight decrease of 1%, standing at 986,700 barrels per day, compared to 997,100 barrels per day in 2024



MUSCAT: The total oil exports recorded a drop of 3.4%, reaching 100,032,400 barrels by the end of April 2025, compared to 103,549,100 barrels during the same period in 2024 in Oman, according to the data issued by the

National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI). This decline is accompanied by a decrease in the average oil price, which dropped by 5.2% to USD 75.9 per barrel until the end of

April 2025, down from USD 80.0 per barrel a year earlier. Average daily oil production also saw a slight decrease of 1%, standing at 986,700 barrels per day, compared to 997,100 barrels

per day in 2024. Overall oil production declined by 1.9%, totaling 118,402,400 barrels by the end of April 2025, compared to 120,651,200 barrels during the same period last year. -**ONA**

RAISING AWARENESS

Bank Muscat hosts seminar on Global Financial Markets for its corporate and institutional customers in Sohar

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, recently hosted a seminar on Global Financial Markets for its corporate and institutional customers in Sohar.

The seminar witnessed the engaging participation by a number of decision-makers and financial professionals representing a range of industries. The event was organised as a part of a series of events held to raise awareness and explore the trends around latest developments in financial markets and their impacts on the day to day business of the customers.

The seminar focused on a variety of subjects connected to the most recent changes in the global financial markets to support customers by providing access to expert insights helping them make



informed financial decisions in a dynamic global economy's performance in the coming years. By continuing to conduct such events, Bank Muscat aims to shed light on numerous themes concerning the world economy, its prospects, and global financial markets. It is also an opportunity to engage with customers in fruitful discussions. In line with the continuous de-

velopment in the banking industry, Bank Muscat always strives to serve the needs of customers by consistently improving its products and services. It makes every effort to give them the best possible experience. With an ever-expanding customer base in all governorates, the bank has been successful in maintaining people's trust for more than 4 decades.

Bank Muscat provides a comprehensive suite of treasury and financial markets products and services on a 24x7 basis. It ensures global coverage, spanning East Asian and early New York time zones on all international and GCC working days.

The bank offers top-notch products and services to a diverse customer base, addressing foreign exchange needs and providing hedging solutions for interest rates, foreign exchange, and commodity price risks.

The Bank stands out as one of the few regional Banks offering commodity hedging solutions. The Bank will continue to implement its customer-centric vision through a keen understanding of customer needs to achieve its current and future goals.

REPORT

GCC economies expected to grow despite trade shifts

Times News Service

MUSCAT: GCC economies are poised for stronger-than-expected growth this year, despite mounting global trade tensions and depressed oil prices, according to the latest ICAEW Economic Insight report for Q2, prepared by Oxford Economics. The report highlights upgraded regional forecasts, with GCC GDP now expected to expand by 4.4% in 2025, up from an earlier estimate of 4.0%.

GCC: Growth outlook firm despite tariff headwinds
While global GDP growth has been downgraded to 2.4% - the slowest pace since 2020 - the GCC is bucking the trend. This is being driven by a quicker rollback of OPEC+ production cuts, lifting oil-sector growth forecasts from 3.2% in March to 4.5%.

However, with Brent crude expected to average \$67.3 p/b in 2025, the region faces mounting fiscal pressure. Only Qatar and the UAE are projected to maintain fiscal surpluses in 2025, highlighting the challenge of balancing growth ambitions with budget constraints.

The impact of the US 10% tariff on imports from GCC countries is expected to be limited given the region's low US export exposure and the exemption of energy products.

Non-oil sectors in the GCC are forecast to grow 4.1% this year, supported by strong domestic demand, investment momentum, and diversification initiatives. The region is also favourably positioned to absorb any trade rebal-



ances resulting from tariff headwinds and geopolitical tensions.

Saudi Arabia: Non-oil dynamism and higher output lift growth
Saudi Arabia's oil economy is now forecast to grow by 5.2% in 2025, up sharply from the 1.9% forecast in March, reflecting increased oil output and momentum. Production is averaging 9.7mn barrels per day, while non-oil sectors, led by construction and trade, continue to expand. In Q1 growth reached 3.4% y/y, driven by 4.9% expansion in non-oil activities in line with full year non-oil growth projection of 5.3%.

The rebasing of national accounts boosted the non-oil sector's share of GDP, reinforcing the Kingdom's diversification drive.

However, weaker oil prices are expected to widen the fiscal deficit to 3.4% of GDP. With oil revenues down 18% y/y in Q1 and spending still rising, Saudi Arabia's debt-to-GDP ratio is forecast to edge above 30% in 2025. Despite the risks, investor sentiment remains positive, with S&P recently upgrading the Kingdom's credit rating to A+.

UAE: Investment and diversification power growth momentum
The UAE economy is forecast to grow 5.1% in 2025, driven by a recovery in oil output, a 4.7% rise in non-oil GDP, as well as deepening trade ties and enhanced market access. Tourism remains a key growth driver, with international visitor spending expected to con-

tribute nearly 13% of GDP in 2025. In Q1, Dubai welcomed 5.3mn international visitors, up 3% y/y, consolidating its position as a leading tourism hub in line with the D33 agenda.

Strategic investments are also fuelling momentum, including a US\$1.4tn investment pipeline and new AI-focused collaborations following President Trump's May visit. Inflation is projected at 2.5% in 2025, led by rising housing costs. While rising tariffs are likely to suppress global inflation, a weaker US dollar may push up import prices in the UAE—particularly from non-dollar trade partners—offsetting some of the disinflationary effects.

