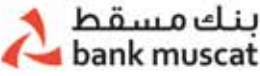




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COMMITTEE

## First day of Eid Al Adha in Oman on May 27



Times News Service

**MUSCAT:** The crescent moon of Dhul Al Hijjah, 1447 AH has been sighted making Monday, May 18th, the first day of Dhul Al Hijjah while the first day of Eid Al Adha will fall on Wednesday, May 27, the Main Committee for Determining the Crescent Moons of the Islamic Months, announced on Sunday.

The Committee issued a statement reading as follows: "The Main Committee for Determining the Crescent Moons of the Islamic Months convened on Sunday, Dhul-Qa'dah 29, 1447 AH, corresponding to May 17, 2026, under the chairmanship of Dr Mohammed bin Said al Maamari, Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs in the presence of the committee's members.

The committee received reports confirming the sighting

of the crescent moon of Dhul Al Hijjah, 1447 AH.

Following a review of the reports received, the committee decided that the crescent moon of Dhul Al Hijjah, 1447 AH has been sighted. Accordingly, Monday, May 18, 2026, will be the first day of Dhul Al Hijjah 1447 AH, and the first day of Eid Al Adha will be Wednesday, May 27, 2026 corresponding to the 10th of Dhul Al Hijjah, 1447 AH.

On this blessed occasion, the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs would like to extend its sincerest congratulations and best wishes to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, praying to Allah Almighty to grant His Majesty continued health, well-being and blessings, and to grant the Sultanate of Oman everlasting prosperity and glory, and all Muslims peace and security, and blessings."

# OMAN TREE-PLANTING DRIVE CROSSES 59 MILLION SEEDS

EA relies on scientific and environmental indicators to measure the health and stability of the ecosystem

**MUSCAT:** The Sultanate of Oman is witnessing a gradual improvement in vegetation cover density and an expansion of green areas, alongside the stabilisation and sustainability of natural habitats, the return of some wild species to affected areas, higher survival and sustainability rates of planted trees, improved air quality indicators, reduced desertification and soil erosion, increased efficiency of coastal ecosystems – particularly in mangrove sites – and enhanced biodiversity indicators across natural environments.

More than 59 million seeds of wild trees have been sown, over 856,000 wild trees planted, more than 652,000 trees distributed, and over 11.3 million mangrove trees cultivated. Sustainability rates have reached 76 percent for mangroves, 60 percent for culti-



ivated wild trees and 86 percent for distributed trees.

The Environment Authority (EA) relies on scientific and environmental indicators to measure the health and stability of the ecosystem, said Dr. Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maamari, Director of the Cultivation and Nurseries Department. Vegetation cover is improving in several locations as a result of cultivation and environmental rehabilitation programmes, though some areas still face challenges such as overgrazing, urban expansion, water scarcity and climate change.

The Environment Authority is strengthening long-term sustainability and protection programmes, using remote sensing, satellite imagery, field surveys and geographic information systems to monitor vegetation cover, track environmental changes and measure success and sustainability rates across afforestation sites, Al Maamari said.

Relevant departments continuously review and update national plans to combat desertification in line with environmental and climate developments and Oman's international obligations, particu-

larly the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, he said.

Al Maamari pointed out that the National Plan to Combat Desertification (2018-2030) focuses on protecting natural vegetation cover, restoring degraded areas, expanding afforestation and native tree planting, improving sustainable management of pastures and natural resources, raising water-use efficiency, strengthening environmental monitoring with modern technologies, engaging the community and private sector and supporting nature-based solutions to climate change. **>A6**

Golden leap sends Oman to 22-medal mark at GCC Games

B5



OMAN AT FOURTH GCC GAMES IN DOHA (MEDALS TALLY AS OF SATURDAY)

|        |    |
|--------|----|
| GOLD   | 8  |
| SILVER | 4  |
| BRONZE | 10 |
| TOTAL  | 22 |

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

## OMAN SQUH conducts rare ear surgery in Oman

**1** A surgery team from Sultan Qaboos University Hospital recently performed Oman's first surgical operation using internal lymphatic duct closure technique to treat a disease (Ménière's disease) in the ear of a patient. The step reflects the development of national capabilities in providing specialised healthcare in Oman. **>A2**

## OMAN Over OMR100mn given for road projects

**2** Al Dakhiliyah Governorate, in collaboration with the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology has allocated total investments exceeding OMR100 million. **>A6**

## WORLD Drone strike targets UAE's nuclear plant

**3** A drone strike has targeted the UAE's al-Dhafra region, igniting a fire at an electrical generator within the complex of the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant. The attack triggered an activation of emergency response. **>B4**

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CPI

## Vegetable prices jump 25% as Oman inflation hits 3.2%

Times News Service

**MUSCAT:**The Consumer Price Index (CPI) in the Sultanate of Oman recorded an increase of 3.2 percent in April 2026 compared to the same month of 2025, using 2018 as the base year.

Data issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) indicated that vegetables prices went up by 25 percent, followed by fruits at 11.6 percent, and fish and seafood at 6.1 percent during April 2026 compared to the same month in 2025.

Prices of meat also rose by 3.7 percent, and non-alcoholic beverages by 3.4 percent, while the prices of sugar, jam, honey, and confectionery increased by 3 percent, milk, cheese, and eggs by 2.5 percent, bread and cereals by 1.6 percent, and food products not classified elsewhere by 1.6 percent. Meanwhile, oils and fats recorded a slight increase of 0.9 percent.

The average inflation rate during the period from January to April 2026 rose by 2.6 percent.

The miscellaneous personal goods and services group increased at 9.2 percent, followed by the food and non-alcoholic beverages group with a rise of 6.2 percent, and the transport group at 6 percent.

The restaurants and hotels group ranked fourth with an in-



crease of 4.5 percent, followed by the furnishings, household equipment, and routine household maintenance group at 3 percent, and the education group at 2.2 percent.

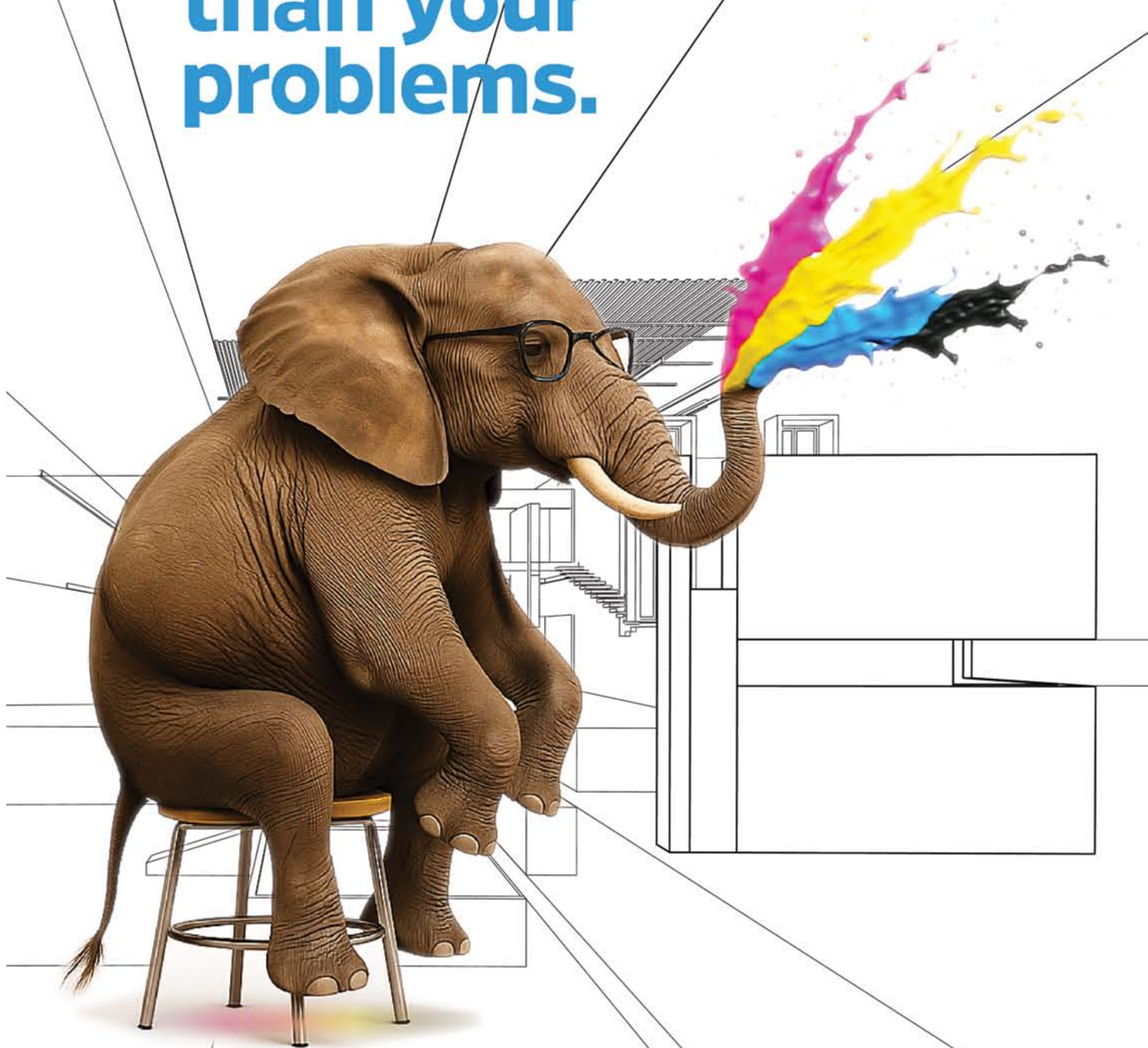
Prices of the health group increased by 1.8 percent, and the recreation and culture group by 0.2 percent, while prices remained stable for the housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels group, the clothing and footwear group, the telecommunications group, and the tobacco group.

The data revealed a variance in inflation rates among the governorates by the end of April 2026 compared to the same period last

year. Al Dhahirah Governorate topped the list with the highest increase at 4.4 percent, followed by the governorates of Al Dakhiliyah and Muscat at 3.7 percent, and then Al Buraimi Governorate at 3.5 percent.

Al Wusta Governorate recorded an increase of 3 percent, and Musandam Governorate by 2.9 percent, while the rate of increase in South Al Batinah Governorate reached 2.6 percent, and both North Al Sharqiyah and South Al Sharqiyah governorates stood at 2.5 percent. Meanwhile, North Al Batinah and Dhofar governorates both registered an increase of 1.9 percent.

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# A Steady Hand behind Lasting Change

**You've worked with UNICEF across multiple countries and contexts. How has your global experience shaped the way you approach programmes and partnerships in Oman, especially given the region's broader social and geopolitical challenges?**

Indeed, Muscat is my sixth duty station with UNICEF and as always, my approach is a "glocal" one. That is to say, that as much as I try to share relevant global experiences with partners in Oman, I am very conscious that there is a lot of rich expertise, culture and history domestically that is our first step in developing programmes and partnerships. Your question hints at the challenges that many countries in the Middle East and North Africa region face in terms of instability, conflict and sadly even war; but equally, there are also many that are moving up in terms of global rankings of income and human development. Oman is well-placed to help both, given Omani values of peace and generosity, but also in terms of all the knowledge that the country can contribute to others as they also seek to further their development.

**Children today are growing up in a digital world very different from the one we grew up in. How do you see technology changing the way they learn, connect, and access opportunities in Oman?**

The digital world offers so many positives and can be a game-changer for children in various ways.

Across the world, we see that digital learning can be a lifeline: reaching children in conflict zones, supporting teachers in remote areas, and opening new pathways for girls, children



with disabilities, and those out of school. By bridging digital divides and leveraging innovations like AI and adaptive learning tools, as UNICEF, we aim to empower teachers, accelerate foundational learning, build critical 21st-century skills, and strengthen entire education systems. Here in Oman – which has impressively high internet penetration rates – we see there are huge opportunities to learn, connect and tap into no matter where a child is in the country, and we know that the Ministry of Education is already working on this. It can, however, be daunting as a parent.

The speed at which technology is progressing and changing can be hard to keep up with. We have a responsibility to equip our children with the knowledge and skills to make the right

## TOP WOMEN LEADERS IN OMAN

choices, especially vis-à-vis national values. Technology after all is a tool like any other, what comes of it depends on how you use it. Around the world, researchers are still exploring whether the increased dependence on technology and the use of smartphones might have a negative impact on learning outcomes for children.

**As a leader who has navigated diverse roles worldwide, what advice would you give**



## Sumaira Chowdhury

**UNICEF Representative to the Sultanate of Oman**

Sumaira brings a rare blend of strategic clarity and deep empathy to her work at UNICEF Oman, where she plays a pivotal role in advancing partnerships that deliver real, measurable outcomes for children and communities. With a strong focus on collaboration across government, private sector, and civil society, she has helped translate global UNICEF priorities into locally relevant action. Her leadership reflects a consistent commitment to impact, sustainability, and building systems that protect and empower the most vulnerable

**to young women in Oman who aspire to take on ambitious, impactful careers?**

My biggest piece of advice is to take anyone else's advice with a pinch of salt! Or to put it a bit more seriously, don't be afraid to make decisions that are the right decision for you (and your family), and once you have made those tough choices, don't second-guess yourself. Other people (friends, family, colleagues) are always going to have opinions about what you should do and as much as you should consider and indeed solicit such perspectives, ultimately you will have to live with whatever it is you do.

From personal experience, I once had an opportunity for a promotion that would have had personal consequences, so I chose not to take it up. Does it

mean that I progressed more slowly in my career than I if I had done? Most likely yes; but do I regret that it meant that I remained with my husband and child? Not at all! And perhaps someone else would have made a different choice, and that's ok too – as long as it's what you want. I've been lucky to have role models and mentors – both women and men – who have tried to balance their personal and professional lives, so using them as a sounding board has been particularly helpful.

**Looking back at your journey with UNICEF, is there a moment or experience that continues to inspire you personally and professionally?**

This is a tough one! I have been so fortunate in my line of work to come across incredibly dedi-

cated and hard-working people in so many different countries (special shout-out to my UNICEF colleagues around the world – and of course my amazing team here!) that it's hard to pick just one.

But let me go back to a very formative experience: I started my career with UNICEF in Kenya, working in one of the poorest and most remote districts of the country, sitting under mango trees with citizens and local officials – men and women, young and old, brainstorming with them on ways to develop their communities to improve the rights of children to education, water, sanitation, health, nutrition, protection – you name it. People want to do good things for kids – and it's our job as UNICEF to help them, how lucky am I?!

### COMPETITION

## 'Iqra' reading contest launched

**MUSCAT:** As part of its ongoing efforts to encourage reading and develop the skills of gaining knowledge among rising generations, the Sultan Qaboos Higher Centre for Culture and Science on Sunday launched the 15th edition of "Iqra" Reading Contest (2026) for young people.

The organising committee said that subscription to the competition begins today and continues until 1 October 2026—the deadline for submitting summaries and receiving entries.

The competition aims to develop the skills of students in read-



ing, summarising and analysing contexts. The contest contributes to grooming a well-informed gen-

eration that is capable of keeping pace with the developments of time and events. -ONA

# SQUH conducts specialised ear operation

The step reflects the development of national capabilities in providing specialised healthcare in Oman



pital, University Medical City. It underlined integrated specialised expertise in providing advanced treatment options for cases that do not respond to traditional treatments.

This contributes to improving the quality of life of patients and spares them the need to travel abroad for treatment.

Ménière's disease is a chronic inner ear disorder that causes spontaneous and severe vertigo, fluctuating hearing loss, tinnitus and ear pressure. If left unattended, this disease may lead to partial or complete loss of hearing.

The success of the operation

embodies an institutional approach to upgrade health services and enhance the integration of healthcare, diagnosis and therapeutic intervention.

It also lends support to the educational and research environment that contributes to the localization of modern medical knowledge.

The achievement highlights the University Medical City's efforts to develop an integrated healthcare model that combines clinical excellence, national capacity building and innovation towards the realisation of a sustainable impact on community health. -ONA

### DISCUSSION

## National panel for family affairs holds meeting

**MUSCAT:** The National Committee for Family Affairs held its first meeting for 2026 under the chairmanship of Dr. Laila bint Ahmed Al Najjar, Minister of Social Development and Chairperson of the Committee.

The meeting discussed a number of topics related to family affairs, including divorce and the proposed mechanisms to mitigate its resulting impacts, the withholding of alimony, and



finding pathways that achieve the best interests of children in particular and the family in gen-

eral. Additionally, the meeting reviewed some laws relevant to family affairs. -ONA

G318

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COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY

# Dhofar showcases future plans, confirms readiness for Khareef

**SALALAH:** The Governorate of Dhofar on Sunday organised a media briefing at Sultan Qaboos Youth Compound for Culture and Entertainment in Salalah under the theme “Dhofar Flourishes with You.”

The event was held in the presence of HH Sayyid Marwan bin Turki Al Said, Governor of Dhofar, and with broad participation comprising over 150 officials from government entities and media representatives.

The event featured an interactive experience across five main stations, showcasing the outcomes of the first year of implementation of the governorate’s comprehensive strategy.

This was achieved through highlighting performance indicators and achievements realised across the six development pillars, alongside presenting plans and projects related to enhancing the governorate’s competitive advantages and supporting sustainable development pathways.

In the Human Resources Development Pillar, the governorate presented its efforts to empower national competencies and align training outputs with the labour market needs in the governorate, particularly in the fields of renewable energy, artificial intelligence and logistics services.

This was in addition to achieving three awards in the Digital Excellence Award 2025 and the ranking of Dhofar University among the top 50 Arab universities and top 250 Asian universities for 2026.

The media briefing revealed the employment of 7,985 citizens in the private sector during 2025, the implementation of training programmes linked to employment, as well as the employment of 101 persons with disabilities.

In the Economic Diversification Pillar, the governorate unveiled a package of strategic investments and projects that have strengthened Dhofar’s position as a promising economic destination. Accumulated investments in Salalah Free Zone reached OMR5.1 billion, while OQ Basic Industries recorded a net profit of OMR477.7 million, representing a growth rate of 18 percent.

The event also highlighted investments in the medical sector



exceeding OMR55 million, the inauguration of Salalah Data Center (Ooredoo) to support digital transformation and the business environment, as well as food security projects including the offering of 67 investment opportunities, an investment project to cultivate one million olive trees with a total value exceeding OMR15 million, in addition to the largest meat and poultry investment valued at OMR57.7 million.

Furthermore, the implementation of a project to establish a cheese production facility using camel milk in the Wilayat of Rakhut was presented, along with the commencement of construction work on the integrated agricultural product collection and marketing center in Al Najd, with an annual capacity of 50,000 tonnes.

In the tourism sector, the event reviewed the laying of the foundation stone for an integrated tourism complex valued at OMR80 million, the opening of the Sea of Oman Resort in the Wilayat of Mirbat, in addition to the signing of contracts for the development of the nature reserves (Jabal Samhan, Khor Al Maghsil, and Wadi Dawkah), thereby enhancing the balance between economic development and the preservation of natural resources.

