

Times

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NEW RULES ISSUED TO IMPORT USED VEHICLES FROM GULF COUNTRIES



ROP announced that used car imports from GCC countries will only be permitted with official export certificates from July 1, 2025

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In a significant policy shift aimed at regulating the inflow of used vehicles and supporting the local automobile sector, the Royal Oman Police (ROP) on Wednesday announced that, effective July 1, 2025, it will suspend the acceptance of vehicle imports using the clearance certificate system.

The decision, announced jointly by the General Directorate of

Traffic and the General Directorate of Customs, will limit vehicle imports from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries to only those accompanied by an official export certificate issued by competent authorities in the country of registration.

“The ROP is pleased to inform vehicle importers from GCC countries that it will no longer accept vehicle imports using the clearance certificate system.”

“Imports will be limited to

those accompanied by an export certificate issued by the competent authorities,” the ROP added.

An ROP official confirmed that the measure is aimed at “regulating the process of importing used vehicles from Gulf countries through the internal border crossings of the GCC states.”

The move comes amid mounting concerns over the surge in used car imports from GCC countries, which industry insiders say has negatively impacted Omani car dealerships.

Market observers say the trend of importing second-hand vehicles using clearance certificates, which bypassed stricter export certification standards, allowed for easier access to cheaper vehicles.

This in turn undermined the sales of both new and used cars within Oman.

ROYAL HOSPITAL

Brain-dead person’s organ transplant gives new life to an Omani citizen

MUSCAT: Oman has successfully conducted its first heart transplant from a brain-dead donor to an Omani patient suffering from severe heart failure. The complex five-hour procedure was performed by a fully integrated, multi-disciplinary Omani medical team.

The intricate surgery took place at the National Heart Centre of the Royal Hospital, one of the leading specialised facilities for cardiac care.

The procedure was overseen by Dr. Hilal Ali Sabti, Minister of Health, who joined the surgical team given his extensive expertise in cardiac surgery, alongside an international monitoring team.

In a media briefing held yesterday at the Royal Hospital, the Minister of Health emphasised that this achievement marks a pivotal milestone in Oman’s healthcare sector. The heart was



transplanted from a brain-dead donor in strict adherence to the highest medical and ethical standards, in line with national laws and international guidelines on organ donation.

He stated that this success is not merely the result of a medical team’s efforts but reflects a comprehensive national vision driven by wise leadership, the competence of Omani professionals, and a spirit of humani-

tarian generosity. Healthcare workers have demonstrated their readiness to perform medical tasks with the utmost efficiency and responsibility.

He added that the success of Oman’s first heart transplant from a brain-dead donor, carried out entirely by qualified Omani hands, embodies the highest levels of integration and responsibility within the healthcare system. **>A4**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Green hydrogen auction

1 The Sultanate of Oman on Wednesday launched its third green hydrogen auction round. **>A2**

OMAN Electricity bills

2 APSR has offered varying discounts on electricity consumption bills for residential category. **>A3**

OMAN Logistics Day 2025

3 Oman yesterday celebrated Logistics Day 2025 at the Al Bustan Palace Hotel. **>A5**

SAYYID SHIHAB RECEIVES AMBASSADOR OF BANGLADESH



HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs received in his office at Al Murtafa’a Camp yesterday Khondkar Mishbah-ul Azim, Ambassador of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh to the Sultanate of Oman. The meeting reviewed the relations between the two countries and touched on a range of topics of mutual interest. — **ONA**

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Oman announces third auction round for green hydrogen blocks

Designed and orchestrated by Hydrom, the third auction offers innovative and flexible opportunities for qualified developers to invest in Oman's fast-growing hydrogen ecosystem and participate in building a competitive and scalable global green hydrogen economy

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman has launched its third green hydrogen auction round, marking a new chapter in its strategy to become a leading global hub for green hydrogen production and export.



Hydrom, the third auction offers innovative and flexible opportunities for qualified developers to invest in Oman's fast-growing hydrogen ecosystem and participate in building a competitive and scalable global green hydrogen economy.

Building on the success of previous auction rounds, the third round incorporates lessons learned to optimise bidder participation and enhance competitiveness.

A land block of up to 300 square kilometres has been offered in Duqm, inviting proposals for projects covering a minimum of 100

square kilometres.

Bidders will have flexibility in defining their project footprint within the block, enabling tailored configurations that align with individual development strategies and market requirements. Bidders will benefit from an extended preparation period of nine months from the launch of the Request for Qualification (RFQ) to the bid submission deadline, providing ample time for comprehensive project planning.

In addition to producing green hydrogen and its derivatives, developers may also explore the sale

of surplus renewable electricity to the national grid, subject to regulatory approvals, maximising project value and integration into Oman's wider energy transition framework.

Eng. Abdulaziz Said Al Shidhani, Managing Director of Hydrom, said: "Oman's green hydrogen sector has moved from ambition to structured delivery. Through an integrated approach that combines land allocation, common-use infrastructure, regulatory frameworks, and export corridors, we are building an investment-ready ecosystem that enables



scalable, bankable projects. The strong market response to our earlier auctions reflects a growing demand for credible, delivery-focused solutions. With Round 3, we are expanding this platform to create greater opportunities for a broader pool of serious developers, maintaining our commitment to meet global energy transition priorities."

Developers participating in the third round will benefit from Oman's strong competitive advantages, including access to common-use infrastructure, a stable regulatory framework, and strategic proximity to key demand centers in Europe and Asia. Oman's comprehensive energy transition efforts also include the development of a dedicated 2,000-kilometre hydrogen pipelines well as the establishment of the world's first liquid hydrogen export corridor linking Oman to the Netherlands and Germany and onwards

to Europe.

Oman's green hydrogen sector is a cornerstone of its commitment to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 and securing at least 30% of its power mix from renewables by 2030.

To date, Oman has awarded eight large-scale green hydrogen projects in Duqm and Dhofar through two previous rounds, securing over \$49 billion in investment commitments targeting a combined production capacity of over one million tonnes per annum of green hydrogen by 2030. These projects, powered by more than 30 GW of renewable energy, position Oman among the most advanced and investment-ready hydrogen ecosystems globally.

The auction process commenced recently with the release of the RFQ. Qualified bidders will be invited to submit proposals in early 2026, with awards expected thereafter. — OMA



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AL WUSTA GOVERNORATE

MDO signs key agreement to establish industrial salt project worth OMR13.4mn

MUSCAT: Minerals Development Oman (MDO) has signed a strategic partnership agreement with Dev Salt to launch the Naqa Salt Project in Wilayat Mahout, Al Wusta Governorate.

The agreement was signed by Eng. Mattar Salim Al Badi, CEO of MDO, and Hirendrasingh Jhala, Chairman of Dev Global, in the presence of Ibtisam Ahmed Said Al Farooji, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion for Investment Promotion. The signing took place in the Invest Oman lounge.

Strategically located in Mahout, Al Wusta Governorate - within MDO's 51K concession area along the Arabian Sea—the project capitalizes on ideal conditions for solar evaporation.

Its proximity to Duqm Port further strengthens its export competitiveness to key global markets, particularly those relying on inputs such as bromine, caustic soda, and soda ash. The project will utilise sustainable, solar-powered evaporation technology to produce high-purity bromine-rich industrial salt.

Speaking on the occasion, Al Farooji stated: "We are pleased to support this partnership, which stands as a practical model for effective public-private collaboration. The Naqa Salt Project will advance the mining sector's alignment with Oman's economic



diversification goals by attracting sustainable, clean-energy-driven investments. It also opens new pathways for SMEs to undertake a vital role in the national value chain. This aligns perfectly with the objectives of the Invest Oman, which seeks to attract high-impact investments and build strategic partnerships across value-added sectors - most notably mining, a key pillar of our national economy."

Eng. Mattar Al Badi, CEO of MDO, added: "Naqa Salt represents a significant step for Oman's mining sector, establishing the region's largest facil-

ity for high-grade industrial salt production. Leveraging Mahout's unique natural sabkha formations, the project embodies a forward-thinking, eco-conscious approach to resource development. It reflects our unwavering commitment to sustainable growth and long-term economic and environmental impact."

Al Badi said that, "With a planned investment of OMR13.4 million, the project aims to produce 2 million tonnes of industrial salt annually. The evaporation ponds will span approximately 109 square kilometres, yielding salt with up to 99% purity—ideal

for vital sectors such as chemicals, oil and gas, logistics, food, and pharmaceuticals. The project is targeting diversified international markets including India, Africa, Europe, and Asia."

Hirendrasingh Jhala, Chairman of Dev Global, commented: "We are honored to partner with MDO on this ambitious and strategically important project. Building on Dev Salt's expertise in delivering large-scale salt ventures across India and global markets, we are confident in the project's ability to meet growing demand while supporting industrial resilience and supply chain security in this key sector."

With global demand for industrial salt expected to exceed 372 million tonnes by 2027, the Naqa Salt Project positions Oman as a future-leading producer in the region. Beyond its industrial contributions, the project offers environmental value—its evaporation ponds will create habitats that attract migratory birds and marine life, laying the groundwork for potential eco-tourism development.

More than just an industrial venture, Naqa Salt is a strategic embodiment of Oman's vision for sustainable industrial advancement. It reinforces public-private integration, empowers local talent, and creates tangible opportunities for Omani SMEs in supply, maintenance, and industrial services. — OMA

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Electricity bills for residential consumers in Oman reduced

MUSCAT: The Authority for Public Services Regulation (APSR) has announced varying reductions on electricity bills for residential consumers (basic accounts) during the summer months, starting from May until the end of August 2025.

Additionally, the authority confirmed that electricity consumption tier prices for 2025 will remain unchanged.

In May, the reductions will be distributed as follows: subscribers in the first tier (consumption between 0–4,000 kWh) will receive a 15% reduction on their bills, while those in the second tier (4,001–6,000 kWh) will benefit from a 10% reduction. A 5% reduction will apply to subscribers in the third tier (consumption exceeding 6,001 kWh).

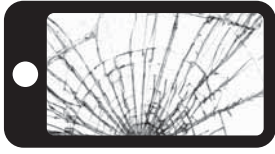
The reductions will increase during June, July, and August, reaching 20% for the first tier, 15% for the second tier, and 10% for the third tier.

The authority directed licenced companies to refrain from cutting off electricity services for basic account subscribers during the summer months.

It also mandated the option to defer electricity bill payments during this period, in accordance with the approved regulatory framework, ensuring service continuity and protecting consumer rights amid peak demand due to rising summer temperatures.

Additionally, the authority urged eligible consumers to register their details in the National Subsidy System to benefit from the available incentives and facilitation measures.

— ONA



SMARTEN UP DRIVE SAFE



A TIMES OF OMAN HANDS-FREE DRIVING INITIATIVE



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South Korea: A family-oriented society at the crossroads of nature and technology



Hosted by the Journalists Association of Korea, the World Journalists Conference 2025 brought together a diverse group of international reporters, editors, and media professionals, all convening in Seoul to engage with some of the most urgent issues of our time

HATIM AL-TAIE

SEOUL: In the dynamic heart of Seoul, South Korea, I found myself immersed in a journalistic experience that exceeded every expectation. Known globally for its technological prowess, South Korea surprised me with its presentation of cutting-edge innovation and untouched natural beauty, revealing a rare vision of progress that doesn't come at the expense of peace.

Hosted by the Journalists Association of Korea, the World Journalists Conference 2025 brought together a diverse group of international reporters, editors, and media professionals, all convening in Seoul to engage with some of the most urgent issues of our time. The issues discussed ranged from artificial intelligence and climate change to the evolving landscape of global media.

Innovation meets environment
The programme began on March 30 with arrivals, hotel check-ins, and leisure time for participants to rest or even explore Seoul on their own. The official events began the next morning with the first conference session: "Shaping the Future of Journalism in the AI Media Era: Copyright and Ethical Challenges." Journalists from around the world discussed the impact of AI-generated content and the importance of maintaining ethical standards despite AI's rapid advancement.

After a special lecture, the opening ceremony followed. It included a video introduction to Korea and



a welcoming speech by Park Jong Hyun, President of the Journalists Association of Korea.

In the afternoon, the second session took place: "The Role of Journalism in Confronting Climate Change and Environmental Shifts." Speakers from different regions spoke about the human side of the climate crisis and the responsibility of journalism in raising awareness and pushing for change.

From these discussions, it became clear that what sets South Korea apart is the nation's remarkable ability to nurture both rapid technological advancement and pristine natural beauty. Towering skyscrapers coexist alongside mountains and forests. Sleek high-speed trains glide past shimmering emerald rice fields. These are living testaments to a nation that plans with purpose whilst holding

reverence for its land.

While the conference sessions were informative, the site visits added even greater depth to the overall experience. On April 1, participants visited the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ), a location historically known for conflict and division. Today, the area has been transformed into an unexpectedly lush sanctuary, full of wildlife. This place is a powerful metaphor for the spirit of South Korea: that even places that were once defined by conflict can be transformed into spaces of peace and possibility.

From there, the group traveled to Jeju Island, where they spent the next two days visiting various natural and cultural sites. The itinerary included stops along the coastline, historic villages, and local media outlets focused on preserving regional language and environmental heritage.



The spirit of a people and the power of peace

HE Sheikh Zakaria Al Saadi, Oman's Ambassador to South Korea, praised the Korean people for their kindness and unwavering dedication to peace and unity. He described South Korea as a development model worth emulating because of how it has rebuilt itself out of the devastation of war into a beacon of progress, all while honoring its cultural roots. The ambassador's words resonated with many of the conference's attendees. The shared sentiment among all was that South Korea is a story of economic success. Even beyond its success, South Korea is more than just a country of rapid development: it is a society grounded in community, family, and open-hearted hospitality.

