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GOLDEN JUBILEE
50 YEARS OF LEGACY
مجموعة مسقط للإعلام
Muscat Media Group

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RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Two Omani projects among top 13 globally at London International Youth Science Forum 2025

MUSCAT: Two Omani research projects have been selected among the top 13 global projects to be showcased at the 66th edition of the London International Youth Science Forum (LIYSF) 2025.

Oman is represented at the forum by five innovative scientific projects, chosen from over 340 local innovative and research projects. The selection of two Omani projects for this elite global list reflects the excellence of Omani youth in scientific research and innovation.

Innovator Hala Ali Al Zaabi presented the project titled "Tannova: an Omani Solution – Statistically Optimised Leachate Treatment with Date Pit Tannins and AOP." This project offers an innovative environmental solution for treating industrial waste through eco-friendly methods that utilise local natural resources.

The second project by innovator Al Muntaser Salim Al Mamari, titled "Ecofie: AI-Driven Green Hydrogen Production From Mesquite and Industrial Effluents" aims to develop and provide sustainable solutions in clean energy using artificial intelligence technologies.

The selection of these two projects embodies the level of scientific excellence achieved by youth in Oman and their growing role in presenting innovative research solutions to address global challenges, particularly in the fields of environment, energy, and modern technologies.

The forum, taking place in London, from 23 July to 6 August 2025, with the participation of elite researchers and talented students from various countries worldwide, is considered one of the most prominent international scientific platforms celebrating innovation and research in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. – ONA

OMAN'S TRADE BALANCE RECORDS SURPLUS OF OVER OMR 2.4 BILLION

Oman's non-oil commodity exports witnessed a notable 7.2 percent growth, reaching OMR2.701 billion by the end of May 2025

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman's trade balance recorded a surplus of OMR2.454 billion by the end of May 2025. This represents a 38.5 percent decrease compared to the same period in 2024, which saw a surplus of OMR3.989 billion.

Preliminary statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) show a 9.6 percent decrease in the total value of commodity exports, reaching OMR9.639 billion by the end of May 2025, compared to OMR10.659 billion in the corresponding period of 2024.

This decline is primarily attributed to a 15.2 percent decrease in Oman's oil and gas exports, which amounted to OMR6.315 billion by the end of May 2025, compared to OMR7.444 billion in the same period of 2024.

In contrast, Oman's non-oil commodity exports witnessed a notable 7.2 percent growth, reaching OMR2.701 billion by the end of May 2025, compared to OMR2.521 billion in the same period of 2024.

However, re-exports from Oman recorded a 10.3 percent decrease by the end of May 2025, amounting to OMR623 million compared to OMR695 million during the same period of 2024.

The data also revealed a 7.7 percent increase in the total value of commodity imports to Oman, reaching OMR7.185 billion by the end of May 2025, compared to OMR6.670 billion in the corresponding period of 2024.

On the other hand, the United Arab Emirates topped the list in non-oil export trade by the end of May 2025, with exports to the UAE reaching OMR485 million, marking a 22.9 percent growth compared to the end of May 2024. The UAE also led the list of countries to which Oman re-exported goods, with a value of OMR248 million, and was the top exporting country to Oman, with imports valued at OMR1.651 billion.

Saudi Arabia ranked second in Oman's non-oil export list, with a value of OMR451 million, followed by India with OMR280 million.

In terms of re-exports, Iran came in second with OMR109 million, followed by Saudi Arabia with OMR45 million.

Regarding countries exporting to Oman, Kuwait ranked second with imports valued at OMR731 million, followed by the People's Republic of China with OMR698 million. - ONA

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Strategic partnership between Oman, UNICEF

1 The cooperation between the Sultanate of Oman and UNICEF is built on a long-term strategic partnership dating back to 1971, said Sumaira Chowdhury, Representative of UNICEF in Oman. She added that significant progress have been made in social protection through reinforcement of policies aimed at supporting children and families. >A3

OMAN

Khareef offers a mix of education and fun

2 The Khareef Dhofar 2025 offers children a unique blend of entertainment and education, combining fun and exploration in diverse and captivating environments. The activities have been deliberately designed to cater to children of all ages, featuring an exciting lineup of programmes that transport them to enchanting worlds filled with colours and stories >A4

MARKET

Abraj Energy signs contract with PDO

3 Abraj Energy Services has signed a strategic agreement with Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) to provide six onshore drilling rigs for Concession Area 6, a key strategic asset that forms a fundamental pillar of Oman's energy sector. Drilling operations are scheduled to commence gradually starting in the fourth quarter of 2026. >B1

— GAZA DEATH TOLL —
as of July 29, 2025

DHOFAR GOVERNORATE

No new leaks detected in oil pollution on Salalah coasts

SALALAH: The competent authorities in Dhofar Governorate continue to carry out intensive field operations to address the effects of recent oil pollution observed along the coast from Khor Salalah to the Hilton Hotel on Awqad Beach, as well as the western area of Raysut Beach.

Authorities have confirmed no new leaks have been detected in the affected sites.

Specialised technical teams from the Directorate General of Environment in Dhofar Governorate are participating in these efforts, coordinating with Dhofar Municipality and other relevant entities. They are working to remove pollutants using approved machinery under the National Response Plan, in collaboration with Salalah Port and specialised environmental protection companies.

The response has also included field inspections of nearby beaches to ensure they remain free of pollution, along with precautionary measures such as closing some access points to the affected beaches in cooperation with Dhofar Municipality and the Royal Oman Police. These steps aim to ensure public safety and facilitate cleanup operations.

Eng. Zahran Ahmed Al Abdulsalam, Acting Director General of Environment in Dhofar Governorate, confirmed that the prompt response enabled teams to contain the pollution and limit its spread. He explained that intensive cleanup efforts over several days have helped restore the beaches' cleanliness.

He added that the efforts are not limited to removing visible pollution but also include protecting marine and coastal ecosystems due to their environmental and economic importance. Precise surveys have been conducted to identify pollution hotspots and develop a comprehensive response plan, focusing on the most affected areas using both manual and mechanical methods.

Eng. Zahran commended the effective role of all participating entities, including the Dhofar Governor's Office, Dhofar Municipality, the Royal Oman Police, military sectors, and the Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority. He emphasised that this coordination has been instrumental in successfully addressing the environmental pollution.

Mamdouh Salim Al Marhoon, Director of the Environmental Emergency Center, explained that the National Oil Pollution Control Plan (Level II) was activated immediately after the incident was detected. This, he affirmed, accelerated the response, mobilised necessary resources, and ensured efficient coordination. He noted that communication is ongoing with relevant international and regional organisations to identify the pollution source and take necessary legal action.

Hatem Salim Al Mahri, Acting Director of the Nature Conservation Department, affirmed that field operations are ongoing to ensure the removal of any remaining traces.He added that monitoring teams continue follow-up and evaluation efforts to ensure full restoration of the coastal environment and prevent future risks. – ONA

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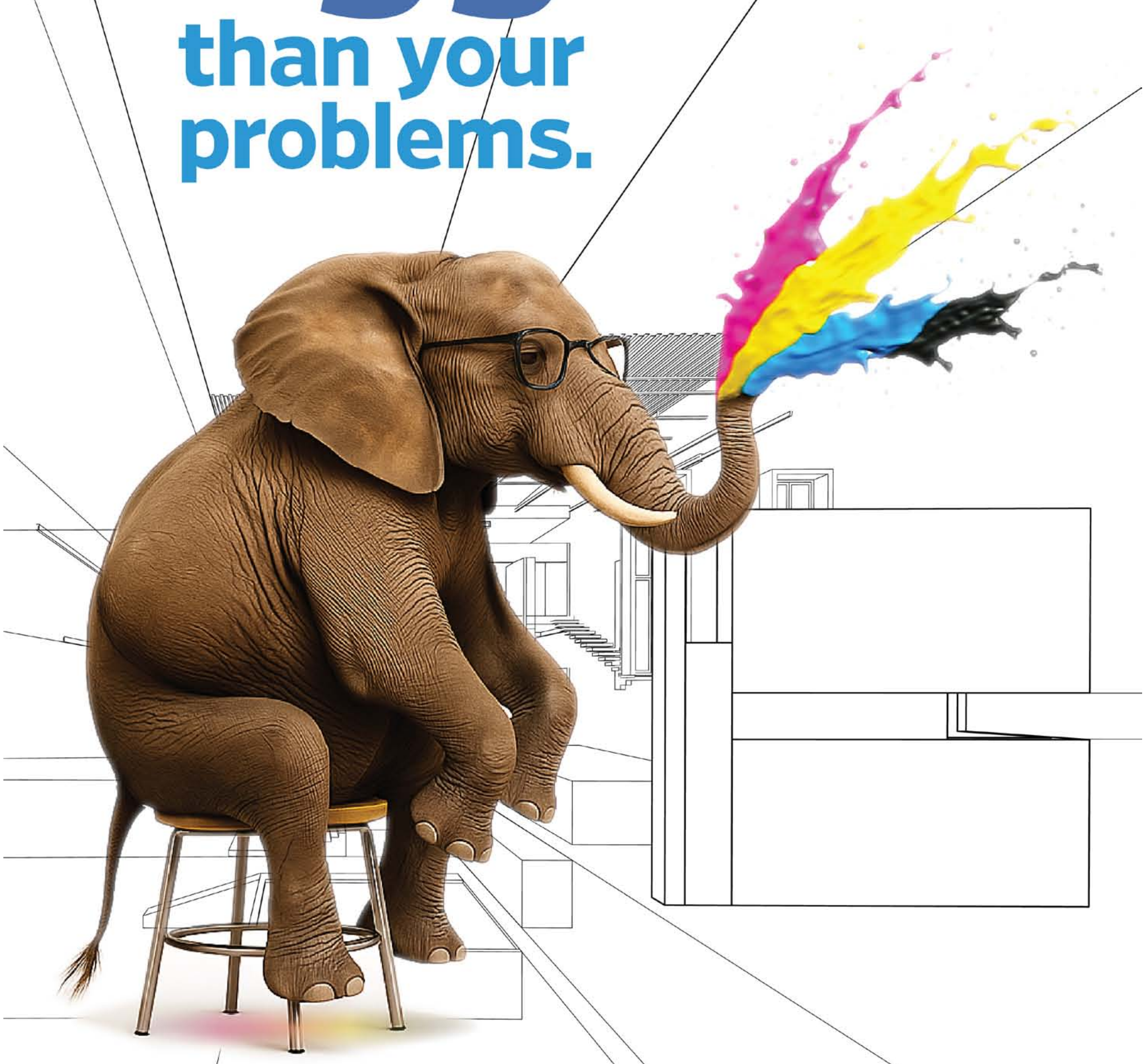

