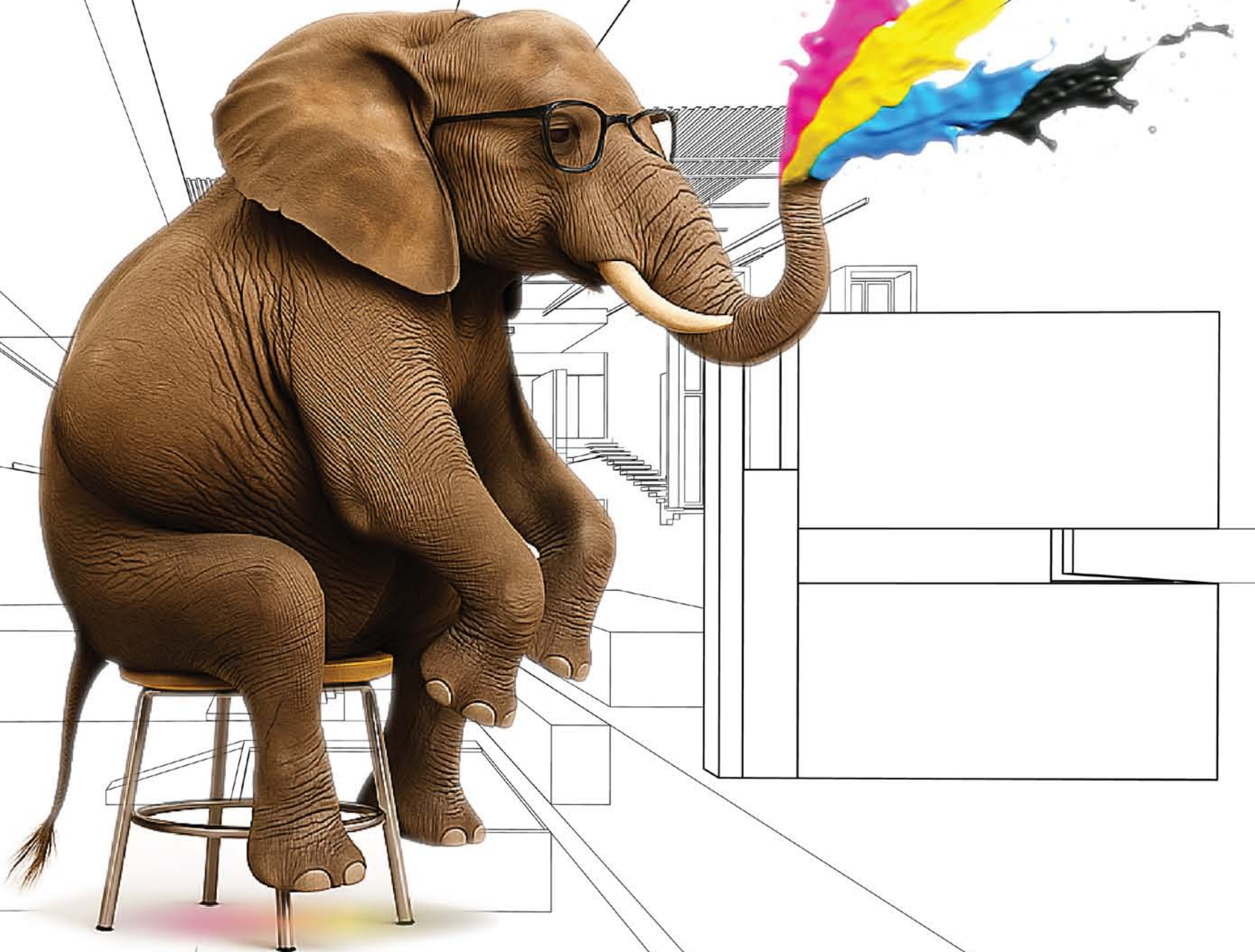


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Asr.....	3:11pm
Maghrib.....	5:37pm
Isha.....	6:48pm
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CABLES

HM the Sultan sends greetings

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Dr. Serdar Berdimuhamedow of Turkmenistan on the occasion of his country's National Day.

In his cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments to President Berdimuhamedow and the friendly people of Turkmenistan, wishing them further progress and prosperity.

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has also sent a cable of greetings to Dame Susan Dougan, Governor General of St. Vincent and the Grenadines on her country's National Day. In his cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments to Dame Susan



Dougan. He wished the friendly people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines lasting stability, further progress and prosperity. -ONA

OMANI YOUTH DAY

Sayyid Theyazin exhorts youth to make an impact

< FROM A1 "With your diligence you make an impact, with your enthusiasm you plant hope, and in your lived reality you embody the meaning of continuity, with all that it entails of sustained inspiration and responsibility.

"True empowerment comes through self-belief, continuous work, and earnest striving for leadership. Live up to the trust, be sincere in your endeavours, and be keen to ensure that the name of the Sultanate of Oman remains held high in every field you enter. Know that what you produce

today in thought, creativity and mastery is the nation's provision for its future and for its Renewed Renaissance.

"We believe in you, and we see in you the radiant face of Oman's future, which advances with steady steps towards a tomorrow of greater prosperity and innovation — a tomorrow you fashion with your resolve, safeguard with your values, and illuminate with your passion.

"And with every passing year, may the youth of Oman proceed with confidence towards ever-renewed glory." -ONA



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Plan to make Oman as top tourism conference hub

This initiative aims to create career pathways for Omani youth within the conferences and exhibitions sector

SOHAR: Sohar University in North Al Batinah Governorate hosted the ICCA Uni Forum on Sunday through a strategic collaboration between the academic institution, the International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA), and the Oman Convention Bureau at the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism.

The forum proceedings were inaugurated under the patronage of Mohammed bin Sulaiman Al Kindi, Governor of North Al Batinah, featuring participation from distinguished academics, industry specialists, and conference professionals from throughout the Sultanate of Oman and international markets.

This initiative aims to create career pathways for Omani youth within the conferences and exhibitions sector while strengthening collaboration between academic institutions and the business events industry.

The forum further seeks to establish Oman's position as a premier conference tourism destination both regionally and globally while developing a generation of qualified national professionals capable of supporting the strategic objectives outlined in "Oman Vision 2040."

Anju Gomes, Senior Regional Director for the International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA) in the Middle East, emphasized the organization's global leadership in developing the meetings and conferences industry, noting the sector's substantial annual contribution to global GDP and its creation of millions of direct and indirect employment opportunities worldwide.

She further stated that host-



ing forums of this caliber in Oman demonstrates the nation's expanding presence within the global conference landscape and strengthens its economic competitiveness in the international business tourism market.

Abeer Abdullah Al Jabri, Director of the Communication and Marketing Department at Sohar University, addressed the audience regarding the institution's academic commitment to equipping students with practical competencies in event and conference management.

She highlighted numerous educational initiatives and innovative practices implemented by the university, confirming that these experiences demonstrate the institution's dedication to connecting academic learning with workplace requirements while developing students' leadership capabilities and administrative expertise.

Meanwhile, Khalid bin Al Walid Al Zedjali, Director of the Oman Convention Bureau at the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, highlighted the remarkable expansion Oman has experienced in hosting and organising regional and international conferences and exhibitions. He emphasized the nation's strategic focus on the conference sector through the establishment of the Oman Convention Bureau,

which works systematically to develop this vital industry and enhance its competitive positioning.

He further explained that such forums provide university students with valuable knowledge and essential expertise to generate innovative concepts that will advance the conference tourism sector in future years, noting that this strategic direction aligns with national economic diversification policies and the comprehensive "Oman Vision 2040".

The forum agenda featured an address titled "Seriousness in Events Education: A Case Study from Macau" presented by Dr. Ubaldino Sequeira Couto from the Macau University of Tourism in the People's Republic of China, who shared international perspectives on educational methodologies and competency development in conference management and organisational practices.

The event also included an expert panel discussion titled "Bridging Academia and Industry: Building the Future Workforce for Business Events," featuring specialists from the International Congress and Convention Association and the Oman Convention Bureau.

The dialogue examined current challenges and future opportunities for sector development in accordance with contemporary in-

ternational standards and global best practices.

The forum concluded with a student competition focused on developing bids to host an international conference, featuring ten student teams selected from eleven participating universities and colleges.

Participants delivered creative presentations proposing innovative approaches to position Oman as a preferred global conference destination.

The competition provided an interactive platform for knowledge exchange between students and industry experts while offering practical experience in presentation techniques, persuasive communication, and collaborative planning within an authentic professional environment that closely simulates actual workplace conditions.

The forum attracted participation from eleven Omani universities and colleges, including: Sultan Qaboos University, University of Nizwa, University of Technology and Applied Sciences in Sohar, A'Sharqiyah University, University of Buraimi, National University of Science and Technology, German University of Technology in Oman, Mazoon College, Middle East College, Oman Tourism College, in addition to the host institution, Sohar University. -ONA

LABOUR MARKET

Steps to mitigate burden of employers

< FROM A1 In addition, licence fees have been reduced by 30% for employers who comply with the prescribed Omanisation rates, while fees will be doubled in cases of non-compliance, as an incentive to promote the employment of Omani nationals and achieve Omanisation goals in the labour market.

The package also includes facilities for the payment of fees and delay fines, where a ceiling has been set for the delay fines related to licence renewal or worker data registration so that they do not exceed OMR500 per worker.

This measure helps alleviate financial burdens on employers and encourages them to rectify workers' statuses promptly.

The procedures also include exemptions from fees and fines in specific cases, such as when a worker files a labour complaint after the expiry of their contract, the worker's death, change of visa, or departure from Oman.

This ensures that the employer-worker relationship is regulated in accordance with the provisions of the Labour Law and maintains a balance between rights and obligations.

The decision further clarifies the cases in which licence fees may be refunded, allowing employers and individuals to either recover the fees or issue a new licence for a nominal fee of one (1) Omani rial per worker, in cases such as the worker failing the medical examination, non-

approval of the visa issuance by the Royal Oman Police, worker's death, the worker's repatriation within 90 days, transfer of the worker's services within 90 days (once only), death of the employer, or cancellation of the license due to administrative or technical reasons.

The decision also grants exemption from delay fines for employers in specific cases, such as the employer's death, discovery of a chronic illness in the worker during the medical examination, seizure of the worker's passport by government authorities or embassies, bankruptcy of the establishment, liquidation of the establishment, or imprisonment of the worker. These measures reflect consideration for the cir-

cumstances of employers and help ease their financial burdens.

These measures come within the framework of the Ministry of Labour's comprehensive strategy aimed at developing the labour system in the Sultanate, improving the efficiency of the labour market, enhancing the work environment, and reinforcing compliance with laws.

This contributes to achieving sustainable economic and social growth, safeguarding workers' rights, and supporting employers—while emphasising the humanitarian and social dimensions and supporting the most vulnerable groups, particularly the elderly, to ensure that services and support reach them effectively and safely.

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A CANVAS OF CULTURAL IDENTITY

Crafting Oman’s heritage, one masterpiece at a time

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In the heart of Oman, where ancient traditions blend seamlessly with a modern vision, a young man named Al Waleed Al Hamed from Sohar found his calling not in the hustle of a corporate office, but in the quiet, rhythmic work of his hands.

He walks into his workshop, a sanctuary filled with the scent of teak and the whispers of history. Here, tools passed down through generations wait patiently to transform raw timber into masterpieces. Al Waleed’s journey began with a deep love for his heritage and a fascination with the intricate wooden doors and furniture that adorn the old forts and homes across the country. Each piece, with its complex carvings and detailed patterns, seemed to hold a story—a chronicle of families, trade, and the unyielding spirit of the Omani people. He saw more than just a functional object; he saw a canvas of cultural identity.

He established his own enterprise, born from a vision to not only preserve but also innovate Omani craftsmanship. His mission was simple yet profound: to create pieces that were not merely replicas, but living re-



flections of Oman’s rich history, while embracing the principles of sustainability. He carefully selects high-quality, ethically sourced woods, like rich teak and mahogany, ensuring that every creation contributes to a better, more sustainable future.

The doors, chairs, and tables that emerge from his workshop are a testament to this commitment. Each carved motif—from the geometric patterns of ancient forts to the flowing lines inspired by the wadis—is a painstaking effort.

Al Waleed and his team of skilled artisans spend countless days on each piece, believing that every detail tells a story and every ounce of effort is revealed in the final product. The grain of the wood, the depth of the carving, and the polished finish all speak to a dedication that goes beyond commerce.

This project is more than just about creating beautiful furniture; it’s about building a legacy. By collaborating with local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) across Oman, Al Waleed’s work directly supports the local economy and helps achieve the goals of Oman Vision 2040. He provides a platform for other artisans, creating a community where traditional skills can thrive and be passed on to the next generation.

Al Waleed’s passion extends beyond doors and furniture. His collection now includes beautifully engraved canes, elegant jewellery boxes, and an ever-growing line of innovative products. He sees himself not just as a craftsman, but as a storyteller, using wood as his medium.

His love for his craft and his country is evident in every piece—each one a proud and tangible link between the past and the future of Oman.

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EMISSION OF LIGHT

The ‘Blue Tears’ of Khairan – Oman’s hidden bioluminescent wonder

Times News Service

MUSCAT: You may have seen the sparkle of fireflies on a summer's night. The fireflies produce light through a chemical reaction in their glowing abdomens, a process known as bioluminescence.

But did you know that seascapes can also glow and glitter, thanks to the light producing abilities of many marine organisms!

Bioluminescence is the production and emission of light by a living organism. Bioluminescent creatures are found throughout marine habitats, from the ocean surface to the deep seafloor.

Photographer Majid Al-

Amri says: “In the Khiran area of Muscat Governorate, where mountains embrace the sea and rocks greet the horizon, one of the rarest natural phenomena in Oman reveals itself—bioluminescence, also known as the ‘Blue Tears.’

“After a half-an-hour hike along a rocky trail stretching two kilometres, we reached this hidden beach, illuminated by tiny marine organisms that emit a glowing blue light whenever the waves caress them,” Al Amri added.

Brilliant blue bioluminescence had lit up Bandar Al Khairan, Seeb, Marina Bandar al Rowena, Dimaniyat, Al Bustan, Yiti areas.



EA’s initiatives to keep pace with Oman’s net zero targets



The Green Climate Fund encourages the use of public resources to improve risk forecasting for private investments

MUSCAT: The Environment Authority (EA) said that it is adopting a set of innovative financial policies and strategic initiatives to keep pace with the Sultanate of Oman's 2050 carbon neutrality objectives.

This approach, it explained, involves obtaining funding from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) along several tracks, which include boosting accreditation and readiness and developing proposals for projects, partnerships and international cooperation.

The Environment Authority plays a leading role as a partner in devising environmental projects that are eligible for funding, notably through the development of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP).