Highlight on Palestine

One of the most notable moments of the conference was the collec-

tive agreement among the international journalists regarding how important it is to amplify the Palestinian cause. They emphasised the vital role of truthful and courageous journalism in defense of human rights.

From Muscat to Seoul: Shared aspirations

A large number of the gathering in the Ambassador's house were Omani students, many of whom are pursuing degrees in medicine. Their desire to learn in Korea reflected the growing cultural and educational ties between Oman and South Korea. Both countries shared a mutual interest in fostering talent and building a future of mutual respect and understanding. On April 3, after travelling through Chungju and Anseong, participants visited a vineyard in the Chungcheongbuk-do region known for producing Shine Muscat grapes. These seedless, light green grapes are considered a luxury product in South Korea. They are grown with careful attention, in neat clusters beneath protective netting that is designed to shield them from pests and rough weather. Their flavor is distinctively sweet and crisp, often likened to honey or melon. The visit was illuminating for the participants, who were able to gain insight into South Korea's approach to agriculture and how traditional farming practices are integrated alongside modern ones.

Originally developed in Japan,

the Shine Muscat grapes have become a symbol of refinement in South Korea, and they are often gifted on special occasions. They are even sold individually in ornate boxes at high-end department stores. Each bunch costs a steep price, not just because of their taste, but because of the labor-intensive process required to cultivate them. Farmers must carefully prune and bag each individual cluster by hand, to ensure consistent sunlight and protection throughout the growing season. This high attention to detail reflects the values that seem to permeate South Korean society—precision, respect for tradition, and a relentless pursuit of excellence.

Although these grapes might appear on the surface to be an indulgence, they actually support the larger narratives of South Korean sustainability, innovation, and cultural identity.

South Korea has managed to turn small plots of rural land into powerhouses of agricultural success, balancing environmental preservation with economic viability. Through agricultural innovations and careful planning, South Korea has transformed its modest rural lands into models of how agriculture can be both eco-friendly and profitable.

Carrying the knowledge of the Shine Muscat grape trees, and their seeds back home to Oman, I planted a single seed from a Shine Muscat grape in the cool soil of Jabal Akhdar. I did so not in expectation, but out of reverence and respect. I hoped to create a quiet act of connection between two landscapes that understand the value of patience, care, and hospitality.

South Korea: A living blueprint for tomorrow

From its peaceful diplomacy to its forward-thinking urban design, from its technological brilliance to its deeply embedded sense of hospitality, South Korea offers more than progress; it offers perspective.

It is not just a country you visit. It is a country you learn from.

South Korea is a nation where past and future are not at odds, but in dialogue. A reminder that resilience, balance, and bold imagination can, together, shape a brighter world.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE MUSCAT

Traditional Symphonies of Yemen delights audiences

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Royal Opera House Muscat (ROHM) proudly presented Traditional Symphonies of Yemen, a two-night celebration of cultural richness and musical brilliance held on 24 and 25 April 2025. Conducted by the acclaimed Yemeni composer Mohammed AlGhoom and performed by the Royal Oman Symphony Orchestra alongside esteemed musicians from Yemen and Egypt, the concert offered an extraordinary fusion of heritage and innovation.

Audiences were captivated by a diverse programme that honoured Yemen's rich musical traditions, from the lyrical strains of Hadhrami and Adani styles to the soulful tones of Ta'azi and Sana'ani music, interwoven seamlessly with global symphonic elements. Each piece, brought to life by traditional instruments and dynamic orchestration, served as a bridge between generations, cultures, and musical worlds.

The event fulfilled the Royal Opera House Muscat's ongoing mission to serve as a beacon for regional excellence and musical innovation. Traditional Symphonies of Yemen showcased not only



the depth and vibrancy of Yemeni heritage but also demonstrated the exceptional talent of the Royal Oman Symphony Orchestra, now celebrating its 40th anniversary.

This groundbreaking performance stood as a testament to ROHM's dedication to cultural di-

plomacy and its role as a platform for Arab musicians to share their stories with the world. In uniting artistry from Oman, Yemen, and Egypt, the concert affirmed the transformative power of music to preserve identity, foster dialogue, and inspire future generations.

CARDIAC SURGERY

Historic achievement: Ministry

<FROM A1 He affirmed that this milestone is a testament to the progress of Oman's health sector, made possible by the support and wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik—who has prioritised human welfare and health as central pillars of the nation's renaissance. His Majesty has also opened vast horizons for Omani professionals in science, work, and innovation.

The Minister of Health noted that this historic achievement in cardiac surgery adds to Oman's record of accomplishments. The Omani patient had been suffering from acute heart failure and had previously lost two siblings to the same condition.

Thanks to the courageous decision of a generous brain-dead donor's family, he was given a new lease on life. The Minister expressed deep gratitude to the donor's family, whose noble act serves as a shining example of compassion and humanity.

Dr. Qasim Saleh Al Abri, a cardiac surgery consultant at the Royal Hospital, stated that the success of the first fully Omani-led heart transplant represents an unprecedented achievement, reflecting the advanced level of Oman's healthcare sector. This milestone is the result of years of hard work, meticulous planning, and investment in national expertise.

He said, "This accomplishment is a source of pride for every Omani and an open invitation for all members of society to contribute to this journey by supporting organ donation. Every donation offers new hope and a renewed life for someone else. Together, we can build a stronger and more compassionate healthcare system."

In the same context, Dr. Alaa Hassan Al Lawati, a cardiac surgery consultant at the National Heart Centre, affirmed that the first heart transplant in Oman was performed seamlessly and with resounding success. This achievement stands as clear evidence of the sophistication and integration of Oman's healthcare system, as well as the relentless efforts of the entire team over the past period.

He stressed that such a feat would not have been possible without the combined efforts and expertise of various medical specialties, lauding all members of the surgical team and their colleagues from other disciplines for their unparalleled precision.

Meanwhile, Dr. Najib Zahran Al Rawahi, Director of the National Heart Centre at the Royal Hospital, stated that the success of the heart transplant is a testament to years of dedication, intensive training, and teamwork among all departments—from specialists in severe heart failure to surgeons, anesthesiologists, post-operative

intensive care teams, and others. He affirmed that the center will continue its successes to achieve comprehensive cardiac care in Oman.

For his part, Dr. Ishaq Said Al Amri, a cardiac anesthesia consultant at the Royal Hospital, highlighted the anesthesiology team's preparations, which involved multiple specialists, including surgeons, cardiac nutritionists, nurses, perfusionists, cardiologists, immunologists, and infectious disease experts. The team conducted thorough assessments of both donor and recipient over three to four days before the surgery to ensure organ compatibility.

He noted that the heart extraction was performed flawlessly, with pre-transplant evaluations ensuring a smooth transition to transplantation. The greatest challenge in anesthesia was preventing complications such as cardiac arrest or arrhythmias—a challenge that was successfully overcome without any adverse events.

On her turn, Dr. Amna Sulaiman Al Busaidi, a cardiologist at the Royal Hospital, outlined the extensive pre-transplant evaluations, including echocardiograms to confirm advanced heart failure, catheterisation tests, and screenings for infections—all critical to ensuring patient safety. — OMA

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Azaiba



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Oman marks Logistics Day 2025

The ceremony saw signing of 18 agreements with a total investment exceeding OMR100 million

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman on Wednesday celebrated Logistics Day 2025 under the theme “Logistics Technologies and Investment” at Al Bustan Palace Hotel, under the patronage of Sayyid Saud bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Governor of Muscat.

Eng. Abdullah Ali Al Busaidi, Acting Head of the Oman Logistics Center at the Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology, stated that celebrating Logistics Day reaffirms the sector’s importance and its pivotal role in boosting the national economy. The logistics sector is vast and diverse, forming an integrated system that includes road networks, ports, land border crossings, airports, logistics zones, and transport and storage activi-



ties—serving as the backbone of various economic and service activities, he added.

He pointed out that the ministry seeks for the logistics sector to become the second-largest contributor to GDP, as it is a key pillar of Oman Vision 2040 for economic diversification. The sector contributed approximately OMR2.25 billion (5.9%) to GDP in 2024, with investments reaching OMR2.3 billion. By 2040, the sector’s projected contribution is expected to rise to OMR36 billion.

The event saw the signing of a framework agreement for the National Port Community System, a key enabler of the Logistics Strategy 2040, enhancing Oman’s competitiveness, trade efficiency, and digital supply chain integration.

Several new logistics initiatives were announced, most importantly the First/Last-Mile Connectivity, linking micro-mobility solutions (e-bikes, shared

vehicles) with public transport for higher education institutions in Muscat and Salalah, reducing private car reliance and carbon emissions. Oman Airports also announced the extension of long-term parking.

The ceremony witnessed the signing of 18 agreements with a total investment exceeding OMR100 million. These included an agreement between Sohar Port and Six Construct LLC Oman Branch for the construction of a liquefied natural gas (LNG) berth and coastal protection for the Marsa LNG project.

Another agreement was signed between Sohar Port and Boskalis International Oman Branch for dredging the navigational channel of the Marsa LNG project, involving the removal of approximately 3.8 million cubic meters of material to develop the access channel, berthing basin, and maneuvering basin.



Additionally, Sohar Port signed a project management and site supervision agreement with WSP Global – Oman Branch for the Marsa LNG project’s dredging works, covering consultancy services such as project management, administrative support, design review, site supervision, and tender management.

Oman Airports and Rakesh Pandey Gold LLC inked an agreement to develop a global gold refining facility in the second phase of Mus-

cat Airport’s Logistics Gateway, with a daily refining capacity of 200 kg through foreign direct investment (FDI).

Oman Airports also signed a deal with Gulf Wealth International to establish an innovative drone academy and R&D center at the Business Gateway, spanning 21,591 square meters. The facility will include an indoor drone training center, a 3D printing manufacturing unit, satellite assembly for space-related activi-

ties, an R&D hub for drone technology, incubation programs, and an e-commerce warehouse for drones and spare parts.

Further agreements included:

- A deal between Oman Airports and One World Worldwide Properties to build a 40,000 sqm bonded warehouse at Muscat International Airport for diverse product storage.
- An agreement with Sinan Advanced Industries to establish an advanced technology R&D and manufacturing center at the airport’s Logistics Gateway.
- A 12-year concession agreement with Zahara Airport Services LLC to manage and operate the airport’s landside hotel.

Meanwhile, Madina Logistics signed agreements with Lonestar Alpha Labs and Global Laboratories to expand Sohar Logistics Station, accommodating more specialised labs for testing agricultural, animal, fisheries, and food products to enhance food safety.

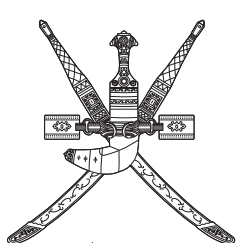
Another agreement with Global Integrated Equipment will see investment in an energy-sector truck fleet, including a service station in Duqm, featuring advanced, fuel-efficient, and safety-compliant vehicles, with a dedicated fleet for Petroleum Development Oman.

Full story @ timesofoman.com/business



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Tender Announcement

The Internal Tender committee of **Ministry of Social Development** hereby announces the following tender :-

Tender No.	Tender Subject	Grade	Last date for obtainment of tender document	Last date for tender submission	Tender Document Price (non-retundable)	
					Small and Medium companies	Local companies
418/2025 (Resubmission)	Providing tools and equipment for the occupancy program hall at the Down Syndrome Center	Companies specialized in supplying office and educational tools, materials and supplies, information and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the excellent, first, second, third or fourth degree.	Saturday 10-05-2025 02:00 PM	Tuesday 20-05-2025 10:00 AM	10 R.O	25 R.O
177/2025	Providing creative artistic images for the Ministry's Media and Communication Department	Companies specialized in television, film and radio production services and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the excellent, first, second, third or fourth degree.	Tuesday 20-05-2025 02:00 PM	Monday 09-06-2025 10:00 AM	10 R.O	-----

❖

Specialized Companies, registered with the **Tender Board** may obtain the Tender documents at the Tender Board e-tendering digital portal link (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>), on Thursday 01/05/2025

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P.O. Box 1000, Nizwa, Postal Code 611, Sultanate of Oman, Tel: (968) 25431616, Fax: (968) 25431330
Email: info@goldentulipnizwa.com, Website: www.goldentulipnizwa.com, www.parkinn.com/hotel-muscat

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT
Dear Shareholders,
On behalf of the Board of Directors of UBAR Hotels and Resorts SAOG, it is our pleasure to present the Unaudited Consolidated Financial Results of the Company for the period ended 31 March 2025.
Performance Review
The 1st Quarter of 2025 has ended in a positive note. For the period ended till 31 March 2025, the Company has generated consolidated revenue of RO 823,445/- which is on the higher side by 22% compared to last year's revenue of RO 676,255/-.
Overall, the Company recorded a profit before tax excluding depreciation of RO 81,174 against the loss of RO 42,223 of last year. The company has managed to reduce the losses of profit before tax to RO 12,717 against last year's losses of RO 137,779. The company has recorded losses of net after tax of RO 93,590 for the 1st quarter of 2025 against last year of net losses of RO 194,990/ for the same period.
All efforts have been exerted to maintain the Company's stability and ensure the continuity of its operation. On a positive note, GT Muscat's refurbishment efforts significantly improved its quality score, online ratings, revenue, and client feedback, which set a strong foundation. Now, the management has strong confidence in achieving growth in the future.
Now, since the business is heading toward the off-season. Historically, tourism activity is typically minimal during the off-season period from April to September. The leisure segment movement will be minimal, therefore, both hotels would be targeting more of a corporate segment and local tourism. The Management is also working on various promotional offers for all segments to increase revenues. All efforts have also been made to control the costs in every area and bring out efficiencies of synergies.
The company is taking possible steps to maintain its stability, ensure the continuity of its operation, and address difficult conditions to minimize losses and improve its liquidity situation.
Omanization
The Company has been encouraging Omanization by employing Omanis in various departments. Throughout the year, all efforts are made to comply with the government's requirement to achieve the Omanization level.
Future Perspective
The Board is hopeful that the current scenario will show signs of improvement in the coming period. Oman will witness an increased influx of leisure tourists by the end of the year and will continue to remain a desired destination among travelers.
The Board assures the shareholders that the Company will strive to achieve better results in the coming months through the proven, hard, and sincere efforts of Management and its staff.
Conclusion,
The Board looks forward to the continued growth of the tourism industry in the Sultanate of Oman. The Board of Directors, on behalf of the Shareholders, have a great pleasure to extend their profound thanks, loyalty, and gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq, God Bless him, for His Majesty's inspiring leadership and wise policies. We are confident that our nation will continue to walk on a path of progress and prosperity under His Majesty's leadership.