The media briefing touched on the completion of 25 strategic projects and initiatives, including the inauguration of the “Sustainable Business Environment” activities, the launch of the Golden Residency Programme for investors, alongside the automation of services through “Oman Business” platform.

Meanwhile, the governorate enhanced its industrial readiness by signing a natural gas supply agree-

ment for Salalah Free Zone and hosting the “Middle East Transport Conference and Exhibition 2025,” which focused on the digitalization of supply chains and smart ports.

The Social and Cultural Development Pillar addressed the most prominent health, social, and cultural initiatives, including the success of Salalah Cardiac Surgery Center in performing precise valve replacement procedures without surgical intervention, the registration of Omani frankincense as a global geographical indication with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), alongside the implementation of 30 social projects and initiatives, and the signing of 24 agreements to develop services for persons with disabilities and enhance voluntary and developmental initiatives.

In the Environmental Sustainability Pillar, the governorate presented its efforts in environmental protection and biodiversity conservation, having achieved first place in the Arab world in the “Environmental Health and Safety” category within the Arab Cities Organization Awards.

This was alongside the implementation of 12 projects and initiatives, including the dispersal of 10 million seed balls and 3 billion grass seeds to restore vegetation cover, the establishment of a marine buffer zone reserve around the Al Halaniyat Islands, and the opening of the first mobile veterinary clinic to protect the Arabian leopard.

Meanwhile, Dhofar Municipality reviewed the achievements of its 2040 strategic plan, which focuses on delivering more efficient municipal services through four core pillars, namely governance,

innovation and sustainability, community partnerships, and infrastructure development.

The plan has seen the implementation of 39 development projects up to 2025, including the development of 21 roads, four water security projects, and 16 investment projects, in addition to the expansion of the green belt to exceed 2.2 million square meters, encompassing 12 parks and 55 natural recreational areas.

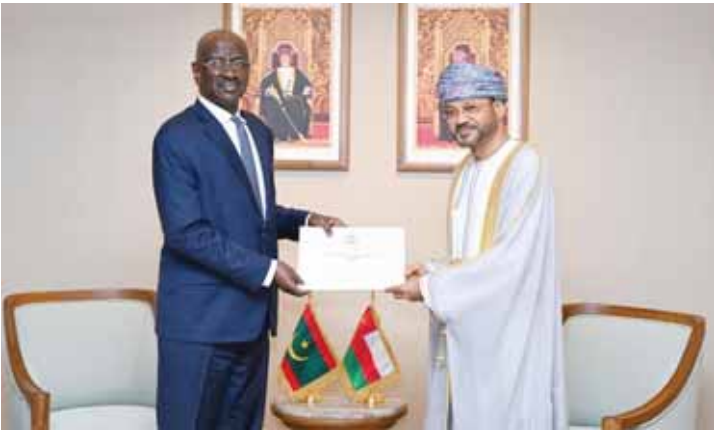
The Municipality confirmed its readiness for Khareef Dhofar (monsoon) season 2026 through the implementation of integrated operational and service plans, and the organisation of more than 125 diverse events and programmes, including “Ateen Square” in its new design, the “Return of the Past” event, and the “Souq Area” project, thereby contributing to enhancing the tourism experience and raising the governorate’s readiness to receive approximately one million visitors during the season.

The Governor of Dhofar and the attendees viewed an informational exhibition presenting the achievements realised across the six pillars of the Dhofar Governorate Comprehensive Strategy.

The event is part of the governorate’s approach based on enhancing direct communication with the community and showcasing the most prominent achievements realised within the Dhofar Governorate Comprehensive Strategy and its operational plans, alongside highlighting future projects and developmental directions aimed at achieving the targets of Oman Vision 2040, while confirming the governorate’s readiness and early preparations to receive Khareef Dhofar season 2026. -ONA

BILATERAL RELATIONS

# His Majesty receives message



**MUSCAT:** His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has received a written message from President Mohamed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, concerning bilateral relations between the two countries.

The message was received by Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Bussaidi, Foreign Minister when he received the Envoy of the President of Mauritania Mohamed Salem Ould Merzoug, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Mauritians Abroad in Muscat on Sunday.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the relations of cooperation and partnership between the two countries, affirming their mutual commitment to developing and strengthening these relations across various fields, particularly in the econom-

ic and investment domains, in a manner that serves mutual interests and meets the aspirations of the two peoples.

They also exchanged views on regional and international developments, underscoring the importance of supporting efforts aimed at containing tensions and advancing political solutions, thereby contributing to the consolidation of the foundations of security and peace, in line with the principles of international law and the United Nations Charter.

The meeting was attended by Sheikh Faisal Omar Al Marhoon, Head of the Arab Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, Mohamed Vall Ahmed Bah, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to the Sultanate of Oman and a number of officials from both sides. -ONA

NATIONAL DEFENCE COLLEGE

# Parallel Programme commences in NDC

**MUSCAT:** A Parallel Programme, titled “National Security Pillars,” commenced yesterday at the National Defence College (NDC) of the Academy for Strategic and Defence Studies.

The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Rear Admiral Ali Abdullah Al Shidi, Commandant of the NDC, and will run until 21 May, the Commandant of the National Defence College delivered a speech.

A briefing was presented outlining the general objectives of the programme which include a comprehensive understanding of the dimensions of national security and enhancing the state’s readiness; consolidating political and societal security as essential pillars of national security and recognising economic and media security as fundamental pillars of national security.

— ONA

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# ‘KEEPING SEEB AT THE TOP IS THE REAL CHALLENGE’: HH SAYYID SHIHAB

From three straight domestic top-flight football league titles and an earlier AFC Cup crown to a 150-player academy pipeline and dominance across multiple sports, Seeb Club Chairman HH Sayyid Shihab says the club’s rise results from years of patience, planning and belief—and insists the 2022 continental triumph was “not the ceiling, but the beginning.”

Times News Service

**MUSCAT:** Three straight domestic top-flight football league titles. Continental glory. A thriving academy. Dominance across multiple sports. But for Seeb Club, the mission is far from complete.

Days after Seeb were crowned Oman Professional League champions, club chairman His Highness Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said said Seeb’s modern success story results from a long-term sporting project rooted in patience, belief and relentless work — not short-term ambition.

Speaking with pride and conviction, the chairman stressed that the club has always viewed sport as a national responsibility before it became a race for trophies.

“At Seeb, we believe sport is a national message before it is a competition for titles or podiums,” HH Sayyid Shihab told *Times of Oman*. “Our goal has always been to make Seeb a bright gateway for Omani sport in the Gulf, Arab and Asian arenas, and to raise the flag of Oman with pride in every competition.”

Yet amid the celebrations, he warned that remaining at the top is the hardest challenge of all.

“What we have achieved over the past years makes us proud, but it also doubles our responsibility,” he said. “Maintaining success is far more difficult than reaching it. It requires greater administrative, financial, technical and fan support, as well as continuous hard work and dedication.”

**“We waited a long time”**

The chairman reflected on the historic achievements of Seeb’s men’s football team since 2019 — a period that has transformed the club into the dominant force in Omani football.

During that span, Seeb captured their fifth league title overall and third in succession,



while also winning the coveted His Majesty’s Cup, Super Cup and Federation Cup.

“These successes did not come from nowhere,” he said.

“They are the result of many years of work and a very long period of patience. From the beginning, we believed true success could not be built on reactions or temporary solutions, but through a complete system that begins at the grassroots and ends with championships.”

**The Academy revolution**

For HH Sayyid Shihab, the real foundation of the club’s future foundation lies in its academy structure—a system he described as one of the most important pillars of Seeb’s sporting success.

The club’s football academy now includes more than 150 players receiving technical training and development, with a focus not only on talent but on building character and leadership.

“We aim to create a generation that possesses the mentality of success, victory and championships,” he said. “They have already proven themselves by winning titles.”

The chairman said the club’s vision extends beyond producing footballers.

“We are not just making players

— we are building sporting leaders who believe in discipline, belonging and teamwork,” he added.

“That is why we are confident about the future of the club, because the foundation is now strong and capable of supplying every team with talent.”

He described youth development as the “true investment” for any sporting institution.

“Seeb chose the harder path,” he said. “But from our perspective, it is the most successful path — long-term building and sustainability.”

**‘AFC crown only the start’**

The club’s landmark 2022 AFC Cup triumph remains one of the defining moments in Omani club football history, but HH Sayyid Shihab insisted it was never viewed internally as the final destination.

“The Asian title was not the ceiling of our ambition,” he said. “It was the beginning of the road.”

The chairman said Omani clubs are capable of competing at the continental level when given the right environment, organised management, financial backing and government support.

Now, with Seeb preparing for a greater challenge through direct qualification to Asian (Asian Champions League Two) competition, he called for unity behind the club’s next phase.



“What lies ahead is a much bigger mission,” he said.

“This direct place in Asian competition is an advanced step for Oman football, but it is also a massive challenge that requires everyone to stand behind Seeb.”

He urged administrators, sponsors, fans, technical staff and the media to unite in support of the club’s continental ambitions.

“The next stage requires collective effort — administratively, financially, technically, from supporters and from the media — so we can present an honourable image of Omani sport and achieve the great ambition of reaching the podium again.”



**Beyond football**

The chairman also highlighted Seeb’s growing dominance in other sports, insisting the club has evolved into a complete sporting institution.

The volleyball team, he noted, has become one of the country’s great success stories, winning four consecutive league titles and eight straight Ministry Shield trophies while also delivering strong performances abroad.

The basketball team also added silverware this season by winning the Ministry Shield.

“These achievements prove, thank God, that Seeb are not only a football club,” he said. “It is a sporting institution, and by the grace of God and the loyalty of its people, it will continue to be so.”

Still, he acknowledged that success brings rising expectations.

“The biggest challenge is maintaining continuity in winning championships, especially with the increasing ambitions and expectations of the supporters.”

**Tribute to the “golden fans”**

HH Sayyid Shihab reserved special praise for the club’s board members, technical and administrative staff, players across all sports, committee members and workers behind the scenes.

“They are the unseen soldiers,”

he said. “They work day and night with sincerity because they believe in the club and its mission.”

But his most emotional tribute was directed toward Seeb’s loyal supporters — the “Golden Fans” whose presence has become central to the club’s identity.

“Seeb fans are true partners in every success we have achieved,” he said. “They are not merely supporters. They are the soul and heartbeat of the club.”

He praised their unwavering loyalty, saying they have consistently stood beside the club through victories, competitions and sacrifices.

“When we see the stands erupting with passion and belonging, we realise the size of the responsibility we carry,” he said. “This fan base always deserves happiness, and we must give them what matches their loyalty and love for the club.”

The chairman concluded with a message of gratitude and hope, expressing his wish that the club continues to meet the expectations of both Seeb supporters and Oman’s leadership under His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik.

And if his words carried one unmistakable message, it was this: “For Seeb, winning trophies is no longer enough. The club is now building for permanence — in Oman, and in Asia.”

COMMENTARY

Graduates need jobs not lectures



SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

Getting jobs is not easy anymore with so many graduates leaving universities looking for work. Many of young people are now looking for wisdom and not random words otherwise they lose themselves in the jungle of confusion when they cannot get jobs. One of them failed three job interviews and he was due to attend the fourth one next week. The last thing he needed from me was another lecture. The kind of lecture he heard so many times during the time he was an undergraduate student in the university. So I thought I should use some practical examples instead of typical academic jargon he is used to.

When I thought I was ready for him, I said a few words then stopped. There was something in his face that told him I was about to assume a parental role, worse than the academic one. This is the problem when we deal with youngsters these days. We are just too authoritative at a point that their minds shut off. By the time they graduate, they have been through more than two decades of instructions. They don't need to go two more decades of the same thing each time they turn up for advice from an elder. So, I started to navigate my words carefully and away from the conflict zone. I told him that they are not looking for clever words during his interview presentation. He must use "regular" words. He started to show interest because his face suddenly face lit up. He raised his hand and asked "why?". I told him that he would not be interviewed by robots but human beings. He needs to make a "human connection." He needed to speak sincerely and every word that would come out from his mouth should make an impression in their minds. I also explained that the level of intelligence the job interviewers look for was the "everyday" language that comes from his heart. Moreover, they are looking on how he

could relate to the real world because if he landed the job, he would need to deal with the real world of employment. It took me only a few minutes to do that. He wanted to hear more but I told him that was all he needed to hear from me. The rest was up to him as long as he put both hands on his heart while he was presenting. When he raised his eyebrows, I added quickly and with a smile, "not literally, of course." For the first time since he was with me that afternoon, he smiled. He left a happier person than when he entered the room. Three weeks later, he sent me a casual message saying he got the job. I am not sure exactly how he responded to the presentation but for me it was not just a "job done" but an important lesson learned. I learned that youngsters must be treated as equal when they reach a certain stage, especially when they are armed with a degree. They just need a mentor to guide them on the right path. Not another lecture. In that, without them knowing at the time, they will take that experience with them years later to become mentors themselves to another youngster. It is a way of paying back a compliment. It will also be our way of passing the legacy forward without really being obtrusive to them.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR

Ministry announces 757 jobs

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Labour announced yesterday the availability of 757 vacant positions across a number of government units. The positions are distributed across various educational qualifications, ranging from bachelor's

degree holders to those with qualifications below the General Education Diploma. These include 646 vacancies for applicants holding a bachelor's degree or a post-General Education Diploma, and 111 vacancies for those holding a Gen-

eral Education Diploma or lower qualifications. The Ministry further announced that registration for competition for the advertised opportunities will open today and continue until 31 May.

-ONA

ROYAL OMAN POLICE

ROP announces commemorative plates for visitors to Khareef Dhofar

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Royal Oman Police (ROP), has announced the issuance of commemorative plates in white for visitors to the Khareef Dhofar Season 2026. These commemorative plaques are not mandatory for

everyone, only for those who wish to stand out. The Royal Oman Police has clarified the procedure for issuing commemorative vehicle licence plates for the Khareef Dhofar Season 2026. Applications can be submitted through Service Centers, Royal Oman Police website, Royal

Oman Police mobile application. The special plate is valid from June 1st to December 31st, covering the Khareef Dhofar season. The commemorative plates will be issued with the same vehicle registration number and will be subject to vehicle registration and insurance regulations.



INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

As a part of the Industrial Opportunities Localization initiative, Nama Dhofar Services "NDS" Announce for Invitation for Prequalification for the following subject:

| The Number      | The Name                                                                      | Time & Last Date for Proposal Submission |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| DISC/M/2026/002 | localizing the production of Ring Main Unit used in Distribution substations. | 05-08-2026                               |

- Companies, manufacturers, suppliers, and all interested parties can access the prequalification documents and requirements through the following link: <https://isupplier.nama.om>:-
- Qualification documents must be submitted before 03:00 PM on the final submission date.
- The Vendor must review the requirements and attach the necessary documents
- Any inquiries regarding qualification details may be submitted through the website mentioned above
- Nama Dhofar Services is not obligated to accept any specific supplier for participation in the limited tender at a later stage.
- For any technical support, please contact: [E-TENDERING.SUPPORT@NSS.NAMA.OM](mailto:E-TENDERING.SUPPORT@NSS.NAMA.OM), from 7:30 AM to 3:00 PM.
- " Nama Dhofar Services invites all companies and institutions to register on the Tawteen platform."



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MUSCAT GOVERNORATE  
MUSCAT MUNICIPALITY

Advertisement No.(13/2026)

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

| Tender Number | Description of Tender                                                                       | Last date to collect | Tender return date |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| (PRE/26/064)  | Structural Investigation Works for a Building at Mubaila                                    | 07/06/2026           | 28/06/2026         |
| (PRE/26/065)  | Landscaping Maintenance & Cleaning Works in Al Seeb (A)                                     | 07/06/2026           | 28/06/2026         |
| (PRE/26/066)  | Landscaping Maintenance & Cleaning Works in Al Seeb (B)                                     | 07/06/2026           | 28/06/2026         |
| (PRE/26/067)  | Landscaping Maintenance & Cleaning Works in Al Seeb (C)                                     | 07/06/2026           | 28/06/2026         |
| (PRE/26/068)  | Landscaping Maintenance & Cleaning Works in Bousher (C )                                    | 07/06/2026           | 28/06/2026         |
| (PRE/26/069)  | Landscaping Maintenance & Cleaning Works in Muscat & Mutrah                                 | 07/06/2026           | 28/06/2026         |
| (PRE/26/070)  | Consultancy Services for Market Study, Best Use Analysis & Feasibility Study for MM's Plots | 07/06/2026           | 28/06/2026         |
| (PRE/26/071)  | Consultancy Services for Identifying the Key Priorities of Muscat Nights Events             | 07/06/2026           | 28/06/2026         |
| (PRE/26/072)  | Design & Build Upgrade of Roundabout at Salam Street - Lot 1                                | 07/06/2026           | 28/06/2026         |
| (PRE/26/073)  | Design & Build Upgrade of Roundabout at Salam Street - Lot 2                                | 07/06/2026           | 28/06/2026         |
| (PRE/26/074)  | Supply & Laying of Asphalts in Muscat Governorate - Unit Rate                               | 07/06/2026           | 28/06/2026         |
| (PRE/26/075)  | Maintenance of Roads in Muscat Governorate - Unit Rate                                      | 07/06/2026           | 28/06/2026         |
| (PRE/26/076)  | Maintenance of Track Roads at Qurriyat                                                      | 25/05/2026           | 02/06/2026         |
| (PRE/26/077)  | Maintenance of Track Roads at Amerat                                                        | 25/05/2026           | 02/06/2026         |
| (PRE/26/078)  | Maintenance of Track Roads at Muscat                                                        | 25/05/2026           | 02/06/2026         |

- Bidders shall submit their offers electronically.
- Clarification and Support:
  - For any inquiries regarding tenders, please visit e-tendering website: (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>) .
  - For technical support of e-tendering system please send an email to ([etenderhd@PTLC.gov.om](mailto:etenderhd@PTLC.gov.om)) or call (+96824402200).

Website: [www.mm.gov.om](http://www.mm.gov.om)

ACHIEVING CARBON NEUTRALITY

National initiative to plant 10mn trees shows important positive results

<FROM A1 These directions are being aligned with the “Plant Oman 2050” project, part of an integrated national vision for environmental sustainability, food security and climate action.

He said that the national initiative to plant 10 million trees has shown important positive indicators since its 2020 launch through the end of 2025.

The initiative has also enhanced the efficiency of coastal ecosystems, boosted blue carbon stocks, expanded community participation, raised environmental awareness and supported Oman’s commitment to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. The outcomes serve as a crucial launchpad for the next phase of the “Plant Oman 2050” project, he said.