Hanadi Khalife, Head of Middle East, ICAEW, said: "The GCC economies are showing remark-

able adaptability amid shifting global trade dynamics. Investments in tourism, technology, and infrastructure continue to pay dividends, strengthening resilience and laying the groundwork for long-term growth."

Scott Livermore, ICAEW Economic Advisor, and Chief Economist and Managing Director, Oxford Economics Middle East, said: "We have upgraded our GCC forecast due to faster OPEC+ output increases and sustained non-oil momentum in key economies like Saudi Arabia and the UAE. While uncertainty and trade shifts may place pressures on fiscal policy, the region's two key economies are expected to continue to progress toward economic diversification and attract global capital at an accelerated pace."

MILESTONE



OQ becomes first firm in Oman to adopt UNSPSC procurement standards via Tawreed

MUSCAT: OQ, the global energy investment group, has achieved a major milestone in procurement transformation by becoming the first company in the Sultanate of Oman to integrate the United Nations Standard Products and Services Code (UNSPSC) across both its material master and vendor management systems within the "Tawreed" platform.

The UNSPSC is a globally recognised taxonomy developed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with international institutions. Its adoption enables standardised classification of products and services, helping organisations improve data quality, reduce procurement errors, and optimise financial decision-making.

This pioneering move marks a significant step in modernising procurement operations, strengthening data governance, and enhancing supplier lifecycle management. By embedding UNSPSC into its SAP system and supplier records, OQ has established a unified classification framework that improves spend transparency, streamlines sourcing, and advances digital integration across its procurement ecosystem.

"The integration of the UNSPSC system represents a strategic transformation in the way we manage procurement at OQ," said Sabrina Al Bakri, Chief Financial Officer at OQ. "It reflects our on-

going commitment to innovation and institutional excellence, while enhancing the efficiency of our internal operations. By adopting this global classification framework, we are strengthening governance, improving data accuracy, and reinforcing transparency."

She added that this project is a key outcome of OQ's digital transformation strategy and is fully aligned with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040, which emphasizes the importance of governance, transparency, and the adoption of intelligent systems in institutional management. It reinforces OQ's position as a leading enterprise contributing to the advancement of Oman's business environment.

For OQ, this integration is a strategic enabler; by aligning procurement practices with global standards, OQ is now better equipped to drive supplier efficiency, conduct deeper spend analysis, and unlock greater value through strategic sourcing. The initiative also reduces data duplication, simplifies onboarding, and enables more consistent and accurate supplier evaluations.

The implementation of UNSPSC supports OQ's broader efforts to transform enterprise-wide operations through digitisation, innovation, and data-led decision-making which further strengthens its role as a national leader in sustainable, tech-driven growth. -**ONA**

OIL PRICE



Oil surges amid escalating Middle East tensions

SINGAPORE: Oil prices yesterday jumped in early Asian trade amid escalating tensions in the Middle East. Brent crude futures rose \$1.70, or 2.3%, to \$75.93 a barrel. US West Texas Intermediate crude climbed \$1.62, or 2.2%, to \$74.60. They surged more than \$4 earlier in the session. Both benchmarks settled 7% higher on Friday, having surged more than 13% during the session to their highest levels since January.

Dollar inches up in early Asian trading

The dollar yesterday firmed against major currencies, driven by safe-haven buying from investors. The dollar rose 0.14% to 144.3 Japanese yen, while the euro was 0.14% lower at \$1.1534.

In early Asia hours, the greenback was steady against the Swiss franc at 0.81, while an index that measures the dollar against six others was steady at 98.25. Currencies that are positively correlated to risk such as the Australian dollar and the New Zealand dollar were marginally higher. -**ONA**

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

United Finance, up 5.17%, was the top gainer while, Salalah Mills, down 8.13%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,535.16 points, up by 0.7% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.73% at 433.62 points. United Finance, up 5.17%, was the top gainer while, Salalah Mills, down 8.13%, was the top loser. Shares of OQBI were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 1926 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 11.72 million, with more than 74.44 million shares changing hands. Out of 60 traded securities, 27 advanced, 18 declined, and 15 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for RO 50K while foreign investors were net sellers for RO 39K, followed by domestic investors for RO 11K worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 7,881.49 points, up 0.82%. Prices of United Finance, Bank Dhofar, Al Madina Takaful, Muscat Finance, and National Finance were up by 5.17%, 2.94%, 2.53%,

2.00%, and 1.70% respectively. Prices of Oman Arab Bank were down by 0.68%. Industrial Index closed at 6,325.22 points, up 0.5%. Prices of Al Maha Ceramics, Gulf International Chemicals, Al Anwar Ceramics, Gulf Mushroom Products, and Jazeera Steel Products were up by 5.00%, 4.41%, 2.29%, 0.92%, and 0.29% respectively. Prices of Salalah Mills, National Biscuits, Raysut Cement, Oman Cables Industry, and A'Saffa Foods were down by 8.13%, 5.88%, 4.95%, 2.13%, and 0.27% respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.24% before closing at 1,585.02 points. Prices of National Gas, Al Jazeera Services, OQ Gas Networks, Muscat Gases, and Muscat Desalination were up by 5.00%, 2.86%, 2.61%, 1.70%, and 1.54% respectively. Prices of Dhofar Generating, Al Maha Marketing, Sembcorp Salalah, Barka Desalination, and Sharqiyah Desalination were down by 6.67%, 5.26%, 2.91%, 2.38%, and 2.26% respectively. — **United Securities**