Thanking You.

Chairman/Director

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION – GROUP AND PARENT COMPANY

	Group		Parent Company	
	2025 RO	2024 RO	2025 RO	2024 RO
ASSETS				
Non-current assets				
Property, plant and equipment	8,982,815	9,199,001	1,463,264	1,568,991
Right of use assets	92,421	106,303	92,421	106,303
Investment in a subsidiary	--	--	3,152,868	4,104,906
Non-current portion of loan to subsidiary	--	--	2,577,820	2,253,376
Total non-current assets	9,075,236	9,305,304	7,286,373	8,033,576
Current assets				
Inventories	105,504	105,002	76,527	72,350
Trade and other receivables	249,324	275,060	121,743	172,708
Amounts due from subsidiary	--	--	1,871,490	1,674,820
Current portion of loan to subsidiary	--	--	332,964	105,224
Bank deposit	202,098	2,098	202,098	2,098
Bank balances and cash	23,437	37,474	13,424	19,047
Total current assets	580,363	419,634	2,618,246	2,046,247
Total assets	9,655,599	9,724,938	9,904,619	10,079,823
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Equity				
Share capital	5,501,750	5,001,750	5,501,750	5,001,750
Legal reserve	983,531	983,531	759,398	759,398
Special reserve	508,515	508,515	508,515	508,515
Replacement reserve	--	1,112,145	--	--
Accumulated losses	(2,737,168)	(2,851,064)	(1,492,327)	(320,726)
Total equity	4,256,628	4,754,877	5,277,336	5,948,937
Liabilities				
Non-current liabilities				
Non-current portion of deferred Government grant	49,291	55,959	49,291	55,959
Non-current portion of term loans	2,508,101	2,206,970	2,508,101	2,206,970
Non-current portion of lease liabilities	155,679	229,871	155,679	229,871
Employees' end of service benefits	403,331	323,103	318,548	234,724
Total non-current liabilities	3,116,402	2,815,903	3,031,619	2,727,524
Current liabilities				
Current portion of deferred Government grant	6,668	6,668	6,668	6,668
Current portion of term loans	309,658	105,224	309,658	105,224
Current portion of lease liabilities	56,888	74,721	56,888	74,721
Bank borrowings	502,872	502,872	502,872	502,872
Trade and other payables	1,395,091	1,453,281	708,186	702,485
Taxation	11,392	11,392	11,392	11,392
Total current liabilities	2,282,569	2,154,158	1,595,664	1,403,362
Total liabilities	5,398,971	4,970,061	4,627,283	4,130,886
Total Shareholders' equity and liabilities	9,655,599	9,724,938	9,904,619	10,079,823
Net assets per share	0.077	0.095	0.096	0.119

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME – GROUP AND PARENT COMPANY

	Group		Parent Company	
	2025 RO	2024 RO	2025 RO	2024 RO
INCOME				
Revenue from contracts with customers	823,445	676,255	448,637	427,971
Operating costs	(836,162)	(814,034)	(403,657)	(404,227)
Gross loss	(12,717)	(137,779)	44,980	23,744
Release of deferred Government grant	1,667	1,667	1,667	1,667
Other income	1,312	324	1,289	296
Finance charges (net)	(83,852)	(59,202)	(17,769)	(15,771)
Loss for the year from operations	(93,590)	(194,990)	30,167	9,936
Net loss and total comprehensive income for the year	(93,590)	(194,990)	30,167	9,936
Basic earnings per share	(0.002)	(0.004)	0.001	0.000

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GCC SUPREME COUNCIL'S ADVISORY BOARD

Report on addressing natural disasters studied

MUSCAT: The GCC Supreme Council's Advisory Board on Wednesday held the second meeting of its 28th session in Muscat.

Unifying GCC efforts
The board studied various reports submitted by its specialised committees, including a report on means of unifying GCC efforts to address natural disasters.

The Board also looked into options for devising unified GCC policies and legislation on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and discussed obstacles posed to the integration of services among member states.
The meeting is in pursuit of measures to gain insights into plans, strategies and policies of importance to GCC states. — **ONA**



NORTH AL BATINAH



Occupational safety and health forum held

SOHAR: The Social Protection Fund, in cooperation with Sohar University, on Wednesday organised the Occupational Safety and Health Forum under the title "Artificial Intelligence and Digitalization: Our Path to a Safer Work Environment."
Ahmed Khalfan Al Zaabi, Director of the Social Protection Fund in North Al Batinah Governorate, stated that the forum aims to raise awareness about the importance of occupational safety and health, promote a safety culture in the workplace, and explore ways to utilize artificial intelligence (AI) and digitalisation to improve work environments and enhance safety.
Dr. Mohammed Abdullah Al Muqbali, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Administrative and Financial Affairs at Sohar University, emphasized that building a safe and sustainable work and educational environment is part of the

university's academic and social mission. He highlighted the importance of digital transformation as an effective tool for improving performance efficiency, fostering a safety culture, and keeping pace with modern advancements in AI and Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies—shifting from reactive to preventive measures and from response to risk prediction.
The forum featured several presentations, including discussions on the benefits of addressing workplace injuries and occupational diseases, accident reporting procedures, and successful case studies from private sector institutions in implementing occupational safety and health standards.
Additionally, a panel session was held to explore ways to enhance work environments and preventive measures to avoid injuries through the application of AI technologies.

The workshop focuses on exploring predictive analytics tools to support evidence-based policymaking.

MUSCAT: The National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI), in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) – Oman Office, convened a two-day workshop titled "Using and Analysing Data to Enhance Decision-Making".
The workshop will run from 30 April to 1 May 2025. The event focuses on advancing best practices in data analysis and exploring predictive analytics tools to support evidence-based policymaking.
Dr. Khalifa Abdullah Al Barwani, CEO of the NCSI, emphasised that, the initiative is part of the Centre's ongoing efforts to build national capacity in statistical analysis and promote informed decision-making—particularly vital in a rapidly evolving landscape that demands data-driven planning.
Al Barwani also highlighted the strategic partnership with UNICEF as a critical pillar in supporting sustainable development, with a focus on upholding the rights of children and addressing the needs of vulnerable groups.
On her turn, Sumaira Chowdhury, UNICEF representative in the Sultanate of Oman, affirmed



the organisation's commitment to fostering data-informed policy support. She underscored the workshop's alignment with Oman Vision 2040, which places human development at the core of national progress. The workshop's opening day featured a series of technical and training sessions. Dr. Yousuf Mohammed Al Riyami, Director General of National Statistics at NCSI, presented a pa-

per on the application of national statistics in planning processes. Additionally, regional expert Jan Beaz delivered insights on leveraging data for public policy and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
Participants engaged in hands-on training sessions and group discussions centered on early childhood development indicators, identifying existing data gaps

and opportunities for improvement. A panel discussion on enhancing the role of data in social protection included representatives from the Ministry of Health and the Social Protection Fund.
The second day of the workshop will turn its focus to using data to advance the rights of children, particularly those with disabilities. The agenda includes keynote addresses and training delivered by experts from UNICEF's regional office. Participants will examine the use and analysis of disability-related indicators and review a visual presentation titled "Omani Children and Social Media Networks", which underscores the role of digital literacy in safeguarding children online.
The workshop will conclude with a high-level panel discussion exploring innovative approaches to data collection aimed at advancing children's rights. — **ONA**

ROYAL ACADEMY OF MANAGEMENT

Societal Communication Programme launched

MUSCAT: The Royal Academy of Management (RAM) has launched the Societal Communication Programme for current public sector leaders who hold the positions of Under-Secretaries and Directors-General.
Designed to elevate the skills and capabilities of national leaders in the area of community engagement, the landmark programme is in line with the bold vision of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, which aims to elevate and strengthen the knowledge and skills of national leaders. This strategy is aligned with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040 and the requirements of national strategic initiatives and programmes.
The main purpose of the Societal Communication Programme for Under-Secretaries and Directors-General is to further build trust between the government and society and, thus, increase national social cohesion. The programme focuses on strengthening the role of these leaders as intermediaries between the government and society while enabling them to contribute to the government's vision in an effective manner that aligns with Omani values, culture, and society.
The Societal Communication Programme aims to equip participants with a more community-centered communication mindset by increasing their awareness of societal needs and providing them with the necessary skills to implement government directions and policies clearly and accurately, as well as to manage the public communication process effectively.
The programme also provides



participants with advanced tools and techniques that enhance their crisis management skills and improve leadership communication strategies to navigate social challenges effectively.
The programme enables participants to build trust-based relationships with citizens and other community stakeholders by leveraging comprehensive communication techniques to involve these entities in the process of formulating, implementing, and evaluating government policies.
The Societal Communication Programme targets 50 participants from the public sector and will constitute 25 Under-Secretaries and 25 Directors-General. The selected candidates will embark on an enriching and comprehensive learning journey that will run until 10 September 2025.
The programme will comprise different themes. It has been designed to elevate essential and effective community communication and crisis management skills and explore stakeholder engagement.
Apart from focusing on empowering strategic communication skills, it will also focus on the strategies leveraged by government institutions' strategies to enhance public trust, the methodology of gauging and handling

public opinion while navigating social challenges in Oman. Participants will also be exposed to developing and implementing comprehensive public communication strategies using various channels and take part in a workshop about building the characteristics of a community leader in the local context.
The programme will be delivered through modern executive learning methods, including a carefully curated blend of lectures, interactive workshops, case studies, and engagement with real-world scenarios. Participants will review and analyse local and international examples, including challenges in community engagement. The programme will also feature guest speakers from Oman who are leaders in community engagement and leadership communication, allowing participants to explore the best practices and experiences in these respective fields.
The Royal Academy of Management launched the Societal Communication Programme based on the bold vision that lies at the heart of the programme: The strategic importance of effective community communication in building social cohesion and a society capable of keeping up with an ever-evolving world. — **ONA**



شركة بركاء لتحلية المياه

Barka Desalination Company

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPORT

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors ("the Board") of Barka Desalination Company SAOG (the "Company"), I have the pleasure to present the Unaudited financial statements for the period ended 31 March 2025.

Operational Highlights

The activity of the Company is to develop, finance, design, construct, own, operate and maintain a reverse osmosis desalination plant at Barka in the Sultanate of Oman with a capacity of 281,000 m3 per day.

The Company commenced commercial operation on 13 June 2018. Since then, the Company has been supplying potable water to Nama Power and Water Procurement Company in accordance with the Water Purchase Agreement. The Company has supplied 18,271,442 m3 of water during the period ended 31 March 2025.

The average scheduled plant availability for the period was over 99.92%, the result of a strict asset management program implemented by the Operator. The Company continues to uphold its reputation as the largest provider of potable water in the Sultanate.

On 18th March 2025, the Plant successfully completed the Annual Performance Test for the Contractual Year 8 (CY8).

Financial Highlights

Revenue has decreased by 10% (by RO 480K) as compared to the same period in the previous year. This is mainly due to lower dispatch.

The cost of sales decreased by 16% (by RO 589K) as compared to the same period in the previous year. This is mainly due to lower dispatch supported by lower Capacity payment to the operator pursuant to the O&M contract.

The administrative and general expenses have decreased by 34% (by RO 50K) as compared to the same period in the previous year. This is mainly due to application of robust cost reduction plans.

Finance expenses have decreased by

9% (by RO 81K) as compared to the same period in the previous year. This is mainly due to the impact of lower SOFR rates as 17.5% of the long term loan is unhedged.

The current year's profit before tax represents 12% of the revenue.

The current year's profit after tax represents 9% of the revenue.

Based on the financial results, the shareholders to the AGM approved authorizing the Board of Directors to determine and distribute cash dividends to the Company's Shareholders out of the retained earnings as per the Audited Financial Statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2024, the company shall distribute dividends of 6 Bz per share in May 2025 and 6 Bz per share in November 2025.

Outlook for 2025

The Company is taking an endeavor to ensure that it continues to take reasonable and prudent measures to improve its performance for FY2025, by improving the Plant's reliability and availability, without compromising on HSE matters.

Acknowledgement

I would like to extend my personal thanks to all personnel associated with the operation of the plant and the staff of the Company for their hard work and dedication, as well as to those others such as our contractors, whose expertise has assisted us in achieving these excellent results.

Finally, on behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to extend our deep appreciation and gratitude to His Majesty Haitham Bin Tarik Al Said and His Government for their continued support and encouragement to the private sector by creating an environment that allows us to participate effectively in the growth of the Sultanate's economy and to dedicate our achievements to the building of a strong nation.