Al Maamari added that among the national projects and initiatives implemented by the Environment Authority that have strengthened vegetation cover, improved ecosystem efficiency, raised environmental awareness and community participation, and aimed to reduce desertification and restore ecosystems are the six-year national initiative to plant 10 million trees, mangrove cultivation projects in coastal governorates, native wild tree seed-sowing programmes, green barriers to protect cultivation sites, rehabilitation of environmentally degraded areas, community and student afforestation campaigns, wild tree distribution programmes for individuals and institutions, projects using modern technologies for environmental monitoring and cultivation, and the preparation of the “Plant Oman 2050” project.

He explained that mangrove and wild tree cultivation pro-



grammes have improved the natural environment for many wild species, enhanced habitats for birds and marine life, increased the efficiency of natural ecological chains, and expanded areas capable of supporting native species. Adopting native species suited to Oman’s environment has strengthened prospects for long-term ecological sustainability. The initiative has also supported ecological balance and helped mitigate the effects of climate change and desertification.

On key studies and field surveys assessing tree vegetation cover, Al Maamari added that the authority has carried out a number of studies and field surveys in collaboration with research institutions and universities.

These have focused on assessing natural vegetation cover, studying degraded sites and setting rehabilitation priorities, evaluating success and sustainability rates of cultivated trees, studying natural habitats and biodiversity, assessing mangrove cultivation sites and measuring afforestation’s impact on soil stabilisation and local

environmental improvement.

He affirmed that the results have shown that cultivation and environmental rehabilitation programmes have improved vegetation cover in several governorates, particularly in mangrove areas. The studies confirmed the importance of selecting native species suited to Oman’s environment and using appropriate irrigation techniques to ensure sustainability.

They also demonstrated that nature-based solutions are among the most effective options for combating desertification and climate change in Oman.

The “Plant Oman 2050” project is a strategic national initiative aimed at enhancing environmental sustainability, food security and climate action in the Sultanate of Oman, Al Maamari said.

The initiative will be implemented through integrated phases, including identifying suitable cultivation sites, preparing environmental and technical studies, developing nurseries and propagation centres, engaging the private sector and local communi-

ties, using modern technologies and remote sensing, and setting up monitoring, follow-up and sustainability programmes.

He added that the project covers several key areas: ecosystem and sustainable afforestation, food security and productive tree planting, coastal system sustainability (mangrove forests), enablers and natural resources (land, water, soil), green financing and investment and sustainable governorates and cities.

He affirmed that the project targets planting 100 million mangrove trees, expanding fruit trees to support food security, cultivating native wild trees, developing green belts, Omani forests and national parks, and supporting green cities and nature-based solutions. Over the next five to ten years, it is expected to significantly increase green areas, enhance the carbon sequestration capacity of ecosystems, raise the contribution of natural solutions to combating climate change, provide investment opportunities and green jobs, support food security and environmental sustainability and strengthen Oman’s regional standing in environmental and climate initiatives.

“What has been achieved so far reflects the scale of national efforts and the integration between government institutions, the private sector and society,” said the Director of the Cultivation and Nurseries Department at the Environment Authority.

“We view the ‘Plant Oman’ initiative as a long-term national project aimed at building a more sustainable and higher-quality environment for future generations, in line with Oman Vision 2040 and carbon neutrality by 2050.” -OMA



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NCSI Public opinion poll on AI use begins

MUSCAT: The National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) began on Sunday conducting a public opinion poll on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies by community members in their daily lives.

This initiative comes within the Centre’s efforts to monitor digital transformations and measure societal trends related to modern technologies.

The poll, which will run until 28 May, targets Omanis aged 18 and above to identify the reality of using AI technologies, the level of benefit derived from them, the associated risks, and the level of trust in their outputs.

**Prevalence of AI**  
Mahfoudh Salim Al Musharafi, Director of the Public Opinion Measurement Department at the NCSI, stated that the poll aims to measure the prevalence of AI technologies’ use among community members, as well as the different usage patterns in terms of fields, frequency, and motives.

Additionally, it seeks to moni-

tor the achieved level of benefit and the impact of these technologies on performance, including whether they reduce or increase errors.

Perceived risks

Al Musharafi added that the study focuses on measuring the perceived risks associated with the use of AI, particularly when utilized in topics of special importance, and the extent to which personal data is entered into these tools.

This is alongside measuring the level of trust and reliability in the outputs, and the behaviour of individuals in verifying the information and answers provided by AI applications.

Al Musharafi indicated that the results of the poll will contribute to determining the priorities for regulation and intervention, developing appropriate awareness and training programs, and identifying the most critical skills the community needs for the safe and effective utilisation of AI technologies. -OMA

Over OMR100 million allocated for road projects in Al Dakhiliyah



The projects include internal and development roads being executed at a cost of over OMR17.7 million, alongside strategic road projects constructed by the ministry at a cost exceeding OMR 82 million



Al Saadi, Wali of Nizwa and Acting Governor of A’Dakhiliyah, affirmed that road projects are key enablers of comprehensive development in the governorate, playing a pivotal role in improving connectivity between wilayats, population centres, economic and tourist sites, supporting commercial and investment activity and enhancing quality of life.

In a statement to Oman News Agency (ONA), he said that A’Dakhiliyah Governorate is coordinating with relevant authorities to implement high-quality projects that respond to current and future development needs, contributing to a more efficient road network, better road safety levels and greater readiness to absorb urban and investment growth, in line with Oman Vision 2040.

In Nizwa, the governorate is continuing to implement internal road projects totalling 26 kilometres at a cost of over OMR 2.2 million, with completion reaching about 76 percent by the end of April 2026, supporting urban expansion and improving links between residential and service areas.

A project to create an additional exit and add parking spaces at the Nizwa Central Market is also underway, with 33 percent completion, helping to improve traffic flow and ease congestion in the wilayat’s commercial and vital district.

On the strategic side, the ministry is implementing the Izki-Farq dual carriageway project, 30.4 kilometres long, at an estimated cost exceeding OMR 46 million. The project starts from South Qaroot,

passes through Birkat Al Mouz, and reaches the Farq area in Nizwa. It includes 3.4 kilometres of service roads, a 1.1-kilometre link to Sinaw, four bridges, 86 culverts, 12 roundabouts, traffic signals, and 723 lighting poles. Completion has reached about 27 percent. The project is one of the most vital road projects in the governorate, improving road efficiency, enhancing road safety and supporting commercial, tourist and economic activity between the wilayats.

The Nizwa-Bahla dual carriageway project (Daris-Jabrin) is also among the strategic projects linked to tourist and economic activity. Currently in the analysis phase, it includes two traffic signals, ten roundabouts, several pedestrian tunnels, and a bridge after the Bahla Souq area, improving road safety and traffic efficiency on one of the governorate’s vital axes.

In Bahla, the governorate is implementing internal road projects totalling 18 kilometres at a cost exceeding OMR 1 million, including the design and construction of internal roads in the Al Qabidhiya area, supporting urban expansion and improving connectivity between residential and service areas. The Nizwa-Bahla dual carriageway project is one of the vital projects supporting tourism in the wilayat, particularly as it connects to several heritage and tourist sites, including Bahla Fort and Jabrin Castle, enhancing tourism sector readiness and improving access to historical landmarks.

Strategic projects linked to the wilayat also include completing remaining works on the Sant-Wa-

di Al Aala road, 13.17 kilometres long, updating previous designs, completing a 6.17-kilometre section, and carrying out complementary works on the previously completed section. This will improve connectivity between villages and mountain areas, shorten travel times and raise traffic efficiency in highland areas.

In Manah, the governorate is implementing internal road projects totalling ten kilometres, with completion at about 70 percent, as part of efforts to develop infrastructure and improve internal connectivity between neighbourhoods, residential plans and public services.

The ministry is also implementing a road project for the Oman Palm Development Company factory at a cost exceeding OMR 1.07 million, including a 3.75-kilometre link road, supporting infrastructure for the industrial and agricultural sectors and enhancing logistics for economic and productive projects.

In Al Hamra, several internal road projects are underway, most notably the second-package internal roads project, 19 kilometres long, at a cost exceeding OMR 3.5 million, with 90 percent completion, alongside a design and construction project for ten kilometres of internal roads at a cost of RO 1.03 million, with 95 percent completion, improving infrastructure efficiency and readiness in residential and development areas.

The wilayat has also received a consultancy services project for the design and supervision of the Wadi Ghoul dual-carriageway and commercial area project, currently under review, as part of efforts to develop traffic infrastructure in tourist areas and improve access to natural and commercial sites in the wilayat.

On the strategic side, the ministry, in collaboration with the governorate, is implementing the Jabal Shams road project at a cost exceeding OMR20.1 million, one of the most prominent projects supporting tourism and economic activity in the governorate.

The road stretches over 32 kilometres, connecting mountain areas, tourist sites, resorts, and the Jabal Shams Front project. Completion is expected in January 2028, improving access to highland areas and supporting moun-

tain tourism development. The project also includes treating steep gradients, improving road safety standards and installing crash barriers in high-risk locations.

In Adam, internal road works continue over 16.6 kilometres at a cost of OMR1.09 million, with completion at about 97 percent, including the completion of culverts in the Al Sumairat area, improving wadi water drainage efficiency and enhancing road readiness and sustainability in various weather conditions.

The wilayat is also linked to strategic projects, including completing remaining works on the Adam-Thumrait dual-carriageway project, improving user safety and enhancing connectivity between Al Dakhiliyah and Al Wusta governorates.

In Izki, the governorate is continuing internal road works in the Shafi’e, Al Aqil and Al Quraisa areas, totalling 20 kilometres at a cost exceeding OMR 1.2 million, with completion at about 30 percent, improving connectivity between villages and residential areas and enhancing access to basic services. The wilayat is also seeing implementation of the Izki-Farq dual-carriageway project, alongside a road safety enhancement project on the Sultan Thuwaini bin Said Road, installing crash barriers in high-risk locations, raising safety levels on vital roads in the governorate.

In Samail, the governorate is implementing several internal road projects, including the paving of the Al Nujaid-Wadi Andam road, seven kilometres long, with 80 percent completion, alongside the first-phase internal roads project, 13 kilometres long, at a cost exceeding OMR 2.2 million, and the design and construction of internal roads in the Tawi Al Nisf plan. The ministry, in collaboration with the governorate, is also implementing the Aqabat A’afri and Al Saqari village road project at a cost exceeding OMR 4.59 million, improving connectivity between villages and mountain areas, facilitating traffic and shortening distances.

In Bidbid, internal road works continue over 15 kilometres at a total cost exceeding OMR 1.7 million, alongside the design and construction of internal roads in the Saih Al Ahmar plan, four kilomet-

res long, keeping pace with urban expansion and population growth in the wilayat.

The ministry is also implementing the Sultan Thuwaini bin Said Road (Bidbid-Nizwa) rehabilitation project at a cost exceeding OMR 10.5 million, with completion at about 77.48 percent, including treating damaged sections and installing protection and traffic signs, improving road readiness and raising road safety levels.

In Jabal Akhdar, work is underway to receive a consultancy services project for the design of a dual-carriageway and the development of the wilayat’s entrance, as part of efforts to improve the urban landscape, enhance traffic efficiency and raise the readiness of the wilayat’s tourist gateway.

The wilayat is also seeing several projects linked to mountain roads, most notably the completion and upgrading of the Saih Qatnah road, 9.134 kilometres long, with completion at about 57.87 percent. This includes treating gradients and sharp bends, widening the road, constructing rainwater drainage channels, concrete and metal protections and implementing lighting and associated services, improving road safety and ensuring road sustainability in various weather conditions.

Work is also underway to upgrade wadi crossings on the Birkat Al Mouz-Saiq road at several locations, alongside rehabilitating the Wadi Bani Habib road, 6.5 kilometres long, enhancing tourist movement and improving access to residential, agricultural and tourist areas in the wilayat.

Sheikh Mahmoud bin Rashid Al Saadi, Wali of Nizwa and Acting Governor of Al Dakhiliyah Governorate, affirmed that the ongoing road projects in A’Dakhiliyah reflect the importance attached to developing infrastructure as a key enabler of sustainable development.

These projects play a vital role in supporting tourist and economic growth, stimulating investment, improving quality of life and enhancing connectivity between wilayats and development centres, boosting the governorate’s competitiveness and reinforcing its readiness to meet future development requirements across various sectors. -OMA

# Pact for renewable energy projects in Mahout and Duqm signed

The project marks a pivotal step in the evolution of the Sultanate of Oman’s renewable energy strategy, moving from standalone solar and wind projects towards integrated clean-energy systems capable of delivering stable and reliable electricity around the clock

**MUSCAT:** Nama Power and Water Procurement and O-Green yesterday celebrated the signing of the award of the Power Purchase Agreement for the Continuous Renewable Energy Project, combining wind, solar and battery energy storage systems in the wilayats of Mahout and Duqm.

The project has a total installed generation capacity of 2.7 gigawatts.

The signing ceremony was held under the auspices of Sultan Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance.

The award letter was signed on behalf of Nama Power and Water Procurement by Ahmed Salim Al Abri, Chief Executive Officer, and on behalf of O-Green by Mustafa Mohammed Al Hinai, Chief Executive Officer.



The project marks a pivotal step in the evolution of the Sultanate of Oman’s renewable energy strategy, moving from standalone solar and wind projects towards integrated clean-energy systems capable of delivering stable and reliable electricity around the clock. It also establishes a strategic platform to support the growth of energy-intensive sectors, including data centres, advanced computing, advanced industries and green fuels.

The project is considered one of the world’s largest hybrid continuous renewable energy projects, combining wind, solar and battery

energy storage systems. By integrating renewable resources with advanced storage technologies, the project is designed to provide stable and reliable electricity supply on a round-the-clock basis.

The project has been designed to integrate solar photovoltaic generation, wind power and battery energy storage systems, and is expected to provide a firm supply capacity of nearly 770 megawatts. This level of reliability will pave the way for greater integration of renewable energy sources, supporting Oman’s carbon-emission reduction targets under Oman

Vision 2040. The project is also expected to strengthen the Sultanate of Oman’s position among the leading countries developing large-scale integrated renewable energy systems capable of delivering stable, clean and dispatchable power. By combining Oman’s rich renewable energy resources with advanced storage technologies, the project will help address intermittency challenges associated with solar and wind energy, while supporting wider integration of clean power into the national grid.

Mustafa Mohammed Al Hinai, Chief Executive Officer of O-

Green, said: “We are pleased to sign the award of this agreement, which represents an important milestone in accelerating the implementation of continuous renewable energy projects in the Sultanate of Oman, in line with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040, which is accorded the Royal care of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik.”

He added: “This project embodies national efforts to optimise the use of Oman’s abundant renewable energy resources and transform them into practical projects that support a low-carbon economy. The agreement also reflects growing confidence in O-Green’s ability to develop integrated clean-energy solutions that combine solar power, wind power and battery energy storage systems.”

Ahmed Salim Al Abri, Chief Executive Officer of Nama Power and Water Procurement, said: “The Continuous Renewable Energy Project represents an important step in the transformation journey of Oman’s energy sector. The award of the project to a local developer also presents an integrated model that combines solar power, wind power and battery energy storage technologies to provide stable and renewable electricity supply around the clock.”

He added: “The project will contribute to enhancing the capacity of the electricity grid to accommodate more clean-energy sources, while supporting Oman’s sustain-

ability and carbon-neutrality targets. Nama Power and Water Procurement will continue its role in enabling reliable and economically efficient power and water procurement solutions that meet the Sultanate of Oman’s growing demand.”

O-Green is a national renewable energy platform established as a strategic partnership between OQ Alternative Energy and Naqaa Sustainable Energy. The company focuses on accelerating clean-energy project delivery, enhancing energy security, maximising in-country value and building national capabilities across the renewable energy value chain.

O-Green’s scope includes the development of solar and wind energy projects, as well as the localisation of renewable energy technologies and related industries, including wind turbines and their components. The development and operation of data centres powered by clean energy also represents one of the key pillars of the company’s portfolio.

O-Green’s project portfolio exceeds 11 gigawatts of solar and wind generation projects, in addition to 4.5 gigawatt-hours of battery energy storage capacity. To date, the company has secured more than 3.3 gigawatts of generation capacity and 2.4 gigawatt-hours of storage capacity, reflecting its growing role in supporting net-zero targets and strengthening the Sultanate of Oman’s position as a clean-energy hub and catalyst for future industries across continents.

Nama Power and Water Procurement is the sole procurer of power and water capacity and output in the Sultanate of Oman. The company is responsible for ensuring the economic provision of power and water production capacity to meet the Oman’s growing demand, while supporting the development of renewable energy projects and a more sustainable power system. — **ONA**

IN NEW DELHI

## Omani brand Seven Fries opens first Indian outlet

**NEW DELHI:** Acting in cooperation with the SMEs Development Authority (Riyada), Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) took part in the activities of the 22nd International Franchise and Retail Show held in the Republic of India on 16 and 17 May, 2026. The event saw the signing of 3 franchise agreements and the opening of two branches for the Omani brand Seven Fries in the city of New Delhi.

Haitham bin Saif Al Habsi, owner of the brand Bomba Burrito, signed a franchise agreement (for investment in the Republic of India) with businessman Gaurav Marya, Chairman and founder of Franchise India Group.

Saif bin Mohammed Al Riyami, owner of the brands Shawarma & Musahab and Joaan, also signed two franchise agreements for opening outlets both in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The agreements were signed with Abeer Julaih, CEO of National Franchise and Franchise



International.

Meanwhile, Issa Saleh Al Aghbari, Omani entrepreneur and founder of the highly successful fast-food brand Seven Fries’ opened two branches of the Omani brand Seven Fries in New Delhi, India, one for the Indian businessman Javid, and the other for brothers and businessmen Farouk and Shahrukh.

The step was the outcome of efforts on a franchise programme overseen by Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The programme aims to promote the international ex-

pansion of Omani brands.

The franchise programme supported companies in signing franchise agreements and enhancing their ability to compete in various markets. This positively influenced the growth of the businesses locally and internationally. The Omani brands now boast an ability to expand in foreign markets, thanks to their high quality, efficiency and competitive business models. The firms also got impetus from the confidence of regional and international investors in Omani products and services. — **ONA**

OMAN CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE

## OCEC boosts sustainability through renewable energy

**MUSCAT:** Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC) is implementing a solar panels project as a model for sustainability and energy conversion.

The project, which constitutes an integrated system with a capacity of 4.6 megawatts, covers an area of more than 16,000 square metres.

It was implemented by installing more than 8,000 high-efficiency solar panels, with an estimated annual production of about 7,000 megawatt-hours. The project generates approximately 25 percent of the total electricity consump-



tion of the centre.

The project helped cut down carbon emissions at the centre by more than 3,000 tonnes per annum.

Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre also implemented a system of solar panels for heat-

ing water. The project, which involved the installation of 250 solar panels, covers about 90% of the hot water needs of the centre, diminishes reliance on traditional electrical systems and limits energy consumption associated with heating processes. — **ONA**

محاجن صلافة

Salalah Mills

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Dear Shareholders,

The Group delivered a positive overall performance during the first quarter of 2026, supported by strong fair value gain on investment recognised through Other Comprehensive Income (OCI), continued profitability at the Parent Company level, and encouraging operational improvements across several business divisions.