It also works in cooperation with global bodies like the Green Climate Fund to develop the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan (NAP), which seeks to identify priority needs, devise a national strategy for financing of the NAP and cooperate to open up pathways for green financing. The Environment Authority has signed a cooperation programme with the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), with the aim of facilitating access to green financing and supporting the parties concerned, to enable them to communicate directly with the GCF and focus on nature-based solutions.

The Environment Authority lays emphasis on land reclamation and mangrove restoration projects due to tgehir dual role in adaptation and carbon sequestration.

The EA also keeps updating the Climate Affairs Management Regulation, with the aim of better monitoring the performance of companies and establishments (in terms of impact mitigation and adaptation), in addition to providing an efficient framework that supports transition to green practices.

Eng.Khalid bin Mohammed Al Balushi, Acting Director General of Climate Change at the

Environment Authority, told the Oman News Agency (ONA) that the Accreditation and Readiness Programme is a mechanism that requires national bodies to gain accreditation or to work through accredited entities to build national capacities, by enabling local institutions to become direct points of access that are accredited by the GCF.

A banking establishment in Oman has been selected as an accredited institution by the GCF. Its role includes coordinating project funding requests and benefiting from the GCF “Readiness Programme”, through which this banking establishment seeks to obtain grants from the GCF to enhance its ability to develop climate projects and devise national adaptation plans and national action plans for green growth. Eng. Khalid Al Balushi pointed out that the establishments concerned rely on partnerships to enhance access to financing and project implementation opportunities like “international cooperation”, which involves working with international organizations accredited by the GCF (like the Food and Agriculture Organization or the GGGI) to submit joint project proposals and to engage the private sector through the attraction of private financing for climate projects.

The Green Climate Fund encourages the use of public resources to improve risk forecasting for private investments.

For Oman, climate finance gains significance for four main reasons that are linked to the country's economic and environmental transition: Firstly, “Achieving carbon neutrality” to provide necessary financing for investments required in sectors like renewable energy and clean transport; Secondly, “Promoting and diversifying the green economy” to build a resilient infrastructure and developing new and sustainable economic sectors—thus supporting Oman Vision 2040: Thirdly, “Adapting to the effects of climate change” and this involves financing of vital projects to enhance coastal resilience, protect water resources and support sustainable agriculture—thus reducing the impact of climate phenomena on communities; and fourthly, “Attracting private and international investment” to help devise a clear regulatory and financial framework for sustainable financing that contributes to increasing the confidence of foreign investors and private sector enterprises, encouraging them to invest in green projects in the Sultanate of Oman.



COMMENTARY

An open air disaster



SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

As the weather gets better now, many people go out for a walk but we are not prepared for the surprises on the road as we go enjoying ourselves in the open air.

There was this little girl who ran away from her mother and crossed the road and forced a few cars screeching to stop in time. Her mum screamed. But the girl, to our relief, made it safe to the other side.

She stopped at a large road advertisement and stared at it. The giant board was over ten metres long and she looked tiny in front of it. What would a three-year-old find interesting on a piece of cardboard? It was not about toys but two men warning each other about “too many good things.”

Her mother angrily grabbed her hand and pulled her away. She was reluctant. She made such a racket that the lady let her take a longer look. She was

serious and her eyes looked unblinkingly as if mesmerised. Funny enough, nobody else was interested but her. There was nothing memorable about it. Finally, she let herself be dragged away and I am sure she forgot about it the moment she turned her head away from it.

Ads are provoking at best and boring at worst. Their messages are never insincere. This particular one “too many good things,” insinuate what you are missing if you don’t buy a product they are selling. For a kid like her, it is just a fascination that she would grow up to last her entire life. If you think carefully, ads serve no purpose. They are annoying, misleading and make a lot of people poorer.

The good news is that, they are so familiar that you walk past them without noticing them! They blend with the pavements and the buildings. The bad news, they are fast becoming a cult to three-year-olds. The danger here is that you cannot reason with a toddler. It is too much of a bad thing rather than too many good things.

One ad designer said that it is part of the revolution. Accept it or be doomed. I disagreed. Ads, especially billboards, destroy the soul of living. It is the graphics that communicate with you and not the people. I was so obsessed by it that I dreamt of giant ants

eating every ad in the world. In an industry that generates billions of dollars a year, it sure provides the livelihood of millions. It is a cultural revolution alright. Of course you can escape its reach when you drive to villages. Basket weavers or people who work on clays have no use of them. Big businesses find villagers too poor to buy designer shoes. You would not find a mobile phone being advertised behind a donkey cart, would you?

There are no neon lights there but cows mooing and an odd bat flapping its wings in the night. When I put this question to a marketing man on why ads are not seen in villages, his answer was, “goats eat them from the walls.” Of course that is not the real reason and he was only being sarcastic.

Hooves imprints on the dusty tracks after a seasonal rain are the billboards of the villages. Dangling pottery and silver ornaments hanging from the front of the shops need no marketing skills. Three-year-olds would never be corrupted. They see the proper representation and not the graphics. Alas, as villages are gobbled up by sprawling cities, even cows are getting scarce these days.

If you are wondering why shopping is getting costlier than before, than understand that a fair size of the overheads go to the ad designing. And we all promote their existence.

NDC launches programme with focus on health security readiness



Sustainable health security extends beyond physical infrastructure and medical facilities to encompass public awareness

MUSCAT: The National Defence College (NDC) at the Academy for Strategic and Defence Studies on Sunday inaugurated its tenth Parallel Programme, titled “Health Security: Reality and Aspiration,” under the distinguished patronage of Rear Admiral Ali bin Abdullah Al Sheedi, Commandant of the National Defence College.

In his opening address, the NDC Commandant articulated that the strategic ambition for health security encompasses a fundamental transition from reactive response to proactive preparedness, from treatment-focused approaches to prevention-oriented strategies, and from dependency models to self-sufficiency frameworks.

He emphasised that sustainable health security extends beyond physical infrastructure and medical facilities to encompass public awareness, knowledge development, intelligent governance systems, and the establishment of a robust national foundation comprising scientists and researchers capable of pioneering innovation in biomedical and preventive medicine.

The programme commenced with a comprehensive briefing detailing the principal objectives of the tenth Parallel Programme, which include assessing the current state of health security with-

in the Sultanate of Oman, evaluating national readiness levels for responding to health emergencies and pandemic situations, and identifying strategic priorities for building sustainable health security infrastructure aligned with the long-term objectives of the “Oman Vision 2040”.

The inaugural day featured multiple technical lectures and working papers presented by an array of distinguished experts, researchers, and specialists from both within the Sultanate of Oman and international counterparts.

The programme will continue through 30 October, representing a key component of the National Defence College’s ongoing national mandate to enhance and develop leadership competencies and strategic capabilities among senior government officials, along with high-ranking officers from the Sultan’s Armed Forces and other military and security units. -ona

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF H.E. QAIS BIN MOHAMMED AL YOUSEF

Oman Cables Industry inaugurates Sultanate's First Global Sustainability Academy

MUSCAT: Under the patronage of H.E. Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, Oman Cables Industry (SAOG), the Sultanate’s leading cables manufacturer and end-to-end solutions provider, inaugurated the Global Sustainability Academy. A first-of-its-kind initiative in Oman, the Academy builds on the company’s long-term strategy by providing an iconic platform catering for more than 30,000 employees around the world, in addition to stakeholders, partners, and local communities to exchange ideas, deepen expertise, and put sustainable solutions into practice, contributing to Oman’s sustainable energy transition and economic diversification.

Located within Rusayl Industrial City, in Muscat Oman, headquarter of Oman Cables Industry and Prysmian Middle East, Russia, and Turkey region, the Academy combines on-site and digital learning to strengthen the culture and skills of sustainability that represent a strategic driver of business competitiveness. Its facilities include Oman’s first solar flower in addition to solar carports, and wind turbines, along with recycled and circular materials. These features will complement the Academy’s programs by providing hands-on demonstrations and learning environments for initiatives on climate action, efficient resource use, and innovation.

H.E. Dr. Saleh bin Said Masan, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion for Commerce and Industry, said: “The Global Sustainability Academy represents the kind of partnership that translates national vision into practical progress. By embedding sustainability and innovation within industry, it strengthens the foundations of Oman’s knowledge-based economy and builds the capabilities our future industries will rely on. Initiatives such as this reflect the Ministry’s commitment to fostering collaboration between the public and private sectors to advance economic diversification and em-



power Omani talent to lead the transition toward a more competitive, low-carbon economy.”

In her welcome address, Ms. Cinzia Farisè, Chairman of Oman Cables Industry, said: “Establishing the Global Sustainability Academy is a defining step in how Oman Cables Industry sees its future as a sustainable solutions and services provider, enabling the energy transition, promoting a diversified and inclusive system open to new perspectives and contributing to the country’s capacities and capabilities growth. It brings together the expertise of our global network and the talent of our people to build lasting value for Oman’s industrial progress. This initiative reflects a broader ambition to embed sustainability in the way we work, innovate, and grow, ensuring that the company’s success continues to advance Oman’s industrial strength and its transition toward a sustainable economy.”

Alongside the inauguration of the academy, and commemorating Omani Youth Day, an international development program named JOLT, Junior Omani Leaders of Tomorrow, was also announced. The program will be delivered under the patronage of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, coordinated by Oman Cables, supported by Prysmian in partnership with Sultan Qaboos University and assisted by Politecnico di Milano Graduate School of Management. JOLT is dedicated to young Omani engineers, preparing them for future roles in advanced manufacturing and en-

ergy industries through international assignments and management training across Prysmian’s global network. By developing the capabilities needed to localize and grow emerging sectors, JOLT aims to augment Oman’s pool of skilled professionals to lead tomorrow’s industrial sector toward a bright and ambitious future as sustainable leaders.

As part of the Prysmian’s Global Sustainability Academy network, Oman Cables’ strategic partner and the world leading cable solutions, the initiative is a key milestone in the journey to connect Oman’s industry to an international platform of expertise, engagement and upskilling. Through this collaboration, global know-how is brought into local practice, advancing skills and innovation, fostering sustainable growth, building national capabilities, contributing to the realization of Oman Vision 2040 and the Sultanate’s Net Zero 2050 targets.

The Global Sustainability Academy marks another step in Oman Cables Industry’s broader journey to develop knowledge, innovation, and talent as drivers of long-term growth. Alongside initiatives such as She STEMs, Build the Future, and Kids in STEM, it forms part of a sustained effort to cultivate Omani expertise across every stage of education and professional development. Together, these programs build the capabilities required to advance industrial diversification, renewable energy, and emerging technologies, sectors that will define the next phase of Oman’s economy.

DEVICE IMPLANTATION

SQUH team conducts first rare spinal surgery in Oman

MUSCAT: The Sultan Qaboos University Hospital (SQUH) has conducted Oman’s first spinal neurostimulation device implantation in the lower spine.

The surgery was an advanced technique used to treat some complex urinary disorders.

It was performed by Dr. Intisar Mohammed Al Hashmi, a Consultant Urologist in the Department of Surgery at SQUH in the University Medical City, with the participation of an integrated medical team.

The surgery, conducted in two stages that adhered to the latest international protocols, marks a breakthrough in the development of specialised urology services in the Sultanate of Oman.

This medical accomplishment embodies the University Medical City’s drive to introduce the latest therapeutic technologies into the national health system.

It also reflects the University Medical City’s leading role in localizing and transferring innovative therapeutic technologies, enhancing the quality of healthcare services rendered to beneficiaries and consolidating the University Medical City’s status as a national centre of reference for medical education, research and health innovation, in line with the goals of Oman Vision 2040. -ona



Royal Oman Police

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Royal Oman Police - Directorate of Public Relations and Security Information – announces a public online auction through the ROP Auctions Platform to sell used ROP vehicles via the website (www.rop.mzadcom.om), starting from **Sunday, 02 November 2025** for one day.

The vehicles displayed for sale may be inspected during the period **from 28 to 30 October 2025 from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm** at the Vehicle Detention Yard at the Directorate General of Transport at the Airport Heights.

Bidders must abide by the following terms and conditions:

- To register on the website www.rop.mzadcom.om
- To pay an insurance amount of RO 500/- (five hundred Omani Riyals) via the website, which is non-refundable in case of failure to pay the value of the purchased vehicle or carry out the procedures for its registration and transfer within the specified period.
- To pay the auctioneer fees at 2% of the value of the vehicle plus 5% VAT.
- To pay the value of the vehicle by electronic transfer within 48 working hours.
- To register and transfer the vehicle within 3 days after paying its value to avoid a fine of RO 5/- (five Omani Riyals) for each day of delay after the end of the specified period, without the Royal Oman Police bearing any responsibility in the event of its loss or damage.
- The Royal Oman Police and the Auction Website shall not bear any responsibility if the image or description of any vehicle displayed does not match the reality and do not guarantee its validity or technical integrity.
- For more details, please visit the website (www.rop.mzadcom.om) or call **98886154**.



Contract to operate Samail Fort signed

The contract was signed by the Ministry's Undersecretary for Heritage and the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Rawafid Samail



SAMAIL: The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism signed a contract with Rawafid Samail International Company to manage and operate Samail Fort in the Wilayat of Sa-

mail, Al Dakhiliyah Governorate. The contract was signed by the Ministry's Undersecretary for Heritage and the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Rawafid Sa-

mail Company. The contract seeks to maximise the benefits of cultural heritage and enhance its contribution to economic growth.

Given its significant cultural and heritage value, the Fort of Samail serves as a key historical landmark in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate. The project will contribute to the activation of tourism by attracting visitors from the Sultanate of Oman and abroad. It offers an opportunity to highlight the private sector's role in operating heritage sites. The project will also generate direct and indirect jobs for members of the local community, in addition to engaging the fort's adjoining farms in a manner that serves the company's plan to activate the site. After its operation and management, the fort is expected to add momentum to the national economy, notably by augmenting tourism spending, encouraging entrepreneurs to invest in the field of hospitality and related services and enhancing the Wilayat of Samail's position as a key cultural destination on the Omani tourism map. — **DNA**

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LEGESLATIVE ELECTIONS

Argentina votes in crucial test of Milei's reforms

BUENOS AIRES: Argentines on Sunday headed to the polls in legeslative elections that are being viewed as a litmus test for President Javier Milei's free-market reforms and deep austerity measures. The president and his party, La Libertad Avanza, is looking to increase its small minority in congress which would make future reforms easier. Melei has faced several political blows since September with congress overturning laws introduced by him. The high-stakes midterm elections assume even more importance for Argentina's economic safety. US President Donald Trump, who recently provided Argentina with a hefty financial bailout, has threatened to pull support if Milei does not perform well in the elections. "Don't give up because we're halfway there," Milei told supporters at a closing campaign event in the port city of Rosario on Thursday. "We're on a good path." Milei — who has built his presidency on austerity measures and drastic economic reforms — saw his popularity drop amid a corruption scandal and public wea-



riiness. While his reforms have tamed inflation, the dramatic welfare cuts have severely affected universities, public hospitals and pensioners. His party was defeated at the polls in Buenos Aires' provincial elections in September as a result, an outcome which was seen as indicative of the mood going into Sunday's ballot. Half of Argentina's lower Chambers of Deputies and a third of the Senate's seats are up for grabs in this legislative elections. A majority seems out of Milei's reach. However, political experts say that if the president's party grabs more than 35% of the votes, his government would be able to block opposition to his vetos through alliances with other parties. — **DW**

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Trump oversees signing of ‘historic’ Thailand-Cambodia ‘ceasefire deal’

Trump helped broker the ceasefire to end their border conflict. It builds on a truce reached three months ago after Trump called the then-leaders of the two countries



KUALA LUMPUR: Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet signed an expansion of a ceasefire in the presence of US President Donald Trump and Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim.