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OMAN

PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr	12:18pm
Asr	3:42pm
Maghrib	6:56pm
Isha	8:14pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)	4:14am

HELD AT UNITED NATIONS

Oman attends conference on peaceful settlement of Palestine issue

NEW YORK: The Sultanate of Oman is participating in the High-level International Conference for the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution.

The conference, held at the United Nations headquarters in New York, will continue until 30 July.

Oman's delegation to the conference is led by Sheikh Abdulaziz Abdullah Al Hinai, Ambassador-at-Large at the Foreign Ministry.

Plenary session

The plenary session, held at the General Assembly hall, included statements from participating delegations.

During the session, António Guterres, the United Nations Secretary-General, delivered a speech emphasising that the establishment of a Palestinian state is "a right, not a reward." He reiterated that the two-state solution is the only realistic, just, and sustainable solution.

The international conference commenced with a high-level ministerial meeting of the working groups accompanying the conference proceedings. Discussions at this meeting focused on several topics aimed at providing a platform for unifying key visions, highlighting international consensus in support of the two-state solution through political, legal, economic, and humanitarian tracks, and identifying concrete next steps. — ONA

OMAN FILM SOCIETY

Participation opens for 3rd Al Batinah International Film Festival

MUSCAT: Oman Film Society, in cooperation with the North Al Batinah Governor's Office, has announced the opening of participation for the official competition of the 3rd Al Batinah International Film Festival, scheduled to take place during 27-30 October 2025.

Participation will be accepted until 20 September through the festival's official online forms.

Held biennially, the Al Batinah International Film Festival serves as a cultural and artistic platform aimed at promoting Oman and its governorates both locally and internationally, spreading cinematic culture within society, and stimulating artistic engagement among youth while enhancing the quality of Omani film production.

This edition is organised under the supervision of Oman Film Society in partnership with several public and private sector institutions, as part of efforts to strengthen Oman's cinematic presence at regional and international levels.

Oman Film Society invites all interested filmmakers, production companies, and cinema enthusiasts to submit their works across the festival's official competition categories. — ONA

Oman-UNICEF cooperation built on long-term strategic partnership

Both sides work closely to develop national policies and programmes ensuring every child in Oman enjoys their rights fully and equitably, in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and Oman Vision 2040

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman stands as a pioneering nation in early childhood development, both in terms of policies and services. It was among the first countries to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child and took early steps to enact legislation safeguarding children's rights.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) office in Oman emphasised that the issuance of the Child Law in 2014 was clear evidence of this commitment. This was further reinforced by the 2023 School Education Law, which affirmed children's right to early education, and the 2023 Social Protection Law, which established an integrated system of social benefits and insurance. These laws adopted international best practices in delivering benefits, including those for childhood and persons with disabilities, while working to enhance them to maximise protection and investment in childhood development and uphold principles of justice.

Sumaira Chowdhury, Representative of UNICEF in Oman, noted significant progress in social protection through the reinforcement of national policies aimed at supporting children and families, ensuring services reach the most vulnerable groups. This progress includes the development of social protection systems and improved inter-sectoral coordination to ensure a comprehensive response to beneficiaries' needs.

She revealed that UNICEF Office plays a pivotal role in supporting national efforts by providing technical assistance and strategic guidance in policy and programme design. It also strengthens national capacities in data collection and analysis for evidence-based planning. In partnership with government entities, UNICEF, she added, works to enhance child protection systems and integrate them into the social protection framework, contributing to a comprehensive and sustainable system dedicated to the well-being of every child.

In an interview with Oman News Agency (ONA), she pointed out that the cooperation between Oman and UNICEF is built on a long-term strategic partnership dating back to 1971, aimed at promoting child rights across various fields, including education, health, protection, nutrition, and early childhood development. Both sides, she affirmed, work closely to develop national policies and programmes ensuring every child in Oman enjoys their rights fully and equitably, in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and Oman Vision 2040.

She explained that this collaboration takes the form of a joint country programme, coordinated with relevant Omani child welfare authorities. This programme is reviewed every five years, with annual implementation plans, and involves discussions on national priorities and programmes within UNICEF's framework of support for government efforts to enhance child well-being, she added.

She further highlighted Oman's growing focus on early childhood development, reflected in its integration into national priorities and increased investment in early care and education programmes. The emphasis on a child's early years underscores Oman's deep understanding of this critical phase in shaping a child's future abilities and skills, she affirmed.

She further added: "Oman has achieved advanced rankings in childhood development indicators, universal immunisation, and inclusive education covering all children without exception. It continues to demonstrate commitment through innovative solutions, such as labour laws and family-friendly policies that grant parents adequate time to care for their children in their early years. These efforts position Oman as a global leader in child care and protection".

The Representative of UNICEF in Oman noted that Oman implements a comprehensive package of programmes aimed at developing children's and adolescents' capacities in education, health, and community engagement. Today, she said, a qualitative shift is evident in adopting inclusive approaches addressing the needs of diverse groups, including children with disabilities and those at risk. UNICEF supports these initiatives and works to amplify their impact through technical cooperation and capacity-building.

She added that close collaboration with the Ministry of Social Development and other relevant entities, such as the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education, has united efforts to analyse and understand child development pathways and protect children from all forms of abuse or harm. This institutional cooperation, she pointed out, includes updating the Child Protection Manual and preparing a study on establishing integrated early childhood centres to enhance coordination mechanisms among stakeholders, ensuring improved child case monitoring and high-quality, consistent follow-up.

She stated that national laws, such as the Child Law and the Child Protection Manual, are pivotal achievements positioning Oman among countries striving to protect child rights. From an international perspective, these laws reflect Oman's genuine commitment to aligning its legislation with international conventions and standards, fostering a legal environment that ensures child protection and equity, she affirmed.

She said: "Oman plays a crucial role in supporting developmental and humanitarian programmes for children, both nationally and through its participation in regional and international efforts. UNICEF believes Oman can be an influential voice for children in the region by supporting initiatives promoting health, education, and child protection, especially in humanitarian crises.

Oman garners global attention for its noble stances and balanced support for child and humanitarian causes. Its peaceful and neutral policy makes it a reliable and friendly partner for all, particularly amid recurring humanitarian crises in the Middle East and North Africa. In this context, Oman has generously supported Gaza's children by donating OMR385,000($1 million) to aid children in the sector, as part of its ongoing support for UNICEF's global humanitarian and relief efforts".

She added that key initiatives in pre-school education development include supporting child-friendly school environments and empowering teachers with inclusive teaching methods through the Future Skills Framework.

She explained that collaboration with the Ministry of Health focuses on building capacities in early childhood care services, alongside nutrition programmes such as breastfeeding and mental health support. Joint efforts with the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Education, she pointed out, include a comprehensive study exploring pathways to implement the Education Law, which stipulates pre-school education as a fundamental right for every child. UNICEF is analysing strategies to ensure the rollout of early education services in Oman, alongside a study on enhancing early childhood development through integrated service centres.