The Parent Company reported a net profit after tax of 2.465 million, while total comprehensive income after OCI reached a strong 3.25 million. At the Group level, despite operational pressures and start-up losses from newly established subsidiaries, the Group recorded positive total comprehensive income of 2.46 million for the quarter.

Operationally, the quarter was impacted by lower export flour volumes, higher wheat procurement costs and lower capacity utilisation in certain divisions. In addition, newly established subsidiaries, particularly FOOD Development Company, continued to incur planned ramp-up and market development costs during their early operational phase.

Nevertheless, the Macaroni, Packaging, Trading and Laboratory businesses demonstrated encouraging progress during the quarter, reflecting the benefits of ongoing operational and commercial improvement initiatives across the Group.

The Board and management remain focused on improving operational efficiency, strengthening margins, enhancing working capital management and accelerating the stabilisation of new business ventures. Looking ahead, management expects gradual improvement in operating performance supported by recovery in export demand, improved capacity utilisation and continued strategic execution across the Group.

On behalf of the Board, I thank our shareholders, employees, customers and business partners for their continued trust and support.

Warm regards,  
Ahmed bin Abdullah Saeed Al Rawas  
Chairman, Board of Directors  
Salalah Mills Co. SAOG  
14<sup>th</sup> May 2026

SALALAH MILLS COMPANY SAOG

Salalah-Sultanate of Oman

SEPARATE AND CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 March 2026 (Expressed in OMR)

|                                                                      | Group              |                   | Parent Company    |                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                                                                      | 31 March 2026      | 31 March 2025     | 31 March 2026     | 31 March 2025     |
| <b>ASSETS</b>                                                        |                    |                   |                   |                   |
| <b>Non-current assets</b>                                            |                    |                   |                   |                   |
| Property, plant and equipment                                        | 44,297,740         | 35,705,008        | 20,650,067        | 35,046,799        |
| Right of use assets                                                  | 3,231,352          | 3,355,904         | 2,800,137         | 3,355,904         |
| Investment in subsidiaries                                           | -                  | -                 | 1,540,240         | 55,240            |
| Sub-ordinated loan to a subsidiary                                   | -                  | -                 | 7,472,321         | -                 |
| Investment in associates                                             | 2,726,228          | 2,496,814         | 2,726,228         | 2,496,814         |
| Loan given to associate non-current                                  | 2,375,637          | 2,457,420         | 2,375,637         | 2,457,420         |
| Loan from related parties non-current                                | (0)                | -                 | 669,178           | 1,108,864         |
| <b>Total non-current assets</b>                                      | <b>52,630,957</b>  | <b>44,015,147</b> | <b>38,233,808</b> | <b>44,521,041</b> |
| <b>Current assets</b>                                                |                    |                   |                   |                   |
| Inventories                                                          | 23,860,655         | 14,711,690        | 23,244,924        | 14,705,290        |
| Loan given to associate                                              | 98,839             | 17,056            | 98,839            | 17,056            |
| Trade and other receivables                                          | 14,554,306         | 22,456,662        | 14,343,097        | 22,190,568        |
| Investments at fair value through profit or loss                     | 389,246            | 389,246           | 389,246           | 389,246           |
| Investments at fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI) | 8,076,864          | 10,165,755        | 8,076,864         | 10,165,755        |
| Due from related parties                                             | 743,280            | 647,064           | 1,010,571         | 825,384           |
| Cash and cash equivalents                                            | 10,971,291         | 3,817,060         | 10,484,078        | 3,488,934         |
| <b>Total current assets</b>                                          | <b>58,694,481</b>  | <b>52,204,533</b> | <b>57,647,619</b> | <b>51,782,232</b> |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                                                  | <b>111,325,438</b> | <b>96,219,680</b> | <b>95,881,427</b> | <b>96,303,273</b> |
| <b>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>                                        |                    |                   |                   |                   |
| <b>Capital and reserves</b>                                          |                    |                   |                   |                   |
| Share capital                                                        | 17,496,306         | 17,496,306        | 17,496,306        | 17,496,306        |
| Share premium                                                        | 3,587,782          | 3,587,782         | 3,587,782         | 3,587,782         |
| Legal reserve                                                        | 2,487,139          | 2,227,975         | 2,487,139         | 2,227,975         |
| General reserve                                                      | 2,891,826          | 2,891,826         | 2,891,826         | 2,891,826         |
| Investment fair value reserve                                        | 1,380,759          | (2,301,680)       | 1,380,759         | (2,301,680)       |
| Retained earning                                                     | 17,406,224         | 21,251,258        | 18,544,134        | 21,422,473        |
| <b>Total capital and reserves</b>                                    | <b>45,250,036</b>  | <b>45,153,466</b> | <b>46,387,946</b> | <b>45,324,681</b> |
| <b>Non-current liabilities</b>                                       |                    |                   |                   |                   |
| Lease liability                                                      | 3,227,464          | 3,241,731         | 3,227,464         | 3,241,731         |
| Borrowings non-current                                               | 17,850,455         | 20,063,125        | 2,662,409         | 20,063,125        |
| Staff terminal benefits                                              | 832,894            | 747,838           | 779,423           | 736,033           |
| Deferred tax                                                         | 856,246            | 932,211           | 856,246           | 932,683           |
| <b>Total non-current liabilities</b>                                 | <b>22,767,060</b>  | <b>24,984,905</b> | <b>7,525,542</b>  | <b>24,973,572</b> |
| <b>Current liabilities</b>                                           |                    |                   |                   |                   |
| Lease liability                                                      | 243,435            | 183,125           | 243,435           | 183,125           |
| Borrowings                                                           | 33,175,903         | 20,970,062        | 32,405,223        | 20,970,062        |
| Trade and other payables                                             | 9,442,216          | 4,577,655         | 8,872,492         | 4,501,362         |
| Due to related parties                                               | 46,386             | 125,107           | 46,386            | 125,107           |
| Provision for tax                                                    | 400,404            | 225,359           | 400,404           | 225,359           |
| <b>Total current liabilities</b>                                     | <b>43,308,343</b>  | <b>26,081,308</b> | <b>41,967,939</b> | <b>26,005,015</b> |
| <b>Total liabilities</b>                                             | <b>66,075,403</b>  | <b>51,066,213</b> | <b>49,493,481</b> | <b>50,978,587</b> |
| <b>TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>                                  | <b>111,325,439</b> | <b>96,219,679</b> | <b>95,881,427</b> | <b>96,303,268</b> |
| <b>Net assets per share</b>                                          | <b>0.724</b>       | <b>0.723</b>      | <b>0.743</b>      | <b>0.726</b>      |

SEPARATE AND CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME FOR THE PERIOD

ENDED 31 March 2026 (Expressed in OMR)

|                                                                          | Group            |                  | Parent Company   |                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                                                                          | 31 March 2026    | 31 March 2025    | 31 March 2026    | 31 March 2025    |
| Revenue                                                                  | 25,508,383       | 22,342,194       | 18,927,669       | 22,341,754       |
| Cost of sales                                                            | (23,728,420)     | (19,230,270)     | (16,948,819)     | (19,299,542)     |
| <b>Gross profit</b>                                                      | <b>1,779,963</b> | <b>3,111,924</b> | <b>1,978,851</b> | <b>3,042,212</b> |
| Other income                                                             | 277,944          | 277,772          | 277,944          | 277,772          |
| General and administrative expenses                                      | (1,665,340)      | (1,507,135)      | (1,497,698)      | (1,461,943)      |
| Selling and distribution expenses                                        | (139,877)        | (74,654)         | (39,909)         | (74,249)         |
| Operating profit for the year                                            | 252,690          | 1,807,907        | 719,188          | 1,783,792        |
| Finance expense                                                          | (515,099)        | (448,097)        | (192,133)        | (448,056)        |
| <b>Net profit before tax for the year</b>                                | <b>(262,409)</b> | <b>1,359,810</b> | <b>527,055</b>   | <b>1,335,736</b> |
| Income tax expense                                                       | (62,284)         | (208,158)        | (62,284)         | (208,158)        |
| <b>Net profit after tax</b>                                              | <b>(324,693)</b> | <b>1,151,652</b> | <b>464,771</b>   | <b>1,127,578</b> |
| Unrealised Fair value gain/loss on investments at fair value through OCI | 2,339,793        | (607,388)        | 2,339,793        | (607,388)        |
| Realised Fair value gain/loss on investments at fair value through OCI   | 449,038          | -                | 449,038          | -                |
| <b>Net profit after tax/Other Comprehensive Income</b>                   | <b>2,464,138</b> | <b>544,264</b>   | <b>3,253,602</b> | <b>520,190</b>   |
| <b>Earning per Share</b>                                                 | <b>(0.005)</b>   | <b>0.018</b>     | <b>0.007</b>     | <b>0.018</b>     |



# DEEPAL, the New Energy Vehicle Brand under Changan group, Launched in Oman



**MUSCAT:** Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment (AGAE) has launched Deepal, Changan's new energy vehicle brand, at a special event marking a major step in advanced electrified mobility solutions in the Sultanate. The launch introduced a line-up of Range Extended Electric Vehicles (REEVs) that combine electric driving experienced with extended range confidence, superior performance and intelligent technology.

Deepal has been introduced as a distinct new energy vehicle brand built around three key strengths including superior performance, superior comfort & superior safety. As REEV models, the vehicles allow drivers to enjoy smooth, responsive electric mobility for daily use, while the range extender supports longer journeys with added confidence.

This gives customers the benefit of electric driving without the usual concerns linked to range or charging availability, DEEPAL line-up are well suited to both city commutes and long-distance travel in Oman.

Deepal range therefore offers many premium class features in its model range as a standard including:

1. Performance: REEV & Rear Wheel Drive for superior handling.
2. Design: Aerodynamic shape, frameless windows, 20" full spec wheels.
3. Safety: IACC integrated Adaptive Cruise Control, Lane keep assist, Traffic Jam Assist.
4. Technology: Smart Voice Assistant, 540 degree camera, AR-HVD [S05, S07], Panoramic Sunroof
5. Comfort: Superior wheel base for extra leg room, Front Seats with excellent flank support for ultimate comfort.



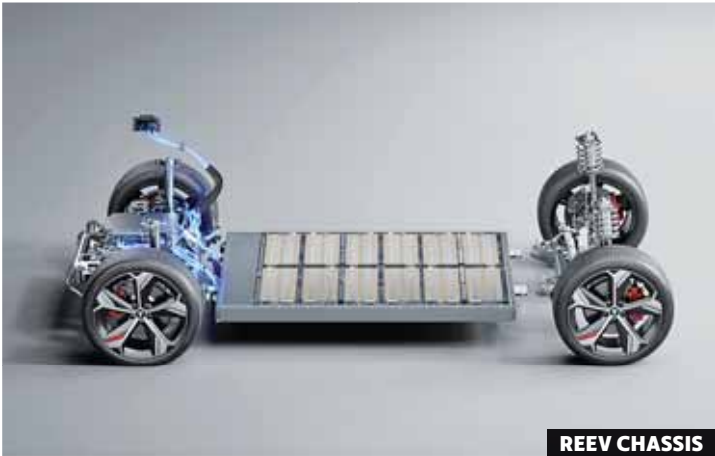
RANGE EXTENDER

The Deepal range in Oman includes the S05, S07 and G318, each developed to meet different lifestyle and driving needs. The line-up also includes the G318 all-wheel-drive SUV, which adds stronger traction, enhanced control and greater capability for customers seeking a more adventure-focused driving experience. The Deepal S05 is designed as a modern urban SUV with intelligent technology and extended electric freedom. Powered by a 1.5-litre naturally aspirated range extender and supported by a 27.28 kWh LFP bat-

tery, it offers a pure electric range of at least 160 km under NEDC and a combined REEV range of over 1000 km under WLTC. The S05 delivers a Combine Max Power of 214 hp and 320 Nm of motor torque, giving customers responsive everyday performance with the confidence of extended driving range. The Deepal S07 offers a larger SUV experience with refined comfort and intelligent connectivity. Powered by a 1.5-litre naturally aspirated range extender and a 31.74 kWh battery, it delivers a 160 km WLTP pure electric range and



DEEPAL GOLDEN SHIELD BATTERY



REEV CHASSIS

a WLTP combined range of 950 km. The S07 delivers a Combine Max Power of 235 hp and 320 Nm of motor torque, offering smooth acceleration, confident highway performance and long-distance driving assurance. For customers seeking stronger road presence and adventure capability, the Deepal G318 stands as the most rugged model in the line-up. Offered as an all-wheel-drive SUV, it features a 1.5-litre turbo range extender, dual electric motors, a 35.07 kWh battery, 138 km WLTC pure electric range and 848 km WLTC combined range.

The G318 delivers a Combine Max Power of 430 hp, along with 575 Nm of motor torque. Its off-road credentials are strengthened by 210 mm ground clearance, a 27-degree approach angle and a 31-degree departure angle. The G318 further reinforces Deepal's capability promise through drive modes designed for varied terrain and conditions, including mud, sand and water wading. The model also places strong emphasis on comfort, with features such as seat ventilation and driver-side massage helping make

long journeys more relaxed and comfortable. Commenting on the launch, a spokesperson from Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment LLC (AGAE) said, "Deepal represents an important new chapter for Changan Group in Oman. These Range Extended Electric Vehicles give customers the efficiency of electric driving, the performance needed for confident journeys, the comfort and the technology to make every drive smarter and safer. With the S05, S07 and the all-wheel-drive G318, we are offering a practical and future-ready mobility solution that suits Oman's roads, lifestyles and long-distance driving needs."

**Manufacturer Warranty:** Deepal Brand offers new vehicle warranty for 6-years or 250,000 kilometers and Golden Shield Battery warranty is upto 8-years or 250,000 kilometers respectively which is earlier.

**About AGAE** Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment (AGAE) offers state-of-the-art showrooms for DEEPAL BRAND located in Al Qurum, Sohar and Salalah, along with additional sales centre in Mawaleh, Sohar, Ibri, Nizwa, Barka and Sur. In addition, AGAE has established 13 service centres across Oman, including its main service centre in Azaiba, Muscat, providing comprehensive maintenance and repair services. For more information, contact Deepal Oman at the toll-free number 80050800, via WhatsApp at 96620435, or visit the newly launched showroom in Al Qurum. Customers can also visit [www.deepaloman.com](http://www.deepaloman.com) to book test drives, request a callback, and explore the latest Deepal models and offers.

INVESTMENT PROJECTS

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources reviewed the major statistical indicators, agricultural and water assets, and investment projects within the food and water security sectors in Al Dhahirah, in addition to the executive status of ongoing projects in the governorate.

MARKET  
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 7,938.66 points, down by -0.26% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -0.21% at 638.48 points. Sohar Power, up 9.74%, was the top gainer while, Oman United Insurance, down 3.89%, was the top loser.

# Raysut fishing harbour upgrade to improve operational efficiency

The project, costing over OMR2.9 million, comes within the ministry's plans aimed at raising port efficiency and enhancing their contribution to supporting the fisheries sector and the local economy

**MUSCAT:** The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources is continuing its efforts to develop the infrastructure of fishery harbours in Dhofar Governorate by executing the rehabilitation project of the Raysut Fishing Port, located in the Wilayat of Salalah. The project, costing over OMR2.9 million, comes within the ministry's plans aimed at raising port efficiency and enhancing their contribution to supporting the fisheries sector and the local economy. The project is considered one of the vital initiatives designed

to improve the harbour's operational environment and provide an advanced infrastructure that meets the needs of fishermen and maritime traffic. It included the construction of a new 610-metre breakwater to provide the necessary protection for the harbour basin from sand sedimentation and the impact of marine currents and high waves, alongside the execution of a 250-metre marine groyne to mitigate sand and silt encroachment and improve water movement inside the harbour. The project also included the



reclamation of an area estimated at 34,000 square metres to be utilised for future expansions and service facilities, the construction of a 70-metre fixed wharf to facilitate the berthing of artisanal fishing vessels and the handling of fish and goods, as well as the creation of a boat slipway to serve landing and maintenance operations. Eng. Mohammed Abdullah Al Rashidi, the Project Manager, stat-

ed that the completion rate of the Raysut Fishing Port rehabilitation project has reached 100 percent. He noted that it comes within the Ministry's continuous efforts to develop fishery harbours and raise their operational efficiency to keep pace with the rapid growth in the fisheries sector, pointing out that the project contributes to boosting fishing activity in the Wilayat of Salalah and providing a safe and integrated

working environment for fishermen. In a statement to Oman News Agency, he explained that the project also featured the execution of 1,000-metre-long internal roads equipped with lighting to improve traffic movement within the harbour and enhance safety, in addition to installing an integrated surveillance camera system to bolster security aspects and monitor operational activities within the

harbour boundaries. He added that the executed works will help mitigate sand accumulation inside the harbour basin, improve its operational readiness, and accommodate the movement of boats and vessels more efficiently. Furthermore, it prepares the harbour for future expansions and services that support the sustainability of the fisheries sector in the governorate, noting that fish production in the Wilayat of Salalah for the year 2025 reached 14,059 tonnes, with a value of OMR9.2 million. He pointed out that the project also involved reclaiming a new plot of land estimated at 34,000 square metres to utilise for future expansions and to establish service and investment facilities associated with the fisheries sector. This enhances the economic value of the harbour and supports the strategy of developing fishery harbours as developmental and logistical hubs that contribute to stimulating economic activity and providing promising employment and investment opportunities. **-ONA**

BUILDING FINANCIAL AWARENESS EARLY

## ahlibank conducts financial literacy workshop for youth

**MUSCAT:** In line with its commitment to social responsibility and community empowerment, ahlibank hosted an insightful financial literacy workshop titled 'Start It Right - Your Journey in the World of Finance'. The session was designed to equip youth from the Child Care Center with the knowledge, tools, and habits needed to make informed financial decisions and build a strong foundation for future success. This initiative underscores ahlibank's focus on creating meaningful impact beyond banking excellence, fostering essential financial literacy skills among the



next generation and preparing them to manage their financial responsibilities with confidence. Held on 6 May, the workshop brought together 24 participants

aged 13 to 18 for an enriching experience. The program featured an insightful session on 'Financial Literacy & Money Management' delivered by experts from the bank,

and a session on 'Digitalization & Innovation in Finance' led by the bank's Innovation team. Throughout the workshop, participants gained practical knowledge and real-world insights, while an interactive Q&A session provided an open platform to explore their questions. The event also offered a unique opportunity for attendees to experience ahlibank's premises through a guided tour of the innovation lab. A series of games and interactive group activities, complemented by thoughtfully curated giveaways, left participants with a memorable and impactful experience. Reflecting on the occasion, Ju-

mana Al Hashmi, AGM - Head of Marketing & Corporate Communications at ahlibank, stated, "It is our privilege to welcome the youth from Child Welfare Center to ahlibank for a meaningful educational experience focused on building essential financial literacy and money management skills. Through initiatives such as this, we aim to empower young individuals with the knowledge and confidence needed to make informed financial decisions and build a more secure future. This initiative reflects ahlibank's ongoing commitment to supporting and uplifting vulnerable segments of society, while

contributing to the development of a financially aware and resilient generation capable of thriving in an evolving world." This initiative further reinforces ahlibank's commitment to being a Partner in Excellence and strengthens its position as a people-centric institution dedicated to building capacity and empowering individuals. The bank continues its journey of growth and impact, placing social responsibility at the core of its strategy through distinctive initiatives and partnerships that promote inclusivity and contribute to a more equitable society.