Trump helped broker the ceasefire to end their border conflict. It builds on a truce reached three months ago after Trump called the then-leaders of the two countries.

He urged them to stop fighting or risk pausing their trade talks with the United States.

There were few details in the agreement on how it would be carried out, though it said the leaders agreed to establish an observer team made up of ASEAN member states “with the objective of ensuring the full and effective implementation.”

Malaysian PM hails Trump as Thailand-Cambodia sign landmark peace deal

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim on Sunday praised US President Donald Trump’s role in facilitating the landmark agreement between Thailand and Cambodia on the sidelines of the 47th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit in Kuala Lumpur.

Both leaders proceeded to the bilateral meeting shortly after the signing ceremony, Malaysian state media reported.

“You personally did call both Prime Ministers to urge for the speedy peace settlement... the world needs leaders who promote peace strongly,” Anwar told Trump during the signing ceremony.

“When I first received your call, urging me to do more in support-

ing the peace initiative -- and you personally called both prime ministers to urge for a speedy settlement -- I would say thank you,” the Malaysian PM said.

Among those attending the ceremony US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and US Ambassador to Malaysia Edgard D Kagan.

Co-signed by Trump, the Thailand -Cambodia agreement seeks to officially end hostilities and establish a foundation for long-term stability in the region following a short but intense five-day conflict in July that resulted in dozens of casualties.

The deal, dubbed the “KL PEACE Accord,” was signed by Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet, marking a formal step toward halting hostilities and restoring peace

(Anwar) played a very important role in helping convene the two sides for discussions here in Kuala Lumpur,” Trump said before witnessing the signing of the agreement, formally titled ‘Delivering Peace: Cambodia-Thailand Peace Deal.’

Highlighting economic cooperation, Trump said, “Today, alongside this peace treaty, we are also signing a major trade deal with Cambodia, and a very important critical minerals agreement with Thailand.” He concluded, “On behalf of the United States, I’m proud to help settle this conflict, and forge a future for the region where proud independent nations can prosper, and thrive in safety, security, and peace.”

The declaration reinforces the ceasefire understanding reached in July and formalises the establishment of an ASEAN Observer Team to monitor compliance and prevent renewed clashes in the border zones.

Thailand and Cambodia have long been in dispute over their 817-kilometre border, with a central point of contention being ownership of the ancient Hindu temples of Prasat Ta Muen Thom and Preah Vihear, perched on the Dangrek Mountains. Severe clashes near Preah Vihear in 2011 resulted in at least 16 deaths, prompting a UN Security Council meeting.

US president dances with PM Anwar Ibrahim during Malaysia visit

US President Donald Trump arrived in Malaysia on Sunday as part of a five-day mission aimed at boosting America’s engagement

in Asia and reinforcing trade ties with key regional partners.

The visit comes amid growing diplomatic efforts in the region and includes planned meetings with several Asian leaders.

Unusual phrasing

The White House on Sunday (local time) shared a post on X (formerly Twitter) that read, “TRUMP DANCE MALAYSIA VERSION.” The short post, issued from the official White House handle, has attracted attention online for its unusual phrasing.

Trump, 79, made a lively entrance in Malaysia’s capital, dancing to the rhythm of drums on the airport tarmac near Air Force One, his energetic moves drawing smiles from onlookers.

He joined performers dressed in colourful traditional costumes representing Malaysia’s major ethnic groups. Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim also took part, swaying to the music alongside the president.

The visit is part of a broader five-day trip focused on expanding the United States’ presence in Asia and strengthening trade relations. As part of the itinerary, Trump is expected to meet Japan’s newly elected leader, Sanao Takaichi, in Tokyo and Chinese President Xi Jinping in South Korea.

During Trump’s visit, Thailand and Cambodia on Sunday signed a joint declaration on a peace deal in the presence of US President Donald Trump and Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, marking a formal step toward ending hostilities and restoring peace along their disputed border. — Agencies

HEALTH MINISTRY



93 deaths reported since Gaza truce start

TEL AVIV: Gaza’s Health Ministry has said that at least 93 Palestinians have been killed and 324 others have been injured in Israeli attacks since the ceasefire began on October 11.

According to officials, 19 people were killed and seven more wounded in Israeli strikes over the last 48 hours alone.

The ministry said that since October 7, 2023, when the conflict began, a total of 68,519 Palestinians have been killed and more than 170,000 injured in Gaza.

The United Nations has warned that 1.5 million people in the Gaza Strip are in need of urgent humanitarian aid, Al Jazeera reported.

Many Palestinians returning to their homes have found widespread destruction, with little access to food, clean water, or shelter.

In a separate incident, Israeli forces shot dead a Palestin-

ian teenager in the occupied West Bank, according to Wafa news agency. The victim, 18-year-old Mohammed Ahmed Abu Haneen, died of bullet wounds during an Israeli raid in Askar camp in Nablus, Al Jazeera reported.

Israeli troops also carried out arrests in Hebron and Tal, bringing the total number of Palestinians detained in the West Bank to 44 over the past week, according to the Israeli military.

On Saturday, meanwhile, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio who is on visit to Israel met with the families of hostages killed by Hamas. He wrote, “We will not forget the lives of the hostages who died in Hamas captivity. Today, I met with the families of American citizens Itay Chen and Omer Neutra. We will not rest until their -- and all -- remains are returned.” — ANI

ONGOING SUMMIT

Prime Minister Modi calls ASEAN ‘main pillar of India’s Act East Policy’

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday described the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as the “main pillar of India’s Act East Policy” while extending a warm welcome to Timor-Leste which was formally inducted as the eleventh member of the grouping at its ongoing summit in Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur.

During his virtual address at the 22nd ASEAN-India Summit, PM Modi said, “India and ASEAN together represent one-fourth of the global population. We not only share geography, we share deep historic relations and shared values. We are part of the global south. ASEAN is the main pillar of India’s Act East Policy.”

Introduced in 1992, the Look East policy focused primarily on economic ties with Southeast Asia. With the changing dynamics of the world, PM Modi, in 2014, introduced a new vigour in India’s foreign policy and transformed the Look East Policy into a more dynamic Act East Policy (AEP), emphasising stronger action and outcomes.

Addressing the ASEAN summit, PM Modi congratulated Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim for successfully organising the 47th ASEAN summit under its chairmanship and expressed condolences over the demise of Thailand’s Queen Mother.

He further emphasised the



shared historical, cultural, and economic ties between India and ASEAN nations, which together represent one-fourth of the global population.

“I have again got an opportunity to join my ASEAN family. I congratulate PM Anwar Ibrahim for a successful organisation of the ASEAN Summit... I welcome Timor-Leste as the newest member of ASEAN. I express my condolences on the demise of Thailand’s Queen Mother,” the Prime Minister said.

Earlier on Sunday, Timor-Leste became the 11th member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). This is ASEAN’s first expansion in 26 years since Cambodia was admitted in 1999. The island nation had applied for membership in 2011.

PM Modi also reiterated India’s support for ASEAN centrality and its outlook on the Indo-Pacific, highlighting the continuous growth of the India-ASEAN Comprehensive Strategic Partnership amid global uncertainties.

“During these times of uncertainty, the India-ASEAN Comprehensive Strategic Partnership has continuously increased. Our strong partnership is emerging as the basis for global stability and development,” he stated.

Speaking on the summit theme ‘Inclusivity and Sustainability’, PM Modi reflected on joint priorities in digital inclusion, food security, and resilient supply chains, underlining India’s commitment to these shared goals and highlighting collaboration in disaster response, maritime security, and

the blue economy.

“India supports this and is committed to moving ahead in this direction. India has always stood strong with its ASEAN partners in every disaster. Our collaboration in HADR, sea security, and the blue economy is rapidly increasing,” he added.

The Prime Minister also declared 2026 as the ‘Year of ASEAN-India Maritime Cooperation’, aimed at deepening ties in education, tourism, science and technology, health, green energy, and cyber security.

“The 21st century is our century. It is India and ASEAN’s century,” PM Modi further asserted, expressing confidence that initiatives like “ASEAN Community Vision 2045” and “Viksit Bharat 2047” will create a brighter future for humanity.

Prime Minister Modi has participated in all ASEAN-India Summits since 2014 (including the 2018 Commemorative Summit held in New Delhi in January 2018), except in 2022.

ASEAN was established on August 8, 1967, in Bangkok, Thailand, with founding members including Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.

Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and, most recently, Timor-Leste are its members. — ANI

‘CATASTROPHIC FLASH FLOODING’

Melissa turns into major hurricane before Jamaica landfall

KINGSTON: Melissa strengthened into a major Category 3 hurricane late on Saturday as it unleashed torrential rains over northern Caribbean, threatening “catastrophic flash flooding” in the region.

US weather forecasters warned that the storm will rapidly intensify over Sunday and make landfall in Jamaica early next week. It could turn into a Category 4 hurricane by Tuesday before likely moving into eastern Cuba on Wednesday.

“Life-threatening and catastrophic flash flooding and landslides are expected in portions of southern Hispaniola and Jamaica into early next week,” the US National Hurricane Centre said on Saturday evening.

In its latest update, the Centre said that the hurricane had maximum sustained winds of 115 mph (185 kph) — faster than the previously reported 100 mph (155kph).

“Rapid intensification is expected to continue for the next 24-36 hours, and it is possible that during this time Melissa could intensify even faster than what is currently forecast,” the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said. “I urge Jamaicans to take this weather threat seriously,” Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness had said earlier on Saturday. “Take all measures to protect yourself.”

The southern regions of Haiti and the Dominican Republic will also face torrential rainfall through Monday.

Melissa has already caused three deaths in Haiti. Two people were killed in a landslide on Thursday and a third died after a tree fell on them amid heavy rain earlier in the week.

A fourth person has been killed in the neighbouring Dominican Republic, where another person remains missing.

Nearly 200 homes in the Dominican Republic have been destroyed, while water supply to more than half a million people has been disrupted.

Melissa is the 13th named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season, which runs from June 1 to November 30. Weather experts have predicted an above-normal season this year with up to 18 named storms. — DW



Laopakdee claims Asia-Pacific Amateur title to make history

The victory secures the Thai golfer a spot at the 2026 The Open and Masters

TIMES NEWS SERVICE

DUBAI: As the sun dipped behind the Majlis Course at Emirates Golf Club on Sunday, a new star emerged on the Asian golfing horizon. Thailand's Fifa Laopakdee etched his name in history by winning the 16th Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship (AAC) in a thrilling playoff finale — becoming the first Thai golfer to claim the title since the event's inception in 2009.

Laopakdee's dramatic victory not only brought glory to Thailand but also earned him coveted invitations to next year's Masters Tournament at Augusta National and The Open Championship at Royal Birkdale.

The Arizona State University golfer triumphed over Japan's teenager Taisei Nagasaki on the



third playoff hole after both players finished tied at 15-under-par through 72 holes.

The playoff began on the par-5 18th, where Nagasaki laid up with his second shot while Laopakdee went long over the green. Both produced fine up-and-downs for birdie. The pair then moved to the drivable par-4 17th, where they once again traded birdies.

Returning to the 18th for a second time, Nagasaki went long and

left with his second shot, while Laopakdee attacked the green, his approach barely clearing the water hazard but leaving him a simple uphill chip.

When Nagasaki failed to make his four from a tough lie, Laopakdee calmly chipped close and tapped in to seal the championship — and his place among golf's elite.

"I stuck to the plan I created at the beginning of the week," said Laopakdee after receiving the trophy.

"I've just gone shot by shot and enjoyed it with my caddie. I had an amazing battle with Taisei. It's unreal to play in The Masters and The Open. I will be the first Thai amateur player in The Masters. I can't believe it."

Laopakdee's finish was nothing short of spectacular — birdieing his final five holes, including the last two in regulation and all three in the playoff. The 20-year-old, ranked 53rd in the World Amateur



Nagasaki, who was in tears after the playoff loss, secured valuable rewards — a place in The Open Qualifying Series and an exemption into The Amateur Championship.

Japan's Rintaro Nakano finished third for the second consecutive year after a final-round 71 took him to 13-under. He too earned a spot in The Amateur Championship.

Australia's Harry Takis eagled the final hole to finish fourth at 12-under, while compatriot Billy Dowling, runner-up at this year's Scottish Amateur Championship, dropped into a tie for fifth at 11-under after finding water on the 18th. He shared the spot with Vietnam's Khanh Hung Le, the 17-year-old who had led over the first two rounds.

Established in 2009 as a joint initiative by The R&A, The Masters Tournament, and the Asia-Pacific Golf Federation, the AAC has been instrumental in developing golf across the region. Notable participants include Hideki Matsuyama, a two-time AAC winner and 2021 Masters champion, and Cameron Smith, the 2022 Open champion.

Next year's Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship will be hosted at the Te Arai Links South Course in New Zealand.

FIERCE COMPETITION

Soomar wins 2nd round of Sprint Rally

MUSCAT: Haitham Soomar, on Mitsubishi Evo 7, clinched the title of the second round of the Sprint Rally, which was held in the Al Jafnain and Al Mesfah area, after a fierce competition with Zakaria Al Aafi, on Mitsubishi Evo 9, and Saif Al Harthi, a Can-Am.

Champion Haitham Soomar and his renowned navigator Taha Soomar finished the race in 49 minutes and 18 seconds, just 20 seconds ahead of racer Zakaria Al-Aufi and his navigator Ammar Al-Balushi.

Saif Al-Harthi came in third place, just 33 seconds behind.

The rally, which was organised by the Oman Automobile Association, included two stages that were repeated three times.