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

OMAN STOCKS

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,535.16	4,470.45	4,503.74	4,503.74	314.2	0.70
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,881.92	7,786.49	7,881.49	7,817.37	64.12	0.82
Industry Index	6,344.43	6,251.25	6,325.22	6,293.46	31.75	0.50
Services Index	1,592.82	1,575.32	1,585.02	1,588.90	-3.88	-0.24
MSX Shariah Index	435.46	427.95	433.62	430.48	3.14	0.73
MSX TR INDEX	6,706.38	6,610.70	6,706.38	6,659.93	46.46	0.70
FINANCIAL TR IDX	9,341.06	9,227.97	9,340.55	9,264.56	76.00	0.82
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	7,796.35	7,681.85	7,772.74	7,733.72	39.02	0.50
SERVICES TR IDX	2,031.23	2,008.92	2,021.29	2,026.23	-4.95	-0.24
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,166.89	1,166.89	1,166.89	1,166.89	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
74,446,722	11,719,893	1,926	28,125,219,422	27	18	15	60

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, JUNE 16

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PREV. VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000000274	UNITED FINANCE	100	6	1	0.061	0.061	0.061	0.061	0.058	0.003	5.172	0.061	0.059	0.060	0.100	21,723,765
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	93,388	16,889	31	0.180	0.182	0.180	0.180	0.175	0.005	2.857	0.180	0.175	0.180	0.100	7,711,738
OM0000000672	OQ GAS NETWORKS	17,603,854	2,681,943	292	0.152	0.157	0.149	0.157	0.153	0.004	2.614	0.157	0.150	0.157	0.100	679,907,955
OM0000004788	MADINA TAKAFUL	22,092	1,782	9	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.079	0.002	2.532	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.100	14,173,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	788,211	141,429	88	0.175	0.184	0.173	0.179	0.175	0.004	2.286	0.179	0.177	0.179	0.100	39,380,000
OM0000004833	AL SUWADI POWER	33,375	3,611	12	0.067	0.069	0.067	0.069	0.068	0.001	1.471	0.069	0.065	0.069	0.100	49,294,097
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	8,297	642	3	0.069	0.070	0.069	0.070	0.069	0.001	1.449	0.070	0.068	0.070	0.100	47,242,120
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	5,468,452	1,495,360	109	0.270	0.277	0.270	0.276	0.273	0.003	1.099	0.276	0.278	0.278	0.100	2,071,765,589
OM0000004420	BANK NUZWA	58,490	5,949	7	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.099	0.001	1.010	0.100	0.099	0.100	0.100	223,685,303
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	119,689	23,955	30	0.200	0.204	0.200	0.200	0.199	0.001	0.503	0.200	0.200	0.202	0.100	130,188,846
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	100	35	1	0.346	0.346	0.346	0.346	0.345	0.001	0.250	0.346	0.346	0.379	0.100	43,214,694
OM0000002661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	11,200	7,280	6	0.650	0.651	0.650	0.651	0.650	0.001	0.154	0.651	0.651	0.670	0.100	69,942,158
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	130,291	28,456	14	0.218	0.219	0.218	0.219	0.219	0.000	0.000	0.219	0.210	0.219	0.100	204,920,840
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	18,381	6,092	6	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.000	0.000	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.100	20,800,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	108,055	29,917	8	0.274	0.277	0.274	0.277	0.277	0.000	0.000	0.277	0.277	0.277	0.100	65,485,570
OM0000003386	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	5,704,063	793,669	82	0.138	0.140	0.137	0.140	0.140	0.000	0.000	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.100	826,414,478
OM0000003326	OMAN TELECOM	6,680	7,234	6	0.844	0.844	0.843	0.844	0.845	-0.001	-0.118	0.844	0.840	0.850	0.100	633,000,000
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	100	37	1	0.369	0.369	0.369	0.369	0.370	-0.001	-0.270	0.369	0.365	0.374	0.100	44,280,000
OM0000008834	ADRA ENERGY SERVICES	6,760,957	1,626,450	205	0.240	0.241	0.238	0.239	0.242	-0.003	-1.240	0.239	0.239	0.239	0.100	184,077,800
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	100	230	5	2.300	2.300	2.300	2.300	2.350	-0.050	-2.128	2.300	2.300	2.300	0.100	206,310,000
Total		37,000,185	6,871,058	916												