She noted that UNICEF Oman implements programmes strengthening the capacities of early-grade educators and social workers, providing continuous technical support to partners in the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education to ensure intervention quality and sustainability. There is growing commitment to improving rehabilitation and care services for children with disabilities, alongside efforts to develop infrastructure, services, and qualified personnel, she added, stressing the need to enhance social and educational inclusion and develop early detection and intervention tools.

She pointed out that UNICEF plays a central role in supporting the Omani government to develop a unified national child protection system based on prevention, monitoring, and early intervention. It also works to raise community awareness, build frontline workers' capacities, and develop standardised protocols for addressing violence, abuse, and neglect. The office launched a positive parenting training programme to educate parents and caregivers on child protection, proper nutrition, early learning stimulation, and social inclusion.

She further added that in collaboration with partners, local institutions, and the National Family Affairs Committee, UNICEF launched a national awareness campaign titled "Our Children, a Trust", which received widespread engagement. The campaign continuously highlights the importance of early childhood development and its impact on children's futures.

She said that UNICEF has also designed and implemented behaviour-change communication campaigns focusing on family and community roles in child protection, addressing emerging issues like cyberbullying, mental health, and violence. These initiatives, she pointed out, engage children and adolescents in expressing their needs and becoming part of the solution. She added that in partnership with government entities, UNICEF launched a national strategic communication strategy for societal behaviour change, based on scientific evidence addressing practices, habits, and knowledge levels related to early childhood development. It also implements targeted awareness campaigns to improve social indicators, such as promoting breastfeeding and proper nutrition, fostering supportive environments for holistic child development. — ONA

OMAN

Khareef Dhofar offers children a unique blend of entertainment and education

The joyful and festive atmosphere for families and children at Khareef Dhofar continues to attract increasing numbers of visitors from within Oman and abroad

SALALAH: The Khareef Dhofar (monsoon) season 2025 offers children a unique blend of entertainment and education, combining fun and exploration in diverse and captivating environments.

The activities have been deliberately designed to cater to children of all ages, featuring an exciting lineup of programmes that transport them to enchanting worlds filled with colours and stories.

These activities provide moments of refined entertainment that blend enjoyment with learning.

Amid the joyful and festive atmosphere for families and children at Khareef Dhofar—which continues to attract increasing numbers of visitors from within Oman and abroad—Yahya Khalfan Al Touqi from Adam in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate noted that the diversity of programs stands out, particularly the interactive theatrical performances that present educational scenes in a simplified and engaging manner for children.

Mu'aid Awad Al Yafa'i from Salalah highlighted the daily activities continuously offered to children across various locations, emphasizing that the educational plays convey important moral lessons in an entertaining way.

He also pointed to the variety of aerial and electronic games catering to different preferences and interests.

Meanwhile, Ali Sulaiman from Al Mudhaibi in North Al Sharqiyah Governorate, one of the parents visiting Ateen Square with his family, remarked that such dedicated children's events serve as an important recreational outlet for families and an ideal space for children to enjoy themselves in a safe and fun environment.

He affirmed that the diverse activities—including fireworks displays, drone shows, and performances by troupes such as the Latin Band and "Cru Show"—help stimulate children's imagination and enrich their visual experiences, with preparations tailored to suit all tastes and interests.

Abdulnasser Yaqoub Al Na'ar from the Kingdom of Bahrain expressed admiration for the high level of organization and the thoughtful selection of child-focused activities.

He noted that dedicated children's pavilions across multiple locations in Dhofar allowed his family to move around comfortably and easily.

He added that the heritage performances, which connect children to their cultural roots in a simple and playful manner, reflect a deep understanding of children's developmental and creative needs. He emphasised that Dhofar has become a comprehensive tourist destination combining natural beauty with meaningful family activities.

Meanwhile, Said Musallam Habbis, owner of the "Ateen Slide" project, stated that this initiative—the first of its kind in Oman—is being implemented for the first time in Dhofar, taking advantage of Ateen Plain's natural landscape to offer a fun and safe entertainment experience for visitors during the Khareef season.

He noted that the support from Dhofar Municipality for youth projects helped turn the idea into reality, adding that the project enhances the diversity and sustainability of tourism and entertainment activities in the governorate. – ONA

A'SAFFA FOODS S.A.O.G الصفاء للأغذية

A'Saffa Foods S.A.O.G
P.O Box : 3436, PC: 112, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman
Tel: 22360250

DIRECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE FIRST HALF RESULTS – YEAR 2025

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of A'Saffa Foods SAOG, I have pleasure in presenting the financial results for 1 st Half ended 30th June 2025.

Performance Review

Sales for the 1 st Half ended 30th June 2025 was RO. 29,062,312/- as compared to RO. 34,114,223/- during the same period of 2024. Sales for H1-2025 was less than H1-2024 because last year sales include the sale of carry forward stocks. The Net Profit (consolidated) for the period ended 30th June 2025 was RO. 3,562,936/- as compared to net profit (consolidated) RO. 3,159,747/- for the same period of 2024.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said for the encouragement and support given by his Government and pray to Almighty ALLAH(swt) to provide Oman and its people peace and prosperity under His Majesty's wise leadership.

We also take this opportunity to thank all customers, shareholders and staff for their continued support and confidence in the Company.

Chairman of the Board

Note: The complete accounts will be sent by mail to any shareholder who requests that, in either Arabic or English, within 07 days of receipt of the request on the address mentioned above

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 30TH JUNE 2025

	Parent Company		Group	
	2025 RO	2024 RO	2025 RO	2024 RO
ASSETS				
Non-current assets				
Property, plant and equipment	**53,760,090**	54,425,614	**57,496,677**	58,368,670
Right Of Use Assets	**3,935,038**	1,234,393	**4,240,853**	1,552,680
Capital Advances / CWIP	**259,856**	1,731,561	**259,856**	1,731,561
Intangible assets	**1**	1	**1**	1
Investments in subsidiaries	**1,350,000**	1,350,000	**-**	-
Investments accounted for using the equity method	**6,559,174**	5,767,313	**6,559,174**	5,767,313
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	**45,795**	46,225	**45,795**	46,225
	65,909,954	64,555,107	**68,602,356**	**67,466,450**
Current assets				
Inventories	**11,829,069**	8,434,135	**12,978,957**	9,628,669
Biological assets	**3,041,485**	3,154,562	**3,041,485**	3,154,562
Trade and other receivables	**15,368,841**	13,649,081	**15,173,176**	13,627,330
Term deposits	**3,300,000**	3,300,000	**3,300,000**	3,300,000
Cash and bank balances	**2,698,437**	479,822	**2,921,218**	735,874
	36,237,832	29,017,600	**37,414,836**	30,446,434
TOTAL ASSETS	**102,147,786**	93,572,707	**106,017,192**	97,912,885
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Equity				
Share capital	**12,000,000**	12,000,000	**12,000,000**	12,000,000
Legal reserves	**4,000,000**	4,000,000	**4,566,804**	4,599,720
Retained earnings	**28,347,238**	24,585,460	**32,089,351**	28,151,509
Other Reserve	**(2,431,642)**	(2,431,642)	**(2,431,642)**	(2,431,642)
TOTAL EQUITY	**41,915,596**	38,153,818	**46,224,513**	42,319,586
LIABILITIES				
Non-current liabilities				
Borrowings	**30,046,368**	32,244,243	**30,046,368**	32,294,693
Lease Liability (IFRS 16)	**3,891,020**	1,328,349	**4,229,594**	1,665,941
End of service benefits	**1,618,141**	1,454,536	**1,740,744**	1,548,524
Deferred tax liabilities	**1,234,116**	825,051	**1,410,907**	1,002,503
	36,789,645	35,852,179	**37,427,613**	36,511,661
Current liabilities				
Borrowings	**10,707,820**	7,785,600	**10,747,811**	7,933,238
Lease Liability (IFRS 16)	**337,856**	108,546	**346,162**	116,853
Trade and other payables	**12,396,869**	11,672,563	**11,271,093**	11,031,547
	23,442,545	19,566,709	**22,365,066**	19,081,638
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**60,232,190**	55,418,889	**59,792,679**	55,593,299
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	**102,147,786**	93,572,707	**106,017,192**	97,912,885
Net assets per share (RO)	**0.349**	0.318	**0.385**	0.353

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

	Parent Company		Group	
	2025 RO	2024 RO	2025 RO	2024 RO
Revenue From Contracts with Customers	29,630,219	34,642,379	29,062,312	34,114,223
Cost of sales	(20,789,105)	(26,111,178)	(19,605,877)	(24,954,244)
Gross profit	**8,841,114**	8,531,201	**9,456,435**	9,159,980
Selling and distribution expenses	**(2,937,555)**	(3,019,015)	**(2,937,555)**	(3,019,015)
General and administrative expenses	**(1,494,565)**	(1,413,757)	**(1,626,153)**	(1,537,688)
Other income	**37,641**	14,170	**38,081**	15,145
Profit before interest & tax	**4,446,635**	4,112,599	**4,930,808**	4,618,422
Finance income	**93,142**	97,999	**93,142**	97,999
Finance cost	**(1,319,428)**	(1,354,634)	**(1,338,350)**	(1,376,086)
Finance cost (net)	**(1,226,286)**	(1,256,635)	**(1,245,208)**	(1,278,087)
Profit before tax and associate gain	**3,220,349**	2,855,964	**3,685,601**	3,340,335
Share of net Gain from associate accounted for using the equity method	**450,176**	377,015	**450,176**	377,015
Profit before tax	**3,670,525**	3,232,979	**4,135,777**	3,717,350
Taxation				
Income tax expense	**(483,052)**	(484,947)	**(572,841)**	(557,603)
Profit and total comprehensive income	**3,187,473**	2,748,032	**3,562,936**	3,159,747
Basic earnings per share (RO)	**0.027**	0.023	**0.030**	0.026

DHOFAR TOURISM COMPANY SAOG

P.O. Box: 2808, P.C. 211, Salalah, Sultanate of Oman. Tel. 23275500

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to present to you the report for Dhofar Tourism Company SAOG ("the Company") for the period ending 30 June 2025.