Nine competitors participated in the official start. Hafidh Al-Naamani participated in the rally on a Can-Am bike finished the race in fourth place behind Saif Al-Harthi. Salem Al Toqi and his navigator Issa Al Wardi took fifth place in a Mitsubishi Evo 7, while renowned racer Zakaria Al Amri took sixth place in a Can-Am.

Musab Soomar and his navigator Nasr Al Qasmi finished seventh on Kia Rio. Luck was not on the side of veteran rally driver Faisal Al-Rashidi and his navigator Yaqdhan Al-Rashidi this time, who were



withdraw from the race after their Subaru Impreza suffered technical malfunctions during the race.

Racer Bashar Al-Qasmi and his navigator Bassam Al-Qasmi also left the race in his Yaris due to technical Issues.

The competition was fierce be-

tween the leading trio of Soomar, Al-Aufi and Al-Harthi during the first and second stages in Al- Jafnain and Al-Mesfah, and Haitham Soomar was able to win by a small margin over the rest.

As the competition intensified in the final stages of the rally, each

driver tried to put a foot in the door for the round title, but a happy ending smiled on competitor Haitham Soomar and his navigator Taha Soomar, who recorded the fastest time and won the round title, just a short distance ahead of driver Zakaria Al-Aufi and his co-driver Ammar Al-Balushi, followed by competitor Saif Al-Harthi.

The Royal Oman Amateur Radio Society coordinated the rally's stages through communications and reported any emergencies, and the Faza'a team provided safety support and ensured clear paths.

At the conclusion of the rally and its second round, Anwar Ali Al-Zadjali, advisor to the Oman Automobile Association, crowned the race winners and top finishers.

IN BAHRAIN

Al Shamsi claims bronze for Oman at Asian Youth Games

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's Al Yazan Al Shamsi brought pride to the Sultanate after winning the bronze medal in the 800 metres at the Asian Youth Games in Bahrain on Saturday, securing Oman's first podium finish at the ongoing continental event.

Al Shamsi clocked 1:58.79 minutes in a tightly contested race that saw him push hard against two Saudi athletes in the final stretch.

"My ambition was gold, but this bronze is an important step in my sporting career," said the young athlete.

"I dedicate this achievement to my beloved country, the Oman Olympic Committee, and my family. It motivates me to work harder and aim higher in the future."

Teammate Raed Al Balushi finished fifth in the 200m with a time of 21.97 seconds, while taekwondo players Al Moatasem Al Maskari and Qaboos Al Balushi fought valiantly in their respective bouts, with Al Maskari reaching the round of 16.

National coach Ahmed Al Siyabi praised Al Shamsi's effort,



calling the result "a reward for hard work and belief." He added that the athlete's limited experience in continental competition slightly affected his tactics but noted that "he has a bright future ahead."

Retired Brigadier Saeed bin Mohammed Al Hajri, Deputy head of the mission hailed the medal as "a proud moment for Omani sport and a sign of what's to come."

The Asian Youth Games, hosted by Bahrain from October 22-31, feature more than 5,000 athletes from 45 nations competing across 24 sports.

ENGLAND VS NZ

Harry Brook's ton falls short as Kiwis win by 4 wickets

MOUNT MAUNGANUI: New Zealand beat England by four wickets in the first ODI at Mount Maunganui on Sunday.

New Zealand hunted down the target with 13.2 overs to spare.

New Zealand's chase of 224 was shaky at first, losing three quick wickets, but Michael Bracewell's 51 and Daryl Mitchell's unbeaten 78 steered them to a four-wicket victory. England will likely regret dropping catches, notably those of Bracewell and Santner, which ultimately proved costly.

Brydon Carse struck early, removing Will Young and Kane Williamson in consecutive deliveries, and then Luke Wood dismissed Rachin Ravindra, leaving New Zealand reeling at 24/3.

Tom Latham counter-attacked, keeping the scoreboard moving until Carse trapped him lbw, ending a 42-run partnership for the fourth wicket with Mitchell. Carse's impressive opening spell included six overs, setting the tone for England's dominance.

Bracewell joined hands with Mitchell, and the duo stitched a match-winning partnership. Both of them notched up their fifties as they added 92 runs for the fifth wicket at a run-a-ball. Bracewell ran himself out, but Mitchell remained unbeaten till the end to



take his team over the winning line. England's first innings ended abruptly at 223. New Zealand's bowlers dominated the early stages, reducing England to 56-6, with Zakary Foulkes claiming four wickets. A resilient 87-run partnership between Harry Brook and Jamie Overton steadied the ship until Overton fell for 46.

Brook was in sublime form and decimated every query New Zealand threw at him. When he was dismissed, he had scored 135, including 11 sixes, and England crossed the 220-run mark, which

at one point looked nearly impossible.

The English captain didn't succumb to the mounting pressure and launched a counterattacking knock to blow the Kiwis away. He blazed to his fifty in 36 deliveries in the 16th over of the innings and remained unbeaten at 85 off 73 when Adil Rashid fell on the final ball of the 30th over.

Brook then raised a 57-run stand with Luke Wood for the last wicket. During the partnership, Brook smashed 50 off 28 to celebrate his second ODI ton.

VIRAT PLAYING 2027 ODI

If you still got the hunger, keep playing, say Warner and Shastri

SYDNEY: Former Australian opener David Warner expressed confidence in star India batter Virat Kohli playing the 2027 ICC Cricket World Cup, saying that if he has hunger, desire and mindset for the same, there is no reason why he cannot feature in the marquee tournament in South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

Warner was speaking on Fox Cricket during the third India-Australia ODI at Sydney. During the match, Virat bounced back after two rusty ducks in the three match ODI series to score a majestic 74* in 81 balls, with seven fours, forming an unbeaten 168-run second wicket stand with centurion Rohit Sharma to chase down 237 with nine wickets left.

"I think that is a good question for Virat. If you have still got the hunger and the desire to keep playing, and he wants to play in 2027, and his mindset is there, there's no reason why he can't," Warner said as quoted by Fox Cricket.

"He (Virat) is one of the fittest guys in the game, along with being a great father and a husband. So for me, I have got no doubts he can make that. It is whether he still has that passion to get up for training and to do all the stuff you have to do to get there. And I



would never doubt that at all with his mindset," he added.

Former Indian head coach Ravi Shastri, who saw Virat from close quarters over the years as a coach, also shares the same sentiment, saying that he will have "no problems physically", but for him, it is about if the drive and form is there.

"I think in his case, it is the passion, the hunger, the desire. You know, how much is there? When you have played for over a decade and a half and you've achieved almost everything in the game, you know, what is there to look forward to?" he said.

"If that drive is there, he will

stay fit, because there is no question he's still very fit. It is about form. That is crucial. So I guess in his case, he will take it one series at a time and then see how he is mentally. He will have no problems physically, but it is the mental part of it, that hunger and desire. If that is still there, and he is enjoying it, I think he will carry on," Shastri concluded.

Coming to the match, Australia won the toss and opted to bat first. A 61-run stand between skipper Mitchell Marsh (41 in 50 balls, with five fours and a six) and Travis Head (29 in 25 balls, with six fours) started off things for Australia.

BANKDHO FAR SIGNS PACT
BankDhofar has signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Taageer Finance Company. This strategic alliance aims to deliver innovative, customer-focused financial solutions that set new benchmarks for convenience, security, and efficiency.

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER
The MSX index closed at 5,395.89 points, up by 0.47% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.22% at 463.54 points. National Aluminium, up 12.36%, was the top gainer while, Majan College, down 4.17%, was the top loser.

Oman, Lebanon explore boosting economic, investment cooperation

The two sides also discussed the potential for enhancing the utilisation of the Greater Arab Free Trade Area agreement to expand the base of trade exchange

MUSCAT: Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, received Dr. Amer Bassat, Minister of Economy and Trade of the Lebanese Republic, at the Ministry's headquarters on Sunday. This meeting was held within the framework of strengthening the economic and commercial relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Lebanese Republic. The meeting reviewed aspects of trade, investment, and industrial cooperation, and explored ways to develop them to achieve mutual interests. It also discussed a set of proposed initiatives to enhance economic integration, increase trade



exchange, and activate maritime and air shipping lines between the two countries. The two sides also discussed the potential for enhancing the utilisation of the Greater Arab Free Trade Area agreement to expand the base of trade exchange, exploring the participation of Omani and Lebanese companies in joint projects and maximizing the benefits of re-export, in addition to examining the establishment of a joint Omani-Lebanese Business Council to develop relations between business communities in both countries. The meeting touched upon opportunities for industrial and logistical cooperation, and the possibility of inviting Lebanese companies to benefit from the economic and industrial zones in the Sultanate of Oman for the storage and re-export of Lebanese food products, as well as forming joint working teams to study export and import opportunities between the two countries. The two sides highlighted the

importance of the Omani-Lebanese Forum and the accompanying trade exhibition, scheduled to be held tomorrow, Monday, at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre, with wide participation from public and private sector institutions in both countries. The aim is to enhance communication between business owners and showcase available investment and trade opportunities, in addition to signing memoranda of understanding that will contribute to the development of common economic relations. Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef affirmed that the Sultanate of Oman attaches great importance to enhancing its economic partnerships with various countries, including the Lebanese Republic. He indicated that the meeting represented an important opportunity to explore future areas of cooperation and exchange ideas on developing trade and investment relations to serve the mutual interests of the two brotherly countries.-ONA

Lebanon's Minister of Economy and Trade gets insights into Madayn's projects

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Dr. Amer Bisat, Lebanon's Minister of Economy and Trade, visited the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) at its headquarters in the Knowledge Oasis Muscat. Eng. Dawood bin Salim Al Hadabi, CEO of Madayn, welcomed the delegation and shared insights into Madayn's vision of positioning the Sultanate of Oman as a leading regional centre of manufacturing, ICT, innovation and entrepreneurship excellence, and its mission in attracting industrial investments and providing continued support, through regionally and globally competitive strategies, good infrastructure, value adding services, and easy governmental processes. Khalid Al Salehi, Director General of Marketing and Commercial Affairs at Madayn, gave a brief on Madayn's key objectives, including attracting foreign investments to the Sultanate and localising the national capital; contributing to stimulating the private sector to achieve sustainable economic



and social development; achieving environmental sustainability; and contributing to the creation of new job opportunities for the national cadres. Al Salehi also spotlighted the key projects currently being implemented by Madayn across its various industrial cities, the incentives and facilities offered to investors and business owners, as well as the available investment opportunities in the industrial cities, with an emphasis on the sectors targeted in the upcoming phase. Lebanon's Minister of Economy and Trade and his

accompanying delegation later toured Al Rusayl Industrial City, where they visited Oman Fiber Optic Company. Established in 1996, the company has been instrumental in building the Sultanate's digital infrastructure by designing and implementing fiber optic networks for telecom and internet projects, as well as interconnecting government and private bodies. The company also provides integrated solutions encompassing manufacturing, engineering design, installation, and maintenance to meet the Sultanate's digital transformation requirements.

HARNESSING SUSTAINABLE FINANCE

Development Bank CEO highlights role of sustainable finance at ADFIAP-AADFI CEO Forum in Macau

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Hussain Al Lawati, CEO, Development Bank moderated a session on sustainable finance at the ADFIAP-AADFI CEO Forum in Macau earlier this week as global issuance of green, social and sustainability-linked debt reaches an estimated US\$6.2 trillion. The forum, titled 'Resilient Future: Harnessing Sustainable Finance for Development in Asia and Africa, brought together senior figures from development finance institutions across both regions. Al Lawati's session featured speakers from Russia, Cambodia, India and Micronesia exploring how finance can be directed towards climate adaptation, infrastructure, housing and food security. "Sustainable finance is about making development last," said Al Lawati. "It's about supporting projects that strengthen communities, create livelihoods and build resilience for the future." Blended finance in Asia and the



Pacific has channeled more than US\$18 billion into renewable energy, transport and manufacturing projects between 2022 and 2024, according to recent data. The session looked at how these models can be scaled to drive sustainable growth in other regions. In Oman, the trend mirrors a broader focus on resilience and economic diversification. In the first half of 2025, Development Bank approved RO109.5 million in new loans, up 13% year-on-year with strong demand across tourism, agriculture, services and mining.

OMAN ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY

OETC achieves major milestone with \$750 million five-year green Sukuk issuance

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Electricity Transmission Company (OETC), the sole owner and operator of Oman's electricity transmission network and a key subsidiary of Nama Group, announced the successful pricing and issuance of its inaugural \$750 million 5-year Green Sukuk under its Green Financing Framework. This landmark transaction marks OETC as the first company to issue a Green Sukuk in the Sultanate of Oman, representing a major milestone in the country's sustainable finance journey and demonstrating strong commitment to advancing the objectives of Oman Vision 2040. The Green Sukuk achieved exceptional investor demand, with the offering being 2.8x times oversubscribed. This overwhelming response from regional and international investors reflects the strong confidence in OETC's strategic role in Oman's power sector, its solid credit fundamentals supported by ratings of Ba1 (stable) by Moody's and BB+ (stable) by Fitch, and the company's well-established sustainability credentials. The transaction aligns directly with Oman Vision 2040's strategic priorities of economic diversification, environmental sustainability, and transition towards a low-carbon economy. The issuance



supports the national target of achieving 30% renewable energy penetration by 2030 and contributes to Oman's commitment to reach Net Zero carbon emissions by 2050. The proceeds will be used exclusively to finance and refinance eligible green projects, including renewable energy interconnection infrastructure, grid modernization, energy efficiency initiatives, and transmission system enhancements that enable the integration of clean energy into the national grid. The transaction was successfully executed by a strong banking syndicate. Citi, J.P. Morgan, and Standard Chartered Bank acted as

Joint Global Coordinators, while Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank, Bank ABC, Bank Muscat, Crédit Agricole CIB, Citi, Dubai Islamic Bank, J.P. Morgan, Mashreq, Oman Investment Bank, and Standard Chartered Bank served as Joint Lead Managers and Bookrunners. The banking group played a pivotal role in structuring the transaction and organizing a comprehensive series of investor meetings that generated strong interest across diverse investor segments. Commenting on the successful issuance, Eng. Hisham Abdullah Al Riyami, Acting Chief Executive Officer of OETC, stated: "The Green Sukuk marks an important milestone in OETC's journey toward building a more resilient and sustainable electricity network for Oman. Through this issuance, we reaffirm our commitment to supporting the national energy transition by integrating more renewable energy into the grid alongside enhancing transmission efficiency. The strong investor response demonstrates trust in OETC's long-term strategy and Oman's stable economic environment". OETC's Green Financing Framework, developed in collaboration with Citi and verified by DNV, aligns with the best international practices including the Green Bond Principles issued by the International Capital Market Association (ICMA) and Green

Loan Principles. The framework provides a robust structure for OETC to raise sustainable finance through green bonds, sukuk, and loans to fund projects that deliver tangible environmental benefits and support the decarbonization of Oman's electricity sector. The sukuk issuance represents a strategic component of OETC's broader funding and sustainability strategy, which aims to diversify the company's capital base, optimize its debt portfolio, and align all financing activities with environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles. This approach positions OETC as a leader in sustainable infrastructure development within the GCC region and demonstrates the company's proactive role in enabling Oman's green economy transformation. OETC, a member of Nama Group, serves as the monopoly provider of electricity transmission services across the Sultanate of Oman. The company owns and operates the national electricity transmission network operating at voltages of 132kV and above, transmitting power from generation stations to distribution load centers across all governorates. OETC also manages the critical 220kV interconnection infrastructure linking Oman to the GCC Interconnection Authority network, playing a vital role in regional energy security and cooperation.