On behalf of the Board of Directors

Murtadha Ahmed Sultan
Chairman of the Board

UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	(Unaudited) 31 March 2025 RO'000	(Audited) 31 December 2024 RO'000
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	89,967	90,774
Right-of-use assets	524	527
Derivative instruments	5,246	6,376
Total non-current assets	95,737	97,677
Current assets		
Trade and other receivables	1,948	2,057
Short term deposits	-	1,320
Cash and cash equivalents	776	848
Total current assets	2,724	4,225
Total assets	98,461	101,902
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Capital and reserves		
Share capital	7,552	7,552
Legal reserve	669	628
Retained earnings	5,071	4,689
Hedging reserve	4,459	5,420
Shareholder loan reserve	410	425
Total equity	18,161	18,714
Non-current liabilities		
Long term loan	63,502	65,612
Shareholders' loan	3,442	3,429
Lease liabilities	580	585
Provision for end of service benefits	-	-
Provision for decommissioning obligation	1,194	1,176
Deferred tax liability	5,628	5,675
Total non-current liabilities	74,346	76,477
Current liabilities		
Long term loan	4,172	4,133
Shareholders' loan	507	507
Lease liabilities	6	6
Trade and other payables	1,269	2,065
Total current liabilities	5,954	6,711
Total liabilities	80,300	83,188
Total equity and liabilities	98,461	101,902
Net asset value per share RO	0.240	0.248

UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	(Unaudited) 31 March 2025 RO'000	(Unaudited) 31 March 2024 RO'000
Revenue	4,570	5,050
Operating costs	(3,131)	(3,720)
Gross profit	1,439	1,330
Other income	6	12
General and administrative expenses	(95)	(145)
Operating profit	1,350	1,197
Finance income	24	26
Finance costs	(844)	(927)
Profit before tax	530	296
Income tax expense	(122)	(137)
Profit for the period	408	159
Other comprehensive income		
Items that are or may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:		
Fair value of cash flow hedge adjustment – gross	(900)	703
Reclassification to profit or loss – gross	(230)	(423)
Deferred tax on fair value adjustment	169	(42)
Other comprehensive income for the period	(961)	238
Total comprehensive income for the period	(553)	397
Basic and diluted earnings per share		
Basic earnings per share (RO)	0.0054	0.0021

SPORTS

Narine, Varun turn it around as KKR pull off a thrilling victory



Delhi Capitals slid from 136 for 3 to 190 for 9 on their home ground, slip to fourth place

NEW DELHI: Sunil Narine and Varun Chakravarthy turned the tide in stunning fashion as Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) clawed their way back from the brink to snatch a thrilling 14-run win over Delhi Capitals (DC) in a high-octane IPL

clash at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Tuesday night. Chasing 205, Delhi Capitals looked in control at 136 for 3 with Faf du Plessis (62) and Axar Patel (43) well set. The two KKR spinners — who

had earlier been pummeled for a combined 56 runs in 5.1 overs — came roaring back. In a match-defining turnaround, Narine (3/29) and Chakravarthy bowled the final 17 balls for five wickets and just 12 runs, flattening DC's chase and reviving KKR's playoff hopes. Axar, leading DC in the absence of Rishabh Pant, fought valiantly with three towering sixes off Narine despite an injured left hand. He also impressed with the ball, taking 2 for 27. But his dismissal — slicing a

slower ball from Narine to cover — triggered a collapse. Stubbs fell to an off-break in the same over and du Plessis, the top scorer with 62 off 45, holed out against spin as well. With that, Delhi unraveled from 136 for 3 to 190 for 9, with Chakravarthy (2/39) cleaning up the tail including the key wickets of Ashutosh Sharma and Mitchell Starc in the 18th over. His final over read: dot, wicket, wicket — and that was effectively game over. Earlier, DC fast bowlers were guilty of overpitching, and KKR's

top order capitalised. Narine, Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ajinkya Rahane (who later split his finger and handed captaincy to Narine) rocketed KKR to 91 in the first seven overs, including their best opening stand of the season — 48. But all three fell in the 20s, leaving Rinku Singh (36) and Angkrish Raghuvanshi (44) to stabilise the innings. The pair added a vital 61-run stand for the fifth wicket. But despite Andre Russell looming large, he barely got to face any deliveries — just nine balls in three overs

— as wickets fell around him. KKR managed only 45 in the final five overs, settling for 204. With the win, KKR climbed to nine points from 10 matches, keeping themselves in contention for the playoffs. For DC, who had started the tournament strongly, a top-two finish is now in jeopardy with 12 points from 10 games and are at fourth place. **Brief scores:** Kolkata Knight Riders 204 for 9 (Raghuvanshi 44; Starc 3-43, Axar 2-27) beat Delhi Capitals 190 for 9 (Du Plessis 62, Axar 43, Narine 3-29). - Agencies

SECOND TEST

Mehidy's all-round brilliance powers Bangladesh to series-levelling win

CHITTAGONG: Mehidy Hasan Miraz produced a stunning all-round performance (104 and 5/32) to lead Bangladesh to a resounding innings-and-106-run victory over Zimbabwe on the third day of the second Test, leveling the two-match series 1-1 on Wednesday. The off-spinning all-rounder scored a defiant 104 to help Bangladesh post a commanding first-innings total of 444, before claiming 5 for 32 as Zimbabwe were skittled out for 111 in their second innings. It was a fitting follow-up to his a career-best knock that came when Bangladesh were precariously placed at 291 for 7 on the second evening. With this win, Bangladesh ended their streak of six successive home Test defeats, which included losses to New Zealand, Sri Lanka, South Africa, and a shock defeat to Zimbabwe in the series opener. Earlier, Mehidy had joined Shadman Islam—who scored 120 at the top of the order—to rescue the hosts from a late collapse. His



partnerships with Taijul Islam and debutant Tanzim Hasan (41) proved vital. Zimbabwe's lone bright spot came through 21-year-old debutant leg-spinner Vincent Masekesa, who returned figures of 5 for 115 to become only the third Zimbabwean to take a five-wicket haul on Test debut. Trailing by 217 runs, Zimbabwe's second innings unraveled quickly. Taijul struck early, removing Brian Bennett and Nick Welch. Nayeem Hasan then accounted for Sean Williams, caught at slip for 7.

Captain Craig Ervine briefly resisted, but fell for 25. Wessly Madheveru was trapped lbw for a duck, while wicketkeeper Tafadzwa Tsi-ga also fell without scoring. Mehidy continued to torment the visitors, dismissing Wellington Masakadza and then wrapping up the innings by removing Ben Curran for a fighting 46—caught behind after a 103-ball vigil. **Brief scores:** Bangladesh 444 (Shadman 120, Mehidy 104, Masekesa 5-115) beat Zimbabwe 227 and 111 (Curran 46; Mehidy 5-32). - Agencies

OCA DECISION

Cricket retained for 2026 Asian Games in Japan

NAGOYA: The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) has retained cricket for the 2026 Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games, to be held in Japan from September 19 to October 4. The matches will be held in Aichi Prefecture but the exact venues are yet to be finalised. "The latest development in the compilation of the sports programme came at the 41st meeting of the AINAGOC Board of Directors at Nagoya City Hall on Monday, April 28, when cricket and Mixed Martial Arts were both formally approved," the OCA said. This will be the fourth time that cricket will feature in the Asian Games. The first two times - at Guangzhou 2010 and Incheon 2014 - the games were not granted an international status. But when cricket returned to the 2023 Asian Games in Hangzhou, the matches were deemed T20 internationals.



In the men's category in 2023, India won the gold, Afghanistan silver and Bangladesh bronze. In the women's, India and Bangladesh were once again the gold and bronze medallists, while the silver went to Sri Lanka. The other countries participating across the two categories were Pakistan, Nepal, Maldives, Mon-

golia, Hong Kong, Japan, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia. T20 cricket will also feature at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics as a six-team competition in both the men's and the women's categories. There is no clarity yet on the qualification criteria, though. - Agencies

BRANDS HATCH CIRCUIT

Al Faisal Al Zubair set for Sprint Series debut in England

MUSCAT: Omani racing star Al Faisal Al Zubair is set to reignite his motorsport campaign as he returns to the legendary Brands Hatch circuit in southern England this weekend for the opening round of the 2025 GT World Challenge Europe Sprint Series powered by AWS. Al-Zubair teams up with Jens Klingmann in the Al-Manar Racing by Team WRT BMW M4 GT3 EVO and faces a 30-car grid with 10 manufacturers represented. The entry is the largest Sprint Cup field to enter a race at the Kent circuit since 2017. The entry for the pair of one-hour races on Sunday is made up of Pro, Gold and Silver Cup runners with the Bronze Cup entrants starting their campaign later this month at Zandvoort. Al-Zubair said: "I am really looking forward to the weekend. I think there is a lot to be excited about. This will be my first time ever in the GT World Challenge Sprint Series. That will be a challenge in itself. I hear the pit stops are as fast as possible, so that can win or lose you the race. "There are a lot of factors in the Sprint series that need to be taken into account. The last time for me at Brands Hatch was in 2016, so nine years ago, a long time. I am looking forward to being back and my first time in a GT car there.



Alongside Jens Klingmann, I hope we can come back with a podium and raise the Omani flag once again. That will be our target for this race weekend. The competition is very tough, but we are look-

ing forward to it." Competition for Al-Manar Racing by Team WRT in the Gold Cup category comes from last year's Sprint Cup-winning Sainteloc Racing Audi duo of Paul Evraud



and Gilles Magnus, the Tresor Attempto Racing Audi R8 LMS GT3, Emil Frey Racing's Ferrari 296 GT3 and the CSA Racing and Garage 59 McLaren 720S GT3s. Free practice gets the on-track

action underway on Saturday morning (May 3) and this precedes an hour of pre-qualifying and the short qualifying session. Race one takes centre stage on the British circuit on Sunday (May

4) with race two firing into life later in the day. The GTWC machines will share the weekend's timetable with McLaren Trophy, Equipe Libre and Mini 7s/Miglia entrants.

OMAN OIL PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by June 2025 reaching \$62.19, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by \$3.11 from the price of Tuesday, which was \$65.30. -**OMA**

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) general index (30) gained 18.4 points, comprising a rise by 0.43% to close at 4316.25 points, compared to the last session, which stood at 4297.82 points.

Al Mudhaibi Industrial City attracts OMR5.8 million in new investments

This follows the official announcement in October last year inviting investment applications, further underscoring Al Mudhaibi Industrial City's emerging role as one of the key players in Oman's industrial landscape

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Al Mudhaibi Industrial City, which falls under the umbrella of the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn), has

successfully localised five industrial projects covering over 49,000 sqm area, with total investments touching OMR5.8 million in the last quarter of 2024. This follows the official an-



nouncement in October last year inviting investment applications, further underscoring Al Mudhaibi Industrial City's emerging role as one of the key players in Oman's industrial landscape.



Eng. Said bin Khalfan Al Shabibi, Acting Director General of Al Mudhaibi Industrial City, announced that the tender for Phase 1 is expected to be awarded next month, with construction of the basic infrastructure set to begin by the end of the second quarter of this year. This project features the construction of internal roads, key utilities such as electricity, water,

internet, and sewage networks, as well as the city's fencing, main gates, facility building, employee offices, and both the Madayn Entrepreneurship Complex and Madayn Agricultural Complex. Additionally, Al Shabibi highlighted that two investment opportunities will be announced during the coming period: the first involves the establishment of a residential

and labour city on 100,000 sqm area, while the second opportunity focuses on establishing an integrated station featuring a fuel station, clinic, shop, small hotel, and mosque. Al Mudhaibi Industrial City is one of the latest additions to Madayn's expanding portfolio of manufacturing hubs. The industrial city spans a total area of 9 million sqm, with Phase 1 covering approximately 2.5 million sqm. Strategically located near the main road that links the Special Economic Zone at Duqm with the Sultanate's key ports and border crossings, Al Mudhaibi Industrial City represents a key component of the national strategic projects for North Al Sharqiyah Governorate and aligns with Madayn Vision 2040 and the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

NATIONAL BANK OF OMAN

Startups take stage as NBO concludes first Fintech Accelerator Programme

MUSCAT: The National Bank of Oman (NBO) concluded the Demo Day of its inaugural Fintech Accelerator Programme, marking a significant milestone in the bank's commitment to driving innovation within the financial services industry. Held at NBO headquarters, the event brought together regulators, investors, industry leaders, and strategic partners to witness the final showcase of solutions developed by five high-potential fintech start-ups. Mustahil Ahmed Al Mamari, Assistant General Manager & Head of Strategy and Transformation at NBO, commented, "Demo Day is more than a showcase of innova-



tion, it is a continuation of NBO's long-standing legacy of driving change in financial services. Through the Fintech Accelerator, we're not only backing promising startups, we're fostering col-

laboration across the industry to deliver customer-centric solutions and contribute meaningfully to Oman's digital and economic transformation. Demo Day marked the culmination of this

journey, providing a platform for startups to present their progress, business value, and opportunities for investment, partnerships, and market entry." The selected start-ups: The-

marIP, E-Hissab, Pyra.AI, Saree3, and InstaSpace, were chosen for their innovative approaches to enhancing banking operations and customer experiences. Their solutions span AI-driven financial reporting, fraud detection, personalised investment platforms, and SME-focused payment services. Launched in partnership with Al Jabr MENA, the NBO Fintech Accelerator Programme is a strategic initiative aimed at identifying, mentoring, and scaling fintech ventures that address real-world banking challenges. Over the course of the programme, participating startups worked closely with NBO teams, received tailored guidance, and tested their prod-

ucts in a live banking environment. As a pioneer in digital banking, NBO is building a robust platform for fintech growth. By supporting entrepreneurship and fostering a culture of experimentation, the Bank aligns its efforts with Oman Vision 2040, which places innovation at the core of economic diversification. This is the first accelerator of its kind in Oman's banking sector. Through mentorship, industry insights, and real-market testing, NBO is creating a supportive environment for fintech development while strengthening partnerships, encouraging knowledge exchange, and building scalable digital solutions.



OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY (SAOG)

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

To our valued shareholders,

Oman Cables Industry (SAOG) "Oman Cables" has the pleasure in submitting the report on the performance of the Parent Company and the Group for three months period ended 31 March 2025.

Parent Company - "Oman Cables".

The Group - Oman Cables and its two fully owned subsidiaries: Oman Aluminum Processing Industries SPC in Sohar "OAPIL" and Associated Cables Private Ltd in India "ACPL".

Sustainable Growth

Our Group's strategy is oriented towards sustainable growth. All our processes are guided by our commitment to a safe, healthy and protected working environment. We contribute to ensuring an energy system driven by innovation, through responsible production, and integrating economic, environmental and social responsibility into our business model, with the involvement of all our stakeholders. Environmental protection and employee safety remain at the heart of our mission.

Group Performance

The Sales of the Group for the three months period ended 31 March 2025 are RO 68.6 million compared to RO 61.1 million for the same period last year, increase of 12.2%.

The Group Net Profit after tax (NPAT), for the three months period ended 31 March 2025 is RO 5.6 million compared to RO 5.5 million during the same period in 2024, increase of 1.1%.

The Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortization (EBITDA) for the period is RO 7.0 million compared to RO 7.0 million during the same period in 2024.

Oman Cables (Parent) Performance

Oman Cables is a pivotal technological enabler in the energy and digital transition, contributing to the development of a decarbonized energy system in the region and advancing towards a sustainable future.

The Sales of Oman Cables for the three months period ended 31 March 2025 are RO 51.3 million compared to RO 45.5 million in the same period last year, increase of 12.6%.

The NPAT for the three months period ended 31 March 2025 is RO 3.9 million as compared to RO 3.9 million for the same period in 2024.

EBITDA for the period is RO 4.8 million compared to RO 4.9 million during the same period in 2024, decrease of 2.7%.

In the three months period ended on 31 March 2025, the revenue of the company has increased influenced by metal prices and higher sales volumes in domestic market, particularly in the power distribution channels. The profitability of the company also continued to improve, largely due to the company persistent emphasis on product mix, dynamic pricing strategies, design to cost, and stringent cost management.

Oman Aluminum Processing Industries SPC, Sohar (OAPIL) (subsidiary) and Associated Cables Private Ltd (ACPL), India (Subsidiary)

In the three months period ended on 31 March 2025, OAPIL maintained its trajectory of delivering more added value products, influenced by the continuing focus on expanded market presence and reinforcing its financial discipline.

In the three months period ended on 31 March 2025, ACPL's continued delivering positive results supported by the focus on enhancing the operational efficiencies, improving its competitive advantage and a wider market reach.

Oman Cables is recognizing the support extended by various Government Authorities and wish the best for our beloved Oman to further develop under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, in line with Oman Vision 2040.

On behalf of the Board of Directors
Oman Cables Industry SAOG

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31 MARCH 2025

Group	Parent company	Group	Parent company
As on 31 Mar 2025 RO	As on 31 Mar 2025 RO	As on 31 Dec 2024 RO	As on 31 Dec 2024 RO
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	21,198,135	12,689,451	21,802,343
Intangible asset	275,288	275,288	290,639
Right-of-use assets	3,427,306	1,833,573	3,319,203
Investment in subsidiaries	-	7,789,908	-
Financial assets at amortized cost	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	50,593	50,593	84,124
Deferred tax assets	153,495	175,641	355,334
Total non-current assets	26,104,817	23,814,454	26,851,643
Current assets			
Inventories	27,268,075	24,483,171	26,277,530
Derivative financial instruments	754,150	754,150	-
Trade and other receivables	69,750,090	49,149,310	67,165,376
Short term deposits	45,846,526	35,849,050	49,249,279
Cash and cash equivalents	25,708,063	25,482,784	16,115,214
Total current assets	169,326,904	135,718,465	158,807,399
Total assets	195,431,721	159,532,919	185,659,042
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
Equity			
Share capital	8,970,000	8,970,000	8,970,000
Share premium	977,500	977,500	977,500
Legal reserve	4,445,333	2,990,000	4,445,333
General reserve	19,039,702	17,886,763	19,039,702
Retained earnings	108,960,785	89,871,401	111,609,315
Other reserves	2,635,027	2,593,346	693,952
Total equity	145,028,347	123,289,010	145,735,802
Non-current liabilities			
Lease liabilities	3,601,965	1,857,800	3,536,340
Employees' end of service benefits	1,790,560	1,525,954	1,720,147
Total non-current liabilities	5,392,525	3,383,754	5,256,487
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	37,936,728	28,644,528	27,781,749
Bank borrowings	1,011,470	-	769,000
Lease liabilities	230,108	185,108	281,433
Derivative financial instruments	161,547	-	1,251,330
Taxation	5,670,996	4,030,519	4,583,241
Total current liabilities	45,010,849	32,860,155	34,666,753
Total liabilities	50,403,374	36,243,909	39,923,240
Total equity and liabilities	195,431,721	159,532,919	185,659,042
Net assets per share	1.617	1.374	1.625

STATEMENT OF INCOME FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Group	Parent company	Group	Parent company
3 Months ended 31 March 2025 RO	3 Months ended 31 March 2025 RO	3 Months ended 31 March 2024 RO	3 Months ended 31 March 2024 RO
Revenue	68,562,991	51,228,090	61,098,588
Cost of sales	(59,616,970)	(44,566,533)	(51,804,213)
Gross profit	8,946,021	6,661,557	9,294,375
Other income	159,574	156,016	218,783
Administrative expenses	(1,747,129)	(1,391,654)	(1,690,733)
Selling and distribution expenses	(1,436,319)	(1,319,557)	(1,881,127)
Net allowances for expected credit losses	(5,358)	(4,853)	24,134
Operating profit	5,916,789	4,101,509	5,965,432
Finance costs	(34,048)	10,400	(51,811)
Finance income	680,489	535,382	599,851
Profit before income tax	6,563,230	4,647,291	6,513,472
Income tax expense	(1,004,210)	(716,529)	(1,014,647)
Profit for the period	5,559,020	3,930,762	5,498,825
Basic and diluted earnings per share attributable to ordinary equity holders of the parent company	0.062	0.044	0.061
Gross profit margin	13.05%	13.00%	15.21%
Net profit margin	8.11%	7.67%	9.00%

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Group	Parent company	Group	Parent company
3 Months ended 31 March 2025 RO	3 Months ended 31 March 2025 RO	3 Months ended 31 March 2024 RO	3 Months ended 31 March 2024 RO
Profit for the period	5,559,020	3,930,762	5,498,825
Other comprehensive income			
Items that may be reclassified subsequently to statement of income or loss, net of tax:			
Net movement in hedging reserve, net of tax	1,662,332	1,656,324	(332,137)
Net movement in foreign currency translation reserve, net of tax	6,743	-	(17,985)
Other comprehensive (loss) for the period	1,669,075	1,656,324	(350,122)
Total comprehensive income for the Period	7,228,095	5,587,086	5,148,703

P.O. Box: 25, PC: 124, Sultanate of Oman, Tel: +968 24443100

www.omancables.com

ص:ب: ٢٥ الرمز البريدي: ١٢٤ سلطنة عمان. هاتف: +٩٦٨ ٢٤٤٤٣١٠٠

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

National Aluminium, up 10.87%, was the top gainer while, Musandam Power, down 4.00%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,316.25 points, up by 0.43% from previous close. The Shariah Index ended up by 0.20% at 403.38 points. National Aluminium, up 10.87%, was the top gainer while, Musandam Power, down 4.00%, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 1392 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 3.96 million, with more than 25.91 million shares changing hands. Out of 52 traded securities, 21 advanced, 16 declined, and 15 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for RO 772K while foreign investors were net sellers for RO 569K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 204K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,641.10 points, up 0.75%. Prices of Oman Arab Bank, OMINEVEST, Al Sharqia Investment, Al Anwar Investment, Bank Nizwa were up by 3.45%, 3.33%, 1.37%, 1.28%, 1.02% respectively. Prices of Liva Group, Muscat Finance, Sohar International Bank were down by 3.24%, 2.08%, 0.76% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,960.85 points, up 0.43%. Prices of National Aluminium, A'Saffa Foods, Al Anwar Ceramics, Gulf International Chemicals, Oman Cement were up by 10.87%, 5.54%, 3.87%, 1.47%, 0.52% respectively. Prices of Jazeera Steel Products, Raysut Cement, Galfar Engineering, Gulf Mushroom Products, Oman Flour Mills were down by 2.70%, 2.13%, 1.43%, 0.46%, 0.42% respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.29% before closing at 1,538.02 points. Prices of OQ Gas Networks, Al Batinah Power, Al Jazeera Services, Sembcorp Salalah, Al Maha Marking were up by 1.55%, 1.47%, 1.24%, 1.05%, 0.96% respectively. Prices of Musandam Power, Phoenix Power, National Gas, Abraj Energy were down by 4.00%, 1.67%, 1.41%, 0.43% respectively. — United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,316.25	4,293.64	4,316.25	4,297.82	18.44	0.43
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,643.39	7,579.94	7,641.10	7,584.39	56.71	0.75
Industry Index	5,967.11	5,901.63	5,960.85	5,935.45	25.39	0.43
Services Index	1,540.09	1,528.23	1,538.02	1,533.62	4.40	0.29
MSX Shariah Index	404.07	402.59	403.38	402.59	0.79	0.20
MSX TR INDEX	6,380.07	6,346.64	6,380.07	6,352.81	27.25	0.43
FINANCIAL TR IDX	9,058.37	8,983.18	9,055.66	8,988.45	67.21	0.75
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	7,252.22	7,234.95	7,252.22	7,239.78	12.44	0.17
SERVICES TR IDX	1,958.28	1,943.19	1,955.64	1,950.05	5.59	0.29
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,166.89	1,166.89	1,166.89	1,166.89	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
25,916,627	3,958,741	1,392	27,121,214,155	21	16	15	52