LINCOLN SIGNATURE  
Rewards



Comprehensive Service\*\*  
5 Years/100,000 km

Warranty®  
5 Years/100,000 km

Complimentary Registration\*\*\*

Complimentary Accessories\*

3M Golden 7 Pack Assured Gift\*

Raffle Draw Test Drive & Win\* iPhone 17 1

Raffle Draw Buy & Win\*\* iPhone 17 2

# MARKET

## MSX index ends lower

Sohar Power, up 9.74%, was the top gainer while, Oman United Insurance, down 3.89%, was the top loser



**MUSCAT:** The MSX index closed at 7,938.66 points, down by -0.26% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -0.21% at 638.48 points. Sohar Power, up 9.74%, was the top gainer while, Oman United Insurance, down 3.89%, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 5067 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 40.81 million, with more than 115.19 million shares changing hands. Out of 75 traded securities, 21 advanced, 27 declined, and 27 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for RO 2380K while GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for RO 1907K, followed by foreign investors for RO 473K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 12,810.17 points, up 0.36%. Prices of Al Anwar Investment, United Finance, Bank Nizwa, Taageer

Finance, Global Financial Investments were up by 2.29%, 2.27%, 2.19%, 1.68%, 1.56% respectively. Prices of Oman United Insurance, Al Madina Investments, Oman Qatar Insurance, Bank Muscat, Bank Dhofar were down by 3.89%, 2.63%, 1.11%, 0.97%, 0.94% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 9,952.42 points, up 0.17%. Prices of A'Saffa Foods, Al Anwar Ceramics were up by 3.55%, 1.12% respectively. Prices of Raysut Cement, Galfar Engineering, Al Maha Ceramics, Gulf International Chemicals, Oman Chromite were down by 3.38%, 1.77%, 1.40%, 1.28%, 0.35% respectively.

Services Index was down by -0.51% before closing at 3,221.31 points. Prices of Sohar Power, Muscat Desalination, Oman Telecom, National Gas, Oman National Engineering were up by 9.74%, 1.92%, 1.75%, 0.88%, 0.66% respectively. Prices of Majan College, OQ Gas Networks, Abraj Energy, SMN Power Holding, Ooredoo were down by 2.34%, 1.96%, 1.45%, 0.92%, 0.86% respectively. — **United Securities**

### OMAN STOCKS

## MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

### INDICES

| Index              | High      | Low       | Value     | Prev. Value | Diff.  | Diff%  |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|--------|--------|
| MSX 30 INDEX       | 8,025.61  | 7,938.66  | 7,938.66  | 7,959.72    | -21.05 | -0.26% |
| FINANCIAL INDEX    | 12,947.17 | 12,769.90 | 12,810.17 | 12,764.62   | 45.55  | 0.36%  |
| Industry Index     | 10,015.79 | 9,927.58  | 9,952.42  | 9,935.60    | 16.82  | 0.17%  |
| Services Index     | 3,253.18  | 3,221.31  | 3,221.31  | 3,237.87    | -16.56 | -0.51% |
| MSX Shariah Index  | 643.04    | 638.48    | 638.48    | 639.85      | -1.37  | -0.21% |
| MSX TR INDEX       | 12,391.98 | 12,257.73 | 12,257.73 | 12,290.24   | -32.51 | -0.26% |
| FINANCIAL TR IDX   | 15,885.99 | 15,668.47 | 15,717.89 | 15,662.00   | 55.89  | 0.36%  |
| INDUSTRIAL TR IDX  | 12,827.68 | 12,714.71 | 12,746.52 | 12,724.98   | 21.54  | 0.17%  |
| SERVICES TR IDX    | 4,347.10  | 4,304.51  | 4,304.51  | 4,326.63    | -22.12 | -0.51% |
| FIXED INCOME INDEX | 1,209.68  | 1,209.68  | 1,209.68  | 1,209.68    | 0.00   | 0.00%  |

### Trading Summary

| Volume      | Turnover   | Trades | Market Cap     | Up | Down | Equal | Sec. Traded |
|-------------|------------|--------|----------------|----|------|-------|-------------|
| 115,195,707 | 40,812,752 | 5,067  | 37,328,963,254 | 21 | 27   | 27    | 75          |

## SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, MAY 17

| SIN | SECURITY NAME | VOLUME | TURNOVER | TRADES | OPEN PRICE | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE PR | PREV. CLOSE | DIFF (RD) | DIFF % | LAST PR | LAST RD | LAST OFFER | PUR VALUE | MARKET CAP |
|-----|---------------|--------|----------|--------|------------|------|-----|----------|-------------|-----------|--------|---------|---------|------------|-----------|------------|
|-----|---------------|--------|----------|--------|------------|------|-----|----------|-------------|-----------|--------|---------|---------|------------|-----------|------------|

### REGULAR MARKET

|              |                                |            |             |            |       |       |       |       |       |        |        |       |       |       |       |               |
|--------------|--------------------------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------------|
| OM0000002804 | ASAFA FOODS                    | 581        | 467         | 4          | 0.819 | 0.819 | 0.786 | 0.816 | 0.788 | 0.028  | 3.553  | 0.816 | 0.720 | 0.815 | 0.100 | 97,920,000    |
| OM0000001772 | ALANWAR INVESTMENT             | 72,298     | 12,886      | 12         | 0.175 | 0.180 | 0.175 | 0.179 | 0.175 | 0.004  | 2.286  | 0.179 | 0.179 | 0.185 | 0.100 | 53,440,975    |
| OM0000002274 | UNITED FINANCE                 | 199,274    | 17,988      | 14         | 0.088 | 0.090 | 0.088 | 0.090 | 0.088 | 0.002  | 2.573  | 0.090 | 0.088 | 0.090 | 0.100 | 32,051,457    |
| OM0000004420 | BANK NIZWA                     | 1,255,693  | 175,027     | 110        | 0.138 | 0.143 | 0.138 | 0.140 | 0.137 | 0.003  | 2.190  | 0.140 | 0.140 | 0.140 | 0.100 | 313,173,424   |
| OM0000003026 | OMAN TELECOM                   | 6,733,351  | 9,419,244   | 178        | 1.376 | 1.407 | 1.376 | 1.389 | 1.375 | 0.024  | 1.745  | 1.389 | 1.389 | 1.404 | 0.100 | 1,049,250,000 |
| OM0000001235 | GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO | 251,505    | 82,258      | 16         | 0.338 | 0.339 | 0.300 | 0.335 | 0.330 | 0.005  | 1.563  | 0.335 | 0.325 | 0.335 | 0.100 | 65,000,000    |
| OM0000002077 | AL OMANYA FINANCIAL SERVICES   | 50,000     | 8,100       | 2          | 0.162 | 0.162 | 0.162 | 0.162 | 0.160 | 0.002  | 1.250  | 0.162 | 0.000 | 0.165 | 0.100 | 51,097,554    |
| OM0000001509 | DHOFAR INTL DEVPMT & INVESTMT  | 373,176    | 121,657     | 26         | 0.330 | 0.330 | 0.321 | 0.322 | 0.319 | 0.003  | 0.940  | 0.322 | 0.322 | 0.325 | 0.100 | 159,730,077   |
| OM0000001152 | OMAN NATL ENGG & INVESTMENT    | 15,120     | 2,298       | 2          | 0.152 | 0.152 | 0.152 | 0.152 | 0.151 | 0.001  | 0.662  | 0.152 | 0.150 | 0.158 | 0.100 | 22,800,000    |
| OM0000004925 | ALBATTAAH POWER                | 36,550     | 7,274       | 10         | 0.199 | 0.200 | 0.199 | 0.200 | 0.199 | 0.001  | 0.503  | 0.200 | 0.198 | 0.200 | 0.100 | 134,677,488   |
| OM0000004933 | AL SUWADI POWER                | 134,327    | 26,645      | 27         | 0.199 | 0.200 | 0.198 | 0.200 | 0.199 | 0.001  | 0.503  | 0.198 | 0.198 | 0.198 | 0.100 | 142,881,268   |
| OM0000009759 | OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION  | 5,262,290  | 2,564,315   | 395        | 0.489 | 0.492 | 0.484 | 0.490 | 0.489 | 0.001  | 0.304  | 0.490 | 0.489 | 0.490 | 0.100 | 3,920,000,000 |
| OM000001453  | NATIONAL BANK OMAN             | 60,204     | 26,353      | 2          | 0.438 | 0.438 | 0.437 | 0.437 | 0.437 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.437 | 0.437 | 0.480 | 0.100 | 710,538,557   |
| OM0000001681 | OMAN EMIRATES HO               | 27,667     | 4,490       | 7          | 0.170 | 0.170 | 0.160 | 0.168 | 0.168 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.168 | 0.155 | 0.168 | 0.100 | 20,475,000    |
| OM0000001707 | OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY           | 2,708      | 7,975       | 3          | 2.945 | 2.945 | 2.945 | 2.945 | 2.945 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 2.945 | 2.945 | 2.995 | 0.100 | 264,166,500   |
| OM0000002176 | JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS         | 4,527      | 3,373       | 5          | 0.745 | 0.750 | 0.745 | 0.745 | 0.745 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.745 | 0.745 | 0.745 | 0.100 | 93,048,980    |
| OM0000002267 | GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS         | 16,890     | 7,161       | 5          | 0.454 | 0.454 | 0.454 | 0.454 | 0.454 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.454 | 0.422 | 0.424 | 0.100 | 21,345,168    |
| OM0000002440 | AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO       | 120,214    | 13,121      | 8          | 0.108 | 0.110 | 0.108 | 0.109 | 0.109 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.109 | 0.109 | 0.110 | 0.100 | 9,810,000     |
| OM0000004768 | MADINA TAKAFUL                 | 172,991    | 21,462      | 15         | 0.124 | 0.125 | 0.124 | 0.124 | 0.124 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.124 | 0.124 | 0.125 | 0.100 | 21,700,000    |
| OM0000005963 | PHOENIX POWER                  | 221,828    | 53,316      | 28         | 0.235 | 0.238 | 0.235 | 0.235 | 0.235 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.235 | 0.235 | 0.235 | 0.100 | 243,711,343   |
| OM0000010120 | ASTAD SHIPPING                 | 1,631,176  | 488,539     | 320        | 0.289 | 0.304 | 0.288 | 0.300 | 0.300 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.300 | 0.300 | 0.300 | 0.000 | 1,562,623,284 |
| OM0000003961 | VOITAMP ENERGY                 | 6,090      | 11,033      | 13         | 1.812 | 1.812 | 1.810 | 1.810 | 1.812 | -0.002 | -0.110 | 1.812 | 1.810 | 1.812 | 0.100 | 181,000,000   |
| OM000001749  | OMAN CEMENT                    | 7,890      | 4,291       | 7          | 0.531 | 0.531 | 0.530 | 0.530 | 0.531 | -0.001 | -0.181 | 0.530 | 0.547 | 0.550 | 0.100 | 181,972,751   |
| OM0000001533 | OMINVEST                       | 274,382    | 101,524     | 19         | 0.375 | 0.375 | 0.370 | 0.374 | 0.375 | -0.001 | -0.267 | 0.374 | 0.370 | 0.374 | 0.100 | 419,947,364   |
| OM0000003224 | RENAISSANCE SERVICES           | 36,721     | 13,038      | 7          | 0.355 | 0.357 | 0.355 | 0.355 | 0.356 | -0.001 | -0.281 | 0.355 | 0.354 | 0.355 | 0.100 | 83,925,550    |
| OM0000003398 | SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK       | 37,382,826 | 7,974,660   | 610        | 0.215 | 0.216 | 0.209 | 0.209 | 0.210 | -0.001 | -0.476 | 0.209 | 0.212 | 0.209 | 0.100 | 1,383,004,470 |
| OM0000003141 | BAKRA WATER AND POWER          | 7,955      | 1,321       | 1          | 0.166 | 0.166 | 0.166 | 0.166 | 0.167 | -0.001 | -0.589 | 0.166 | 0.167 | 0.175 | 0.100 | 26,560,000    |
| OM0000002226 | ALJAZEERA SERVICES             | 4,639      | 1,327       | 3          | 0.286 | 0.286 | 0.286 | 0.288 | 0.288 | -0.002 | -0.694 | 0.286 | 0.286 | 0.295 | 0.100 | 12,253,095    |
| OM0000003000 | AI MAHA PETROLEUM PROD MRKTNG  | 9,130      | 10,406      | 2          | 1.140 | 1.140 | 1.131 | 1.131 | 1.140 | -0.009 | -0.789 | 1.131 | 1.131 | 1.139 | 0.100 | 76,039,000    |
| OM0000003968 | OOREDOO                        | 210,284    | 73,320      | 23         | 0.349 | 0.349 | 0.346 | 0.346 | 0.349 | 0.003  | 0.603  | 0.346 | 0.345 | 0.347 | 0.100 | 225,226,524   |
| OM0000004248 | SMN POWER HOLDING              | 38,275     | 8,401       | 4          | 0.220 | 0.220 | 0.215 | 0.216 | 0.218 | -0.002 | -0.917 | 0.216 | 0.216 | 0.219 | 0.100 | 43,121,290    |
| OM0000002549 | BANK DHOFAR                    | 1,011,193  | 216,845     | 252        | 0.218 | 0.218 | 0.210 | 0.210 | 0.212 | -0.002 | -0.943 | 0.210 | 0.210 | 0.210 | 0.100 | 638,357,692   |
| OM0000002796 | BANK MUSCAT                    | 21,433,743 | 8,901,240   | 505        | 0.416 | 0.419 | 0.410 | 0.410 | 0.414 | -0.004 | -0.966 | 0.410 | 0.410 | 0.410 | 0.100 | 3,077,622,795 |
| OM0000004906 | QIBASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)        | 8,945,473  | 2,618,919   | 439        | 0.315 | 0.316 | 0.310 | 0.310 | 0.314 | -0.004 | -1.274 | 0.310 | 0.310 | 0.313 | 0.000 | 1,072,442,164 |
| OM0000006934 | ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES          | 2,730,789  | 1,318,085   | 337        | 0.483 | 0.485 | 0.476 | 0.476 | 0.483 | -0.007 | -1.449 | 0.476 | 0.479 | 0.476 | 0.100 | 366,615,200   |
| OM0000009072 | OQ GAS NETWORKS                | 22,545,964 | 5,692,540   | 1,278      | 0.288 | 0.288 | 0.249 | 0.250 | 0.255 | -0.005 | -1.961 | 0.250 | 0.250 | 0.250 | 0.100 | 1,082,655,980 |
| OM0000004735 | SEMOOR SALALAH                 | 770,121    | 194,918     | 75         | 0.257 | 0.260 | 0.250 | 0.250 | 0.257 | -0.007 | -2.724 | 0.250 | 0.250 | 0.250 | 0.100 | 1,082,655,980 |
| OM0000001087 | OMAN UNITED INSURANCE          | 662,445    | 233,452     | 42         | 0.364 | 0.365 | 0.346 | 0.346 | 0.360 | -0.014 | -3.889 | 0.346 | 0.351 | 0.346 | 0.100 | 36,330,000    |
| Total        |                                | 38         | 112,120,200 | 40,438,980 | 4,807 |       |       |       |       |        |        |       |       |       |       |               |