Parallel Market

OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	569,399	47,354	48	0.082	0.085	0.082	0.084	0.080	0.004	5.000	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.100	7,140,000
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	68,274	20,054	25	0.271	0.298	0.271	0.294	0.280	0.014	5.000	0.293	0.293	0.293	0.100	16,170,000
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	96,328	6,809	5	0.069	0.071	0.069	0.071	0.068	0.003	4.412	0.071	0.071	0.070	0.100	1,491,000
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	2,891,867	820,530	242	0.310	0.319	0.309	0.319	0.309	0.010	3.236	0.319	0.319	0.319	0.100	101,025,000,000
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	237,500	32,168	23	0.135	0.140	0.135	0.140	0.136	0.004	2.941	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.100	425,571,794
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	385,417	18,450	20	0.059	0.051	0.059	0.051	0.059	0.001	2.800	0.051	0.051	0.053	0.100	24,113,891
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	5,000	600	1	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.118	0.002	1.695	0.120	0.116	0.119	0.100	3,600,000
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	35,000	4,200	2	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.118	0.002	1.695	0.120	0.119	0.120	0.100	72,975,185
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	113,077	7,393	11	0.064	0.066	0.064	0.066	0.065	0.001	1.538	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.100	96,531,696
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	109	7	1	0.068	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.065	0.001	1.538	0.066	0.067	0.068	0.100	10,266,326
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO	198,048	13,848	19	0.069	0.071	0.069	0.069	0.068	0.001	1.471	0.069	0.069	0.070	0.100	5,409,375
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	988,100	81,339	37	0.083	0.084	0.083	0.084	0.083	0.001	1.205	0.084	0.082	0.081	0.100	24,113,891
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	6,000	1,320	5	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.218	0.002	0.917	0.220	0.218	0.220	0.100	10,068,476
OM0000009908	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SF2)	23,434,136	2,808,897	341	0.121	0.122	0.118	0.122	0.121	0.001	0.828	0.122	0.122	0.121	0.100	422,057,884
OM0000001020	ASAD SHIPPING	5,639,266	680,092	102	0.121	0.122	0.119	0.122	0.121	0.001	0.828	0.122	0.125	0.122	0.100	635,466,802
OM0000001020	OMAN CHROMITE	20	80	1	3.983	3.983	3.983	3.983	3.983	0.000	0.000	3.983	0.000	4.110	1.000	13,143,900
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	100	46	1	0.460	0.460	0.460	0.460	0.460	0.000	0.000	0.460	0.460	0.472	0.100	75,072,500
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	7,218	3,405	7	0.471	0.490	0.471	0.490	0.490	0.000	0.000	0.490	0.470	0.492	0.100	162,127,628
OM0000002077	AL OMANIA FINANCIAL SERVICES	100	13	1	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.000	0.000	0.130	0.130	0.138	0.100	41,004,210
OM0000002232	SALALAH PORT SERVICES	80	20	1	0.252	0.252	0.252	0.252	0.252	0.000	0.000	0.252	0.252	0.260	0.100	45,319,025
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	8,600	1,766	4	0.205	0.210	0.204	0.204	0.204	0.000	0.000	0.204	0.204	0.206	0.100	40,725,662
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	2,076	1,857	7	0.080	0.081	0.080	0.081	0.081	0.000	0.000	0.081	0.080	0.086	0.100	23,536,816
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	76,180	8,838	7	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.000	0.000	0.116	0.117	0.120	0.100	68,606,678
OM0000009659	JABAL REIF	1,700	172	2	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.100	1,574,000
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	100	54	1	0.538	0.538	0.538	0.538	0.538	0.000	0.000	0.538	0.537	0.539	0.100	50,920,000
OM0000005280	OMAN ARAB BANK	1,616	236	1	0.146	0.146	0.146	0.146	0.147	-0.001	-0.680	0.146	0.146	0.157	0.100	243,733,860
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	1,000	238	1	0.238	0.238	0.238	0.238	0.239	-0.002	-0.769	0.238	0.239	0.238	0.100	18,160,620
OM0000007910	OMAN REAL ESTATE	3,790	330	1	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.088	-0.001	-1.138	0.087	0.088	0.090	0.100	17,400,000
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	28,153	18,299	10	0.650	0.650	0.650	0.650	0.660	-0.010	-1.515	0.650	0.650	0.650	0.100	39,828,750
OM0000004669	SHARQIYAH DESALINATION	5,100	663	4	0.130	0.130	0.127	0.130	0.133	-0.003	-2.356	0.130	0.126	0.130	0.100	12,774,281
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	869	107	2	0.122	0.123	0.122	0.123	0.126	-0.003	-2.381	0.123	0.115	0.132	0.100	9,289,200
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	72,915	7,372	20	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.103	-0.001	-2.913	0.104	0.103	0.105	0.100	96,457,195
OM0000003000	ALMAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	100	80	1	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.000	0.000	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.100	62,000,000
OM0000009908	NATIONAL PETROLEUM INDUSTRIES LIMITED	23,434,136	2,808,897	341	0.121	0.122	0.118	0.122	0.121	0.001	0.828	0.122	0.122	0.121	0.100	422,057,884
OM0000007047	DHOAF GENERATING	438,289	25,456	21	0.056	0.057	0.056	0.056	0.060	0.004	6.687	0.056	0.056	0.058	0.100	12,445,441
OM0000001889	SALALAH MILLS	30	14	1	0.441	0.441	0.441	0.441	0.440	-0.009	-8.125	0.441	0.440	0.440	0.100	27,545,441
OM0000000000		35,036,964	4,614,589	979												



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I, **Abhijeet Singh Rana** (holder of Indian Passport No. U0369153) S/o M.S. Rana having permanent residence in C/O MR JS Rana P T R T-4 ACC Panihai colony PO Kynmmore, Katnai MP, PIN 483880, India and presently residing at Azaiba, Sultanate of Oman, intend to marry **Ms. Syeda Muskaan Ubed**, (Holder of Indian Passport bearing No. N2965348, D/o Syed Ubedullah having permanent residence in S R Pet K M Pall via Chittor dt AP at Embassy of India, Muscat. I swear that I am marrying her at my own free will and not under any duress and intimidation. Any objection towards this marriage may please be communicated to Embassy of India, Muscat, Diplomatic Quarters, Al Khuwair, P.O.Box No. 1727, Postal Code No.112, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman within 30 (thirty) days of publication of this newspaper advertisement

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Sri Lankan accountant having 7 yrs of experience available for immediate join. Contact: 97092478

CA with 15 yrs experience in Oman, familiar with ERP, financial management, IFRSs, taxation, budgeting, fund management and audits, looking for suitable placement. Can join soon with D/L. Contact: 0096896543236. Email: omanca968@gmail.com.