Executive Highlights

- Revenue: (Jan to Jun 2025): OMR 956,050
- Net Loss: OMR 374,030
- Cash Profit Before Interest: OMR 3,616
- Net Assets: OMR 46.35 million (a marginal change from OMR 46.72 million)
- Tourism Season: Strong performances across winter, Khareef, and Sarb seasons
- Major Project: Progress on the Mirbature tourism development master plan
- Funding: Bridge financing secured; rights issue scheduled for 2025
- Strategic Partnerships: Wyndham Garden, UNESCO Chair for World Heritage, ECAHO

About the Company

Dhofar Tourism Company SAOG owns two million square meters of prime coastal land in Mirbat, designated for development under the Integrated Tourism Complex program. This exceptional property features over one mile of pristine beachfront and a five-star resort with 186 rooms and 51 chalets, offering substantial future development opportunities.

Following the reconstitution of the Board in July 2023, the Company launched a comprehensive strategic transformation aimed at restoring long-term profitability. Key initiatives include a full management restructuring to strengthen internal controls, operational efficiency, and overall corporate resilience.

Our Vision

Aligned with Oman Vision 2040 and in partnership with the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, we are committed to enhancing Dhofar's position as a premier tourism destination. Our flagship project, "Mirbature," is designed to generate employment, stimulate economic growth, and enrich the local community in Mirbat and across the Dhofar region.

Wyndham Garden Mirbat Resort

ntering into a franchise agreement with Wyndham Garden in October 2021, the resort has achieved notable enhancements in service standards and operational performance. Following a strong winter season in 2024–2025, we anticipate further growth through the upcoming Khareef and Sarb seasons, supported by active collaboration with Dhofar Municipality to develop year-round tourism activities.

Tourism Development Project (Mirbature)

The Mirbature master plan update is progressing with strong momentum. Following a transition from the previous consultant (F&M), the Company has already selected a new engineering consultant. We remain firmly on track to complete the master plan by Q3 2025, driven by clear strategic focus, strong project governance, and unwavering commitment to delivering exceptional outcomes.

Interim funding support was secured from Dolphin International LLC on an arm's length basis to ensure steady progress. A rights issue is also scheduled for 2025 to fund phased implementation. A new CEO and Vice President have been appointed to lead the project execution with renewed energy and expertise.

Mirbature is envisioned as a vibrant, integrated destination combining hospitality, residential, and commercial components, designed to attract both regional and international investment.

Financial Performance

For the period ending 30 June 2025, the income from operations reached OMR 956,050 compared to OMR.886,775 in the period ended 30 June 2024. However, it is essential to note that the net loss was OMR 374,030 compared to OMR 438,744 in the period ended 30 June 2024. Additionally, the cash profit before interest costs were recorded at OMR 3,616 compared to OMR (50,761) in the period ended 30 June 2024. Furthermore, the Company's net assets experienced a slight decrease, from OMR 46.35 million to OMR 46.72 million as of 30 June 2025.

The Company's financial trajectory reflects focused efforts to strengthen revenues, optimize operations, and deliver sustainable growth despite historical challenges.

Project Risks and Mitigation

- Project Delivery: Ensured through immediate reassignment to a new consultant.
- Funding Requirements: Addressed through temporary related-party financing and the upcoming rights issue

Omanisation and Talent Development

We proudly report a 30% Omanisation rate, demonstrating our steadfast commitment to empowering Omani talent and contributing to national workforce development.

Internal Control and Corporate Governance

The Board is fully committed to adhering to the highest standards of corporate governance and compliance in accordance with Financial Services Authority regulations. A dedicated internal audit function operates under Board oversight to uphold best practices, with full details available in the Annual Report.

Strategic Collaborations

Our partnership with the UNESCO Chair for World Heritage supports the promotion of sustainable tourism and the digital preservation of Mirbat's rich historical and cultural legacy, in alignment with Oman's national tourism strategy.

Dhofar National Championship 2024

The successful hosting of the Dhofar National Championship on August 29–30, 2024, celebrated Omani equestrian traditions and Arabian horse culture under ECAHO supervision, further enhancing Dhofar's profile as a distinctive tourism and cultural destination.

Call to Action for Shareholders

We are excited about the path ahead and invite our valued shareholders to continue supporting this transformative journey. Your participation in the upcoming rights issue will be instrumental in realizing the full potential of Mirbat and bringing the Mirbature vision to life.

A Tribute to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq

With all feelings of pride and honor, we raise to the esteemed presence of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, may Allah bless and preserve him, our sincerest expressions of loyalty and gratitude for His Majesty's wisdom and sound vision that steadily and competently leads the march of Oman's renewed renaissance.

Indeed, what Dhofar Tourism Company strives for in terms of developing and establishing projects, foremost of which is the "Mirbature " project, in terms of growth and prosperity, is but a blessed fruit of his lofty directives and ambitious visions, which embody the aspirations of "Oman Vision 2040" towards a brighter and more sustainable future.

We ask God Almighty to protect His Majesty and grant him His aid and success to continue the march of construction and progress.

Acknowledgements

We sincerely thank our shareholders, the Dhofar Governorate, government ministries, and the Financial Services Authority for their enduring trust and support. Special recognition is extended to our management team and staff for their dedication, resilience, and commitment to excellence.

Thank you and best regards.

Fatma Yousuf Alawi Al Ibrahim
Chairperson

Dhofar Tourism Co. (SAOG)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (UN AUDITED) AS AT 30 JUNE 2025

	30 June 2025 RO	31 Dec 2024 RO
ASSETS		
Non-current assets:		
Property, plant and equipment	**27,582,668**	27,843,693
Investment properties	**28,700,000**	28,700,000
Total non-current assets	**56,282,668**	56,543,693
Current assets:		
Inventories	**16,274**	33,284
Trade and other receivables	**362,548**	384,152
Amount due from related party	**158,033**	153,888
Cash and bank balances	**46,186**	53,031
Total current assets	**583,042**	624,355
Total assets	**56,865,710**	57,168,048
EQUITY AND LIABILITES		
Equity:		
Share capital	**14,160,000**	14,160,000
Legal reserve	**448,607**	448,607
Special reserve	**80,848**	80,848
Revaluation reserve	**34,013,698**	34,013,698
Accumulated losses	**(2,356,344)**	(1,982,314)
Total equity	**46,346,810**	46,720,839
Non-current liabilities:		
Non-current portion of term loans	**1,503,974**	1,473,123
Deferred tax liabilities	**5,828,037**	5,828,037
Employees' end of service benefits	**73,952**	66,959
Total non-current liabilities	**7,373,552**	7,368,119
Current liabilities:		
Current portion of term loans	**652,688**	652,688
Bank overdraft	**481,012**	404,921
Trade and other payables	**847,920**	912,110
Due to related party	**84,198**	62,253
Loan from a related party	**1,047,118**	1,047,118
Total current liabilities	**3,112,937**	3,079,090
Total liabilities	**10,518,900**	10,447,209
Total equity and liabilities	**56,865,710**	57,168,048
Net assets per share	**3.273**	3.299

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (UN AUDITED) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

	30 June 2025 RO	30 June 2024 RO
Income from operations	**956,050**	886,775
Direct costs	**(750,972)**	(758,946)
Gross profit	**205,078**	127,829
Other income	**813**	6,313
General and administrative expenses	**(202,275)**	(184,902)
Profit & loss from the operations	**3,616**	(50,761)
Finance cost	**(100,698)**	(84,503)
Loss before depreciation	**(97,083)**	(135,263)
Depreciation on property, plant and equipment	**276,947)**	(303,481)
Loss before income tax	**(374,030)**	(438,744)
Income tax	**-**	-
Loss for the period	**(374,030)**	(438,744)
Other comprehensive income for the period	-	-
Total comprehensive loss for the period	**(374,030)**	(438,744)
Profit (loss) per share - basic and diluted	**(0.026)**	(0.031)

DHOFAR GOVERNORATE

Over 300 families receive support at Frankincense Market on Al Hafa Beach

MUSCAT: The "Frankincense Market" for productive families on Al Hafa Beach in Salalah is witnessing a large turnout of visitors. This event is part of Dhofar Municipality's activities accompanying the 2025 Khareef season. The atmosphere is fragrant with frankincense and adorned with authentic Omani heritage and arts.