### Parallel Market

|               |                                  |        |           |       |         |       |       |       |       |        |        |       |       |       |       |             |
|---------------|----------------------------------|--------|-----------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|
| OM00000030711 | SOHAR POWER                      | 100    | 25        | 1     | 0.248   | 0.248 | 0.248 | 0.248 | 0.226 | 0.022  | 8.735  | 0.248 | 0.225 | 0.248 | 0.100 | 4,960,000   |
| OM0000007084  | MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION         | 7100   | 741       | 5     | 0.103   | 0.106 | 0.103 | 0.106 | 0.104 | 0.002  | 1.923  | 0.106 | 0.100 | 0.106 | 0.100 | 16,488,342  |
| OM0000010823  | OMAN GATEWAY FUND                | 2300   | 2530      | 2     | 1.100   | 1.100 | 1.100 | 1.100 | 1.080 | 0.020  | 1.852  | 1.100 | 1.090 | 1.100 | 0.000 | 30,079,774  |
| OM0000003281  | TAAGEER FINANCE                  | 100    | 12        | 1     | 0.121   | 0.121 | 0.121 | 0.121 | 0.119 | 0.002  | 1.681  | 0.121 | 0.114 | 0.121 | 0.100 | 34,326,585  |
| OM0000005260  | OMAN ARAB BANK                   | 74900  | 15489     | 4     | 0.205   | 0.207 | 0.205 | 0.207 | 0.204 | 0.003  | 1.471  | 0.207 | 0.206 | 0.207 | 0.100 | 414,567,870 |
| OM0000008868  | THE PEARL REIF                   | 1000   | 177       | 2     | 0.177   | 0.177 | 0.177 | 0.177 | 0.175 | 0.002  | 1.143  | 0.177 | 0.175 | 0.181 | 0.100 | 104,684,328 |
| OM0000002168  | AL ANWAR CERAMIC                 | 9450   | 1681      | 12    | 0.180   | 0.184 | 0.176 | 0.180 | 0.178 | 0.002  | 1.124  | 0.180 | 0.164 | 0.188 | 0.100 | 39,600,000  |
| OM0000001160  | NATIONAL GAS                     | 60170  | 6997      | 11    | 0.118   | 0.119 | 0.115 | 0.115 | 0.114 | 0.001  | 0.877  | 0.115 | 0.113 | 0.118 | 0.100 | 9,775,000   |
| OM0000001178  | MUSCAT GASES                     | 180    | 27        | 1     | 0.150   | 0.150 | 0.150 | 0.150 | 0.150 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.150 | 0.146 | 0.165 | 0.100 | 4,500,000   |
| OM0000001400  | OMAN FLOUR MILLS                 | 7441   | 4055      | 3     | 0.545   | 0.545 | 0.545 | 0.545 | 0.545 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.545 | 0.545 | 0.545 | 0.100 | 94,635,844  |
| OM0000001596  | MUSCAT FINANCE                   | 276100 | 19846     | 7     | 0.072   | 0.072 | 0.069 | 0.071 | 0.071 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.071 | 0.070 | 0.071 | 0.100 | 21,807,389  |
| OM0000002200  | AHJJI BANK                       | 18     | 18        | 1     | 0.089   | 0.100 | 0.100 | 0.100 | 0.100 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.100 | 0.100 | 0.100 | 0.100 | 1,775,000   |
| OM0000002341  | OMAN CHLORINE                    | 1700   | 327       | 2     | 0.195   | 0.195 | 0.192 | 0.192 | 0.192 | 0.000  | 0.192  | 0.192 | 0.192 | 0.000 | 0.100 | 13,729,867  |
| OM0000002648  | NATIONAL FINANCE                 | 10650  | 2311      | 4     | 0.217   | 0.217 | 0.217 | 0.217 | 0.217 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.217 | 0.217 | 0.225 | 0.100 | 141,200,001 |
| OM0000004776  | TAKAFU FUND                      | 2000   | 142       | 1     | 0.071   | 0.071 | 0.071 | 0.071 | 0.071 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.071 | 0.066 | 0.071 | 0.100 | 17,050,000  |
| OM0000007407  | DHOFAIR GENERATING               | 70084  | 6157      | 7     | 0.087   | 0.088 | 0.087 | 0.088 | 0.088 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.088 | 0.088 | 0.088 | 0.100 | 19,557,120  |
| OM0000008447  | OMAN REIT FUND                   | 90177  | 9593      | 16    | 0.106   | 0.107 | 0.104 | 0.107 | 0.107 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.104 | 0.107 | 0.107 | 0.100 | 69,800,623  |
| OM0000009569  | JABAL REIF                       | 62500  | 6386      | 6     | 0.103   | 0.103 | 0.102 | 0.102 | 0.102 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.102 | 0.101 | 0.103 | 0.100 | 17,748,000  |
| OM0000001020  | OMAN CHROMITE                    | 121    | 380       | 2     | 3.150   | 3.150 | 3.100 | 3.100 | 3.111 | -0.011 | -0.354 | 3.100 | 3.105 | 3.422 | 1.000 | 11,253,000  |
| OM0000006979  | OMAN QATAR INSURANCE             | 20000  | 358       | 1     | 0.179   | 0.179 | 0.179 | 0.179 | 0.181 | -0.002 | -1.105 | 0.179 | 0.183 | 0.184 | 0.100 | 28,858,124  |
| OM0000000000  | CIL INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS      | 2000   | 2851      | 0.078 | 0.078   | 0.078 | 0.078 | 0.078 | 0.078 | 0.000  | 0.078  | 0.078 | 0.078 | 0.078 | 0.100 | 1,617,000   |
| OM0000005005  | ALMAHA CERAMICS                  | 4851   | 1964      | 4     | 0.282   | 0.282 | 0.281 | 0.281 | 0.285 | 0.004  | -1.004 | 0.284 | 0.281 | 0.282 | 0.100 | 15,455,000  |
| OM0000003521  | GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING | 479212 | 81287     | 43    | 0.174   | 0.174 | 0.167 | 0.167 | 0.170 | -0.003 | -1.765 | 0.167 | 0.167 | 0.168 | 0.100 | 33,398,796  |
| OM0000001897  | MAJAN COLLEGE                    | 1600   | 205       | 3     | 0.128   | 0.128 | 0.125 | 0.125 | 0.128 | -0.003 | -2.434 | 0.125 | 0.125 | 0.128 | 0.100 | 12,375,000  |
| OM0000001982  | AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING     | 49380  | 1807      | 10    | 0.037   | 0.037 | 0.036 | 0.037 | 0.038 | -0.001 | -2.632 | 0.037 | 0.036 | 0.038 | 0.100 | 3,145,000   |
| Total         |                                  | 25     | 1,250,181 |       | 164,783 | 164   |       |       |       |        |        |       |       |       |       |             |



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# WHO declares international emergency over Ebola outbreak

WHO noted that the outbreak constitutes a public health risk to other countries through international spread of disease and mentioned that it has already been documented, with two confirmed cases reported in Kampala, Uganda on May 15 and May 16 following travel from the Democratic Republic of Congo

**GENEVA:** The Director-General of the World Health Organisation (WHO) has determined that the Ebola disease caused by the Bundibugyo virus in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda constitutes a public health emergency of international concern. In an official statement WHO noted that the outbreak constitutes a public health risk to other countries through international spread of disease ad mentioned that it has already been documented, with two confirmed cases reported in Kampala, Uganda on May 15 and May 16 following trav-



el from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The WHO said that the neighbouring countries sharing land borders with the Democratic Republic of the Congo are considered at high risk for further spread due to population mobility, trade and travel linkages, and ongoing epidemiological uncertainty. It called for international co-ordination and cooperation to understand the extent of the outbreak, to coordinate surveillance, prevention and response efforts, to scale up and strengthen operations and ensure the ability to implement control measures. The statement noted that the Director-General of WHO will be convening an Emergency Committee, as soon as possible, to advise, inter alia, on the proposed temporary recommendation for States Parties to respond to the event. The World Health Organisation urged to strengthen community awareness, engagement, and participation in particular to identify and address cultural norms and beliefs that serve as barriers to their full participation in the response, and integrate the response within the wider response required to address the needs of the population, particularly in contexts of the

protracted humanitarian crisis in Eastern DRC. The statement underlined that for countries which do not share a land border with the affected states, borders should not be closed, nor should any restriction be placed on travel and trade. "No country should close its borders or place any restrictions on travel and trade. Such measures are usually implemented out of fear and have no basis in science. They push the movement of people and goods to informal border crossings that are not monitored, thus increasing the chances of the spread of disease. Most critically, these restrictions can also compromise local economies and negatively affect response operations from a security and logistics perspective", it said. The statement noted that national authorities should work with airlines and other transport and tourism industries to ensure that they do not exceed the WHO's advice on international traffic. It called on other countries that do not share a land border to provide travellers to Bundibugyo virus disease-affected and at-risk areas with relevant information on risks, measures to minimise those risks, and advice for manag-

ing a potential exposure. The WHO highlighted the need for the general public to be provided with accurate and relevant information on the Bundibugyo virus disease outbreak and measures to reduce the risk of exposure, and said that State Parties should be prepared to facilitate the evacuation and repatriation of nationals (e.g. health workers) who have been exposed to Bundibugyo virus disease. It noted that entry screening at airports or other ports of entry outside the affected region is not considered needed for passengers returning from areas at risk. The announcement comes after the World Health Organisation noted that as of 16 May 2026, eight laboratory-confirmed cases, 246 suspected cases and 80 suspected deaths have been reported in Ituri Province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo across at least three health zones, including Bunia, Rwampara and Mongbwalu. In addition, two laboratory-confirmed cases (including one death) with no apparent link to each other have been reported in Kampala, Uganda, within 24 hours of each other, on 15 and 16 May 2026, among two individuals travelling from the Democratic Republic of



the Congo. On 16 May, a laboratory confirmed case was also reported in Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, among someone returning from Ituri. As per the WHO, unusual clusters of community deaths with symptoms compatible with Bundibugyo virus disease (BVD) have been reported across several health zones in Ituri, and suspected cases have been reported across Ituri and North Kivu. In addition, at least four deaths among healthcare workers in a clinical context suggestive of viral haemorrhagic fever have been reported from the affected area, raising concerns regarding healthcare-associated transmission, gaps in infection prevention and control measures, and the potential for amplification within health facilities. The statement noted that there are significant uncertainties to the true number of infected persons and geographic spread associated with this event at the present time and that there is limited understanding of the epidemiological links with known or suspected cases. However, the high positivity rate of the initial samples collected (with eight positives among 13 samples collected in various

areas), the confirmation of cases in both Kampala and Kinshasa, the increasing trends in syndromic reporting of suspected cases and clusters of deaths across the province of Ituri all point towards a potentially much larger outbreak than what is currently being detected and reported, with significant local and regional risk of spread. Moreover, the ongoing insecurity, humanitarian crisis, high population mobility, the urban or semi-urban nature of the current hotspot and the large network of informal healthcare facilities further compound the risk of spread, as was witnessed during the large Ebola virus disease epidemic in North Kivu and Ituri provinces in 2018-19. However, unlike for Ebola-zaire strains, there are currently no approved Bundibugyo virus-specific therapeutics or vaccines. As such, this event is considered extraordinary. The WHO noted that the event requires international coordination and cooperation to understand the extent of the outbreak, to coordinate surveillance, prevention and response efforts, to scale up and strengthen operations and ensure the ability to implement control measures. — ANI

## CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITY



## Drone strike targets Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant in UAE

**ABU DHABI:** A drone strike has targeted the United Arab Emirates' al-Dhafra region, igniting a fire at an electrical generator positioned within the sprawling complex of the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant. The sudden aerial attack triggered an immediate activation of emergency response protocols to contain the blaze at the critical infrastructure facility. In an official public update released on X, Abu Dhabi's media office confirmed that emergency teams successfully managed the situation on the ground. The statement reassured the public that no injuries were reported and there was no impact on radiological safety levels after the fire outside the inner perimeter of the power plant. The incident has since triggered widespread international concern, even though no faction has come forward to claim responsibility for the aerial incursion. The official statement issued by the UAE notably refrained from attributing blame to any specific party for the hostile action, maintaining a cautious diplomatic stance. In a similar vein, the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency, which serves as the United Nations' nuclear watchdog, did not immediately respond to a request for comment regarding the severe security breach. The silence from global bodies underscores the gravity of the situation, given that the strike

on Sunday represents the first instance where the four-reactor Barakah Nuclear Power Plant has been actively targeted during the ongoing Iran war. Geographically isolated, the critical facility is situated deep within the far western deserts of Abu Dhabi, positioned in close proximity to the border with Saudi Arabia. This unprecedented targeting marks a sharp escalation for the installation, which holds a historical distinction as the first and only operational nuclear power facility located anywhere on the Arabian Peninsula. The massive \$20 billion Barakah nuclear power plant was originally constructed by the Emirates in technical collaboration with South Korea and successfully went online in 2020. The unfolding situation highlights how, in recent years, nuclear power infrastructures have increasingly found themselves targeted within active combat zones. This represents a dangerous trend that first intensified during Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. A similar dynamic has been playing out on the other side of the current Iran war, where Tehran has frequently asserted that its own Bushehr nuclear power plant came under hostile attack. However, those previous incidents resulted in no direct structural damage to its Russian-run reactor, nor did they trigger any form of radiological release. — ANI

## BILATERAL RELATIONS

## Indian PM concludes Netherlands visit

**THE HAGUE:** Infusing fresh vitality into the diplomatic and economic alignment between the two nations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's high-profile official visit to the Netherlands has culminated in the historic elevation of bilateral ties to a Strategic Partnership. Setting an ambitious template for future engagement, the transition marks a transformative shift in strategic dynamics, backed by a shared roadmap targeting next-generation industries, climate resilience, and maritime security. In a post on X, PM Narendra Modi shared, "My Netherlands visit has added new momentum to India-Netherlands ties. From elevating our relationship to a Strategic Partnership to expanding cooperation in water resources, semiconductors, innovation, defence, sustainability and mobility, we have charted an ambitious roadmap for the future." He further added, "I express my gratitude to PM Rob Jetten for the warm hospitality and for personally coming to the airport to bid farewell. I am confident that the friendship between India and the Netherlands will continue to grow stronger in the years to come." This renewed momentum was vividly demonstrated on the ground when PM Narendra Modi visited the historic Afsluitdijk dam, bringing international attention to long-term water management and climate resilience, drawing critical parallels to major infrastructural blueprints back home. Accompanied by Dutch Prime Minister Rob Jetten, PM Narendra Modi inspected the expansive barrier dam, which has shielded the low-lying European country from catastrophic flooding for decades while simultaneously facilitating inland navigation, freshwater storage, and clean energy generation. The high-profile site visit carries profound significance as the MEA highlighted its direct engineering relevance to Gujarat's ambitious Kalpasar Project, a proposed freshwater reservoir and dam system across the Gulf of Khambhat. Reflecting on the tour, PM Narendra Modi emphasised the global value of Dutch expertise via a post on X, stating, "An area in which the



Netherlands has done pioneering work is water management. The entire international community can learn a great deal from this. This morning I had the chance to visit the Afsluitdijk and gain insight into the key features of this project. I am grateful to Prime Minister Rob Jetten for accompanying me here. We are committed to bringing modern technology to India, designed to assist with irrigation, flood protection, and the expansion of the inland waterway network." Echoing this sentiment, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal described the engagement as an avenue for robust Indo-Dutch environmental and technological collaboration. In a post on X, Jaiswal noted, "A symbol of engineering excellence and innovation! Accompanied by PM Rob Jetten of the Netherlands, PM @narendramodi visited the iconic Afsluitdijk Dam, a symbol of Dutch excellence in water management, flood protection and freshwater storage. The visit highlighted the relevance of Dutch expertise for India's Kalpasar Project in Gujarat, which aims to create a freshwater reservoir and dam near the Gulf of Khambhat." Spanning 32 kilometres, the Afsluitdijk remains a cornerstone of the centuries-long Dutch battle against rising sea levels, separating the North Sea from the freshwater IJsselmeer lake. Currently undergoing a massive

modernisation framework known as "Afsluitdijk 2.0", the dam is being retrofitted to survive storms that statistically occur only once in 10,000 years, featuring smart water-discharge mechanisms, fish migration pathways, and advanced tidal and solar energy installations. Following the conclusion of this high-stakes itinerary, PM Narendra Modi was seen off by Netherlands PM Rob Jetten at Schiphol Airport, setting off for Gothenburg, Sweden, to continue his European tour at the invitation of Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson. The engineering inspection capped off an intense diplomatic schedule where India and the Netherlands officially elevated their relationship to a strategic partnership, executing 17 bilateral agreements to supercharge cooperation in defence, critical minerals, and emerging technologies. During their comprehensive discussions, the two leaders expressed deep concern over the volatile situation in West Asia, noting its severe implications for the wider world, particularly regarding trade network disruptions and global energy supplies. In an explicit joint directive, PM Narendra Modi and PM Rob Jetten called for freedom of navigation and global flow of commerce through the Strait of Hormuz, while opposing any "restrictive" measures, and reaffirmed their support for ongoing initiatives in this regard.

The geopolitical call for shipping protection follows severe disruptions along the strategic waterway after a joint US-Israeli military offensive against Iran sparked retaliatory exchanges. The two heads of government also evaluated the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, resolving to maintain continuous support for initiatives aimed at securing a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace through dialogue and diplomacy, rooted firmly in the principles of the UN Charter and international law. The diplomatic breakthrough at The Hague has formally established a strategic partnership roadmap focusing on semiconductors, AI, quantum computing, and space, alongside launching an ambitious "India-Netherlands roadmap on the development of green hydrogen" and exploring a defence industrial framework for joint manufacturing and technology transfers. The Netherlands remains a premier economic anchor for New Delhi in Europe, with bilateral trade reaching USD 27.8 billion in 2024-25 and cumulative foreign direct investment touching USD 55.6 billion, utilising the world-class Port of Rotterdam as a crucial logistical gateway. Beyond commercial exchanges, the newly signed pacts focus on agriculture, healthcare, and a key migration and mobility agreement to streamline professional and educational transit for Indians. Emphasising regional stability, both leaders advocated for a free, open, and peaceful Indo-Pacific based on sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the "absence of coercion and conflicts", a veiled reference to mounting anxieties regarding China's assertive maritime behaviour. The comprehensive joint statement further detailed mutual efforts to integrate critical mineral value chains and link the Dutch Semicon Competence Centre to the Indian Semiconductor Mission to drive industrial innovation, while leveraging the freshly executed India-EU Free Trade Agreement to unlock further commercial expansion. — ANI

# Golden leap sends Oman to 22-medal mark at GCC Games



Salem Al Ya’arubi’s triple jump gold and a silver in mixed rifle shooting lifted Oman’s tally at the ongoing GCC Games in Doha

Times News Service

**MUSCAT:** Oman athletes continued their impressive run at the ongoing fourth GCC Games in Doha, Qatar, by adding a gold and a silver to their kitty on Saturday, taking

the Sultanate’s overall count to 22 medals with competition continuing until May 22. With the latest podium finishes, Oman now have eight gold, four silver and 10 bronze medals. On Saturday, Oman’s only gold

came through Salem Al Ya’arubi, who produced a standout performance in the men’s triple jump to secure top spot. Oman’s second medal of the day arrived in shooting, where the mixed doubles pairing of Salem Al Na’abi and Al Anoud Al Khalili claimed silver in the 10m rifle mixed event after a strong showing against some of the Gulf’s top shooters. The result marked a second medal of the Games for both shooters. Al Na’abi had earlier won a medal in the 10m rifle event, while Al Anoud previously helped Oman secure bronze in the women’s



team rifle competition. The national shooting team still has the 10m pistol competitions for men and women to come on Tuesday, before concluding its campaign on Wednesday with the mixed pistol event. Brigadier General Khalid Al Mighbali, Director General of Military Sports at the Sultan’s Armed Forces General Staff and Secretary-General of the Oman Shooting Association, said the team entered the GCC Games aiming for major success despite the stiff competition. “Our ambitions were higher, but the results achieved so far are

positive considering the major development in Gulf shooting,” Al Muqbali said. “Oman have won two silver medals and one bronze in shooting so far and we still have important competitions ahead. We are targeting gold in the upcoming events.” He also stressed the federation’s long-term focus on developing young shooters through structured programmes and increased participation in regional competitions. **Disappointing start for spikers** Elsewhere, Oman’s men’s volleyball team suffered a disappoint-

ing start to its campaign after losing 3-0 to Bahrain in its opening match. Despite a competitive first set, Oman eventually went down 25-22, 25-21 and 25-18 as Bahrain capitalised on errors in attack and blocking to take control of the contest. Away from the competition venues, Omani officials and referees continued to play a prominent role in the organisation of the Games, serving across technical committees and officiating duties in volleyball, shooting, athletics, fencing, table tennis, taekwondo and water sports.

SECOND TEST: DAY TWO



## Bangladesh seize control in Sylhet Test against Pakistan

**SYLHET:** Bangladesh ruled the second day of the Sylhet Test, going to stumps with a healthy 156-run lead and only three wickets down in their second attempt. The home side were 110/3, losing Mominul Haque on what turned out to be the last ball of the day. Before that, it was a strong showing from their bowlers who combined to restrict Pakistan to 232 for a lead of 46 runs in the first innings, before Mahmudul Hasan Joy led the second innings with 51. Bangladesh’s bowling attack once again combined wonderfully, with Nahid Rana and Taijul Islam taking three wickets each. This, after Taskin Ahmed and Mehidy Hasan Miraz shared the first four wickets in the morning session. Pakistan’s total would have been much less had it not been for Sajid Khan’s big hitting towards the end

of their innings. He struck four sixes, three of them in a Taijul over that went for 19 runs. Sajid finished on 38 off 28 balls. Babar Azam top-scored for Pakistan with 68 on his return to the playing XI following an injury. Taskin removed the openers Abdullah Fazal and Azan Awaais, for 13 and 9 respectively. Mehidy then dismissed the Pakistan captain Shan Masood for 21. Saud Shakeel was Mehidy’s second victim in that spell. Babar’s 63-run fifth wicket stand with Salman Agha gave Pakistan some respite, but he fell to Rana. Taijul had Agha caught at the square-leg boundary for 21, before bowling Mohammad Rizwan for 13. He then had Hasan Ali skying one to mid-on, where Rana took a tumbling catch and Pakistan were eight down before tea, still trailing by 94 runs.