Indian female accountant. MBA Finance. 9+ yrs experience in and out Oman. Contact: 95756987.

Indian male, MBA in finance, with 14 yrs of accounting experience including UAE & Oman (holding a valid Oman D/L). Seeking a suitable position, Can join immediately. Contact: 79994125 Email: rejinarajamben@gmail.com

Accountant (Indian) with D/L 8 yrs experience, can join immediately. Contact: 95273377

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Indian male Bachelor degree in Commerce (CA) looking for a suitable job with 1 yr experience in accounts,finance Currently in Oman with family visa & Omani D/L. Can join immediately. Contact: +96876469134 Email: shemantk32@gmail.com

Pakistani male with experience of 12 yrs (5 yrs in Oman) in finance,accounts seeks job. Have Oman D/L also. Contact: 78363317 Email: bilalattariacca@gmail.com

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Senior accountant, Accounts manager ACCA, CA Inter, MS finance. 12 yrs gulf experience. Ready to join immediately. NOC & D/L available. Contact: 77258382.

Indian male, Chief Accountant, Commerce graduate with 14 years of experience in Oman. Currently working in a reputed company in Oman. Seeking suitable position. Contact: 96242858

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Indian Male have 10 yrs experience in Oman as supervisor, have valid D/L and NOC. Contact: 90789282.

Secretary with 20 yrs of experience in India and Oman looking for a job. NOC available. Contact: 97932277.

Indian male coordinator, supervisor driver with, experience 10 yrs and above looking for job. Contact 968-97109491.

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

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Civil Engineer with D/L,10 yrs experience in Oman. Contact: 97993078

Electronics and Communication Engineer with AutoCAD experience Contact: 76622441. Email: fatinkisho10@gmail.com

Indian male (Mechanical Engineer) with Oman experience in Oil & Gas, BDM, procurement, logistic, inventory management & operations. Ready to join immediately. NOC & D/L available. Contact: 99189094. Email: ben.sdbmct@gmail.com

Indian male, automobile engineer, 10 yrs experience in dealership workshop operations and supervision, seeking job opportunity. Contact +968 78406449.

EDUCATION/TRAINING

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

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

TOUR/TRAVELS

Looking for a job as a air ticketing, reservation agent and office administration. Contact: 99080348. Email: reemadanthys830@gmail.com

IT

Female software Engineer full stack developer also expert in digital marketing with 5 yrs experience.Contact 78462153

MANAGER

Indian male Project Manager, construction manager having 25 yrs experience(19 yr Oman&1.5yr Dubai & 4.5yr India) looking for the good suitable placement. WA: 79113859. Contact: 919600665286

Experienced food processing officer with over 2 yrs of proven expertise looking for suitable roles. Quality control, hygiene officer. Contact:79150220, Email: jagath.sivanandan@gmail.com

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

MEDICAL

Dentist, insurance coordinator Muscat, BDS, 4 yrs experience,viva & prometric cleared. Seeking full-time role as Dentist or insurance coordinator. +968-77275222 | Available immediately

Indian, 4 yrs experience in medical social work (MSW postgraduate), looking for a suitable job in hospitals or institutions. Contact: 77030210, 99573353

SALES/MARKETING

MBA HR & Marketing, Indian female, knowledge of MS office, Looking for suitable job, Currently in Oman. Contact: 72851131, Email: teenavaalen01@gmail.com

Male 25+ yrs experience in sales (industrial) , looking for a suitable position with valid D/L. Available for immediate joining. 78569329

Looking for jobs in Sales and marketing, customer care and relevant field. 10+ yrs of experience in Sri Lanka and Canada. Contact: +968 7646 3371.

Indian male with vast experience in sales marketing and business development,currently residing in Muscat looking for a favourable placement. Contact: 97220369 Email: kazinaved77@gmail.com

Indian male (29 yrs) 2 yrs experience as Sales consultant, 4 yrs and 10 mts as Sr. Trainer in retail. Looking for suitable placement and currently in Oman. Contact: 94559796.



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LIFESTYLE

STUDY FINDS
EFFECT OF
COFFEE ON
A SLEEPING
BRAIN

Research showed for the first time that caffeine increases the complexity of brain signals and enhances brain “criticality” during sleep. Interestingly, this was more pronounced in younger adults

Coffee can help you stay awake, but what does caffeine actually do to your brain once you're asleep? Using AI, a team of researchers has an answer: it affects the brain's 'criticality'.

In a study published in April in Nature Communications Biology, a team of researchers from Universite de Montreal shed new light on how caffeine can modify sleep and influence the brain's recovery -- both physical and cognitive -- overnight.

The research was led by Philipp Tholke, a research trainee at UdeM's Cognitive and Computational Neuroscience Laboratory (CoCo Lab), and co-led by the lab's director Karim Jerbi, a psychology professor and researcher at Mila -- Quebec AI Institute.