DELEGATION FROM GULF SUSTAIN

Renaissance Village Duqm showcases sustainable workforce accommodation



MUSCAT: Renaissance Village Duqm recently welcomed a delegation from Gulf Sustain, the leading GCC worker welfare and human rights initiative, along with Dr Thomas Oertle, Ambassador of Switzerland to Oman. The visit focused on exploring how Renaissance Village Duqm's ILO-compliant and integrated workforce accommodation advances Oman's sustainability agenda. As one of the flagship projects within the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD), Renaissance Village Duqm plays a key role in supporting the Sultanate's

drive toward economic diversification under Oman Vision 2040. Sarah Mostafa-Kamel, Gulf Sustain Manager, IHRB, said, "We were honoured to visit Renaissance Village Duqm and see how Renaissance Services is raising the bar for worker accommodation. The Village is built to align with both ILO standards and SEZAD worker welfare standards, offering dignified, climate-responsive housing and wellbeing facilities. This model shows that under Oman's Vision 2040, economic growth can move hand in hand with worker welfare, and

that investing in people strengthens business resilience and investor confidence. Just as Duqm is becoming a hub for the green transition - from hydrogen to green steel - this approach demonstrates that competitiveness and sustainability go together, setting a benchmark not only for Duqm but for the wider region." For over 15 years, IHRB has been a trusted partner to businesses, governments, civil society and communities worldwide, driving meaningful systemic change for workers and communities impacted by business actions. Through research, capac-

ity building and multi-stakeholder collaboration, Gulf Sustain ensures that progress toward economic and environmental goals remains grounded in worker welfare. During the visit, the delegation toured Renaissance Village Duqm's facilities, learning about its energy-efficiency initiatives, waste-management systems, green landscaping, recreational facilities and well-being programmes. These initiatives have positioned Renaissance Village Duqm as a benchmark for responsible, ILO-compliant workforce accommodation that facilitates Oman's economic growth.

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

National Aluminium, up 12.36%, was the top gainer while, Majan College, down 4.17%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 5,395.89 points, up by 0.47% from previous close. The Shariah Index ended up by 0.22% at 463.54 points. National Aluminium, up 12.36%, was the top gainer while, Majan College, down 4.17%, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover. A total number of 6,520 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR36.5 million, with more than 189 million shares changing hands. Out of 62 traded securities, 22 advanced, 17 declined, and 23 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR1338K while foreign investors were net sellers for OMR748K, followed by domestic investors for OMR590K worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 8,964.49 points, up 0.09%. Prices of Liva Group, Oman United Insurance, Al Anwar Investment, Muscat Finance, Takaful Oman

were up by 5.46%, 4.00%, 3.09%, 2.04%, 1.96%, respectively. Prices of Oman & Emirates Investment, Al Madina Investments, Al Sharqia Investment, Ominvest, Oman Arab Bank were down by 3.90%, 2.50%, 1.18%, 1.08%, 0.68% respectively. Industrial Index closed at 7,142.84 points, up 0.94%. Prices of National Aluminium, National Biscuits, Gulf Mushroom Products, Oman Fisheries, Voltamp Energy were up by 12.36%, 10.00%, 3.69%, 3.57%, 3.10% respectively. Prices of National Detergent, Oman Cables Industry were down by 2.64%, 0.23% respectively. Services Index was up by 0.33% before closing at 2,192.70 points. Prices of Shell Oman Marketing, OQ Exploration & Production, Al Suwadi Power, OQ Gas Networks, Renaissance Services were up by 2.94%, 1.16%, 0.61%, 0.59%, 0.36% respectively. Prices of Barka Desalination, Phoenix Power, Musandam Power, Ooredoo, Al Batinah Power were down by 2.07%, 1.33%, 1.00%, 0.86%, 0.60% respectively. - **United Securities**

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	5,471.96	5,390.03	5,422.17	5,458.64	-36.47	-0.67
FINANCIAL INDEX	9,059.69	8,946.59	9,019.64	9,042.02	-22.38	-0.25
Industry Index	7,179.84	7,128.94	7,174.91	7,174.30	-33.39	-0.47
Services Index	2,247.85	2,194.63	2,208.16	2,214.05	-5.89	-0.27
MSX Shariah Index	467.45	464.29	465.51	466.92	-1.42	-0.30
MSX TR INDEX	8,205.85	8,082.98	8,131.18	8,185.87	-54.69	-0.67
FINANCIAL TR IDX	10,763.23	10,628.86	10,715.65	10,742.23	-26.59	-0.25
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	8,852.13	8,789.36	8,804.12	8,845.29	-41.17	-0.47
SERVICES TR IDX	2,908.13	2,839.27	2,856.78	2,864.39	-7.62	-0.27
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,204.64	1,204.64	1,204.64	1,204.64	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
238,755,823	46,640,638	6,888	30,907,517,000	24	21	23	68

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF. RD.	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST MD.	LAST OFFER	PAV VALUE	MARKET CAP
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REGULAR MARKET

OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	234,150	61,192	18	0.253	0.262	0.252	0.260	0.250	0.010	4.000	0.260	0.251	0.262	0.100	26,000,000
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	10,794	10,387	14	0.964	0.965	0.960	0.964	0.935	0.029	3.102	0.964	0.940	0.964	0.100	90,430,088
OM0000002804	ASAFSA FOODS	360,000	17,722	14	0.499	0.500	0.489	0.490	0.480	0.010	2.083	0.490	0.470	0.489	0.100	58,800,000
OM0000002176	MAZERA STEEL PRODUCTS	4,000	2,240	1	0.569	0.569	0.569	0.569	0.550	0.019	3.818	0.569	0.562	0.580	0.100	69,942,858
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	11,950	2,127	8	0.178	0.178	0.178	0.178	0.176	0.002	1.136	0.178	0.174	0.178	0.100	35,600,000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	373,767	38,130	34	0.102	0.103	0.102	0.103	0.102	0.001	0.980	0.103	0.100	0.103	0.100	230,406,162
OM0000004852	AL SUWADI POWER	175,999	29,125	23	0.164	0.170	0.164	0.166	0.165	0.001	0.616	0.166	0.166	0.166	0.040	115,591,452
OM0000008072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	32,402,840	5,542,616	1,073	0.170	0.172	0.170	0.171	0.170	0.001	0.588	0.171	0.171	0.171	0.100	740,536,890
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	828,848	17,655	23	0.276	0.277	0.276	0.277	0.276	0.001	0.362	0.277	0.277	0.277	0.100	65,485,570
OM0000001482	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	327,485	118,307	216	0.360	0.363	0.360	0.360	0.360	0.000	0.382	0.360	0.360	0.363	0.100	585,340,688
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	194,333	30,886	17	0.158	0.160	0.157	0.157	0.157	0.000	0.000	0.157	0.157	0.157	0.100	34,540,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	38,338	2,518	2	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.000	0.000	0.064	0.064	0.065	0.100	22,792,147
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	20,138,240	6,531,524	797	0.324	0.326	0.322	0.324	0.324	0.000	0.000	0.324	0.324	0.324	0.100	2,452,072,648
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	48,482,674	7,496,376	1,033	0.154	0.156	0.154	0.154	0.154	0.000	0.000	0.154	0.154	0.154	0.100	1,019,555,626
OM0000004788	MADINA TAKAFUL	145,538	12,224	25	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.000	0.000	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.100	14,700,000
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	880,044	242,420	664	0.275	0.276	0.274	0.275	0.275	0.000	0.000	0.275	0.275	0.275	0.100	211,805,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	800,240	834,424	77	1.042	1.044	1.041	1.041	1.042	-0.001	-0.096	1.042	1.043	1.042	0.100	780,750,000
OM0000001077	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	1,585	3,454	2	2.160	2.160	2.160	2.160	2.185	-0.025	-2.229	2.160	2.120	2.180	0.100	195,546,000
OM0000002226	AL JAZEERA SERVICES	2,398	417	3	0.174	0.174	0.174	0.174	0.175	-0.001	-0.571	0.174	0.174	0.174	0.100	745,680
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	133,418	22,170	17	0.165	0.167	0.165	0.166	0.167	-0.001	-0.599	0.166	0.166	0.167	0.100	112,631,313
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	221,000	51,683	17	0.234	0.234	0.232	0.232	0.234	-0.002	-0.855	0.232	0.232	0.234	0.100	131,019,061
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	34,650	9,494	17	0.270	0.280	0.270	0.275	0.278	-0.003	-1.079	0.275	0.284	0.275	0.100	257,230,689
OM0000002440	AL SHAQIYA INVESTMENT HO	30,000	2,521	4	0.085	0.085	0.084	0.084	0.085	-0.001	-1.176	0.084	0.084	0.085	0.100	7,560,000
Total		105,633,272	21,385,061	4,099												

Parallel Market

OM0000001186	NATIONAL BISCUIT INDUSTRIES LIMITED	100	485	1	4.850	4.950	4.950	4.950	4.500	0.450	10.000	4.950	4.500	0.000	1.000	4,950,000
OM0000007043	LIVA GROUP	13,303	3,684	6	0.290	0.290	0.261	0.290	0.275	0.015	5.455	0.290	0.259	0.290	0.100	115,558,559
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	32,245	9,063	20	0.277	0.283	0.275	0.281	0.271	0.010	3.890	0.281	0.280	0.285	0.100	12,860,189
OM0000001021	ASYAD SHIPPING	43,687,731	6,907,579	965	0.155	0.160	0.155	0.160	0.155	0.005	3.226	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.000	833,399,083
OM0000001772	AL ANWAR INVESTMENT	2,042,526	204,248	31	0.097	0.101	0.097	0.100	0.097	0.003	3.092	0.100	0.100	0.102	0.100	29,855,259
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	100	70	1	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.680	0.020	2.941	0.700	0.679	0.700	0.100	66,500,000
OM0000001580	MUSCAT FINANCE	52,000	2,286	3	0.049	0.050	0.049	0.050	0.049	0.001	2.941	0.050	0.049	0.050	0.100	15,357,216
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	229,911	11,730	9	0.051	0.052	0.051	0.052	0.050	0.002	1.961	0.052	0.051	0.052	0.100	13,000,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	162	79	1	0.487	0.487	0.487	0.487	0.480	0.007	1.458	0.487	0.450	0.487	0.100	161,135,010
OM0000006908	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	25,403,672	4,119,884	950	0.161	0.162	0.161	0.162	0.160	0.002	1.250	0.162	0.162	0.160	0.040	590,837,518
OM0000002028	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	10,680,880	3,719,884	304	0.346	0.350	0.345	0.349	0.345	0.004	1.159	0.349	0.341	0.349	0.100	2,792,000,000
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	48,350	3,388	9	0.070	0.070	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.000	0.000	0.068	0.068	0.069	0.100	1,428,000
OM0000002077	OMANVIA FINANCIAL SERVICES	20,607	2,617	7	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.000	0.000	0.127	0.126	0.130	0.100	45,837,589
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	13,808	2,153	8	0.156	0.156	0.148	0.156	0.156	0.000	0.000	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.100	422,260,850
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	3,661	578	2	0.158	0.158	0.158	0.158	0.158	0.000	0.000	0.159	0.154	0.159	0.100	460,288,168
OM0000004735	SEMSCORP SALALAH	151,854	20,417	14	0.187	0.188	0.187	0.187	0.187	0.000	0.000	0.187	0.187	0.205	0.100	175,504,655
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	13,558	3,593	8	0.265	0.265	0.265	0.265	0.265	0.000	0.000	0.265	0.265	0.265	0.100	14,975,000
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	24,348	1,997	1	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.000	0.000	0.082	0.081	0.084	0.100	12,754,124
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	16,500	1,470	4	0.089	0.090	0.089	0.090	0.090	0.000	0.000	0.090	0.088	0.095	0.100	20,001,600
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	1,390	124	2	0.090	0.090	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.000	0.000	0.089	0.088	0.096	0.100	57,724,538
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIT	36,459	5,051	6	0.138	0.138	0.138	0.138	0.138	0.000	0.000	0.138	0.138	0.138	0.100	81,618,386
OM0000003000	ALMAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	2,617	2,706	2	1.034	1.034	1.034	1.034	1.035	-0.001	-0.997	1.034	0.985	1.070	0.100	71,346,000
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	3,340	732	5	0.219	0.220	0.219	0.220	0.221	-0.001	-0.452	0.220	0.219	0.220	0.100	43,919,832
OM0000005280	OMAN ARAB BANK	15,000	2,180	3	0.146	0.146	0.146	0.146	0.147	-0.001	-0.680	0.146	0.146	0.146	0.100	292,400,527
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	3,900	1,155	2	0.295	0.297	0.295	0.297	0.300	-0.003	-1.000	0.297	0.295	0.295	0.100	20,905,830
OM0000005983	PHOENIX POWER	215,945	31,814	23	0.148	0.150	0.147	0.148	0.150	-0.002	-1.333	0.148	0.146	0.148	0.100	216,645,016
OM0000008710	ALMAHA DESALINATION	5,000	710	1	0.142	0.142	0.142	0.142	0.145	-0.003	-2.089	0.142	0.142	0.145	0.100	10,754,124
OM0000001982	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	129,886	5,076	7	0.039	0.040	0.039	0.039	0.040	-0.001	-2.500	0.040	0.039	0.040	0.100	3,315,000
OM0000003285	NATIONAL DETERGENT	363	274	2	0.685	0.700	0.685	0.700	0.719	-0.019	-2.643	0.700	0.700	0.685	0.100	14,000,000
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HOTEL	60,000	4,450	2	0.075	0.075	0.074	0.074	0.077	-0.003	-3.896	0.074	0.075	0.077	0.100	80,807,000
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	13,800	1,587	3	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.120	-0.005	-4.167	0.115	0.114	0.115	0.100	13,800,000
Total		82,904,477	15,076,075	2,399												