To add to that, Khurram Shahzad fell on the third ball after the break to Rana. With just one wicket in hand, Sajid hit Taijul for three sixes in a row. But he too was caught at fly slip off Rana soon. Captain Najmul Hossain Shanto was unbeaten on 13 at stumps after Mominul fell for 30. Mahmudul reached a quick half-century off 58 balls. Khurram Shahzad removed the debutant Tanzid Hasan for 4. Mahmudul reached his sixth Test fifty, his first against a higher-ranked side in two-and-a-half years. Mahmudul, however, fell shortly afterwards, whipping a catch to Fazal at the square-leg boundary off Mohammad Abbas. **Brief scores:** Bangladesh 278 and 110 for 3 (Mahmudul 51, Mominul 30, Shahzad 2-19) lead Pakistan 232 (Babar 68, Sajid 38, Rana 3-60, Taijul 3-67) by 156 runs. - Agencies

IPL

## RCB qualify for playoffs; PBKS lose six in a row



**DHARAMSHALA:** Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) became the first team to make the IPL 2026 playoffs on Sunday after they defeated Punjab Kings (PBKS) by 23 runs. For the longest time, PBKS seemed to be a lock in for the playoffs, possibly even a top-two spot. Then they slipped, and stumbled and continued to slide to reach a position where their playoffs spot is in serious doubt. On Sunday, PBKS lost their sixth game in a row in another run-fest in Dharamsala. The result left PBKS in a precarious position with just one game remaining. It was a game RCB dominated pretty much from top to bottom. RCB muscled their way to 222 for 4 on the back of a rollicking half-century from their No.4 Venkatesh Iyer, who has largely been an Impact Player this season, and got a promotion.

Batting in the top order for the first time in IPL 2026, Venkatesh showed his class, smashing an unbeaten 73 off 40, while Virat Kohli (57 off 37) and Devdutt Padikkal (45 off 25) also played their part in RCB’s tall score. PBKS’ chase got off to the worst possible start with Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Rasikh Salam reducing them to 19/3 inside four overs. Suryansh Shedge (35 off 22) and Marcus Stoinis (37 off 25) counterattacked but the required rate continued to surge. Shashank Singh smashed 56 off 27 balls but his innings came too late in the game. With PBKS needing 40 off the last two overs, 19th and Rasikh picked up two wickets in the 20th as PBKS were kept to 199/8. After the loss, PBKS skipper Shreyas Iyer said: “Obviously they got off to a great start and them taking on the bowlers right after the powerplay. Getting to 222 is

a commendable performance. I think the match was lost in the powerplay. We were three down in the powerplay and a majority of our run scorers were out early. “Really disappointed but commendable performances with Shashank and Stoinis and a few others. We were up there with the 10-runs an over mark but amazing bowling by Hazlewood and Bhuv. I am always positive irrespective of the results.” Shreyas added: “I always approach with a strong attitude and I am not someone who doesn’t dwell too much on the past. This is over, this is the past and I always look towards the light at the end of the tunnel.” **Brief scores:** Royal Challengers Bengaluru 222/4 (Venkatesh 73\*, Kohli 58, Padikkal 45; Brar 2-35) beat Punjab Kings 199/8 (Shashank 56, Connolly 37; Rasikh 3-36, Bhuvneshwar 2-38) by 23 runs. - Agencies

DEFEATED GUJARAT TITANS

## Allen blitz and Narine magic keep KKR’s playoff hopes alive

**KOLKATA:** A stunning batting exhibition led by Finn Allen powered Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) to a commanding 29-run win over Gujarat Titans (GT) at Eden Gardens, keeping their IPL playoff hopes alive on Saturday. KKR piled up a record 247 for 2 – the highest total ever scored against GT – before restricting the visitors to 218 for 4 despite fighting half-centuries from Shubman Gill and Jos Buttler. Allen produced one of the innings of the season, smashing 93 off just 35 balls with 10 sixes and seven fours. After a cautious start on a slightly tacky surface, the New Zealand opener exploded spectacularly, dismantling both pace and spin with fearless strokeplay. GT’s



fielding woes added to their misery as Allen survived two dropped catches before turning the game

decisively in KKR’s favour. Youngster Angkrish Raghuvanshi continued the assault with a superb unbeaten 82 off 44 deliveries, showcasing maturity and range in the death overs. He accelerated brilliantly after reaching fifty, hammering Mohammad Siraj for three sixes in the 19th over. Cameron Green provided the finishing flourish with an unbeaten 52 off 27 balls as the duo added an unbroken 108-run stand from just 53 deliveries. Chasing a daunting 248, GT began aggressively with Sai Sudharsan racing away to 53 before retiring hurt after being struck on the elbow. Gill and Buttler kept the chase alive through a 128-run partnership for the third wicket,

but the required rate kept climbing beyond control. Gill struck a classy 85 while Buttler made 57, yet neither could sustain the momentum long enough. The turning point came through veteran all-rounder Sunil Narine, who starred in his 200th IPL appearance. Narine dismissed Nishant Sindhu with his very first ball and later removed Gill at a crucial stage, finishing with 2 for 29 in a masterful spell that shut the door on GT’s chase. **Brief scores:** Kolkata Knight Riders 247/2 in 20 overs (Finn Allen 93, Angkrish Raghuvanshi 82\*, Cameron Green 52\*) beat Gujarat Titans 218/4 in 20 overs (Shubman Gill 85, Jos Buttler 57, Sai Sudharsan 53\*) by 29 runs. - Agencies



SPORTS

POLISH STRIKER

Lewandowski to leave Barcelona with ‘mission complete’

**BARCELONA:** Prolific scorer Robert Lewandowski will leave Barcelona at the end of the season, the Spanish club said on Saturday. The Poland striker, who turns 38 in August, was widely expected to move as his contract is set to expire. Lewandowski joined Barcelona from Bayern on a 45 million euro (\$52 million) transfer in 2022, when his new club was in serious financial trouble and still reeling from Lionel Messi's exit. Lewandowski was seen as a key

piece of its rebuilding effort. He helped Barcelona win three Spanish league titles in four seasons, including this campaign, and one Copa del Rey, scoring an impressive 119 goals in 191 appearances. "After four years full of challenges and hard work, it's time to move on. I leave with the feeling that the mission is complete," Lewandowski wrote on Instagram. Lewandowski did not say what's next for his career in his message. He has been linked with a move to Juven-



tor or to leagues outside Europe. Lewandowski lost his status as the undisputed first-choice striker for Barcelona coach Hansi Flick this season, as the former Bayern coach often preferred the speed and hustle of the younger Ferran Torres. Lamine Yamal, who has played on Lewandowski's right, praised his attack partner. "Thank you for everything, for your goals, your leadership, and for believing in me since day one," Yamal wrote on Instagram. "I

learned so much from you, on and off the pitch. You will always be a legend." Barcelona coach Hansi Flick said: "He spoke with the team, said goodbye, and said it was a great time for him here in Barcelona." Flick also coached Lewandowski at Bayern Munich. "I've worked with Robert now for years, and we won together nine (trophies), all the titles I've won were with him. "For me it's a privilege to work with him. He's a professional play-

er... every day he gave his best physically to stay at the highest level. "He's a perfect role model for young players... this is why he's still playing at this level." Flick said Lewandowski was a "fantastic human, but also a world-class player". "Thank you, Robert Lewandowski, for every goal, every (bit of) fight, and every magical moment wearing these colours," said Barcelona on social media. "He arrived as a star, he leaves as a legend." - Agencies

Semenyo nets winner as City down Chelsea to lift FA Cup

Pep Guardiola's men added FA Cup trophy to League Cup won against Arsenal earlier this season

**LONDON:** In its 155-year history the FA Cup final can rarely have been won by a more audacious goal. Pep Guardiola's Manchester City edged past Chelsea 1-0 at Wembley Stadium on Saturday thanks to a moment of magic from Antoine Semenyo. The forward brought a final that had produced little in the way of chances or excitement to life with a spectacular back-heeled goal in the second half. Running onto a cross from Erling Haaland in the 72nd minute, Semenyo flicked his heel at the ball and directed it low into the far corner past diving Chelsea goalkeeper Robert Sanchez. "It has happened a couple of times in training, it happened perfectly today. ... It came straight to me and I had to improvise myself as quickly as I can," Semenyo told the BBC. "It is a good finish, I can't lie." Chelsea interim coach Calum McFarlane agreed. "For me it's a one in 100 goal," he said. "For me, no, there's not much more you can do to defend it." Victory kept City in the hunt for a domestic trophy treble, having already won the English League



Cup. Pep Guardiola's team is also second in the Premier League, two points behind Arsenal with two rounds to go. With an important game against Bournemouth on Tuesday, Guardiola said he would not allow his players "even one beer" in celebration. This was Guardiola's 17th major trophy in 10 years at City and his 35th in his career overall. City have won the Cup eight times, moving level with Chelsea, Liverpool and Tottenham as equal third on the all-time winners' list. Defeat means Chelsea will end

the season trophyless — a year after being crowned Club World Cup champion — in what has been a crisis-ridden campaign. The turmoil at Chelsea led to supporters staging a protest against its American owners outside the stadium before kickoff. In that sense it was commendable that McFarlane was able to frustrate Guardiola for such long periods. That was until Semenyo's match-winning moment. The Ghana international joined City from Bournemouth only in January and made an immediate impact — scoring 10 goals and

helping the team to two trophies. "As a kid I have always wanted to be playing for the top teams. It took a long time to get there, but I am grateful," Semenyo said. "The first thing he (Guardiola) said to me when I came was, 'Don't change your game' ... he still wants me to be me, still create a bit of chaos." After the final whistle City fans sang the club anthem "Blue Moon" loudly, and cheered wildly as Bernardo Silva and John Stones lifted the famous trophy. Both players are leaving at the end of the season. "Being able to lift another tro-

phy at Wembley, where we have played so many times, is such a special feeling, one I never take for granted," Bernardo said. "To do so as captain makes this one of the best days of my career." Triumph for City came after back-to-back losses in the final in the previous two years. This was the record fourth year in a row they reached the final, having last won it in 2023. Chelsea have lost their last four FA Cup finals, tying Leicester's record for consecutive losses. Arsenal has won football's oldest knockout competition a record 14 times.

Manchester United are second with 13. Guardiola was congratulated by Prince William as he went to collect his winners' medal. Afterwards the City manager gazed around Wembley at the celebrating fans. There has been growing speculation that this could be his final season at City; he has yet to confirm his plans. "The future is bright," Guardiola said. "I know the guys, I know how they feel ... next year we will be there, we will be better next season." - Agencies

ASIAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE TWO

Ronaldo's Saudi trophy wait drags on as Al Nassr fall to Gamba Osaka

**RIYADH:** Cristiano Ronaldo's wait for a first major trophy in Saudi Arabia continued when Al Nassr lost to Japan's Gamba Osaka 1-0 in the Asian Champions League Two final on Saturday. A first-half goal from Turkish forward Deniz Hammat helped Osaka secure Asia's second-tier tournament despite Al Nassr dominating possession and having more attempts on goal. The defeat came five days after Al Nassr was seconds away from winning the Saudi Pro League for the first time since 2019, only to concede in stoppage time and leave the title race to be decided on the final matchday on Thursday. It was a frustrating night for the home side. Al Nassr created mul-

tiple openings in the first half but Osaka took the lead in the 30th minute. Hammat turned and fired a low shot into the bottom corner from just inside the area. After a lengthy VAR check for offside, the goal stood. "I am happy to score and help the team and to do my best for this club," said Hammat, who went off injured at halftime. "I was nervous watching in the second half but the most important thing is that we won and I am proud of my teammates. Now it is time to celebrate and enjoy." Osaka defended in numbers and with discipline, making it difficult for Al-Nassr's star-studded attack to create clear chances. - Agencies



PREMIER LEAGUE

Alonso appointed new Chelsea manager, signs four-year deal

**LONDON:** Xabi Alonso has been appointed as the new manager of Chelsea with the Spaniard signing a four-year contract, the Premier League club announced on Sunday. "Chelsea Football Club is delighted to announce the appointment of Xabi Alonso as Manager of the Men's Team. The Spaniard will begin his role on July 1, 2026, having agreed a four-year contract at Stamford Bridge," said the five-time Premier League winner in an official statement. Alonso becomes the fifth permanent appointment under Chelsea's BlueCo ownership, following Graham Potter, Mauricio Pochettino, Enzo Maresca and Liam



Rosenior. It marks a return to English football for Alonso, who made 210 appearances for Liverpool as a player before leaving for Real Madrid in 2009 and later ending his playing career with Bayern Munich in 2017. The 44-year-old Spaniard be-

gan his managerial career by taking charge of the Real Sociedad B team in 2019. In 2022, he moved to Bayer Leverkusen. Under him, the Bundesliga club had a historic 2023-24 season in which it achieved the domestic double without losing a game. It also finished runner-up in UEFA Europa League. The Spaniard will begin his role on July 1, 2026, having agreed a four-year contract at Stamford Bridge. In 2025, Alonso was made head coach of Real Madrid. However, he left the job by mutual consent after Los Blancos lost to Barcelona in the Spanish Super Cup final in January this year. - Agencies

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

St. Pauli and Heidenheim relegated on Bundesliga's last day



**BERLIN:** St. Pauli and Heidenheim were relegated from the German Bundesliga while Wolfsburg grabbed the last chance for survival on a dramatic last day of the season on Saturday. Wolfsburg won a relegation decider at St. Pauli 3-1 to send the home team down and qualify for a playoff where they will be favoured against the third-place finisher from the second division to decide who play in the top division next season. Heidenheim, who had been level with Wolfsburg and St. Pauli going into the final round, needed a win at home against Mainz to keep alive their hopes but they slumped

to a 2-0 loss. Stuttgart held on for the last Champions League qualification spot despite conceding two late goals in a 2-2 draw at Eintracht Frankfurt, denying Hoffenheim and Bayer Leverkusen their chance. Both rivals were hoping for a favour from Frankfurt but they failed to win in any case. Hoffenheim lost at Borussia Mönchengladbach 4-0 and Leverkusen could only draw with Hamburger SV 1-1. Jonathan Burkardt scored two late penalties for Frankfurt, who endured a tumultuous end to the season under new coach Albert Riera, who fell out with Burkardt and was the subject of protests from the home fans.

**Kane hat-trick, Bayern crowned champions** Harry Kane scored a hat-trick to take his season tally to 36 Bundesliga goals in league champion Bayern Munich's 5-1 win at home over Cologne. Leon Goretzka started his last Bundesliga game with Bayern, who were presented with the league trophy after the game. Bayern captain Manuel Neuer, who extended his contract the day before, gave the "salad bowl" trophy to Goretzka to hoist to the sky to start the celebrations. Bayern next face defending champions Stuttgart in the German Cup final in Berlin's

Olympiastadion next Saturday. Marie-Louise Eta oversaw her second win in charge of Union Berlin as her team ended the season with a 4-0 rout of visiting Augsburg. Eta, the first female coach in the Bundesliga, is next slated to take over Union's women's team, though she may face calls to stay in charge of the men's after finishing with a draw and two wins from her five games at the helm. Second-placed Borussia Dortmund finished with a 2-0 win at Werder Bremen, and Freiburg enjoyed a 4-1 win at home over third-placed Leipzig. Freiburg next face Aston Villa in the Europa League final on Wednesday. - Agencies

# GWM Oman hosts exclusive ladies drive to Jebel Akhdar – Rose season

The initiative reflects GWM’s commitment to creating meaningful lifestyle experiences while celebrating confidence and empowerment behind the wheel



**MUSCAT:** GWM Oman recently hosted an exclusive Ladies Drive to Jebel Akhdar, bringing together women drivers for a premium journey set against the backdrop of Oman’s iconic Rose Season.

The initiative reflects GWM’s commitment to creating meaningful lifestyle experiences while celebrating confidence and empowerment behind the wheel.

Designed as a thoughtfully curated, community-led experience, the drive highlighted the seamless balance of graceful power across the GWM Haval and Tank SUV range. Participants experienced firsthand how these vehicles transition effortlessly from refined urban comfort to commanding off-road capability, delivering confidence, control, and composure even along the steep and winding

roads of Jebel Akhdar.

The journey was more than just a drive; it was a defining first experience navigating a mountainous terrain. Offering reassurance at every turn, with intuitive handling, advanced safety systems, and a driving experience that felt both powerful and elegantly controlled. This sense of ease and assurance reinforced GWM’s focus on enabling independence and confidence for every driver, regardless of experience level.

Set during Oman’s celebrated Rose Season, the drive brought together a community of women in an environment that blended natural beauty, cultural richness, and shared exploration. The experience extended beyond the road, creating meaningful moments that connected lifestyle, adventure, and personal discovery.

With advanced safety and stability technologies, refined interiors designed for long-distance comfort, and versatile performance capabilities, GWM Haval and Tank SUVs proved to be dependable companions across every terrain. The event further strengthened GWM’s positioning as a brand that delivers not just vehicles, but experiences defined by graceful power, purpose, and connection.

The Ladies Drive to Jebel Akhdar forms part of GWM Oman’s ongoing efforts to engage its community through experiences that bring together performance, lifestyle, and cultural relevance. Customers are invited to explore the GWM range at showrooms across Muscat, Sohar, Nizwa, Salalah, Sur, and Ibbi, and discover a driving experience shaped by confidence, comfort, and innovation.

SPARKLING SUMMER

## Malabar Gold & Diamonds unveils exciting offers for summer shoppers

**MUSCAT:** Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the 5th largest jewellery retailer globally with over 445 showrooms across 14 countries, has just launched exciting offers for summer shoppers.

The Sparkling Summer offers, which will run until the 6 June across all of brand’s showrooms in Oman, will give customers the chance to get free cash vouchers on their diamond & precious gem jewellery purchases.

As part of the offers, customers will be eligible for a free cash voucher worth OMR 10 for every diamond or precious gem worth OMR 300. The voucher is equivalent to cash and can be used for the purchase of gold or diamond jewellery, gold coins or gold bars. As part of the offers, Malabar Gold & Diamonds is also offering chains and bangles with making charges starting at 1.99%.