Through this event, Dhofar Municipality contributes to supporting more than 300 productive families and small and medium enterprises from various wilayats of the governorate. The market displays a range of handicrafts, Omani foods, and traditional goods that reflect the cultural and societal identity of Dhofar Governorate.

This year's market has witnessed organisational improvements, including the expansion of product display areas, the development of public facilities and parking spaces, and the redesign of the kiosks and surrounding buildings with a local architectural style. This enriches the visitor experience and highlights the governorate's cultural heritage.

Diversity of participation

Salem bin Abdullah Fadhel, supervisor of the Frankincense Market event, explained that the market is witnessing a remarkable diversity of participation this year, thanks to the direct support provided by Dhofar Municipality. He noted that the market is not merely a sales outlet, but rather an integrated platform for displaying and highlighting elements of local heritage.

He added that visitors will find a wide variety of handicrafts at the market, such as palm fronds, incense burners, and Omani frankincense products, in addition to traditional foods offered by productive families.

The accompanying event includes daily performances held on the market stage from 4:00 PM until midnight, during which traditional Omani art troupes present artistic works inspired by local heritage, including "Al-Habut," "Al-Bar'ah," and "Al-Madima." There will also be children's performances, folk plays, and singing sessions featuring a number of Omani artists.

The market will continue to welcome visitors until the end of the autumn season, serving as a tourist and cultural destination and an effective source of support for local projects and productive families, as well as contributing to revitalising the community economy in Dhofar Governorate. — ONA

DHOFAR BEVERAGE AND FOOD STUFF COMPANY SAOG

P.O. Box 390, Postal Code 211, Salalah, Sultanate of Oman, Tel: 23225705, Fax: 23225706

CHAIRMAN REPORT

Dear Shareholders:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I have a pleasure to review the unaudited Profit & Loss Account and the Financial Position of your company for the Second quarter of the year 2025.

The total turnover revenue of the period under review amounted to Ro. 2,249,222 /- compare with the revenue of Ro. 2,127,646/- pertaining to the same period of the last year 2024, which showed an Increase of Ro.121,576 (i.e.5.71%). The Company has achieved a gross profit of RO. 849,826/- (gross profit of last year 2024 Ro. 817,870 registering an increase of Ro. 31,956 (3.90%) over the same period of the last year. The Company has incurred an operating loss of Ro. (224,772/-) compare to an operating loss of Ro. (151,879/-) during same period of the last year 2024.

The MSM has disparage in the Industrial sector during this period, fair value of the portfolio as at 30 th June 2025 was reduced to Ro. (10,446) as against the appreciated fair value of Ro.167,132 during same period of the last year 2024. and dividend income realized to Ro.29,036 during 2 nd Qtr. of 2025, there was no dividend income in 2 nd Qtr. of 2024

However, the final result of the period under review showed a net loss of Ro. (206,183/-) compare to last year net Profit of Ro. 15,253.

CHAIRMAN.

Note: The complete accounts will be sent by mail to any shareholders who request the company in either Arabic or English as requested within 7 days of receipts of the request.

DHOFAR BEVERAGE AND FOOD STUFF COMPANY SAOG
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 th JUNE 2025

	30/06/2025 RO	30/06/2024 RO
Fixed Assets:		
Fixed Assets	3,326,757	3,110,245
Work in Progress	450,308	51,463
	3,777,065	**3,161,708**
Current Assets:		
Cash and Bank Balances	148,844	130,072
Trade Receivables	589,693	575,229
Trade and Other Receivables-Related Party	12,884	2,999
Inventories	877,278	653,432
Investments	479,920	487,106
Other Assets	395,681	556,216
Total Current Assets	**2,504,300**	**2,405,054**
Liabilities:		
Trade Payables	640,422	543,372
Trade and Other Payables-Related Party	38,197	40,125
Deferred Tax for Land Revaluation	306,227	306,227
Other Payables	773,165	532,690
Bank Borrowings	1,898,601	1,280,563
Total Liabilities	**3,656,611**	**2,702,977**
Net Assets	**2,624,754**	**2,863,785**
Shareholder's Equity:		
Share Capital	2,000,000	2,000,000
Share Premium		
Legal Reserve		1,525
General Reserve	46,203	46,203
Land Revaluation Reserve	1,735,289	1,735,289
Retained Profit/Loss	(1,156,738)	(919,232)
Total Shareholder's Equity	**2,624,754**	**2,863,785**
Earnings Per Share	0.131	0.143

DHOFAR BEVERAGE AND FOOD STUFF COMPANY SAOG
STATEMENT OF INCOME FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30/06/2025

	30/06/2025 RO	30/06/2024 RO
Sales	2,249,222	2,127,646
Cost of Sales	(1,399,396)	(1,309,776)
Gross Profit	849,826	817,870
Other Income	843	(575)
Selling and Distribution Expenses	(587,710)	(552,026)
General and Administrative Expenses	(380,462)	(334,752)
Finance Charges	(76,020)	(52,445)
Directors Remuneration	(31,248)	(29,951)
Operating Profit	(224,772)	(151,879)
Dividend Income	29,036	0
Investment income (Realized)	2,123	125,877
Fare value of Investments	(12,570)	41,255
Net Profit for the year	(206,183)	15,253
Tax Expense	0	0
Profit for the month after tax	(206,183)	15,253
Earnings per share (Fair value RO.0.100 Each)	(0.103)	0.008
Net Profit /Loss Margin	-9.17%	0.72%

OQIC

Oman Qatar Insurance Company SAOG
PO Box 3660, PC 112, Al Khuwair, Sultanate of Oman.
Tel: +968 2476 5333 Fax: +968 2476 5399 Email: contact@oqic.com
www.oqic.com

DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 TH JUNE 2025

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Oman Qatar Insurance Company S.A.O.G. ("OQIC" the company), I am pleased to present the company's unaudited Financial Statements for half year ended on 30 th June 2025 prepared in accordance with IFRS 17 accounting standards. The company achieved a Profit after Tax of RO 1.88 million, compared to RO 1.08 million in the corresponding period of H1-2024. This substantial profit growth was achieved on consistent underwriting performance and much improved investment results in 2025..

Business Environment

The global economy is presently encountering substantial headwinds, with increasing trade related tensions and heightened political uncertainty. This scenario contributes to a deterioration in prospects across most of the world economy. Growth rate is expected to weaken to 2.5% in 2025 from 3.1% anticipated earlier, which marks the slowest rate of global growth since 2008. (as per World Bank report of June 2025) Economic growth in GCC region is expected to increase in the medium-term to 3.2% in 2025 and 4.50% in 2026 against estimated growth of 1.8% in 2024, which is likely to be driven by the expected rollback of OPEC+ oil production cuts and robust expansion of non-oil sectors. However, global trade uncertainty presents significant challenge to this growth projection. To mitigate these risks, GCC countries need to accelerate economic diversification reforms and strengthen regional trade. The downside risk to this projection includes any probable escalation in geopolitical tension in the region and fallout of the tariff issue.

Oman's economic outlook remains favorable, with Moody's upgrading of Oman Long term issuer rating to Baa3 from Ba1 and changed the outlook to stable from positive. Other rating agency S&P has also affirmed the Sultanate of Oman's long-term sovereign credit rating at 'BBB-' with a Stable Outlook, citing the country's ongoing fiscal reforms and its favorable investment environment as well as prudent fiscal management. Oman economy is expected to grow to 2.2% in real GDP terms at the end of 2025 from 1.7% growth in 2024 as per Ministry of Economy's economic forecast report 2025. Improved performance of oil sector and sustained expansion of non-oil sector contribute to this positive move.

Company Performance

The Omani insurance market continued to experience intense competition among 16 peers as per FSA report in 2025. The increase in the loss ratio across non-life business segments was primarily driven by unsustainable price competition and a significant rise in motor and medical claims. These challenges have adversely impacted on the underwriting income of insurers. Additionally, Oman's geographic vulnerability to natural catastrophes has contributed to rising reinsurance costs and tighter capacity, further pressuring the industry.