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

RUN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PD	LAST RD	LAST OFFER	PDA VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000002804	ASAFA FOODS	20,000	8,000	2	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.379	0.021	5.541	0.400	0.371	0.409	0.100	48,000,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	670,344	107,139	113	0.157	0.162	0.156	0.161	0.155	0.006	3.871	0.161	0.161	0.160	0.100	35,420,000
OM0000001533	OMINEVEST	767,056	163,794	87	0.210	0.218	0.210	0.217	0.210	0.007	3.333	0.217	0.216	0.217	0.100	20,040,416
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	1,591,359	258,703	157	0.129	0.131	0.129	0.131	0.128	0.002	1.550	0.131	0.131	0.131	0.100	567,311,734
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	123,070	8,398	14	0.068	0.069	0.067	0.069	0.068	0.001	1.471	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.100	46,567,233
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO.	21,400	1,577	5	0.075	0.075	0.073	0.074	0.073	0.001	1.370	0.073	0.073	0.074	0.100	6,660,000
OM0000004735	SEMBORP SALALAH	81,783	7,785	13	0.095	0.096	0.095	0.096	0.095	0.001	1.053	0.096	0.093	0.096	0.100	91,638,907
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	10,468	4,029	6	0.385	0.385	0.383	0.385	0.383	0.002	0.522	0.385	0.384	0.385	0.100	127,385,963
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	60,843	3,899	8	0.064	0.065	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.000	0.000	0.064	0.063	0.070	0.100	7,800,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	101,800	5,680	6	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.000	0.000	0.056	0.055	0.060	0.100	19,943,129
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	2,811,353	714,799	123	0.254	0.255	0.253	0.255	0.255	0.000	0.000	0.255	0.250	0.255	0.100	1,914,131,251
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	30,688	25,103	11	0.818	0.818	0.818	0.818	0.818	0.000	0.000	0.818	0.810	0.818	0.100	613,500,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	36,010	10,396	5	0.289	0.289	0.288	0.289	0.289	0.000	0.000	0.289	0.288	0.289	0.100	68,322,490
OM0000003968	QOREDOO	20,880	3,545	6	0.172	0.172	0.168	0.170	0.170	0.000	0.000	0.168	0.168	0.175	0.100	110,660,519
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	535,599	41,338	31	0.077	0.078	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.000	0.000	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.100	13,475,000
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	94,522	6,333	14	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.000	0.000	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.100	72,865,225
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	1,563,262	360,627	44	0.233	0.233	0.230	0.232	0.233	-0.001	-0.429	0.232	0.232	0.232	0.100	178,686,400
OM0000002386	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	8,138,332	1,071,062	55	0.131	0.132	0.131	0.131	0.132	-0.001	-0.738	0.131	0.131	0.131	0.100	866,853,261
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	35,125	12,133	3	0.345	0.360	0.345	0.360	0.370	-0.010	-2.703	0.360	0.352	0.360	0.100	44,963,266
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	20,696	5,086	9	0.250	0.250	0.240	0.240	0.250	-0.010	-4.000	0.240	0.240	0.250	0.100	16,893,600
Total		20	17,134,570	2,819,367	712											
Parallel Market																
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	501,003	74,106	36	0.144	0.150	0.144	0.150	0.145	0.005	3.448	0.150	0.147	0.150	0.100	250,411,500
OM0000003028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	87,369	6,043	11	0.070	0.070	0.069	0.069	0.068	0.001	1.471	0.069	0.065	0.069	0.100	1,449,000
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	31,130	2,424	8	0.077	0.078	0.077	0.078	0.077	0.001	1.299	0.078	0.077	0.078	0.100	39,673,241
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	1,762,655	138,306	41	0.079	0.080	0.077	0.079	0.078	0.001	1.282	0.079	0.079	0.081	0.100	22,678,540
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	459,651	75,831	77	0.163	0.166	0.163	0.164	0.162	0.002	1.235	0.164	0.164	0.165	0.100	7,028,251
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	195,204	19,130	5	0.098	0.099	0.098	0.099	0.098	0.001	1.020	0.099	0.097	0.099	0.100	221,458,350
OM0000003900	AI MAHA PETROLEUM PROD MARKTNG	14,350	14,992	8	1.039	1.050	1.039	1.050	1.040	0.010	0.962	1.050	1.000	1.060	0.100	72,450,000
OM0000009908	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SP2)	2,869,210	298,659	220	0.104	0.105	0.103	0.105	0.104	0.001	0.962	0.105	0.106	0.105	0.040	363,248,539
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	2,800	694	3	0.214	0.216	0.214	0.216	0.214	0.002	0.935	0.216	0.216	0.220	0.100	43,121,280
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	25,000	3,073	3	0.122	0.123	0.122	0.123	0.122	0.001	0.820	0.123	0.120	0.122	0.100	74,799,564
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	840,000	125,160	1	0.149	0.149	0.149	0.149	0.148	0.001	0.676	0.149	0.000	0.149	0.100	452,929,981
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	1,087	170	1	0.156	0.156	0.156	0.156	0.155	0.001	0.645	0.156	0.156	0.000	0.100	366,546,565
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	700	1,442	2	2.060	2.060	2.060	2.060	2.060	0.000	0.000	2.060	0.000	2.060	0.100	184,782,000
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	8,657	372	2	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.044	0.044	0.000	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.045	0.100	3,740,000
OM0000002372	OMAN OIL MARKETING	21,500	14,942	3	0.694	0.695	0.694	0.695	0.695	0.000	0.000	0.695	0.675	0.695	0.100	42,586,125
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	2,790	331	3	0.119	0.119	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.000	0.000	0.118	0.118	0.119	0.100	69,789,552
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	24,550	11,766	11	0.484	0.484	0.475	0.475	0.477	-0.002	-0.419	0.475	0.475	0.476	0.100	78,533,125
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	25,270	5,534	2	0.220	0.220	0.219	0.219	0.220	-0.001	-0.455	0.219	0.216	0.220	0.100	10,022,710
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	787,375	211,570	119	0.269	0.270	0.268	0.268	0.270	-0.002	-0.741	0.268	0.268	0.267	0.010	144,000,000
OM0000001020	ASTAD SHIPPING	647,123	68,846	55	0.108	0.108	0.105	0.107	0.108	-0.001	-0.928	0.107	0.103	0.107	0.000	557,335,638
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	30,000	2,100	5	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.071	0.001	1.408	0.070	0.070	0.072	0.100	5,950,000
OM0000003821	GALFAR FENG & CONTRACTING	155,331	10,820	21	0.070	0.071	0.069	0.069	0.070	-0.001	-1.429	0.069	0.069	0.070	0.100	14,006,065
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	87,290	5,189	10	0.060	0.060	0.059	0.059	0.060	-0.001	-1.667	0.059	0.059	0.060	0.100	86,293,486
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	33,743	1,586	5	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.048	0.001	2.083	0.047	0.046	0.048	0.100	14,435,877
OM0000007043	LIVA GROUP	25,000	6,590	4	0.260	0.269	0.260	0.269	0.278	-0.009	-3.237	0.269	0.260	0.269	0.100	107,162,698
Total		25	6,638,679	1,099,387	656											

US President celebrates 100 days in office with rally in Michigan

Trump claimed that his administration has achieved the most successful start of any presidency in history, citing policies on tax, tariffs, and job creation

MICHIGAN : US President Donald Trump addressed a rally in Macomb County, Michigan, marking his 100 days in office. “We’re making America great again, and it’s happening fast,” Trump declared,



highlighting his administration’s achievements. Speaking at the rally, he claimed that his administration has achieved the most successful start of any presidency in history, citing policies on tax, tariffs, and job creation. Trump boasted about job creation, saying, “A lot of auto jobs coming. The companies are coming...They all want to come back to Michigan and build cars again. You know why? Because of our tax and tariff policy, they’re coming from all over the world.

Trump expressed gratitude to his supporters, particularly auto workers. “I want to thank the auto workers for your support. That was great,” he said.

American patriots “I’m thrilled to be back in this beautiful state with thousands of proud, hardworking American patriots, and we’re here tonight in the heartland of our nation to celebrate the most successful first 100 days of any administration in the history of our country,” he added. He also mentioned that companies are opening plants and investing in the US at unprecedented levels. “We’ve just gotten started. You haven’t even seen anything yet. It’s all just kicking. And week by week, we’re ending illegal immigration...taking back our jobs and protecting our great American auto workers and all of our workers. Frankly, we’re protecting all of

our workers,” he said. Trump criticised previous administrations, saying, “We’re restoring the rule of law, which was sort of out the window with this crazy guy (Biden) we had.” “How the hell did that guy ever become president? Could somebody explain how the hell that happened?” Trump asked the crowd, pointing to former President Joe Biden. “We’re ending the inflation. You nightmare, the worst that we’ve had probably in the history of our country, getting woke, lunacy and insanity the hell out of our government,” Trump stated

Indoctrination of children, “We’re stopping the indoctrination of our children, slashing billions and billions of dollars of waste, fraud and abuse, and above all, we’re saving the American dream. We’re making America great again, and it’s happening fast,” he added.

-ANI

FIRE UNDER CONTROL

14 people killed as fire rips through hotel in the Indian city of Kolkata

KOLKATA: At least 14 people were killed in a fire that broke out in a hotel near Falpatti Machhua in central Kolkata on Tuesday, a senior police officer said. “This fire incident took place at around 8:15 p.m. at the premises of Rituraj Hotel. Fourteen bodies have been recovered, and several people have been rescued by the teams,” Manoj Kumar Verma, Kolkata Police Commissioner, told reporters. He said that the fire is under control, and the rescue operation is still underway. “The fire is under control, and rescue is underway. Further investigation is underway. A special team has also been formed for the



investigation,” he said. The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained. Earlier, Union Minister and West Bengal BJP President Sukanta Majumdar had urged the

State administration to rescue the affected immediately, and called for “stricter monitoring” of fire safety measures to prevent such tragic incidents in the future. “I urge the state administra-

tion to immediately rescue those affected, ensure their safety, and provide them with necessary medical and humanitarian assistance. Additionally, I appeal for a thorough review and stricter monitoring of fire safety measures to prevent such tragic incidents in the future,” he said in a post on X. Reacting to the incident, West Bengal Congress President Subhankar Sarkar also slammed the Kolkata Corporation. “This is a tragic incident. A fire broke out...A lot of people are still stuck in the building. There was no safety or security...I don’t know what the corporation is doing,” Sarkar said. -ANI

PAHALGAM ATTACK

UN chief calls Indian FM Jaishankar and Pakistan PM Sharif



GENEVA: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres spoke to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif separately and strongly condemned the April 22 terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir’s Pahalgam that killed 25 Indians and a Nepalese citizen. According to the United Nations statement, the Secretary-General, in his phone calls, noted the importance of pursuing justice and accountability for the attack through lawful means. He also expressed his deep concern at rising tensions between India and Pakistan and underscored

the need to avoid a confrontation that could result in tragic consequences, and offered his Good Offices to support de-escalation efforts, the statement said. Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a meeting, which was attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Anil Chauhan, and the three service chiefs. National Security Advisor Ajit Doval was also present at the meeting. The meeting took place days after a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security on April 23, following the terror attack. -ANI

COLLEGE OF CARDINALS

All cardinals have right to vote in conclave

VATICAN CITY: The College of Cardinals has recognised that all 133 cardinal electors have the right to vote in the upcoming conclave, Vatican news reported. Notably, the Holy See Press Office released a declaration prepared by the Cardinals gathered in the General Congregation on Wednesday. The declaration states that all Cardinal electors present in the conclave have the right to vote for the new Pope. According to Vatican News, the Cardinals note that paragraph 33 of the Apostolic Constitution Universi Dominici Gregis, which governs the conclave, allows 120 Cardinals to vote. However, they say, the late Pope Francis dispensed with that numerical limit by creating more than 120 Cardinals under the age of 80. Therefore, declared the Cardinals, “the Cardinals exceeding the set limit have



acquired, following paragraph 36 of the same Apostolic Constitution, the right to elect the Roman Pontiff, from the moment of their creation and publication.” According to Vatican News, in the same note, the Cardinals express their appreciation to Cardinal Giovanni Angelo Becciu for deciding not to participate in the conclave that begins on May 7. “The Congregation has taken note that he, having at heart the good of the Church and to contribute to the communion and serenity of the conclave, has communicated his decision not to participate in it,” says the declaration as quoted by Vatican News. Notably, the Cardinals added their hopes that the “competent juridical bodies may definitively

ascertain the facts,” regarding the corruption case against Cardinal Becciu. The process to elect the next Pope will begin with the Cardinals called to the conclave of May 7. The College of Cardinals decided to summon the conclave at the Fifth General Congregation, held on Monday morning in the Vatican’s Synod Hall. The conclave will take place in the Vatican’s Sistine Chapel, which will remain closed to visitors during that time, according to Vatican News. The conclave will be preceded by a solemn Eucharistic celebration with the votive Mass Pro Eligendo Papa, attended by the Cardinal electors. In the afternoon, the Cardinal electors proceed in a solemn procession to the Sistine Chapel, where the Conclave begins to elect the new Pope. -ANI

4,000 OTHERS INJURED

600 North Korean soldiers killed fighting for Russia, says Seoul

SEOUL: Around 600 North Korean soldiers are believed to have died while fighting alongside Russian forces in the war against Ukraine, with more than 4,000 others reportedly injured, South Korea’s intelligence agency informed lawmakers on Wednesday, according to a report by Yonhap News Agency. During a private session with the National Assembly’s intelligence committee, the National Intelligence Service (NIS) shared this assessment. According to lawmakers Lee Seong-kweon from the People Power Party and Kim Byung-kee of the Democratic Party, the NIS reported that approximately 15,000 North Korean troops have been sent to Russia, with total casualties estimated at around



4,700, including 600 fatalities. North Korea has deployed its troops to Russia over two phases, and fighting has decreased since April after Moscow took back most areas of its front-line region of Kursk, the lawmakers quoted the NIS as saying, Yonhap reported. In exchange for providing troops and weapons, North Korea is believed to have received military and technological assets from Russia, including a launch site for reconnaissance satellites, drones, electronic warfare systems, and SA-22 surface-to-air missiles.

Additionally, the two nations are reportedly discussing cooperation to modernise North Korea’s industries across 14 sectors such as aviation, energy, and tourism. As part of this collaboration, roughly 15,000 North Korean workers have also been sent to Russia, the NIS added. This assessment comes just two days after North Korea, for the first time, confirmed it had sent troops to fight for Russia against Ukraine, and the “sacred mission” was aimed at strengthening friendship with Moscow. The state news agency KCNA said that Pyongyang’s military claimed its soldiers helped Russian forces “completely liberate” the Kursk border region, according to an order given by Kim Jong Un. -ANI

SEDITION CASE

Bangladesh High Court grants bail to Chinmoy Krishna

DHAKA: Bangladesh High Court on Wednesday granted bail to spiritual leader Chinmoy Krishna Das in a sedition case, according to Bangladesh-based The Daily Star. The order was passed by a bench of Justice Md Atoar Rahman and Justice Md Ali Reza. Chinmoy Krishna Das, spokesperson of the Bangladesh Sammilit Sanatani Jagran Jote and a former ISKCON leader, was arrested at Dhaka airport on November 25 last year. He has been accused of insulting the national flag of Bangladesh and is facing sedition charges. He had applied for bail in the High Court after a lower court in Chittagong rejected his plea on January 2. In February, the Bangladesh High Court had asked the government to explain why Das should not be granted bail, as confirmed by his lawyer. “Bangladesh High Court has asked the government to respond to the ruling within two weeks,” said Apurba Kumar Bhattacharjee, Das’ lawyer, in a statement to ANI. During the January 2 hearing in Chittagong, Das’ defence team argued that he held deep respect for the motherland, comparable to the reverence for his mother, and was not a traitor. Despite these arguments, the court de-



nied the bail plea. “We mentioned to the court that the priest respects the motherland like his mother and is not a traitor,” Bhattacharjee said. The court, led by Metropolitan Sessions Judge Md Saiful Islam, ruled against granting bail following arguments from both parties. The court in Chittagong, led by Metropolitan Sessions Judge Md Saiful Islam, rejected the bail after hearing arguments from both sides. The hearing was held under tight security. Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Advocate Mofizur Haque Bhuiyan represented the prosecution. The case has attracted wide public attention, with many closely following the developments in the Bangladesh High Court. -ANI

SPORTS

Paris Saint-Germain gain slim advantage against Arsenal



Ousmane Dembele scored his eighth Champions League goal of the season in the fourth minute at Emirates Stadium to give PSG the edge in the first-leg of the semi-finals



LONDON: Arsenal must come from behind to reach the Champions League final after Ousmane Dembele's early strike gave Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) 1-0 victory at Emirates Stadium on Tuesday night.

Dembele stunned Arsenal when he swept home a low finish from Khvicha Kvaratskhelia's delivery only four minutes into the semi-final first leg.

PSG dominated the early stages with a relentless attacking assault, which saw Arsenal keeper David Raya make a superb save from teenager Desire Doue.