“With the Sparkling Summer offers, we’re making jewellery shopping even more exciting for our customers. Diamond jewellery has become a top gifting choice, and our diverse selection, especially the Zoul lifestyle collection, ensures there’s something special for everyone. The added advantage of free cash vouchers gives customers exceptional value with every purchase,” commented Shamlal Ahamed,

The Sparkling Summer offers will run until June 6

MD-International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds

Malabar Gold & Diamonds has also introduced its Zoul Lifestyle Jewellery collection, featuring exceptional lightweight designs crafted in 18K gold and natural diamonds. The collection is thoughtfully created for effortless everyday elegance, stylish occasional wear, and meaningful gifting, making it a versatile choice for every jewellery lover.

With a jewellery array comprising thousands of designs from numerous exclusive brands & collections such as Mine, Era, Viraa, Ethnix, Precia & Divine, Malabar Gold & Diamonds has been constantly updating their jewellery portfolio to cater to the refined tastes & preferences of its immense customer base. With all purchases covered under the Malabar Promise of 100% Value on Diamond & Gold exchange, Assured lifetime maintenance, guaranteed buyback and more, Malabar Gold & Diamonds guarantees its customers unmatched value & service assurance on their purchase.

IN COLLABORATION WITH DHOFAR MUNICIPALITY

## Sohar International named strategic partner for Dhofar Khareef 2026

**MUSCAT:** Reinforcing its strategic partnerships that support the Sultanate’s tourism and economic sectors, Sohar International has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Dhofar Municipality to serve as the Strategic Partner for Dhofar Khareef 2026.

The partnership reflects a shared commitment to supporting the continued success of the Khareef season, contributing to the enhancement of tourism, economic activity, and community engagement across Dhofar Governorate, while further strengthening its position as one of the region’s leading tourism destinations in line with Oman Vision 2040 and Oman’s sustainable development objectives.

The agreement was signed on Sunday, 17 May in the presence of His Highness Sayyid Marwan Turki Al Said, Governor of Dhofar. Representing Dhofar Municipality was Dr. Ahmed Mohsen Al Ghasani, Chairman of Dhofar Municipality, while Khalil Salem Al Hedaifi, Head of Government and Private Banking Group, signed on behalf of Sohar International.

Commenting on the partnership, His Excellency Dr. Ahmed bin Mohsen Al Ghasani, Chairman of Dhofar Municipality, stated that the agreement reflects the importance of strengthening public-private sector collaboration in supporting Dhofar Khareef 2026 and enhancing the overall visitor experience. He noted that the season continues to witness growing momentum year after



year in terms of tourism inflow, accompanying activities, and service infrastructure, further reinforcing Dhofar Governorate’s position as a leading integrated tourism destination in the region.

He added: “We highly value our partnership with Sohar International, which represents an effective model of institutional collaboration in supporting national initiatives and major tourism seasons, particularly in areas related to environmental sustainability, service enhancement, and the delivery of impactful initiatives that contribute to enriching the season while supporting economic and social activity across Dhofar Governorate, in line with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.”

Under the agreement, Sohar International will provide integrated

support for the season’s activities and platforms. The Bank will also provide environmentally friendly electric vehicles to Dhofar Municipality, reaffirming its commitment to sustainability and the promotion of clean mobility solutions during the tourism season. The partnership further includes collaboration on marketing and promotional campaigns, as well as participation in seasonal activities and events.

Commenting on the partnership, Khalil Salem Al Hedaifi, Head of Government and Private Banking Group at Sohar International, stated: “Our ongoing partnership with Dhofar Municipality reflects our strong belief in the exceptional tourism and economic value that Dhofar Khareef brings to the Sultanate. With more than one million visitors annually and

spending exceeding OMR 125 million, the season has become a significant economic contributor that supports economic diversification, strengthens the contribution of non-oil sectors to GDP, stimulates SME activity, creates employment opportunities, and enhances investment prospects across the Governorate. At Sohar International, we take pride in our strategic partnerships with government entities, particularly in supporting nationally significant tourism seasons such as Dhofar Khareef, which contribute to sustainable development and strengthen integration across key sectors in Oman.”

Sohar International continues to strengthen its role as a strategic partner for national tourism seasons and festivals across the Sultanate’s governorates, supporting initiatives that celebrate the cultural, tourism, and economic identity of Oman. Through innovative initiatives and meaningful engagement, the Bank remains committed to enriching visitor experiences, supporting domestic tourism, and contributing to the broader economic and social value generated by national events and tourism platforms.

This agreement reflects Sohar International’s broader approach toward building impactful partnerships that support vital sectors, create long-term value, and reinforce the Bank’s position as a trusted partner in sustainable development and community enrichment.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

## MHD-ITICS introduces new HONOR Experience Store in Oman

**MUSCAT:** Marking a significant milestone in its consumer business journey, MHD-ITICS officially inaugurated the new HONOR Experience Store at Mall of Oman, reinforcing its commitment to delivering immersive and experience-led retail solutions to consumers across the Sultanate.

The store was inaugurated by Lujaina Mohsin Darwish, Chairperson MHD-ITICS, alongside Debo Zhang, CEO HONOR-GCC, in the presence of senior officials from both organizations, media representatives, partners, and invited guests.

The launch event marked HONOR’s direct expansion into the retail experience space in Oman while reflecting the growing strategic partnership between MHD-ITICS and HONOR. Through its Consumer Division and Mobile Distribution vertical, MHD-ITICS has played a key role in expanding the reach of leading global technology brands across the Sultanate. With the opening of the HONOR Experience Store, the company



takes a strategic step beyond distribution into direct consumer engagement, creating a platform that combines innovation, accessibility, and enhanced customer experiences.

Speaking at the launch, Lujaina Mohsin Darwish, Chairperson MHD-ITICS, stated: “The launch

of the HONOR Experience Store represents an important milestone in MHD-ITICS’ evolving consumer business journey and reflects our broader vision of creating more meaningful and direct connections with customers in Oman. As consumer expectations continue to evolve, retail today is no longer

only about accessibility to products, but about creating engaging and personalized experiences that allow customers to interact with technology in a more immersive way. Through our partnership with HONOR, we are bringing together innovation, customer-centricity, and global technological excel-

lence to deliver a differentiated retail experience for consumers in the Sultanate. This launch also reinforces our continued commitment to supporting Oman’s growing digital lifestyle ecosystem while strengthening our position within the consumer technology and retail space.”

Commenting on the occasion, Debo Zhang, CEO HONOR-GCC, said: “Oman continues to be an important and fast-growing market for HONOR within the GCC region, and the opening of this Experience Store reflects our long-term commitment to deepening our presence and engagement with consumers in the Sultanate. HONOR is dedicated to building a connected, human-centric, and innovation-driven ecosystem that empowers users through advanced technology and seamless multi-device experiences.”

“Our latest portfolio brings together the strength of HONOR’s renowned durability—engineered to withstand real-world conditions—with next-generation AI

capabilities designed to make everyday interactions smarter, more intuitive, and more meaningful. From AI-enhanced imaging and performance optimization to intelligent cross-device collaboration, HONOR’s AI innovations are built to help people feel more confident and connected with technology.”

“Through this new Experience Store, Omani consumers will every month find something new and inspiring—from our latest AI-powered features to our expanding AIoT lineup. This destination will allow customers to explore, interact, and experience technology in a more immersive way. We believe this store will redefine how consumers in Oman engage with innovation while reinforcing HONOR’s vision of making advanced technology accessible to everyone.”

The launch further reinforces the growing momentum of Oman’s consumer technology sector while reflecting the shared ambition of MHD-ITICS and HONOR to redefine the retail technology experience for customers across the Oman.



# ROUND-UP

# BankDhofar adopts strategies to build national workforce capable of keeping pace with future changes

By combining strategic talent development, advanced technology adoption and a progressive workplace culture, the bank is positioning its people at the centre of its long-term transformation agenda

**MUSCAT:** In a rapidly evolving financial landscape shaped by digital innovation, shifting customer expectations and new regulatory dynamics, BankDhofar is taking decisive steps to build a workforce equipped for the future of banking.

By combining strategic talent development, advanced technology adoption and a progressive workplace culture, the bank is positioning its people at the centre of its long-term transformation agenda.

At the heart of BankDhofar's approach is a strong commitment to developing homegrown talent. The

bank continues to invest in structured learning and leadership development programmes designed to nurture the next generation of banking professionals. Through targeted training, mentorship initiatives and cross-functional exposure, employees are encouraged to build both technical expertise and strategic thinking capabilities. Graduate training programmes and specialized skill-development tracks are helping young Omanis enter the financial sector with the competencies needed to thrive in an increasingly digital banking environment.



Dr. Khalid bin Salem Al Hamedani, Chief of the Human Resources Officer in BankDhofar, explained that building a future-ready workforce is not merely an institutional initiative, but a strategic commitment that stands at the core of the bank's priorities. He affirmed that investing in people is the main driver of any organization's success, which is why the bank is keen

to provide advanced training programmes and clear career pathways that enable employees to acquire the skills needed in a rapidly evolving banking environment.

Dr. Fatin AlZadjali – Head of Learning and Development- said: “Over the past years, we have strengthened our employees’ capabilities in areas such as financial technology, data analytics, and the use of modern digital platforms, ensuring their readiness to support our digital transformation journey and deliver innovative services to our customers”. Also, Usama Ismail AlFarsi- Head of Organizational Development and Career Planning- said: “We are also working to foster a work culture built on continuous learning, agility, and accountability, to create an environment that empowers our employees to innovate and excel.”

Qais Mohamed AlHainai- Head HR Services Excellence & Transformation - said: "Technology is another key pillar in the bank's workforce transformation strategy. As digital banking services expand and fintech innovations reshape the industry, BankDhofar is

equipping its teams with the tools and skills needed to operate in a data-driven ecosystem”.

In BankDofar, employees are being trained in areas such as digital banking platforms, data analytics, cybersecurity awareness and automation, enabling them to support the bank's growing portfolio of technology-enabled services.

Internally, digital tools are also being leveraged to enhance productivity and collaboration. Modern workplace platforms and knowledge-sharing systems are helping teams work more efficiently while fostering greater connectivity across departments. By embedding technology into everyday workflows, the bank aims to cultivate a workforce that is agile, tech-savvy and capable of adapting to rapidly changing market conditions.

Equally important is the bank's focus on building a forward-looking workplace culture. BankDhofar is encouraging a culture of continuous learning, innovation and accountability, where employees are empowered to contribute ideas and participate

actively in the bank's transformation journey. Initiatives that promote employee engagement, wellbeing and work-life balance are helping to create an environment where individuals can grow professionally while remaining motivated and productive.

The bank is also strengthening collaboration between its human resources, technology and business divisions to ensure that workforce planning aligns closely with strategic priorities. This integrated approach allows the bank to identify emerging skill requirements early and design targeted training programmes that prepare employees for new roles created by digital transformation.

By combining talent development, technological capability and a progressive corporate culture, BankDhofar is laying the foundations for a future-ready workforce. As the banking sector continues to evolve, the bank's investment in its people is expected to play a critical role in driving innovation, enhancing customer experience and supporting sustainable growth in Oman's financial sector.

## SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY



# BYD ATTO 3 SUV elevates electric driving in Oman

**MUSCAT:** As the Sultanate embraces a new era of sustainable mobility, the BYD ATTO 3 stands out as a sophisticated blend of performance, personality and pioneering technology.

This all-electric SUV is not just about moving from point A to B; it is about redefining the journey through a pervasive sporty design and a high-tech interior that resonates with the energy of a modern lifestyle.

By combining a sleek, aerodynamic exterior with unmatched electric efficiency, the BYD ATTO 3 offers Omani drivers a forward-thinking choice that balances environmental responsibility with the thrill of the drive.

Drawing visual inspiration from the strength of the Chinese dragon, the BYD ATTO 3 features a sharp-lined design anchored by signature wing-shaped headlights and 18-inch “Wing of Wind” alloy wheels.

Beneath this elegant surface lies a high-performance electric powertrain producing 201 horsepower and 310 Nm of torque. This allows the SUV to sprint from 0 to 100 km/h in a swift 7.3 seconds, making it a leader in its segment for acceleration. With a reliable driving range of 410 km (WLTP), the BYD ATTO 3 is perfectly suited for navigating the vibrant streets of Muscat or embarking on longer coastal expeditions with total confidence.

### Gym-themed cockpit: Feel the groove

The interior of the BYD ATTO 3 is a true departure from the ordinary, featuring a “gym-themed” cockpit designed to inspire movement and joy. The cabin is meticulously crafted with premium leather and bespoke details, including dumbbell-shaped vertical AC vents and a treadmill-style central armrest. Adding a touch of musical flair, the door panels feature unique “guitar strings”

This all-electric SUV is not just about moving from point A to B; it is about redefining the journey through a pervasive sporty design and a high-tech interior that resonates with the energy of a modern lifestyle. BYD ATTO 3 offers Omani drivers a forward-thinking choice that balances environmental responsibility with the thrill of the drive

that can be strummed to create a melody or used to secure bottles.

Technology takes center stage with the revolutionary 12.8-inch Entertainment system with Android Auto and Apple CarPlay, which seamlessly integrates navigation and entertainment.

Safety is at the core of BYD's engineering philosophy, and the ATTO 3 is equipped with an extensive suite of intelligent driver-assistance features. By pairing the ultra-safe BYD Blade Battery with these cutting-edge safety innovations, the ATTO 3 ensures that every journey in Oman is secure, sustainable and filled with infinite possibilities.

TOYOTA

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# DEEPAL, the New Energy Vehicle Brand under Changan group, Launched in Oman.



Muscat: Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment (AGAE) has launched Deepal, Changan's new energy vehicle brand, at a special event marking a major step in advanced electrified mobility solutions in the Sultanate. The launch introduced a line-up of Range Extended Electric Vehicles (REEVs) that combine electric driving experienced with extended-range confidence, superior performance and intelligent technology.

Deepal has been introduced as a distinct new energy vehicle brand built around three key strengths including superior performance, superior comfort & superior safety. As REEV models, the vehicles allow drivers to enjoy smooth, responsive electric mobility for daily use, while the range extender supports longer journeys with added confidence. This gives customers the benefit of electric driving without the usual concerns linked to range or charging availability, DEEPAL line-up are well suited to both city commutes and long-distance travel in Oman.

Deepal range therefore offers many premium class features in its model range as a standard including:

- 1. **Performance:** REEV & Rear Wheel Drive for superior handling.
- 2. **Design:** Aerodynamic shape, frameless windows, 20" full spec wheels.
- 3. **Safety:** IACC integrated Adaptive Cruise Control,

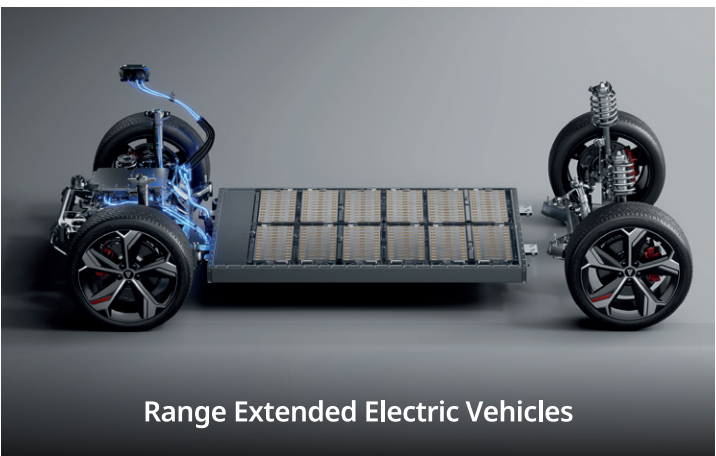
Lane keep assist, Traffic Jam Assist.  
4. **Technology:** Smart Voice Assistant, 540 degree camera, AR-HVD [S05, S07], Panoramic Sunroof

5. **Comfort:** Superior wheel base for extra leg room, Front Seats with excellent flank support for ultimate comfort.

The Deepal range in Oman includes the S05, S07 and G318, each developed to meet different lifestyle and driving needs. The line-up also includes the G318 all-wheel-drive SUV, which adds stronger traction, enhanced control and greater capability for customers seeking a more adventure-focused driving experience.

The Deepal S05 is designed as a modern urban SUV with intelligent technology and extended electric freedom. Powered by a 1.5-litre naturally aspirated range extender and supported by a 27.28 kWh LFP battery, it offers a pure electric range of at least 160 km under NEDC and a combined REEV range of over 1000 km under WLTC. The S05 delivers a Combine Max Power of 214 hp and 320 Nm of motor torque, giving customers responsive everyday performance with the confidence of extended driving range.

The Deepal S07 offers a larger SUV experience with refined comfort and intelligent connectivity. Powered by a 1.5-litre naturally aspirated range extender and a 31.74 kWh



Range Extended Electric Vehicles



Dynamic Long-range Performance



Advanced Safety Systems



Intelligent Cutting-edge Technology

battery, it delivers a 160 km WLTP pure electric range and a WLTP combined range of 950 km. The S07 delivers a Combine Max Power of 235 hp and 320 Nm of motor torque, offering smooth acceleration, confident highway performance and long-distance driving assurance.

For customers seeking stronger road presence and adventure capability, the Deepal G318 stands as the most rugged model in the line-up. Offered as an all-wheel-drive SUV, it features a 1.5-litre turbo range extender, dual electric motors, a 35.07 kWh battery, 138 km WLTC pure electric range and 848 km WLTC combined range. The G318 delivers a Combine Max Power of 430 hp, along with 575 Nm of motor torque. Its off-road credentials are strengthened by 210 mm ground clearance, a 27-degree approach angle and a 31-degree departure angle.

The G318 further reinforces Deepal's capability promise through drive modes designed for varied terrain and conditions, including mud, sand and water wading. The model also places strong emphasis on comfort, with features such as seat ventilation and driver-side massage helping make long journeys more relaxed and comfortable.

Commenting on the launch, a spokesperson from Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment LLC (AGAE) said, "Deepal represents an important

new chapter for Changan Group in Oman. These Range Extended Electric Vehicles give customers the efficiency of electric driving, the performance needed for confident journeys, the comfort and the technology to make every drive smarter and safer. With the S05, S07 and the all-wheel-drive G318, we are offering a practical and future-ready mobility solution that suits Oman's roads, lifestyles and long-distance driving needs."

**Manufacturer Warranty :** Deepal Brand offers new vehicle warranty for 6-years or 250,000 kilometers and Golden Shield Battery warranty is upto 8-years or 250,000 kilometers respectively which is earlier.

**About AGAE :** Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment (AGAE) offers state-of-the-art showrooms for DEEPAL BRAND located in Al Qurum, Sohar and Salalah, along with additional sales centre in Mawaleh, Sohar, Ibri, Nizwa, Barka and Sur. In addition, AGAE has established 13 service centres across Oman, including its main service centre in Azaiba, Muscat, providing comprehensive maintenance and repair services. For more information, contact Deepal Oman at the toll-free number 80050800, via WhatsApp at 96620435, or visit the newly launched showroom in Al Qurum. Customers can also visit [www.deepaloman.com](http://www.deepaloman.com) to book test drives, request a callback, and explore the latest Deepal models and offers.