Amidst this competitive and price-sensitive environment, Oman Qatar Insurance Company successfully maintained a strong market presence, underpinned by a performance-driven approach and constantly addressing ever-evolving customer needs. The Company recorded Gross Written Premium (GWP) of RO 49.08 million in H1-2025, compared to RO 49.33 million in H1-2024, reflecting a marginal decline of 1%. The Company continued to occupy third position in terms of GWP market share in Oman, based on preliminary figures published by the Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX for H1-2025. Insurance revenue declined by 6% to RO 31.48 million, from RO 33.59 million in H1-2024.

Insurance revenue under medical & Life segment registered 3% growth during the period. The Property & Casualty lines contracted by 12% due to steep competition among peers. Personal lines also contracted by 10% mainly due to timing variation of premium earnings during the period compared to previous year. Overall contraction in Insurance revenue was due to selective non-renewal of accounts where pricing pressure compromised profitability, in line with the Company's disciplined underwriting strategy.

The Company reported net insurance finance results of RO 506K for H1-2025, compared to RO 681K in H1- 2024. This decline is primarily attributed to prudent reserve strengthening within the medical portfolio and a higher risk adjustment factor driven by revised actuarial assumptions in 2025. In response, OQIC has implemented targeted initiatives to improve portfolio profitability, including the introduction of stricter underwriting guidelines and reinforced claims management protocols.

Net investment and other income rose sharply to RO 2.3 million in H1-2025, representing a 74% increase from RO 1.32 million in H1-2024. This strong performance was driven by improved yields on fixed income instruments and robust returns from the Company's equity and mutual fund investments across the GCC region.

Consequently, profit after tax surged to RO 1.87 million, reflecting a 73% year-on-year increase from RO 1.08 million. This notable growth was primarily attributed to the exceptional performance of the Company's equity investment portfolio during the first half of 2025.

Shareholders Returns

Positive results achieved by the company have generated attractive returns for investors. Net Asset Value (NAV) per share as on 30 th June 2025 was 242 Baizas on 161,218,570 equity shares. Market capitalization stood at RO 31.60 million as of 30 th June 2025.

Appreciation

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I thank Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and the Financial Services Authority for their continued guidance and support. We also affirm our gratitude to our clients and partners for their trust in us, to our shareholders for their strong confidence, and to the company management and staff for their continued efforts.

We would like to extend our sincere best wishes to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, and we pledge our constant support and commitment for the economic development of the Sultanate for achieving the strategic directions and goals of Oman Vision 2040. We pray to the almighty Allah to protect His Majesty and help Oman continue its progress and transformation under His Majesty's wise leadership..

Salem Khalaf Al-Mannai
Chairman

INTERIM CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF 30TH JUNE 2025

	30 June 2025 RO	31 Dec 2024 RO
	Unaudited	Audited
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	**4,169,599**	4,929,728
Bank deposits	**26,804,819**	30,090,315
Reinsurers contract assets	**43,365,852**	51,140,072
Insurance contract assets	**343,032**	3,331
Other receivables and prepayments	**414,903**	608,037
Financial investments	**37,680,728**	33,224,762
Property and equipment	**568,365**	604,435
Investment Property	**348,945**	348,944
Right to Use Asset	**111,972**	111,972
Intangible Asset	**1,512,500**	1,573,000
Total assets	**115,320,714**	122,634,596
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Equity		
Capital and reserves		
Share capital	**21,998,840**	21,998,840
Legal reserve	**2,436,138**	2,436,138
Contingency reserve	**12,061,436**	12,061,436
Insurance Finance Reserve	**(156,737)**	(119,322)
Fair value reserve	**127,771**	(108,360)
Retained earnings	**2,537,319**	1,547,018
Total equity	**39,004,767**	37,815,750
Liabilities		
Insurance contract liabilities	**68,027,593**	75,699,105
Reinsurance contract liabilities	**3,120,830**	2,942,352
Other liabilities and accruals	**5,167,524**	6,177,389
Total liabilities	**76,315,947**	84,818,846
Total equity and liabilities	**115,320,714**	122,634,596

INTERIM CONDENSED STATEMENT OF P&L AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2025

Amounts in OMR

	30 June 2025	30 June 2024
	Unaudited	Unaudited
Insurance revenue	**31,486,298**	33,592,140
Insurance service expenses	**(16,579,783)**	(19,572,995)
Net expenses from reinsurance contract	**(14,850,435)**	(13,326,277)
Insurance service results	**56,080**	692,869
Insurance finance expense for insurance contracts issued	**(1,207,538)**	(1,142,950)
Reinsurance finance income / (expenses) for reinsurance contracts held	**1,657,903**	1,131,417
Net insurance financial results	**506,446**	681,337
Net Investment and other income	**2,277,852**	1,285,660
Rental and Other Income	**28,816**	43,188
Total investment & other income	**2,306,668**	1,328,848
Total income	**2,813,114**	2,010,185
Operating and administrative expenses	**(603,871)**	(562,969)
Depreciation	**(120,186)**	(133,942)
Profit / (loss) for the period before taxation	**2,089,057**	1,313,274
Income tax expense	**(212,053)**	(229,723)
Profit / (loss) for the period after tax	**1,877,004**	1,083,550
Other comprehensive income / (expense)		
Net change in fair value of financial assets	**236,130**	(69,058)
Net income/(expense) from insurance and reinsurance contracts held	**(37,415)**	(111,002)
Total comprehensive income/(expense) for the period	**2,075,719**	903,491
Earnings / (loss) per share-basic	**0.012**	0.007

Note: The complete accounts are available with Muscat Stock Exchange, However, the same will be sent by mail to any shareholder, who requests them at the above address, in either Arabic or English, as requested within 7 days of receipt of such request.

سلطنة عُمان
وزارة النقل والاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات
Sultanate of Oman
Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology

إعلان مناقصة
Tender Notice

The Internal Tenders Committee at the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology invites for the Following Tenders:

Tender Number	Tender Name	Date of Publishing	Last date to Purchase Tender Document	Submission Date	Companies who should participate in this Tender	Document Price
132/2025/ MTCIT	Renewal of licenses and Updating the Infrastructure of the Center Systems (Storage Systems and Center Management Servers)	29-7-2025	10-08-2025	31-8-2025	EXPERIENCED COMPANIES AND REGISTERED WITH THE PROJECT, TENDERS AND LOCAL CONTENT AUTHORITY (EXCELLENT)	(25/-) TWENTY-FIVE OMANI RIAL FOR LOCAL COMPANIES (10/-) TEN OMANI RIALS (SMEs) NON-REFUNDABLE

Interested Companies registered with the Secretariat General of Tender Board may obtain Tender documents from the E-Tendering website: **https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om** against non-refundable payment as mentioned above for each set of documents. Tenders should be submitted online on given website.

CORRESPONDANCE:

1. Tender Inquiry: All correspondence pertaining to the TENDER Inquiry must be online at e-Tendering System **(https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om)**
2. E-Tendering System Inquiry: All correspondence pertaining to the e-Tendering System technical support must be directed to the following helpdesk email address and phone number:

Tel: +968 24402200 e-mail: etenderhd@mtcit.gov.om

@mtcitoman www.mtcit.gov.om **Internal Tenders Committee**

OMAN

WILAYAT OF MUTTRAH

Muscat Municipality Chairman inspects development projects

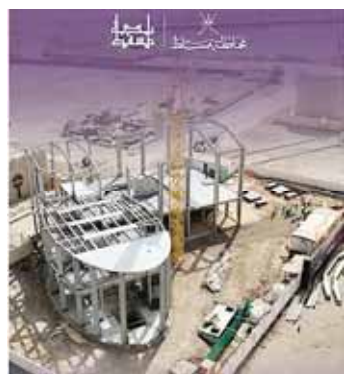
Times News Service

MUSCAT: Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Humaidi, Chairman of Muscat Municipality, conducted a field visit to inspect several key development and service projects in the Wilayat of Muttrah.

The visit reflects the municipality's ongoing commitment to on-site monitoring and delivering high standards in project execution.

The tour included a review of the Al-Wadi Al-Kabir Roundabout Project, where he was briefed on the latest progress.

He also inspected the Al-Wadi Al-Kabir Vendors' Lane Project to assess its operational readiness.



In addition, he reviewed the functioning of utility services at the Muttrah Fish, Vegetable and Fruit Market, one of the Municipality's investment projects aimed at enhancing the visitor experience.

Cable Car Project

The Chairman of Muscat Municipality also visited the Muttrah Cable Car (Teleferic) Project, a landmark initiative aimed at boosting the tourism sector and offering a distinctive recreational experience in the wilayat.

These visits form part of Muscat Municipality's broader strategy to enhance the quality of life throughout the governorate and raise the standards of public service and infrastructure.

CABLE

HM greets King of Morocco

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to King Mohammed VI of the Kingdom of Morocco on occasion of the Throne Day anniversary.

In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his heartfelt sentiments and best wishes to King Mohammed VI and the people of his country. His Majesty wished Morocco further progress and growth in various spheres.