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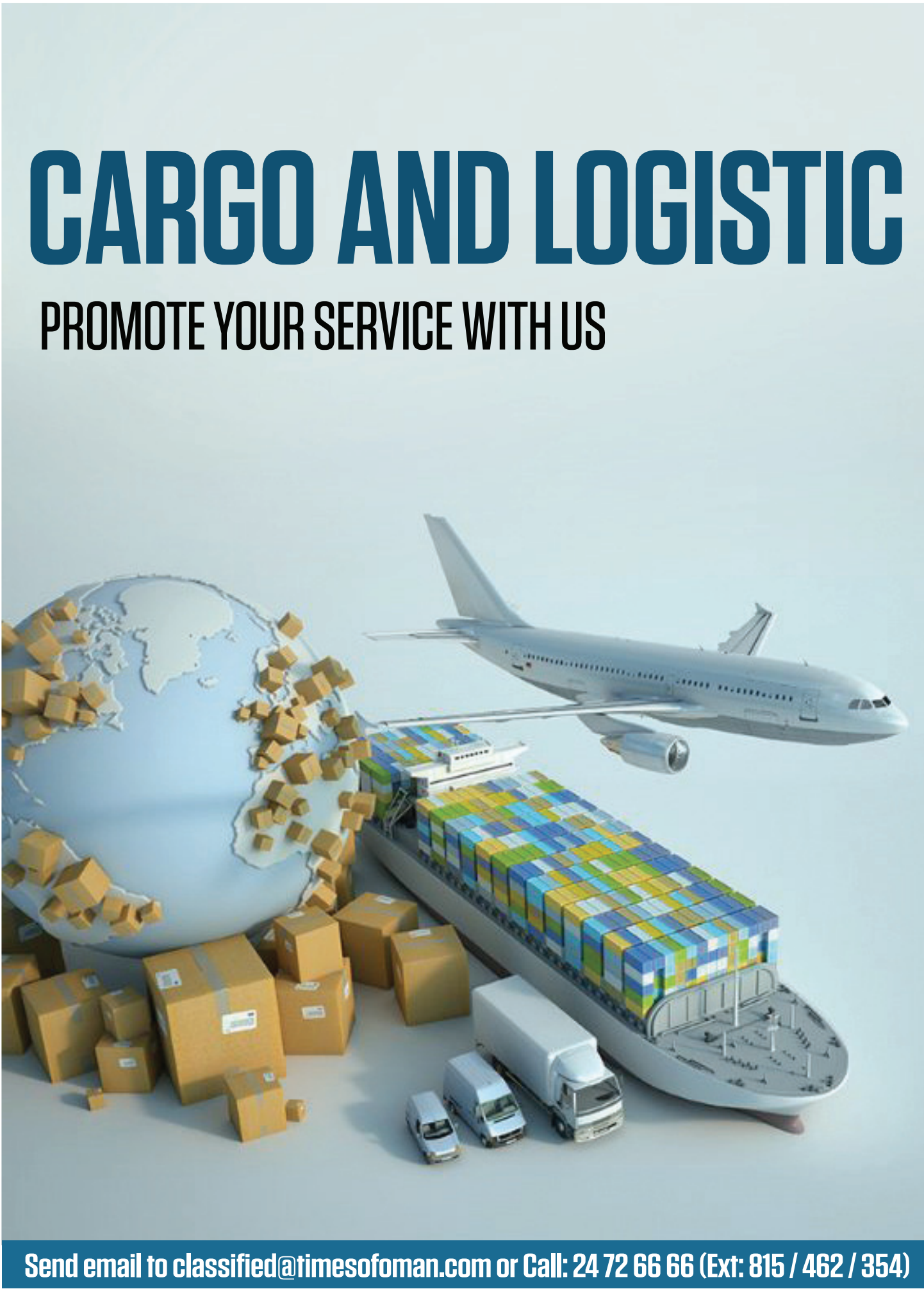
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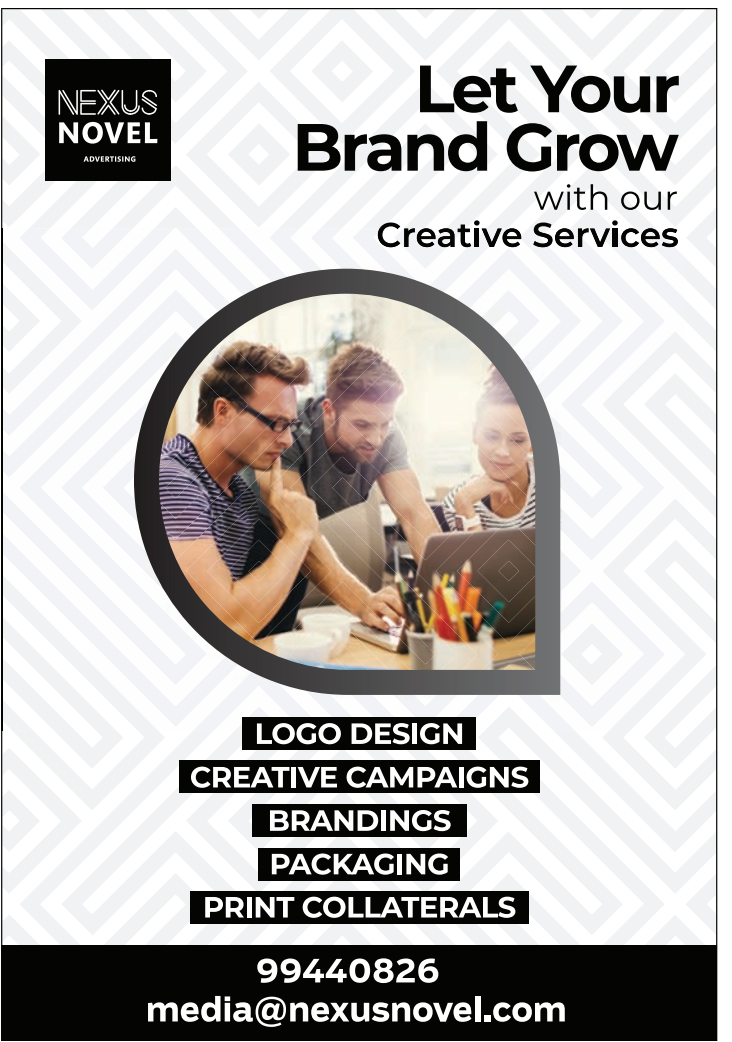
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CONNECT

JOB VACANCY

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Urgently required Omani national AutoCAD draughtsman and Interior designers with minimum 2-5 years' experience. Email : fareedadesign@gmail.com

Urgently required MEP draughtsman for an Electromechanical firm with minimum 4 yrs experience. Email arun@amad.om.Contact 95392340,93612829

ENGINEER

Urgently required MEP Quantity surveyor for an Electromechanical firm with minimum 4 yrs experience. Email arun@amad.om.Contact 95392340,93612829

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DOMESTIC HELP

Urgently required Cook with experience of minimum 15 yrs in prestigious family or 5 star hotel,he should know Gulf, Arabic & Continental cuisine.Position is for distinguished family Please send CV ibilitaunited@gmail.com or 77450707

Urgently required Indian housemaid for full day please wats app on 00968 90950460

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Indian male Accountant, 12 yrs experience (8 yrs in Muscat & 4 yrs in GCC) valid Oman D/L NOC available. Contact 93538803

Chartered Accountant Inter holder and M.com graduate with more than 8 yrs Oman experience Looking for suitable position. D/L and NOC. Contact 78793414 Email iqbalpmr@gmail.com

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

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

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

Indian male, M.com (finance) 12 yrs accounting experience in Oman. Handling accounts up to finalization independently & business development. Noc & D/L available Contact 99859141

MBA in Finance, 8 yrs of experience including ERP & Excel. Valid Omani D/L. Contact: +968 77225024

Indian male, Bcom,MBA finance, 14 yrs of Oman and Indian experience, seeking suitable jobs.Contact 97436925. sasdsrk@gmail.com"

Highly skilled Chief Accountant looking for suitable position.Contact: 79888153

ACCA, MS finance Senior accountant 12 yrs Gulf exp.Can join immediately. NOC & D/L available.Contact 77258382

ADMINISTRATION

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

A qualified professional with a Bachelor's in Business administration and Bachelor's in Law (LLB), along with 1-2 yrs of experience, is currently in Oman and seeking suitable job opportunities. Ready to join immediately. Contact: +96871757652 Email: hassankolabbalhb@gmail.com

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

ARCHITECT

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

DRIVER

Pickup light driver available,having all PDO licences & can speak English.Contact 97681676

Looking Truck driver job with 8 yrs experience.Contact 91281314

Looking for driving job with 8 yrs experience.Contact 90489629

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

Looking for driving job with 15 yrs experience. Contact: 78037801

Looking for driving job have car. Contact: 98586920

EDUCATION/TRAINING

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

ENGINEER

Diploma in Electrical Engineering looking for Fire Fighting site supervisor/suitable job. Contact: 95933453, Email: haquefaizan3786@gmail.com

Experienced Biomedical Engineers seeking opportunities in Oman. Presently in Oman & available for immediate joining. Email: asmathalipvl@gmail.com Contact: +968 72031225

Project Manager (Civil) Indian, 18 yr GCC experience, valid D/L and transferable visa, can join immediately. Contact: 97723786

ENGINEER

Indian male seek a suitable role in Electronics engineering, technical support, or field operations in Oman.Contact +96898799576 Email: kpharidath586@gmail.com

Quantity surveyor (B.Tech civil, AIQS), 4+ yrs Oman experience. Skilled in primavera, BIM, Revit, ongoing RICS accreditation, valid Oman D/L. Seeking infrastructure ,oil & gas roles. Contact: 97649953

Indian M (35) MBA in Oman, 10 yrs exp in marketing in FMCG, pharma with D/L. Contact: 79755795

IT

Young Indian male with a BCA in computer applications and currently pursuing an online PG in MCA (cyber security). Looking for a position in IT support or help desk.Contact:79817522 Email: shezinsadeeq@gmail.com

Female software Engineer full stack developer also expert in digital marketing with 7 yrs experience.Contact 74102443

LOGISTICS

Indian male graduate with 25 yrs of proven experience in Car rental, fleet Management & logistics. Currently seeking for Senior/ middle management position. Contact: 92152334.

Indian(M)31,Byrs experience in shipping &logistics(qatar &India) Presently in Oman with valid Qatar D/L.looking for opportunities. Contact +968 97644335

MANAGER

Dynamic commercial leader (Indian male) | 15+ yrs GCC & UK success, P&L, business & brand expert, IIM-Calcutta, Master's (UK) | Seeking Senior leadership roles. Contact +968 9539 8597

MANAGER

Accounting manager, Indian (M), 43yrs, 18+ yrs in Oman, D/L & NOC. Contact: 76432203

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

MECHANICAL/ TECHNICAL

BMS, SCADA operator, 5+ yrs experience, skilled in Siemens & Honeywell systems, Oman DL Contact 90461944 Email emmarbz1199@gmail.com

MEDICAL

Indian female chemist experienced in food and water testing, seeking a lab role. Contact +968 95418558.Email sumithasubair@gmail.com

PURCHASE/ PROCUREMENT

Indian male had 13+ yrs experience with Procurement at construction field in civil and MEP. Worked for a well reputed company's in Oman. Currently seeking jobs in Oman. Contact:+968 97438087

Procurement Engineer 19 yrs experience construction and trading whatsapp+96895839964

Indian male 40 yrs Bcom MBA having 13 yrs experience in procurement UAE & Oman with valid UAE D/L,seeking suitable opportunities. Contact +971529546753

SALES/MARKETING

Indian,MBA, 20yrs of experience in Sales(FMCG/retail) with D/L seeks suitable placement.Contact 95548480

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

SALES/MARKETING

Indian male, 14+ yrs sales exp. (IT,software). Open to Sales/BD roles in any industry. Valid Oman D/L. Contact: 94110178

Indian male 26yrs B.Com with 4 yrs experience in toursim for sales with D/L looking for suitable jobs Contact 78153929

MBA-qualified marketing & operations leader, 5+ yrs proven in driving growth & teams. Oman-based, valid D/L Seeking corporate role in marketing, admin or operations. Call +968 92070369 Email hadifathimafarooque@gmail.com

Indian male, MBA (Marketing), 1+yr of experience in sales & marketing. Goal oriented, quick learner; seeking sales,marketing role in Muscat. Ready to join immediately. Contact: 74107151

Experienced, result-driven professional with 15 yrs in sales & marketing across Oman. Skilled in business development, client relations & market growth. Holds valid Oman D/L. Seeking suitable placement.Contact 92085257. Email hispec1234@hotmail.com

Young Indian sales coordinator and data analyst,B.com graduate having 5yrs experience looking for Immediate placement.Contact 96875080968

Young Indian sales executive, B com graduate having 06 yrs experience in sales looking for Immediate placement.Contact +968 75053173

Business development,sales & marketing manager having 20+ yrs of local experience in trading, construction & automotive parts sectors seeks suitable placement in established organizations. Contact 92138277

Indian M(35) MBA in Oman 10 yrs exp in marketing in FMCG, pharma Contact-.79755795



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LIFESTYLE

**CHINESE
RESEARCHERS
DEVELOP
INNOVATIVE
TEXTILE THAT
HELPS ‘AI’
RECOGNISE
VOICE
COMMANDS**

**This breakthrough
promises to turn
garments into
intuitive, always-
accessible AI
assistants**

Researchers from Soochow University say that AI can empower traditional industries while traditional technologies can, in turn, advance AI, as shown in a new study where an innovative textile helps AI recognise voice commands by amplifying the electrostatic charges generated during speech.

This breakthrough promises to turn garments into intuitive, always-accessible AI assistants.

Led by researchers from Soochow University, the team designed a tribo-electric acoustic textile, dubbed A-Textile. Unlike conventional rigid and bulky acoustic devices, the fabric is soft, flexible and washable. It can also harness the natural electrostatic charges generated on clothing when a person speaks.

The researchers enhanced this effect by creating a multi-layered structure featuring a composite coating of 3D tin-sulfide nano-flowers embedded in silicone rubber, along with graphite-like carbonised textile.

According to the study, the washable and lightweight AI-textile achieved a voice recognition accuracy of up to 97.5 percent, enabling remote control of household appliances.

The researchers demonstrated its practical application by using it to wirelessly control smart home appliances, such as turning on and off an air conditioner and a lamp through simple voice commands.

It also successfully accessed cloud-based services, using voice commands to operate smartphone applications like Google Maps for navigation, and engage with ChatGPT by asking for cocktail recipes and a travel itinerary. — **OWA**

SPORTS

Ronaldo declares he is hungry for more after hitting 950 goals

Ronaldo now stands 50 shy of hitting 1,000 career goals

NEW DELHI; Seasoned goal-scoring machine Cristiano Ronaldo insisted that he is still “hungry for more” after netting his 950th career goal in Al-Nassr’s 2-0 triumph over Al-Hazm at the King Abdullah Sports City Stadium, Buraidah.