Working with sleep-and-ageing psychology professor Julie Carrier and her team at UdeM's Centre for Advanced Research in Sleep Medicine, the scientists used AI and electroencephalography (EEG) to study caffeine's effect on sleep.

They showed for the first time that caffeine increases the complexity of brain signals and enhances brain “criticality” during sleep. Interestingly, this was more pronounced in younger adults.

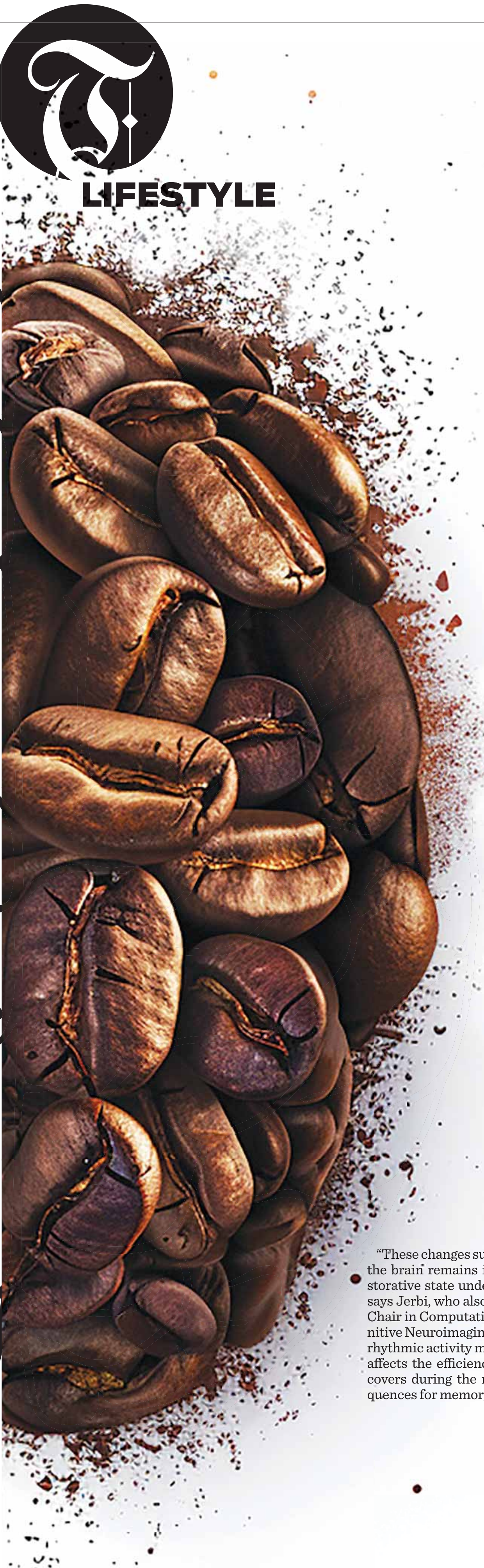
“Criticality describes a state of the brain that is balanced between order and chaos,” said Jerbi.

“It's like an orchestra: too quiet and nothing happens, too chaotic and there's cacophony. Criticality is the happy medium where brain activity is both organised and flexible. In this state, the brain functions optimally: it can process information efficiently, adapt quickly, learn and make decisions with agility,” added Jerbi.

Added Carrier: “Caffeine stimulates the brain and pushes it into a state of criticality, where it is more awake, alert and reactive. While this is useful during the day for concentration, this state could interfere with rest at night: the brain would neither relax nor recover properly.” The researchers also discovered striking changes in the brain's electrical rhythms during sleep: caffeine attenuated slower oscillations such as theta and alpha waves -- generally associated with deep, restorative sleep -- and stimulated beta wave activity, which is more common during wakefulness and mental engagement.

“These changes suggest that even during sleep, the brain remains in a more activated, less restorative state under the influence of caffeine,” says Jerbi, who also holds the Canada Research Chair in Computational Neuroscience and Cognitive Neuroimaging. “This change in the brain's rhythmic activity may help explain why caffeine affects the efficiency with which the brain recovers during the night, with potential consequences for memory processing.”

The study also showed that the effects of caffeine on brain dynamics were significantly more pronounced in young adults between the ages of 20 and 27 compared to middle-aged participants aged 41 to 58, especially during REM sleep, the phase associated with dreaming. - ANI



IN PICTURES



Hammana Cherry Festival held in Lebanon

People visit a stall during the Hammana Cherry Festival at the village of Hammana, Mount Lebanon. The annual event features local cherry products, traditional music, and artisan displays, highlighting the agricultural and cultural richness of the region during the cherry harvest season. Xinhua



The cast of 'Metro In Dino' promotes their upcoming film

Bollywood actors Anupam Kher, Ali Fazal, Pankaj Tripathi, Sara Ali Khan, Aditya Roy Kapur, Konkona Sen Sharma, Fatima Sana Shaikh and Neena Gupta pose for a picture during the promotion of their upcoming romance/drama film 'Metro In Dino', in Mumbai. ANI Photo



G7 summit to focus on global economy, energy security

A protester holds a sign during a rally in Calgary, Canada. A protest took place in Calgary ahead of the commencement of this year's Group of Seven (G7) summit. Xinhua



Warsaw Pets Day held in Poland

Residents with their dogs participate in the Warsaw Pets Day held in Warsaw, Poland. Xinhua