The hosts survived without further damage to work their way

into contention, and once again giant Italian keeper Gianluigi Donnarumma, as he was against Liverpool and Aston Villa earlier in the competition, was PSG's hero.

He saved brilliantly from Gabriel Martinelli and Leandro Trossard either side of the break, while Arsenal saw Mikel Merino's header from a Declan Rice free-kick ruled out for offside.

PSG had chances to extend their advantage late on, but substitute Bradley Barcola shot wide and Goncalo Ramos hit the bar.

The hosts whipped the Emirates crowd into a frenzy with a spectacular light and pyrotechnics show before kick-off, only to see

the thunderous atmosphere punctured almost immediately by that priceless early goal.

Mikel Arteta's side appeared to be stunned and could have suffered further damage as PSG poured forward in wave after wave of attacks in the opening phase.

Arsenal never lacked for heart or effort, but PSG controlled Bukayo Saka superbly and when the chances came they ran into the same wall of defiance from keeper Donnarumma that broke Liverpool and Aston Villa's hearts.

The Italy goalkeeper was the hero against Liverpool when PSG won on penalties at Anfield, while three superb second-half saves

kept Unai Emery's side at bay at Villa Park.

Martinelli should have scored when clean through, but Donnarumma's low save diving to his left from Trossard was high class.

And when the Gunners thought they had made the breakthrough early in the second half, Merino's smart header was ruled out for offside after a lengthy video assistant referee check, although the very deep starting position of Arsenal's players at the set-piece was running that risk.

Arteta will believe his side can turn the tie around after beating Real Madrid at the Bernabeu,

but PSG are an entirely different proposition and this now looks like a mammoth task for Arsenal to reach the final in Munich.

PSG show class once more

PSG continue to cut a swathe through the Premier League's elite and will now be confident of crossing the next barrier into the final in Munich against either Inter Milan or Barcelona.

Arsenal followed Manchester City, Liverpool and Aston Villa in falling victim to this outstanding side - who showed once more why they are so many people's favourites to claim their first Champions League crown.

In an environment of raw hostility, PSG simply stepped out and pinned Arsenal back with a magnificent opening salvo that brought Dembele's goal and could have brought more.

If coach Luis Enrique has a regret, it will be that they did not take advantage of several second-half openings to bolster their lead even further before the return leg in Paris next Wednesday.

This, however, was a result he would have happily settled for before kick-off and illustrates PSG's rapid improvement since they lost 2-0 at Arsenal in October in the new Champions League league table format. - Agencies

We have to do something special in Paris, says Arteta



LONDON: Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta says his side will have to "do something special in Paris" if they are to reach the Champions League final following defeat in their semi-final first leg.

It was an ultimately frustrating night for Arsenal at Emirates Stadium, who failed to convert any of their five shots on target.

"If you want to win the Champions League final, you have to do something special. We're going to have to do something special in Paris to be there," Arteta said.

"We have a lot of chances to be in that final. As I repeat myself, you have to do something special in the competition to have the right to be in the final. And the time to do it is going to be in Paris," said Arteta.

Arsenal have not reached

the final since 2005-06 while PSG are hunting a first Champions League trophy.

As they did against Liverpool and Aston Villa earlier in the campaign, Luis Enrique's side relied on Italian keeper Gianluigi Donnarumma to keep them out of trouble. The 26-year-old kept a clean sheet and made five saves.

"At the end, we have two of our front players one v one with Donnarumma. If they scored the goal it is different. He made the saves, like he did against Liverpool and Villa, and that's the difference in the Champions League," Arteta said. But Enrique says the shot-stopper was just doing his job. "That's the work of a goalkeeper, no? Save the team, they work every day for that. In a semi-final, you need all the players," the Spaniard said. - Agencies

COPA DEL REY FINAL

Real Madrid's Rudiger given six-game ban for throwing object at referee

MADRID: Real Madrid defender Antonio Rudiger was on Tuesday given a six-match ban for throwing an object at the referee during their Copa del Rey final loss to Barcelona.

Rudiger and Real team-mate Lucas Vazquez, who had both been substituted, were shown straight red cards in Seville for angrily reacting to a foul given against Kylian Mbappe shortly before the final whistle.

Referee Ricardo de Burgos Bengoetxea said in his report that centre-back Rudiger, 32, was dismissed for "throwing an object from the technical area, which missed me".

The report by the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF), said the Germany defender had been given a six-game suspension "for minor violence against the referees".

The RFEF has also revoked the



red card given to Real midfielder Jude Bellingham for dissent after the final whistle.

All six games of Rudiger's sus-

pension will be served in league matches, meaning that it will extend until the start of next season.

He will be banned for the final

five games in La Liga this campaign, and for the opening game of the 2025-26 campaign.

Rudiger is unlikely to be hugely impacted by the ban, after undergoing knee surgery on Tuesday which is likely to rule him out for the rest of the season.

Real did not give a timescale for his recovery but Spanish media reports say he could be out for between six and eight weeks, which would rule him out of the rest of the domestic season and make him doubtful for the Club World Cup, which starts on 15 June.

Rudiger had apologised for the incident, saying there was "definitely no excuse" for his behaviour.

Vazquez has been suspended for two games, both of which will be served in Copa del Rey fixtures. - Agencies

MADRID OPEN

Draper advances; Swiatek on winning streak

MADRID: Britain's Jack Draper reached the round of 16 at the Madrid Open after opponent Matteo Berrettini retired injured as play resumed following a nationwide power cut on Tuesday.

Play was suspended on Monday in the Spanish capital after the electronic line-calling system and scoreboards went down.

Power was restored to the venue on Tuesday morning, allowing fifth seed Draper to take on Italian



Berrettini, who is ranked 30th.

Draper won the opening set 7-6 in a tie-breaker after 57 minutes, finally converting his third set point opportunity.

At the end of the set, Berrettini withdrew from the match after speaking to Draper, indicating he had an abdominal problem.

Earlier, defending women's champion Swiatek won her ninth successive match in Madrid with a 6-0, 6-7 (3-7), 6-4 victory over Russia's Shnaider.

Poland's Swiatek was not at her best, committing over 50 unforced errors, but she saved 11 of the 13 breakpoints she faced to get

the edge over Shnaider.

She will face Madison Keys - who beat her in the Australian Open semi-finals on her way to a maiden Grand Slam title - next after the American's 6-2, 6-3 victory over Donna Vekic of Croatia.

World No.1 Aryna Sabalenka also progressed to the last eight with a straight-set victory over Peyton Stearns, beating the American 6-2, 6-4. - Agencies

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

I don't compare myself to Messi: Barca's Yamal

BARCELONA: Teenage star Lamine Yamal says he is focused on his own game rather than comparisons with Lionel Messi as Barcelona aim to reach their first Champions League final for a decade.

Barcelona have not reached the showpiece event since they last won the title in 2015, with a team spearheaded by Messi.

They face Inter Milan in the first leg of their semi-final on Wednesday night, Barca's first appearance at this stage since 2019 - again when they had Messi in their side.

The game at the Nou Camp is set to go ahead as normal despite nationwide power cuts affecting Spain on Monday and Tuesday.

Barcelona training and media conferences went ahead as normal, while a UEFA spokesperson told BBC Sport there is no impact on Wednesday's game at present.

The Barcelona attack will feature Yamal, 17, on the right flank, the position played by Messi for the Spanish side with distinction for years. However Yamal, speaking at a media conference on Tuesday, rejected comparisons with his fellow graduate of the club's La Masia academy.

"I don't compare myself to him, because I don't compare myself to anyone - and much less with Messi," Yamal told reporters, while also describing the Argentine as "the best player in history".

"I don't think the comparison



makes sense, with Messi even less - I'm going to enjoy myself, and be myself."

Yamal is already a European champion with Spain - while he will make his 100th Barcelona appearance should he feature against Inter on Wednesday.

He picked up another trophy at the weekend, setting up two goals as Barca beat Real Madrid 3-2 in the Copa del Rey final on Saturday.

Barcelona coach Hansi Flick said the euphoria from beating Madrid could help his side.

"There was big emotion at the end of the match," said Flick. "This win against Real, it's very important for the positive vibes, positive moments, it could push you on."

Flick said Wojciech Szczesny would continue in goal against Inter Milan, despite the return to fitness of first-choice Marc-Andre ter Stegen after a long injury lay-off. - Agencies

IDEAL CHOICE

Kia Sonet: Smart urban compact SUV



MUSCAT: The Kia Sonet PE combines modern design and functionality, making it an ideal choice for urban use and for families and college-goers alike. Based on Kia's 'Opposites United' philosophy, the Sonet is a charmer equipped with new-age technologies and functionalities that keep your daily life smooth. The Sonet boasts exceptional value for money and low maintenance cost making it an all-rounder choice.

At the heart of the Kia Sonet is the 1.5L four-cylinder engine producing 114 hp at 6,300 rpm, paired with Kia's revolutionary Intelligent Variable Transmission (IVT). With Kia's focus on consumer insight-driven product innovation, targeting the young generation, the Sonet is an absolute delight to own. Plan your next friends' hangout without breaking the bank—the Sonet offers optimal fuel efficiency

of 17.5 km/litres while you set the pace for the day. An ideal car for navigating cities whether you're running chores, driving to work or college, the Sonet offers something for everyone.

Aiming to create the perfect fun and trendy ride, the Kia Sonet offers advanced connectivity options with front and second-row USB chargers, an 8-inch audio display screen with Android Auto and Apple CarPlay, Bluetooth, and steering audio controls and Auto Cruise Control option for the longer drives. For added convenience, Kia has incorporated a Smart Key system with a button start, keyless entry for easy access, and a rear parking assist system that makes parking less risky.

Keeping the comfort of the driver and passengers in mind, the Sonet's interior offers a modern, dynamic, and bold design. It intel-

ligently incorporates convenience, with plenty of legroom, headroom with driver's seat height adjustment, and shoulder room for all passengers, along with a luggage capacity of 392 liters to store your belongings.

With Kia's commitment to safety, the Kia Sonet features an advanced anti-lock braking system with Electronic Stability Program, ISOFIX child seat anchoring points and Driver & Front Passenger Airbags to ensure safety for passengers.

Reliable International Automotive LLC (RIA), the official distributor for Kia in Oman, offers a rewarding ownership experience. Ranked #1 by Kia in 2024 for Sales Customer Satisfaction in the Middle East and Africa, RIA offers excellent products and unmatched facilities to ensure customers' absolute satisfaction every mile.

IDEAL CHOICE

Orient Insurance inaugurates its new office in Al Khuwair, Muscat

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Orient Insurance, a part of Al-Futtaim Group and one of the leading insurance providers in the region, proudly announces the official opening of its new office in Al Khuwair, Muscat, strengthening its presence in the Sultanate of Oman.

The inauguration ceremony was held on April 15, 2025, and was graced by the esteemed Chief Guest Ahmed Bin Salem Bin Abdullah Al Harrasi, Director General of Markets Regulation and Development Sector, Financial Services Authority (FSA), Oman.

He inaugurated the new premises alongside Omer Elamin, President of Orient Group, and Aqil Al Lawati, Country Head - Oman.

The event was marked by the presence of Orient's senior leadership, including: Fadi Awni, Chief Marketing Officer, Vamshidhar Vanama, Deputy CEO, Wissam Khalifeh, Chief Health Officer and Rohana Alagiyage, Chief Technical Officer.

The leadership team's participation underscored Orient's commitment to delivering innovative, reliable, and customer-centric insurance solutions in Oman.

"We are proud to open the doors to our new office in Al Khuwair," said Omer Elamin. "This strategic expansion reaffirms our dedication to serving the growing needs of the Omani market with world-class insurance offerings, supported by strong partnerships and digital innovation."

Orient Insurance extends its heartfelt gratitude to the esteemed



dignitaries, industry stakeholders, and valued business partners who joined in commemorating this significant milestone.

With this new office, Orient Insurance is poised to further enhance accessibility, service ex-

cellence, and client engagement in Oman's vibrant insurance landscape.

For Media inquiries:
Email: orient@alfuttaim.com
website: www.insuranceuae.com

Omran strengthens sustainability standards in hospitality sector

16 hotels and resorts attain WTTC Hotel Sustainability Basics Verification

DUBAI: During its participation in the Arabian Travel Market (ATM) in Dubai, Oman Tourism Development Company (Omran Group) has secured a prestigious international verification for a number of its hotels under the World Travel & Tourism Council's (WTTC) Hotel Sustainability Basics program. This recognition covers 16 hotels and resorts within Omran Group's portfolio, making them the first in Oman to achieve this globally accredited sustainability standard.

This milestone reflects Omran



Group's steadfast commitment to sustainability, aligning with internationally recognized best practices in the hospitality sector. On the environmental front, the verified hotels have implemented effective measures to optimize energy and water consumption, reduce carbon emissions, and minimize plastic waste, thereby enhancing resource efficiency and mitigating environmental impact. In terms of social sustainability, the hotels actively contribute to local

communities by fostering partnerships with small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and empowering local entrepreneurs through inclusive business integration.

Hashil Obaid Al Mahrouqi, Omran Group's CEO, commented on this achievement, stating: "We take great pride in our hotels receiving this esteemed verification, a testament to Omran Group's unwavering commitment to integrating sustainability as a fundamental pillar across

all its operations and projects. Guided by our vision for the tourism sector, we have adopted a comprehensive sustainability framework centered on four key pillars: environment, society, economy, and cultural heritage. Through this approach, we strive to strike a balance between economic growth and the preservation of natural resources, ensuring the long-term sustainability of Oman's tourism sector and maximizing its positive impact for generations to come."