Following his recent exploits for Al-Nassr in the Saudi Pro League, during which he struck the net in the 88th minute, Ronaldo now stands 50 shy of hitting 1,000 career goals. Ronaldo struck his sixth goal in as many appearances, as Al-Nassr maintained its flawless record in the 2025-26 league season.

With another win, Al-Nassr sits at the top of the Saudi Pro League on 18 points, three points clear of second-placed Al-Taawoun and eight ahead of Al-Ittihad, the defending champions. With another goal in his illustrious career, Ronaldo declared that he is still craving



for more and wrote on Instagram, “Happy to help the team win and to hit 950 goals! Always hungry for more!”

The five-time Ballon d’Or winner has publicly stated his intention to pursue 1000 career goals, and earlier this month, he expressed his desire to achieve more, even though his family wants him to stop at 40.

“I want to keep playing for a few years, not many, I have to be honest. I want to thank all my teammates for having learned from all

of them - and even from this younger generation as well. For me, it’s a privilege to be with you. People, especially my family, say, ‘It’s time for you to stop. You’ve done everything. Why do you want to score a thousand goals?’ But I don’t think so. I think I’m still producing good things, I’m helping my club and the national team, and why not keep going? I’m sure that when it’s over, I’ll leave feeling fulfilled, because I gave it my all,” Ronaldo said after being awarded the inaugural Prestige Award at the Portugal Football Globe on October 7 as quoted from Goal.com.

“I know I don’t have many more years, but I try to enjoy the few I have to the fullest. If it were 20 years ago, I would say I wanted to ‘eat the world.’ Now I don’t see things that way. Age allows you to think differently. I have a philosophy of living day by day. Things go by so quickly, things change, and you can’t make long-term plans. Right now, I make short-term plans because it gives me more energy that way. It gives me more of a will to live. That’s what I try to do: enjoy each day, training session by training session, game by game. The rest will soon be seen,” he added.

On Tuesday, Ronaldo will look to add more to his tally when he squares off against his former Real Madrid compatriot Karim Benzema in Al-Nassr’s upcoming clash with Al-Ittihad. **-ANI**

BUNDESLIGA

Bayern extend record run as Kimmich and Karl strike in dominant away victory

BERLIN; Bayern Munich maintained their perfect start to the season with a commanding 3-0 win over 10-man Borussia Monchengladbach in the Bundesliga on Saturday.

The German record champion needed patience before breaking down a determined Gladbach side reduced to ten men midway through the first half. Joshua Kimmich finally unlocked the contest, paving the way for another record-equalling success in Europe’s top leagues.

Bayern coach Vincent Kompany made six changes from the mid-week Champions League triumph, handing starts to Jonas Urbig and several fringe players. The visitors nearly struck early when Nicolas Jackson sent Luis Diaz through, but the Colombian shot narrowly wide. The match turned in the 19th minute as Jens Castrop saw red after a VAR review for a dangerous challenge on Diaz. Despite the setback, Gladbach defended



bravely, with goalkeeper Moritz Nicolas producing fine saves to deny Harry Kane and Tom Bischof before halftime. Kompany’s half-time substitutions, Konrad Laimer and Raphael Guerreiro, added drive to Bayern’s attack. Michael Olise came close twice before Kimmich broke the deadlock in the 64th minute, slotting home after his first shot was blocked. Six minutes later, Guerreiro doubled the lead following a clever Olise pass. Gladbach missed their only

HOME ASHES SERIES



Root is a nicker: Former Aussie spinner’s jibe at England’s premier batter

MELBOURNE; Former Australian spinner and current broadcaster Kerry O’Keeffe fired a verbal jibe at England’s premier batter Joe Root ahead of the home Ashes series.

The upcoming Ashes series in Australia, with the first ball to be bowled at Perth from November 21 onwards, is very vital to Root’s legacy. Already the second-highest run-getter of all time in Tests and racing towards Indian icon Sachin Tendulkar’s mark of 15,921 runs, he would be aiming to add something that has been missing from his massive catalogue of all-time great knocks: An Ashes century in Australia.

However, Keffee, despite Root’s success in the 2020s and recently against India at home, is not too confident about Root reaching the triple-figures, calling him a “nicker” (someone who easily edges the ball to slips or wicketkeeper). This is in stark contrast to his compatriot Matthew Hayden, who backed Root so much that he hilariously said that he would strip himself nude and run around at Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).

Speaking at Fox Sports as

PREMIER LEAGUE

Liverpool has ‘no answer’ to teams playing long ball strategy: Coach Arne

BRENTFORD; Liverpool head coach Arne Slot admitted that his side is still hunting for an answer to deal with teams that implement a long-ball, low-block strategy following their 3-2 defeat against Brentford in the Premier League.

After winning their first five Premier League fixtures, Liverpool’s campaign has gone off the rails with four defeats on the trot. Liverpool’s defence was exposed once again, with Dango Ouattara firing the hosts to a 1-0 lead in the opening five minutes, courtesy of a



long throw from Michael Kayode. It was a threat that Slot had identified before the fixture and had prepared Liverpool for during Friday’s training session. Throughout the 90 minutes, Brentford played 62 long passes, their highest tally in the ongoing season.

“Quite a few things. It is definite that teams have a certain playing style against us; it is a very good strategy to play. We have not found an answer yet. Going 1-0 down does not help after five minutes,” Slot said in his post-match press conference as quoted from Sky Sports.

“We are still, even today, when we don’t play well, able to score

two goals. But you cannot compete, which we don’t do at the moment, because we concede too many goals. That is not only the defence you do it with 11 players together,” Slot added.

Liverpool handsomely shelled out cash and spent £400mn on six new signings to bolster their hopes of defending their Premier League crown. Following their setback, the Dutch manager believes the shift to new faces has played a part in their turbulent start to the season. **-ANI**

SEMIS LINEUP



Women’s CWC semi-finals: England to face South Africa in Guwahati; Australia to meet India in Navi Mumbai

NEW DELHI : The stage is set for an exciting semi-final lineup at the ICC Women’s Cricket World Cup 2025, with England taking on South Africa in Guwahati on Wednesday (October 29), while defending champions Australia are scheduled to face hosts India at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai on Thursday (October 30).

The fixture between India and Australia will mark the first time the two teams have met in a Cricket World Cup semi-final since their clash in the final four stage of the tournament back in 2017, according to the ICC website.

Australia finished the league stage of the competition undefeated, the only team with no losses at this World Cup.

Proteas currently occupy second place in the points table; England are third with a game in hand.

India is placed fourth, having won three and lost as many games in six matches, with one fixture remaining against Bangladesh in Navi Mumbai.

The winners of both semi-finals will meet in the Cricket World Cup

final on November 2.

Record-breaking bowling

Earlier on Saturday in Indore, the defending champions chased down the target of 98 with seven wickets in hand, after a spectacular record-breaking bowling display from Alana King.

The win marked their sixth in the league stage, along with a shared point from their washout against Sri Lanka.

The seven-time winners remain the only unbeaten team at this year’s marquee tournament.

In their previous meeting against India in Indore during the league stage, Australia had chased down a record total to solidify their position in the standings.

Meanwhile, India walked into the semis on the back of an all-round display against New Zealand that punched their ticket to the knockouts.

The hosts will face Bangladesh on Sunday to mark the end of their league stage campaign. England, on the other hand, will face off against New Zealand before the semis. **-ANI**

Bank Muscat celebrates winning teams in Green Sports programme

The Green Sports programme is one of the Bank’s flagship CSR programmes aiming at sporting skills of the Omani talented youth in the sports and cultural domains

MUSCAT: In emphasis of its pioneering role in corporate social responsibility, community development and the youth, Bank Muscat, the leading financial service provider in the Sultanate of Oman, recently organised an event celebrating the 20 winning teams for this year’s 14th edition of the “Green Sports” programme. The event was held under the patronage of H.E. Syed Suleiman Bin Hamoud Al Busaidi, Chairman of Oman Football Association and attended by executives from the Bank and representatives of the winning sports teams. Since its inauguration in 2012, the programme has benefitted 223 teams with over 77,000 members across the Sultanate of Oman.

Flagship CSR programme

The Green Sports programme is one of the Bank’s flagship CSR programmes aiming at sporting skills of the Omani talented youth in the sports and cultural domains. The support provided by the programme includes greening of football pitches, water desalination and lighting. In addition, the pro-



gramme annually receives excellent participation by sports teams from across the Governorates desiring to enhance green spaces for the Omani youth to improve their sporting skills by equipping these spaces with sports facilities. This year, over 90 teams have competed, thereby asserting the programme’s success and popularity among Omani youth.

During the celebration, Hamza Abbas Al Ajmi, Deputy General Manager – Credit, Bank Muscat, delivered a speech where he said: “Local sports teams play a crucial role in the Sultanate, empowering talented Omani youth and supporting their aspirations. The Green Sports programme, developed over 14 years, underscores this importance, making a signifi-

cant impact on social responsibility and sustainability initiatives. It has fostered new strategies to enhance local teams and benefit the community, while improving infrastructure for organized sports and social events and competitions. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to this year’s winning teams and wish them continued success.”

Expressing his happiness and pride, Eng. Khalid Said Al Zaabi, Team Head of Al Shati Sports Cultural Team from Al Suwaiq, said: “We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for Bank Muscat for their Green Sports programme and the generous support extended to our team. This initiative exemplifies the Bank’s dedication to empowering youth and

improving sports infrastructure, ultimately fostering a sustainable environment that inspires excellence. We are committed to continuing the hard work put into this project to support various activities and programmes that benefit the community.”

A significant transformation

From his side, Said Khalfan Al Jahdhami, Team Head of Al Qadisiyah Sports Team from Al Madaibi, said: “The lighting project for our team’s fields represents not only an upgrade to the infrastructure, but a significant transformation for the local community, benefitting various segments of society. This initiative will create new opportunities for hosting games and social activities, transforming the

field into a vibrant hub for all. We are committed to continuing our efforts on this project to sustain its positive impact and strengthen the collaborative partnership between the private sector and the community.”

Bank Muscat has recently announced the winning sports teams across the Sultanate who benefited from the support provided by the programme. The winners in the lighting system category include: Izki Jernan Sports Team from Izki, Al Shati Sports Cultural Team from Al Suwaiq, Al Ahly Sports Cultural Team from Saham, Al Yarmouk Sports Cultural Team from Al Khaboora, Al Nahda Sports Cultural Team from Sohar, Al khaliq Sports Cultural Team from Shinas, Al Shala Sports And

Cultural Team from Al Rustaq, Ithadh Hadra Sports Team from Jalan Bani Bu Hasan, Al Aruba Sport Team from Nizwa, Al Shuaiba Sports Cultural and Social Team from Al Musanaah, Al Qadisiyah Sports Team from Al Madaibi, and Al Bahri Sports and Cultural Team from Liwa. In addition, Nujoom Blad Al Shahoom Sports Social and Cultural Team from Ibbi, Al Mazzarra Sports Team from Quriyat, Al Sahwa Sports Team from Bidbid, AL Habil Sports and Cultural Team from Al Hamra, Al Ahly Sports and Cultural Team from Al Awabi, Al Zamalek Sports Team from Al Seeb, and AL Kor Sports Team from Bahla for natural turf category. Finally, Al Ahed Sports and Cultural Team from Sur won for artificial turf.

EMPOWERING OMAN’S AGRIFOOD SECTOR



Sohar International sponsors the International Dates and Honey Exhibition 2025

MUSCAT: In line with its national commitment and continued support for economic diversification and sustainable development, Sohar International announced its main sponsorship of the 3rd International Dates and Honey Exhibition, held at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC) from 23 to 29 October 2025.

The exhibition was inaugurated under the patronage of Sayyid Ibrahim bin Said al Busaidi, Governor of Musandam, in the presence of Dr Saud bin Hamoud al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, and witnessed the participation of over 250 local and international exhibitors representing 20 countries worldwide. Sohar International’s sponsorship underscores its contribution toward achieving Oman’s national goal of positioning the Sultanate as a global hub for dates by 2026, while promoting traditional food industries, empowering local innovators and farmers, and enriching the national economy with sustainable growth that endures across generations.

Representing Sohar International at the exhibition, Abdul Qadir Al Sumali, Chief Retail & Premier Banking Officer, stated: “Championing sectors that advance Oman’s self-sufficiency and economic resilience is not merely an act of sponsorship — it is an in-

vestment in the nation’s sustainable future. The Dates and Honey Festival showcases the strength and potential of Oman’s agrifood industries, highlighting the excellence of local produce while creating meaningful opportunities for farmers, producers, and small enterprises to expand their reach and impact. At Sohar International, we view it as our responsibility to facilitate the growth of such strategic sectors that align with Oman Vision 2040, fostering innovation, stimulating local enterprise, and strengthening non-oil industries.”

The exhibition is a platform that harmoniously blends heritage with innovation and engages all segments of society. Visitors explored a wide array of pavilions showcasing honey, dates, and their derivatives, alongside modern production technologies, handicrafts, Omani sweets, and creative culinary experiences. The event also featured panel discussions, cultural performances, educational seminars, and interactive activities for children.

The exhibition witnessed the signing of several local and international cooperation agreements, further strengthening Oman’s agricultural and food industries, and inspiring present and future generations to preserve the nation’s agricultural heritage and enhance its contribution to income diversification.

Through this strategic partnership, Sohar International reinforces its role as an active enabler of food security and economic sustainability—two key pillars of Oman’s long-term development framework. The Bank continues to support initiatives that enhance sectoral competitiveness, stimulate private investment, and strengthen the national value chain through innovation, productivity, and global market integration. This initiative also reflects the Bank’s commitment to building strategic synergies between the financial sector and national development priorities, enabling greater connectivity among producers, entrepreneurs, and markets, and expanding Oman’s presence within global trade ecosystems. By aligning its efforts with national diversification goals, Sohar International continues to play a pivotal role in shaping an inclusive and resilient economy.

Beyond its economic contribution, Sohar International’s engagement embodies its broader vision of social and cultural empowerment—celebrating Oman’s heritage while advancing sustainable progress. By supporting initiatives that preserve cultural identity and promote local enterprise, the Bank reaffirms its position as a catalyst for positive change and a trusted partner in shaping Oman’s future.

INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

Oman resident orthodontist clinches major success at global dental awards

MUSCAT: Omani resident orthodontist Dr Siju George, who has been practicing in Oman since 2003, has once again brought international recognition to the Sultanate with consecutive award-winning performances on both global and regional platforms.