World Aquatics Championships Arena in Singapore

Picture shows the interior view of the newly-built World Aquatics Championships Arena during a media tour, ahead of the World Aquatics Championships to be held in Singapore Sports Hub. xinhua



Lavender tourism festival promotes economic development in China's Xinjiang

A tourist poses for photos at a scenic spot featuring lavender fields in Huocheng County, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. Vast fields of lavender in Huocheng County entered full bloom in June, transforming the landscape into a sea of purple. Xinhua

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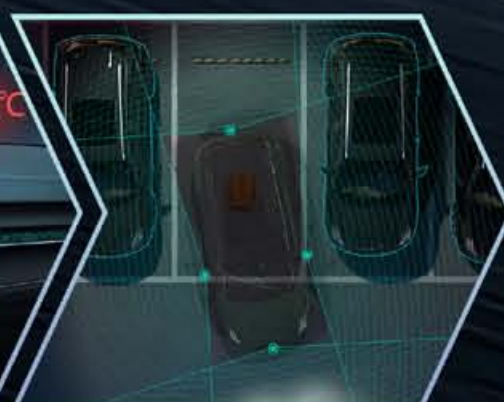
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ROUND-UP

ahlibank opens new branch in Rusayl

The Rusayl branch reinforces ahlibank’s mandate to serve high-potential locations while further advancing the bank’s customer-centric growth trajectory



part of a wider network expansion initiative, the Rusayl branch reinforces ahlibank’s mandate to serve high-potential locations while further advancing the bank’s customer-centric growth trajectory.

Commenting on the inauguration, Muneer Al Balushi, AGM Head of Retail Distribution in ahlibank, stated, “Rusayl is a dynamic industrial enclave, home to a diverse cluster of companies that form a vital part of Oman’s economic backbone. The rationale behind selecting Rusayl for our latest branch stems not only from its strategic commercial significance, but also from the growing appetite for principled, value-centric banking solutions among both individuals and businesses in the area. At ahli-

bank, we believe that easy access to banking services and products is a catalyst for building comprehensive financial systems in which economic development is in harmony with the needs of society. By establishing our presence in Rusayl, we are also affirming our role in supporting regions that fuel national development. This new branch represents a tangible translation of this commitment, as it combines financial integrity with easy access to services for the communities we seek to empower.”

The opening of the Rusayl branch enhances ahlibank’s ability to serve clients with greater proximity and responsiveness, enabling them to access comprehensive financial services closer to

where they live and work facilitating greater immediacy, in-person support, and operational ease across both personal and business banking needs. The branch is equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure, fully aligned with the bank’s service excellence standards, and features a knowledgeable team of professionals who bring with them deep market understanding and cultural insight ensuring clients receive guidance that is both technically sound and contextually relevant.

From current and savings accounts to personal, home, and auto financing, as well as SME and commercial funding, investment solutions, credit card facilities, and corporate banking services, the Rusayl branch delivers the full suite of financial offerings. On the institutional side, it also addresses trade finance requirements, including letters of credit and guarantees, designed to meet the evolving needs of businesses across all scales. In doing so, the branch not only expands access to specialized financial solutions but also reinforces ahlibank’s position as a trusted enabler of sustainable, values-driven economic progress across Oman.

SUPPORTS CHILD DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES



National Finance signs pact with Children First Association

MUSCAT: As part of its commitment to supporting community initiatives and contributing to childhood development, National Finance, Oman’s leading finance company, announced the signing of a cooperation agreement with the Children First Association. The agreement aims to support the association’s efforts to promote children’s rights and to create safe, stimulating, and educational, cultural, and health-focused environments for children in the country. The agreement was signed by Tariq Sulaiman Al Farsi, Chief Executive Officer at National Finance, and Her Highness Sayyida Dr. Mona Fahad Al Said, Chairwoman of the Children First Association.

This partnership represents a significant step that reflects National Finance’s commitment to supporting community welfare institutions and empowering children, who are the cornerstone for building a more prosperous future for the nation. Through this collaboration, National Finance company contributes to funding the association’s awareness and

development programs, as well as supporting national events such as conferences and seminars related to childhood issues.

Through its programs and initiatives, the association focuses on instilling the values of citizenship, strengthening national identity, and providing awareness and training support to children and caregivers in various health, psychological, and educational fields.

Commenting on the strategic partnership, Tariq Sulaiman Al Farsaid: “We value this partnership, which goes beyond a strategic cooperation to become a solid investment in the future of the Sultanate of Oman. At National Finance Company, we believe in the importance of investing in people and society as part of our strategic direction, and supporting childhood and empowering children and those concerned with their welfare, both individuals and institutions, is a key part of preserving national identity and social connections, maintaining cohesion and protecting it from external influences.”

INSTILL OMANI VALUES

Alizz Islamic partners with Bustan App

MUSCAT: Alizz Islamic Bank recently partnered with the Bustan App to empower children to learn Omani and Islamic values and traditions. The agreement was signed by Lina Al Abdulsalaam, Head of Marketing & Communications of Alizz Islamic Bank on behalf of the bank and by Ammar Al Saqri, GM of Digital Dimensions on behalf of Bustan App.

The Bustan App is a safe educational and entertainment digital platform that aims to instill Omani and Islamic values amongst children through interactive content that combines smart games, videos, meaningful stories, Quranic learning and fun and safe educational solutions.