His Majesty the Sultan also expressed the Sultanate of Oman's keenness to enhance bilateral relations and expand joint cooperation in a manner that serves both countries.

— ONA

Times OF OMAN

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COUNCIL'S EIGHTH TERM

State Council Office reviews several topics

MUSCAT: The State Council Office on Tuesday reviewed several topics, including a summary report from the Assistant Secretary-General for Sessions and Committees Affairs regarding the second ordinary session of the Council's eighth term.

The meeting was chaired by Sheikh Abdulmalik Abdullah Al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council.

During the meeting, the Chairman of the State Council emphasised the efforts made by the members and the Council's General Secretariat in efficiently performing their assigned tasks. This, he noted, strengthens the Council's legislative role during the second ordinary session of its eighth term and ensures responsible work across various activities and events.

The Office also discussed topics on the agenda and reports

submitted by members concerning their participation in regional and international council meetings. The meeting further reviewed the activity report of the committees during the period between the previous and current Office meetings.

The meeting was attended by the members of the Office and the Secretary-General of the State Council. — ONA

MISFAT AL ABRIYEEN VILLAGE

Restoration project discussed

AL HAMRA: A coordination meeting was held in the Wilayat of Al Hamra on Tuesday to discuss the progress made in a project for the restoration and beautification of Misfat Al Abriyeen village. The project is aimed at enhancing the tourist attractions of the antique village located in the Wilayat of Al Hamra, A'Dakhiliyah Governorate. The meeting was chaired by Sheikh Suleiman Said Al Azri, Wali of Al Hamra. Al Azri said that Misfat Al Abriyeen Village Restoration Project reflects a common vision to revive traditional architectural and urban heritage in Oman.

He added that this project seeks to strike a balance between preserving the heritage and providing modern services and consolidate Misfat Al Abriyeen Village's position as a tourist destination and a heritage landmark of interest to local and international visitors. — ONA

جامعة الشرقية
A' SHARQIYAH UNIVERSITY

AUCTION ANNOUNCEMENT

ASU's Tender Committee is pleased to invite specialized companies to participate in the following auctions:

AUCTIONS DETAILS:

Tender No.	Description	Document fees	Site Visit	Document Collection Deadline	Bids Submission Deadline
ASU/58/24/25	Scrap Auction for IT Devices	OMR 10	03/08/2025 at 10:00 AM	03/08/2025 At 03:00 PM	05/08/2025 At 03:00 PM
ASU/59/24/25	Scrap Auction for Furniture & Appliances	OMR 10	03/08/2025 at 10:00 AM	03/08/2025 At 03:00 PM	05/08/2025 At 03:00 PM

- Specialized companies interested in participating in the auctions should obtain the auction document during official working days **from Sunday to Thursday, between 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM.**
- **Auction collection process:** The interested companies shall follow the following steps:

1. The payment should be made directly to ASU under the following bank account

Account Name	AL SHARQIYAH UNIVERSITY
Account Number	0423010693610011
SWIFT CODE	BMUSOMRX

2. After payment, send the receipt to **(abdullah.al-harthi@asu.edu.om) or via WhatsApp at +968 25401118.**

3. The auction document will be sent to the company via email.

4. Companies that hold Riyadh certificate are exempted from auction document fees, They should send a copy of the riyadh certificate and the commercial registration to the email or WhatsApp number mentioned in the announcement.

- ASU general terms and conditions of tenders shall apply on all submitted bids.

http://www.asu.edu.om/downloads/purchase_terms_conditions.pdf

- For further details, please don't hesitate to contact us at: **abdullah.al-harthi@asu.edu.om or 25401118.**

شركة إسمنت عُمان (ش.م.ع.ع)
Oman Cement Company (S.A.O.G)

P.O.Box 560, Ruwi, Postal Code 112, Sultanate of Oman, Tel. 00968 22705601

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPORT

Respected Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Oman Cement Company (SAOG), it gives me a great pleasure to present you the Company's performance during the six months period ended on 30th June 2025.

Company has made its efforts to contain the cost of sales and succeed to lower the cost of packaging materials consumption, lower consumption of stores, spares and consumables, lower repair & maintenance and lower other manufacturing costs to overcome the adverse impact of rise in prices of some major elements of cost, and extensive efforts have been made in this direction in the current period with better cost management and sustained efforts to improve efficiency and productivity.

The Company continues to be an ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 14001:2015 certified Company. It has also API Spec 10A (American Petroleum Institute) quality monogram certification for manufacturing and sale of Oil Well Cements. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has granted the Company a license to export Oil well cement, Class G. The company has also successfully completed the ISO/IEC 27001:2022 audit for its Information Security Management System and is awaiting formal issuance of the certification.

1. PRODUCTION

(i) Clinker Production:
The company produced a total quantity of 1,595,837 MT of Clinker during the period as against 1,421,933 MT during the previous period, being higher by 173,904 MT (12.23%).

(ii) Cement Production:
The company produced 1,616,738 MT of Cement during the period as against 1,665,658 MT produced during the previous period, being lower by 48,920 MT (-2.94%).

2. TURNOVER & PROFIT

(i) Company achieved sales of 1,632,349 MT of Cement during the period as against 1,663,405 MT sales during the previous period, being lower by 31,056 MT (-1.87%). In terms of value, the Company achieved sales of OMR 33.116 million Cement during the period as against OMR 34.211 million sale during the previous period, being lower by OMR 1.096 million (-1.62%).

(ii) The Company also achieved sales of 17,048 MT of Clinker and in terms of value, sales of OMR 0.261 million during the period in its efforts to diversify the product mix.

(iii) During the period, the Company achieved profit before tax of OMR 5.601 million as against OMR 7.015 million during the previous period, being lower by OMR 1.413 million (-20.15%). Reduction in interest on fixed income deposits, higher lease rentals on lease hold lands, increase in fuel, gas and electricity cost and lower net sales price are the major contributors for reduction in profit before tax during the period. However, savings in the costs of packaging materials consumption, lower consumption of stores, spares and consumables, lower repair & maintenance and lower other manufacturing costs have offset the above expenditure during the period.

(iv) The Company has earned profit after tax of OMR 4.749 million during the period as against OMR 5.966 million during the previous period, being lower by OMR 1.217 million (-20.40%).

3. INVESTMENTS

The company has continued to place its surplus funds in fixed income instruments of call deposit accounts with commercial banks.

4. ASSOCIATE COMPANY

Mondi Oman LLC

The company's share of profit after tax in associate company amounting to OMR 33,278 during the period as against OMR 104,209 during the previous period, as reported by the associate company, has been suitably accounted for in the financial statements of the Company.

5. DIVIDEND DISTRIBUTION

The Company adopts a balanced policy of dividend to shareholders based on the results achieved taking into consideration the circumstances of the industry and market as well as the investors' expectations after satisfying required reserves to strengthen Company's competitive position in the market and to ensure a consistent dividend payout.

During the period, the Company has distributed 90% of the paid-up capital as dividends to the shareholders out of retained earnings as at 31 December 2024 as approved by the annual general meeting held on 20th March 2025.

The dividends distributed by the Company during the last five years are indicated in the table given below:

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Dividend on paid-up	10%	10%	10%	120.89%	90%

6. MARKET DEMAND & FUTURE OUTLOOK

Cement market in Oman has continued to witness intense price competition between major suppliers, which include local cement companies as well as cement manufacturers from neighboring countries plus supply chain constrains and geopolitical risks. The company has continued with its dynamic pricing policy and adjusted responsive pricing to the market.

The company continues to innovate varieties of products including Portland-limestone cement 32.5N (Hareer Cement used solely for plastering) launched last year coupled with its high emphasis on differentiation and cost optimization while maintaining highest quality standards. Market demand for the rest of the year 2025 is challenging but expected to be stable.

7. EXPANSION, MODERNIZATION & UPGRADATION

The Company has undertaken several expansion, modernization and up-gradation projects in order to enhance efficiency, production capacities, and reducing reliance on fossil fuel by use of alternative fuel initiatives as summarized below.

(i) The Company's decision to set up a new cement plant at Duqm with a capacity of 5,000 TPD of Clinker is under consideration.

(ii) The company has awarded EPC contract to upgrade capacity by debottlenecking and enhancement of existing Line-3 Cooler from 4,000 to 6,500 TPD at its existing Plant located at Muscat, through which clinker quality and production capacity will increase.

(iii) The company has awarded an EPC contract to install a new Silo to store Fly Ash- Oil Well (CWC) cement to meet the market demand. Project work is completed, and commissioning is in progress.

(iv) The company has awarded the contract for the supply of a shredding machine to shred industrial waste in its endeavors to use alternative fossil fuel replacement in alignment to the 2040 vision of the Sultanate on the decarbonization initiatives. Project work is completed, and commissioning is in progress.