Following his double triumph at the Invisalign Global Apex and Leading Star Awards 2025—held two months ago—where he was recognised among the world’s top aligner specialists and honored as Winner of the Best Orthodontic Case (Children Category) at the CAPP MENA Aesthetic Dentistry Awards 2024, Dr Siju has now been named Second Place Winner in the Best Orthodontic Case (Adult Category) at the upcoming CAPP MENA Aesthetic Dentistry Awards 2025.



The Aesthetic Dentistry MENA Awards are held in Dubai during November 2025. The event celebrates clinical excellence across the Middle East and North Africa, attracting participants from more than 25 countries. A 16-member international jury evaluates submissions based on treatment planning, execution, documentation, and overall smile impact.

“To receive recognition two years in a row is truly humbling,” said Dr Siju George. “These awards reflect not only my personal journey but also the dedication of my team and the rising standards of orthodontic excellence in Oman.”

With over 23 years of clinical experience and more than 12,000 completed orthodontic cases—including 1,600 Invisalign treatments—Dr Siju George has positioned Oman prominently on the global map of advanced aligner orthodontics.

His professional achievements also extend to academic contributions, notably as a contributing author to the internationally published textbook Atlas of Aligner Orthodontics (Elsevier). The book showcases complex clinical approaches and evidence-based treatment strategies shaping modern aligner therapy worldwide.

Among his other major recognitions include:

- EBAO Excellence Award 2024

(European Board of Aligner Orthodontics)

- Invisalign Apex and Leading Star Awards 2025 (first in Oman)
- Best Orthodontic Case – Children Category, CAPP MENA 2024

“Every recognition is a reflection of the teamwork and trust that patients place in us — values that define our daily work at Wassen Dental,” added Dr Siju.

These back-to-back international honours place Dr Siju George among the most decorated orthodontists in the MENA region and reaffirm Wassen Dental Centre’s standing as Oman’s leading hub for advanced orthodontic and aesthetic dentistry.

Dr Siju George - short bio

Dr. Siju George is a Specialist Orthodontist with over 23 years of experience, currently practicing in Muscat, Oman. He completed his orthodontic training in India and earned a Master’s in Aligner Orthodontics from the University of Turin, Italy - becoming one of the first in the region to achieve this qualification.

As the Founder of Wassen Dental Centre, Dr. George has led his team to establish the clinic as one of Oman’s leading and most trusted dental brands, recognized for its excellence in clinical care, innovation, and patient experience.

An early adopter of clear aligner therapy in the Middle East, Dr. George has successfully treated over 12,000 orthodontic cases, including more than 1,600 with Invisalign. He holds the record for the highest number of teen aligner cases in the EMEA region and is recognised as the only Invisalign Expert in the Middle East, achieving Diamond APEX Provider status.

His clinical excellence has earned international recognition, including the EBAO Excellence Award from the European Board of Aligner Orthodontics (2024) and the Best Orthodontic Case in the Middle East and Africa (2024). He has also received multiple national and regional awards for outstanding orthodontic work across Oman and the MENA region.

A member of the European Aligner Society and a sought-after international speaker, Dr. George lectures widely on clear aligner therapy, sharing his insights and experience with clinicians around the world.

Beyond dentistry, Dr. George is an avid marathon runner and a passionate wildlife photographer, drawing inspiration from discipline, focus, and the beauty of nature - principles that continue to shape his professional journey.

ROUND-UP

New World Autos partners with iCaur to introduce new era of smart & stylish mobility in Oman

Set to make a debut in Oman soon are two of iCaur's most anticipated models – the V27 and 03T

MUSCAT: New World Autos has entered into an exclusive distribution agreement with iCaur, Chery Group's next-generation automotive brand, marking iCaur's official debut in Oman.

The signing ceremony, held at Chery Group's global headquarters in Wuhu, China, was attended by the senior management team of both companies, including Si Fenghuo, Global CEO of iCaur; Zhang Xiaolong, General Manager of Chery International MENA Region and



Abdullah Bin Mohammed Saud Bahwan, CEO, Saud Bahwan Group.

This landmark partnership brings together two organisations that share a unified vision, to redefine the driving experience for a new generation of automotive enthusiasts who value intelligent design, expressive performance and distinctive personality.

Set to make a debut in Oman soon are two of iCaur's most an-

anticipated models – the V27 and 03T. Each is a showcase of iCaur's design philosophy, blending advanced engineering, and a deep understanding of modern drivers.

The iCaur 03T, an off-road SUV crafted for explorers, combines a 429-horsepower engine with i-AWD intelligent four-wheel drive, achieving 0-100 km/h in just 4.8 seconds. Designed to conquer Oman's diverse terrains, it features

8+X all-terrain driving modes and Land Rover-grade adaptive suspension, delivering a perfect balance between power and precision.

The V27 REEV, iCaur's first mid-to-large SUV, merges retro-inspired elegance with cutting-edge technology. Powered by the brand's acclaimed golden REEV hybrid powertrain, it offers extended range confidence without compromising performance. With bold proportions, refined detailing and commanding presence, the V27 embodies modern sophistication for those who lead with distinction.

The collaboration that is built upon Chery Group's world-class R&D and New World Auto's impressive legacy of automotive leadership, aims to introduce a new standard of customer experience in Oman's automotive landscape.

Supporting this commitment, iCaur's regional spare parts hub, a 12,000-square-meter facility serving the Middle East enables rapid 24-hour delivery of critical parts to Oman. This massive infrastruc-

ture underlines iCaur's promise of reliability, convenience and peace of mind.

Additionally, New World Auto's nationwide service network, comprehensive parts warehouses and skilled technical teams will ensure that iCaur customers always enjoy an ownership experience defined by efficiency, transparency and trust.

Speaking at the occasion, Abdullah Saud Bahwan said, "At New World Autos, we have always believed in partnerships that represent progress, innovation and excellence. Our collaboration with iCaur brings a refreshing new chapter of mobility which speaks to the young, the ambitious and the forward-thinking. With iCaur's dynamic design and technology, combined with our proven infrastructure and service heritage, we are ready to offer an automotive experience that inspires Oman's new generation of achievers."

Sharing his thoughts, Si Fenghuo added, "Partnering with New World Autos marks a significant

milestone in iCaur's global expansion. Oman is a vibrant market full of dreamers and explorers and a reflection of the spirit our brand embodies. Together with New World Autos' trusted expertise and far-reaching network, we aim to redefine intelligent, connected and stylish mobility in Oman."

Set to launch in early 2026, iCaur's arrival in Oman will introduce a fresh, emotionally engaging automotive identity that transcends mobility to become an expression of lifestyle, technology and aspiration. Created for the young and the young-at-heart, iCaur combines smart connectivity, immersive design and performance innovation to deliver not just transportation, but a sense of belonging to a global movement.

Through this collaboration, New World Autos and iCaur are poised to ignite a new era of intelligent mobility in Oman thereby celebrating ambition, individuality and the enduring drive to move forward.

RELIABILITY AND SAFETY



Ford Genuine Parts: Ford's best companion

MUSCAT: Safety for your family on every journey should never be about short cuts or compromises. That is why every Ford vehicle is built with precision engineering and tested to deliver confidence on every journey. To ensure that this quality continues throughout the ownership period, experts at Arabian Car Marketing Company, the distributors for Ford vehicles in Oman, strongly recommend the use of Ford Motorcraft Genuine Parts, the only parts designed, tested and approved by Ford Motor Company.

Speaking about the importance of using genuine components, a senior official from Arabian Car Marketing Company said "Our customers trust Ford for its reli-

ability and safety. Ford Genuine Parts are created to the same exacting standards as the vehicles themselves, ensuring a perfect fit, long-term performance and above all, safety for all travellers in a Ford vehicle. Choosing genuine parts means choosing peace of mind, a truly stress-free driving experience."

Ford Genuine Parts are specifically engineered to integrate seamlessly with Ford vehicles, making them the perfect companion for every model. Unlike non-genuine alternatives that may offer short-term savings but compromise on performance and safety, Ford Genuine Parts are built to last, reducing wear and tear and maintaining vehicle efficiency for years.

Each Ford Genuine Part undergoes rigorous testing under real-world conditions to meet Ford's global safety and quality benchmarks. This ensures that every component performs flawlessly, whether it is the brake pads, filters, or body panels, giving Ford owners continued confidence and worry-free journeys.

In addition to safety and reliability, customers using Ford Genuine Parts benefit from greater value in the long run, thanks to better durability and optimised performance. It is a smart choice that safeguards both the driver and the vehicle.

Ford Genuine Parts are brought to you by Arabian Car Marketing Co.

PARTNER

Alizz Islamic Bank participates in 2nd Haj & Umrah Conference

MUSCAT: Alizz Islamic Bank, recently participated in the second Hajj & Umrah Conference and Exhibition, which was held under the patronage of Eng. Said Hamoud Al Maauali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology in the presence of Dr. Mohammed Said Al Ma'mari, Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs.

The Bank's participation as a partner in the conference comes in line with its vision to uphold Islamic values & strengthen collaboration with stakeholders from both the public and private sector. During the exhibition, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Alizz Islamic Bank and the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs to provide banking solutions for pilgrims for the year 1447 AH.

As part of Alizz Islamic Bank's broader strategic vision, it aims to strengthen the Islamic banking sector in Oman. The bank strategy extends beyond just banking. It's about creating sustainable synergy across various sectors in Oman, including partnerships with public and private entities enabling the bank to play a key role in building the Islamic finance ecosystem further in the Sultanate of Oman.



The second edition of the Hajj and Umrah Exhibition served as an effective platform uniting service providers from across the Hajj and Umrah sectors within the Sultanate of Oman and abroad. It highlighted the diversity of services available to pilgrims through workshops and awareness sessions, fostering collaboration among stakeholders and enriching the knowledge base across historical, cultural and religious dimensions.

Issa Al Riyami, Head of Shari'a Compliance & Audit at Alizz Islamic Bank, said: "Alizz Islamic Bank is honoured to be a partner in the 2nd Hajj & Umrah Forum further strengthens our success-

ful partnership with the Ministry of Endowment & Religious Affairs and reaffirming our commitment to achieving social responsibility and supporting sustainable development through Shari'a compliant financial practices. We embrace the value of holding such forums that enrich knowledge and best practices."

Alizz Islamic Bank has embarked on many projects that have a positive impact on society with the goal being to strive to provide a better life for the people beyond their banking needs. Accompanied by a belief that investing in sustainable initiatives is the decisive element in creating a brighter future for the country and its people.

EMPOWERING SMES

Sohar International's enhanced corporate mobile app becomes full-fledged financial command centre

MUSCAT: Reaffirming its commitment to advancing innovation and operational excellence across Oman's financial ecosystem, Sohar International has launched an enhanced version of its Corporate Mobile App, designed to meet the evolving needs of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and corporates seeking greater efficiency and control over their financial operations. The upgraded app introduces a suite of powerful new features – including transaction initiation and authorization, salary payments, and bill management – all accessible within a single, secure, and mobile-first platform.

With this launch, Sohar International becomes the first bank in Oman to enable salary payments through a corporate mobile app, empowering businesses to streamline payroll, enhance cash flow management, and execute key banking activities anytime, anywhere. This milestone, introduced under the bank's "Always a Step Ahead" digital capability campaign, underscores Sohar International's ongoing support for



the SME sector – a cornerstone of Oman's economic diversification – while aligning with the national digital transformation agenda and the broader aspirations of Oman Vision 2040.

Commenting on the launch, Abdulwahid Mohamed Al Mur-

shidi, Chief Executive Officer, said: "Empowering corporates and SMEs remains pivotal to accelerating national growth and achieving the ambitions of Oman Vision 2040. At Sohar International, we view digital innovation not merely as an enabler of efficiency, but as a catalyst for economic diversification and sustainable progress. The enhanced Corporate Mobile App reflects our continued commitment to strengthening the business ecosystem, fostering financial inclusion, and supporting enterprises to lead with confidence in a rapidly evolving digital economy."

Evolving from an approvals-only platform into a comprehensive financial command centre, the enhanced app provides business owners with real-time visibility, secure authorization, and greater autonomy over their daily operations. Designed for executives and decision-makers managing diverse operations, the enhanced Corporate Mobile App provides greater autonomy and control over key financial processes. Clients

can now initiate domestic and international transfers, process salary payments, and manage utilities such as electricity, water, and telecom bills directly from one integrated platform.

With instant authorization capabilities and multi-layered security frameworks, the solution ensures financial workflows progress efficiently while maintaining the highest standards of accuracy, accountability, and governance. By digitizing routine processes and reducing reliance on paper-based transactions, the app helps organizations – particularly SMEs to achieve higher levels of efficiency, agility, and operational resilience.

As part of its broader digital transformation strategy, Sohar International continues to leverage technology to redefine corporate banking. Initiatives such as this underscore the bank's dedication to delivering intelligent, customer-centric solutions that enhance business performance, reinforce trust, and contribute to Oman's sustainable economic progress in line with Oman Vision 2040.

REMARKABLE

Indian School Bousher students excel in IIT Madras certification courses



ROOFEYA - 12A VEERA ISHAAN 10 A BHADRA BIJU - 11 A

MUSCAT: Indian School Bousher announced the remarkable achievements of its students who have successfully completed the Certification Courses offered by the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM) under the School Connect Program.

The school partnered with IIT Madras in June, marking the beginning of a new academic collaboration aimed at fostering innovation and bridging the gap between school education and higher education. This year's participants enrolled for August 2025 represent the first batch of students from Indian School Bousher to enrol in the prestigious program.

The School Connect Program is a flagship outreach initiative of the Centre for Outreach and

Digital Education (CODE) at IIT Madras. It is designed to introduce school students to higher-order thinking, research-based learning, and 21st-century skills through interactive digital modules and expert-led instruction.

A total of 56 students from Indian School Bousher have successfully completed their certification courses and will be receiving their certificates from IIT Madras. Notably, three students, Bhadra Biju (Introduction to Architecture and Design), T. Veera Ishaan (Introduction to Engineering Biological Systems) and Roofeya Manaal (Introduction to Engineering Biological Systems) achieved a perfect score, showcasing their exceptional commitment, diligence, and academic excellence.

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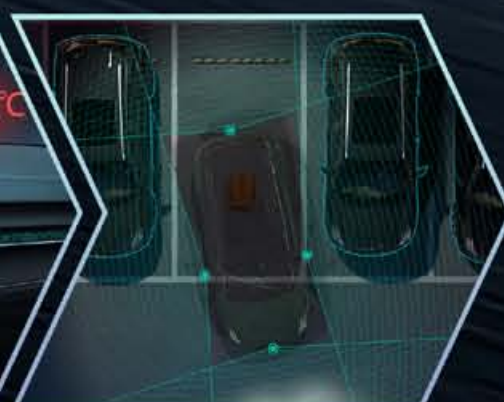
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