This partnership comes as part of Alizz Islamic Bank’s commitment to enrich the young and empower them with the right skills and knowledge. The bank believes it is essential to promote



authentic Omani values among children through purposeful interactive content that promotes belonging and national identity, in line with the country’s vision. Alizz Islamic Bank continues to extend its strategic partnerships to help associations accelerate progress towards impactful goals and objectives.

Ammar Al Saqri, GM of Digital Dimensions on behalf of Bustan

App mentioned that “We are proud to present our first Omani application dedicated to children, developed by young Omani programmers and developers from our company, Digital Dimension. The Bustan platform aims to protect children from content that violates our Islamic values and morals. It also enables parents to have complete control over their children’s use of the platform. The

platform includes several diverse sections, including: games, animations, interactive games, songs and the Holy Quran. The platform is constantly updated with new content, making it the first choice for Arabian & Muslim children.”

Touching upon the partnership, Lina Al Abdulsalaam, Head of Marketing & Communications of Alizz Islamic Bank said “We are honoured to be the first bank to partner with Al Bustan Appa digital interactive platform for children. At Alizz Islamic Bank we believe that such initiatives can be a powerful tool to meet children in the digital space and turn learning into an entertaining and engagement driven experience. Under the ‘Alizz Cares’ education umbrella, we strive to make a positive and lasting difference in the lives of the children in Oman by promoting impactful social initiatives such as this one.”

PROMOTION



Exciting Toyota Summer Campaign with grand raffle trip to Istanbul

MUSCAT: In a move that promises to elevate the excitement of summer for car buyers across Oman, Saud Bahwan Automotive has announced an irresistible Toyota Summer Campaign. Designed to deliver more value, more convenience and the thrill of winning, the campaign offers a bouquet of exceptional benefits that make owning a Toyota even more rewarding. The campaign that began on 1st June will last until 31st July.

Customers purchasing any Toyota can enjoy free service from 3 years / 30,000 kms up to 10 years / 100,000 kms (whichever is earlier), 1-year insurance, exciting Scratch & Win prizes and the chance to enter a Raffle Draw where they can win one out of 16 iPhone 16 Pro Max and also enter a Grand Raffle Draw to win 1 out of 5 international holiday packages to Istanbul for two adults for 4 nights and 5 days. (Prospective buyers may be advised that the benefits vary between model variants, model year and manufacturing year. Terms & Conditions apply. Customers can

visit any Saud Bahwan Automotive showroom for exact details.)

The campaign is valid across a wide range of popular Toyota models, each celebrated for its dependability, performance and cutting-edge features. Whether it is the bold and powerful Hilux that is built to conquer with confidence, the dynamic and fuel-efficient Corolla Cross that brings hybrid innovation into daily drives, the rugged-yet-refined Fortuner that dominates with its commanding road presence, or the ever-stylish and smooth-riding Camry that redefines executive comfort, there is a Toyota for every lifestyle and personality.

Commenting on the campaign, a spokesperson from Saud Bahwan Automotive said, “This summer, we are giving our customers more reasons to smile. Our campaign combines unbeatable peace of mind with exciting experiences, from extended service and insurance to instant prizes and a dream getaway. It is our way of thanking customers for choosing Toyota, a brand synonymous with quality and trust.”

LANDMARK SHOWCASE

Audi Oman unveils future-forward lineup

MUSCAT: Audi Oman, represented by Premium Motors, recently staged a landmark event that set a new benchmark in the Sultanate’s premium automotive scene. Held under the patronage of Sheikh Sabaa bin Hamdan bin Sabaa Al Saadi, the Secretary General of the Higher Committee for National Day Celebrations, this exclusive event marked a significant milestone in Audi’s journey in the region.

The grand reveal at the Premium Motors showroom featured the highly anticipated unveilings of the new Audi A5, Audi A6 Avant, and the all-electric Audi A6 e-tron. In addition, several other models, including the Audi Q6 e-tron, Audi Q7, Audi Q8, and the high-performance Audi S8, were prominently displayed for attendees to explore. Four classic Audi models were also on display, offering a nostalgic nod to the brand’s storied heritage while celebrating its forward-looking vision.

By launching both advanced internal combustion engine and full-



ly electric vehicles simultaneously, Audi demonstrates its strategic commitment to meeting the evolving preferences of Omani drivers. This dual approach reflects Audi’s broader mission to lead in both performance and sustainability. This event was more than just a product launch; it was a celebration of Audi’s evolving identity and its rich local legacy.

Attended by Audi owners, VIPs,

media representatives, and influential personalities, the showcase underscored the brand’s commitment to delivering both performance and sustainability. Guests enjoyed live band performances that added vibrant energy to the evening, along with interactive activations and brand experiences that brought Audi’s innovation and lifestyle ethos to life. These thoughtful touches elevated the occasion, turning it into

a celebration of both technology and community.

The newly unveiled Audi A5 stands out with its sharp, athletic design and refined character, making it an ideal choice for drivers who seek both performance and sophistication. Inside, a digital-first cabin features the Audi Virtual Cockpit and an intuitive MMI touch interface for a seamless driving experience.

The new Audi A6 Avant brings a perfect blend of executive elegance and everyday practicality. Known for its dynamic handling, advanced driver assistance systems, and generous cargo capacity, it caters to families and professionals who require both comfort and utility without compromise.

Christian Nehme, General Manager of Premium Motors commented: “With this launch, we are introducing the future of mobility in Oman. From electrification to design excellence, these models reflect Audi’s promise to lead with purpose and progress.”

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