The 16 properties that have attained the WTTC Hotel Sustainability Basics verification are: JW Marriott Muscat, W Muscat, InterContinental Muscat, Alila Hinu Bay, Alila Jabal Akhdar, Barceló Mussanah, Crowne Plaza Duqm, Crowne Plaza OCEC, Crowne Plaza Salalah, DusitD2 Naseem Jabal Akhdar, Atana Musandam, Atana Stay Ashkara, Atana Stay Salalah, City Hotel Duqm, Masirah Island Resort, and Ras Al Jinz Turtle Reserve.

Julia Simpson, WTTC Presi-

dent & CEO said "We are delighted to see Omran Group leading the way in sustainable hospitality in Oman. By achieving verification under the WTTC Hotel Sustainability Basics, Omran is setting a powerful example for the region. This milestone underscores the Group's commitment to responsible tourism and aligns with our global mission to drive sustainability across the Travel & Tourism sector. Omran's efforts show that sustainability and excellence in hospitality can go hand in hand."

Building on this commitment, Omran Group continues to pioneer sustainable hospitality models that enhance resource efficiency, encourage the adoption of eco-friendly innovations, and ensure the implementation of sustainable operational standards. These initiatives align with broader global efforts to reduce environmental impact and address pressing sustainability challenges.

Beyond its own portfolio, Omran

Group is committed to fostering a culture of sustainability across Oman's hospitality sector. The Group actively encourages hotels and resorts across the country to adopt the WTTC Hotel Sustainability Basics framework and leverage the available tools to enhance their sustainability efforts. This initiative is part of a broader mission to accelerate the transition toward a more responsible and resilient tourism sector, ensuring that Oman remains at the forefront of sustainable hospitality on a global scale.

Omran's participation in ATM 2025 is aligned with its endeavours to promote Oman as a premier destination for sustainable tourism investment.

As a leading platform for hospitality and tourism investment, ATM provides an opportunity to showcase Omran Group's diverse portfolio of world-class tourism and hospitality projects, foster strategic partnerships, and attract international investors.

OMAN ATHLETICS LEAGUE



Indian School Muladha boys shine with five medals

MUSCAT: Indian School Muladha made a mark at the recently concluded Oman Athletics League 2025, organised by the Oman Athletics Association at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex in Bousher.

The national-level event featured over 400 athletes across U16, U18, U20, and senior categories for both men and women, drawing participation primarily from Oman, along with athletes from India, Sudan, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and Bangladesh.

Eight boys from Indian School Muladha competed in various events and delivered outstanding performances, bringing home medals in five of them.

Their achievements not only

highlighted their individual talent but also brought pride to their school and the wider community.

Medal winners from Indian School Muladha: Muhammed Rihaan (Class XI B, gold U20 high jump), Shanhinsha (Class XII B, silver U20 400m), Ishan Mohammad (Class IX A, bronze U16 100m), Sameeshkumar Selvakumar (Class X D, bronze U16 800m), Ahammed Yaseen Bin Shabeer (Class X C, bronze U18 high jump).

Other notable performances included Jerome Jose (Class XI A, fourth U18 javelin throw), Jubel Andrews Bino (Class XI A, fifth U18 3000m), and Eshan Nahas (Class X B, sixth U18 100m).

MOPAR MIDDLE EAST AFTERSALES CONFERENCE 2025

MHD Automobiles honoured with Customer Service Excellence Award, Best Practice Award

MUSCAT: MHD Automobiles announced its outstanding achievement at the MOPAR Middle East Aftersales Conference 2025, held recently in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

The company was honored with two prestigious accolades — the Customer Service Excellence Award 2024 (US Brand) and the Best Practice Award 2024 — a testament to its unwavering commitment to delivering exceptional service and customer experience.

These awards celebrate MHD Automobiles' relentless pursuit of excellence, driven by the combined efforts of the After Sales, CRM, and Customer Experience (CX) teams. Through their tireless work, MHD Automobiles has consistently set new benchmarks in customer care, service innovation, and operational best practices among all MOPAR dealerships across the Middle East.

The Customer Service Excellence Award recognizes MHD Automobiles as the leading distributor in the region for its outstanding management of customer inquiries and complaints, delivered with unmatched professionalism and



efficiency.

The Best Practice Award highlights MHD Automobiles' innovative initiatives that have enhanced customer experience and operational excellence. The win, based on live voting by participating distributors, reflects the strength and originality of the team's efforts.

"We are honored to receive these prestigious awards, which are a testament to our team's relentless commitment to service excellence," said Mohsin Hani Al Bahrani, CEO of MHD Automobiles. At MHD Automobiles, our focus remains firmly on delivering an exceptional customer experi-

ence and setting new standards of excellence across every touch-point."

MHD Automobiles' After Sales Network continues to expand across Oman, providing easier access to expert service, genuine parts, and premium customer support. In addition to the state-of-the-art Service and Parts Centre in Al Hail, the network now includes:

- An Express Service and Parts Centre in Mabela
- An Express Service Centre in Nizwa
- A Service and Parts Centre in Salalah

Customers of Jeep, Dodge, RAM, and Alfa Romeo can expect seamless service experiences, backed by trained experts and genuine MOPAR parts and accessories. Service appointments can easily be booked by calling the dedicated customer care line at 80022008. This achievement marks a significant milestone in MHD Automobiles' journey, reaffirming its position as a customer-centric organization committed to service excellence, innovation, and trust.

ROUND-UP

INSPIRING YOUNG ATHLETES



Mitsubishi partners with Special Olympics Oman to support young athletes

MUSCAT: General Automotive Company, the official distributor of Mitsubishi Motors in Oman, sponsored the closing ceremony of the Special Olympics Oman Young Athletes Program, held recently.

The Young Athletes Program, organised in collaboration with the Association of Early Intervention for Children with Disability and several participating schools, spanned eight weeks. It focused on the qualification, training, and development of young athletes with intellectual disabilities, offering them an opportunity to enhance their capabilities and showcase their talents.

Global organisation

Special Olympics is a global organisation founded in 1968, dedicated to serving athletes with intellectual disabilities through year-round sports training and Olympic-style competitions.

Special Olympics Oman was established as a Founding Committee in 2016 and continues to create opportunities for children and adults with intellectual disabilities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, and build friendships through sport.

The closing ceremony was a vibrant celebration of determination, perseverance, and community spirit, reflecting the inspiring journeys of these young athletes.

Mitsubishi Motors Oman remains committed to supporting initiatives that foster inclusion, empowerment, and social development across the country. Mitsubishi Motors Oman extends its gratitude to Special Olympics Oman for the opportunity to contribute to such a meaningful program, reinforcing its dedication to making a positive impact beyond the automotive sector.

Guerlain Spa introduces spa journeys for moments of repose and renewal

Set against the tranquil shores of Muscat, these bespoke journeys offer moments of serene escape and lasting rejuvenation, inspired by Guerlain’s heritage of beauty

MUSCAT: Guerlain Spa, nestled within The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort, invites guests to indulge in two crafted seasonal experiences, “A Day for You” and “Pamper & Tea for Four”, that embody the essence of refined luxury, wellness and timeless elegance.

Set against the tranquil shores of Muscat, these bespoke journeys offer moments of serene escape and lasting rejuvenation, inspired by Guerlain’s heritage of beauty and The St. Regis’s legendary commitment to unparalleled hospitality.

“A Day for You” begins with a signature 60-minute deep muscular massage at Guerlain Spa, designed to dissolve tension and restore harmonious balance through expert touch and Guerlain’s perfected techniques. Fol-

lowing this indulgence, guests receive a day pass for the resort’s pristine beach and pool, where the soothing ocean breeze complements the spa’s tranquil ambience. The journey includes a gourmet culinary interlude at Paralia pool bar, where food and beverage credit can be used, ensuring a seamless blend of relaxation and tasteful indulgence.

Perfect for friends in search of a graceful escape, “Pamper & Tea for Four” provides each guest with a 60-minute massage, access to Guerlain Spa’s serene wet facilities, including hammam and sauna, and a shared afternoon tea in The Lobby Lounge. This curated package celebrates connection and well-being in an exquisitely crafted setting, reflecting



the brand’s dedication to sensory luxury and the resort’s atmosphere of sophistication.

Available until September 30, these exclusive offers invite guests to experience a sanctuary where French artistry meets Omani tradition. Guerlain Spa, at The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Re-

sort, features 11 treatment rooms, including two VIP suites, and a wellness menu inspired by local philosophy and Guerlain’s innovative heritage. Every detail, from the soft, textured interiors to the warm, inviting lighting, has been thoughtfully designed to enhance the journey of renewal.

JOURNEY OF EXCELLENCE

Bank Muscat’s mobile banking platform recognised as Best Application for Initiating Transactions

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in Oman, has achieved a new milestone in its journey of excellence in digital banking.

The Bank’s Mobile Banking Application has been awarded the “Mobile Banking App of the Year Award” by Muscat Media Group (MMG) subsequent to an evaluation conducted by the entity. The award was presented during a high-profile ceremony held under the patronage of Ahmed Jaafar Al Musalmi, Governor of the Central Bank of Oman, in the presence of senior officials and executives from various institutions across the Sultanate. The award was handed over to Abdulnasir Al Raisi, General Manager, Personal Banking at Bank Muscat. The Bank’s recognition came to underscore its continuous efforts to offer a secure, seamless, and customer-centric digital experience.

The accolade positions Bank Muscat as a pioneer in digital banking, renowned for its innovative and customer-friendly services. The Bank remains deeply committed to developing and enhancing digital solutions that align with Oman Vision 2040 and support the national drive toward digital transformation. Over the recent years, Bank Muscat has launched a multitude of digital services tailored for individuals and businesses, introducing a broad suite of banking solutions that meet the diverse and evolving needs of its customer base.

Bank Muscat provides over 200 features and services to customers through its Mobile Banking Application, making customer needs accessible on the go. The list of services available includes instant opening of savings account for adults and children, application and renewal of debit cards, tokeni-



zation of debit, credit and pre-paid cards, online generation of debit, credit, prepaid card PIN, apply for Mutual Funds, Themaar and Fixed deposit account opening, application for Credit card and Shukran prepaid card, guardians are able to view and perform transactions in minors account and open a Themaar Savings plan on children’s account, retrieve stamped account statements, delivery request to collect cards by courier, stop cheque requests, ROP fine payment, and update mobile numbers or email IDs and instant KYC update.

Customers can also utilize the app for accessing bill payment facilities across a variety of utility services such as electricity, water, telecom, mobile top ups, instant credit card bill payments, and school fees payments. Bank Muscat’s Mobile Payments option offers an easy mechanism to transfer money within Oman. Customers can also initiate mobile payment via QR code through Mobile Shake. The Bank’s Mobile Banking ser-

vices also include speed transfers to a number of countries including India, Philippines, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Egypt and Bangladesh, as well as international transfers to more than 70 countries. Other features offered through the application include a Zakat calculator and facility for charity contributions. Recently, the Bank launched the Eidiya Pay option for children to receive Eidiya with the sender scanning of QR code.

Commenting on the award, Abdulnasir Al Raisi, General Manager, Personal Banking at Bank Muscat, said: “We would like to thank Muscat Media Group for recognizing the Bank’s Mobile Banking Application as the mobile banking app of the year. We take pride in this recognition which stands as a powerful testament to the Bank’s unwavering dedication to delivering exceptional digital experiences to its customers. The Bank views digital transformation as a strategic priority and is committed to adopting advanced technologies

and building digital capabilities to support this vision.”

Abdulnasir Al Raisi further added that the Bank consistently works to improve and expand its digital platforms, ensuring that services are inclusive and updates are regularly introduced to enhance the user experience. He noted: “The recently launched version of the Mobile Banking App includes a comprehensive development of over 200 features and services, with an interface designed to ensure easy navigation and quick access to different functionalities. The redesign aims to provide an integrated user experience that reflects the Bank’s commitment to innovation and excellence in serving its customers. The Bank will continue keeping pace with the latest technological advancements and offering innovative banking solutions to further enhance the experience of customers, positioning the Bank as the first choice for customers to avail secure, trusted, and latest services.”

OMAN ARAB BANK



OAB partners with Talabat to offer exclusive weekend discounts on all orders for credit card holders

MUSCAT: Oman Arab Bank (OAB) has announced an exciting new partnership with Talabat, one of the region’s leading online food delivery platforms, to reward its Visa credit card customers with exclusive discounts on their weekend orders. This limited-time campaign is part of OAB’s ongoing efforts to promote local spending and enhance the value of everyday banking for its customers.

From May 1 to May 3 and again from May 8 to May 10, OAB Visa credit cardholders can enjoy a generous 50% discount on all Talabat orders. This all-encompassing offer is not only restricted to food items, but is available for every order made on the Talabat app. To avail the offer, customers should use the code: “OAB50” at checkout. It is also worth noting that the maximum discount is OMR 3 per order. And each cardholder can benefit from the discount up to four times during the promotion period.

This strategic collaboration aims to deliver more than just savings — it reflects OAB’s commitment to innovation, conveni-

ence, and customer-centric solutions. By aligning with Talabat, a platform deeply embedded in customers’ daily routines, the bank provides added value where it matters most: in their day-to-day lifestyle choices.

Commenting on the initiative, Sulaiman Al Harthi, Chief Executive Officer of Oman Arab Bank, said, “At OAB, we are constantly looking for new ways to make banking more rewarding for our customers. Our partnership with Talabat not only supports local businesses and spending but also adds tangible value to our cardholders’ everyday experiences. We’re proud to offer them meaningful rewards that align with their daily habits.”

This offer reflects Oman Arab Bank’s broader mission to deliver exceptional benefits and personalized banking experiences through smart partnerships. Customers are encouraged to take advantage of the discount during the two campaign weekends and to explore the full range of value-added services offered through OAB’s credit cards.

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