(v) The company is, under its alternative fuel initiatives, considering use of the product from Municipal Solid Waste to reduce gas consumption towards decarbonization in line with country vision 2040.

The confidence and encouragement extended to the Board by the Government of the Sultanate of Oman and the shareholders is highly appreciated and the staff and management of the company pray Almighty Allah to continue to guide H.M. Haitham Bin Tariq Bin Taimur, Sultan of Oman, for the common welfare of the country.

Xu Gang
Chairman of the Board of Directors

Note:The complete accounts will be sent by mail to any shareholder who request them in either Arabic or English within 7 days of receipt to the following address:Oman Cement Company SAOG, P.O. Box 560, P.C. 112, Sultanate of Oman

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	30 June 2025 RO	30 June 2024 RO	31 Dec 2024 RO
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	**84,549,974**	86,966,473	85,975,440
Right-of-use assets	**10,310,112**	596,130	572,286
Intangible assets	**226,296**	202,531	169,585
Investment in an associate	**1,273,656**	1,364,751	1,496,722
Total non-current assets	**96,360,038**	89,129,885	88,214,033
Current assets			
Investments at fair value through profit or loss	**89,903**	90,954	89,823
Bank deposits	**-**	14,961,627	-
Inventories	**13,491,018**	14,671,980	12,750,805
Trade and other receivables	**8,960,610**	10,231,169	9,661,997
Cash and cash equivalents	**6,625,983**	7,851,359	32,222,941
Total current assets	**29,167,514**	47,807,089	54,725,566
TOTAL ASSETS	**125,527,552**	136,936,974	142,939,599
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
Equity			
Share capital	**33,087,271**	33,087,271	33,087,271
Share premium	**6,724,145**	6,724,145	6,724,145
Legal reserve	**11,029,090**	11,029,090	11,029,090
Voluntary reserve	**16,543,635**	16,543,635	16,543,635
Fair value reserve	**(692,847)**	(692,847)	(692,847)
Retained earnings	**31,847,733**	51,722,647	56,877,528
Total equity	**98,539,027**	118,413,941	123,568,822
LIABILITIES			
Non-current liabilities			
Lease liability	**8,599,976**	621,409	593,242
Deferred tax liability	**7,052,428**	7,268,196	7,211,731
Employees' end of service benefits	**1,049,370**	1,054,458	1,068,866
Total non-current liabilities	**16,701,774**	8,944,063	8,873,839
Current liabilities			
Lease liability	**1,231,628**	28,451	76,766
Trade and other payables	**7,869,403**	8,262,689	8,178,527
Current tax liabilities	**1,185,720**	1,287,830	2,241,645
Total current liabilities	**10,286,751**	9,578,970	10,496,938
Total liabilities	**26,988,525**	18,523,033	19,370,777
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	**125,527,552**	136,936,974	142,939,599
Net assets per share	**0.298**	0.358	0.373

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	30 June 2025 RO	30 June 2024 RO	31 Dec 2024 RO
Revenue	**33,376,380**	34,235,072	68,075,604
Cost of sales	**(26,189,206)**	(26,703,557)	(53,631,232)
Gross profit	**7,187,174**	7,531,515	14,444,372
General and administrative expenses	**(1,905,404)**	(1,854,404)	(3,672,978)
Reversal of allowance/(allowance) for expected credit losses on financial assets	**73,160**	73,696	60,613
Operating Profit	**5,354,930**	5,750,807	10,832,007
Finance income	**441,865**	1,154,742	1,890,404
Finance cost	**(304,774)**	(11,143)	(32,422)
Other income - net	**75,985**	16,167	140,848
Share of profit of an associate	**33,278**	104,209	236,179
Profit before tax	**5,601,284**	7,014,782	13,067,016
Taxation	**(852,535)**	(1,048,796)	(1,946,149)
Profit and total comprehensive income for the period	**4,748,749**	5,965,986	11,120,867
Earnings per share			
Basic and diluted earnings per share (annualized)	**0.029**	0.036	0.034

UNFSS+4 MEETING

Oman showcases its food security advancements at UN summit in Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA: The Sultanate of Oman has presented its progress in food and nutrition security indicators at the ministerial session of the 2nd UN Food Systems Summit Stocktake (UNFSS+4) in Ethiopia, highlighting advancements made since the 2021 Food Systems Summit.

In his address, Dr. Saud bin Hamoud Al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Water Resources, stated that the Sultanate of Oman has achieved significant improvements across multiple food and nutrition security metrics.

"The ministry has launched several strategies—with others in development—to enhance domestic production, diversify supply chains, ensure sustainable use of natural resources, and improve nutrition while combating malnutrition," he said.

"Key initiatives include the Food Security Strategy, National Nutrition Strategy, National Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy, Environment

and Natural Resources Strategy, and the Genetic Diversity Strategy for Local Livestock."

He noted that Oman ranked third among Arab countries and 35th globally in the 2022 Global Food Security Index, while securing the 54th position in the 2024 Environmental Performance Index—outperforming many regional peers.

These achievements reflect Oman's ongoing efforts in environmental protection, sustainability promotion, pollution reduction, and efficient natural resource management.

Al Habsi also highlighted that Oman received WHO certification for eliminating artificial trans fats from its food products, becoming one of only nine countries worldwide—and the second in the Arab world—to achieve this milestone. This recognition underscores Oman's commitment to improving quality of life, advancing preventive healthcare, and enhancing public health indicators.

The minister emphasised the government's prioritisation of water resource conservation through precautionary measures to safeguard against external pressures and ensure sustainability for future generations. Oman is working to balance water allocation across sectors while accounting for environmental needs, he added.

The participation at UNFSS+4 demonstrates Oman's proactive engagement in global food security dialogues while implementing national policies aligned with both the Oman Vision 2040 development framework and UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). — ONA

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UN-AUDITED CONDENSED INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

MANAGEMENT'S REPORT FOR SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

The global apparel business is currently experiencing a certain level of uncertainty due to reciprocal tariffs issues going on throughout. Sewing thread business, being one of the raw materials in garmenting, is in turn, facing similar levels of uncertainties from export-oriented apparel manufacturing units. However, since last few years, company has been focusing on domestic segment by expanding product range and geographical coverage within Oman and neighbouring countries. This has helped in hedging the risk against volatile export apparel segment. In addition, with continued result-oriented efforts in Industrial apparel (B2B) segment, we have achieved decent growth in overall business of the company. With right strategy in place your company is optimistic of realizing stable revenue during the year.

Financial Results:

Revenue for the current period grew by fourteen percent to OMR 2,373,515 as against the revenue of OMR 2,089,766 achieved during the same period of last year. The six-month period ended with a net profit of OMR 253,558 after taxes, as against a net profit of OMR 222,805 achieved during the similar period of last year.

Shareholders' fund:

Shareholders' fund as of 30 June 2025 was at OMR 2,324,916 as against OMR 2,092,548 as of 30 June 2024.

Operations:

During the six months of the current year, the company produced 752 metric tons of sewing thread as against 640 metric tons of sewing thread produced during same period of the last year. Export sales accounted for about eighty-two percent of total revenue (last year's same.).

Omanization & training:

Company is committed towards employment of Omani youths and awarding suitable training for their overall growth.

Acknowledgement:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and employees of the company, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik for his wise leadership and generous support for the private sector.

On behalf of all the employees and Management, I also express our sincere gratitude to the Board of Directors for their guidance and support to the Management.

I would also like to place on record our gratitude to all employees for their dedication and hard work. We also thank the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment promotion, other government authorities/ ministries, the Financial Services Authority, Muscat Stock Exchange, Muscat Clearing & Depository Co., and our bankers for their support.

Mithilesh Kumar Singh
Chief Executive Officer

Note: The complete accounts are available on MSX website. If required, the same can also be provided by email or post in Arabic or English, in seven days, on receipt of written request from the shareholder.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT

Amount in OMR

	30-Jun-2025	30-Jun-2025	31-Dec-2024
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	**742,585**	597,857	731,595
ROU assets	**150,995**	161,637	156,279
Deferred tax assets	**55,800**	57,214	51,932
Total non-current assets	**949,380**	816,708	939,806
Current assets			
Inventories	**1,488,000**	1,316,528	1,553,880
Trade & other receivables	**943,084**	1,118,865	953,066
Short term investments	**-**	25,565	-
Bank and cash	**142,408**	12,352	148,748
Total current assets	**2,573,492**	2,473,310	2,655,694
Total assets	**3,522,872**	3,290,018	3,595,500
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
Equity			
Share capital	**1,762,366**	1,639,411	1,639,411
Legal reserve	**258,872**	222,316	258,872
Reserve for bad and doubtful debts	**33,400**	10,500	21,500
Retained Earning	**270,278**	220,321	315,516
Total shareholders' equity	**2,324,916**	2,092,548	2,235,299
Liabilities			
Non-current liabilities			
Employees' end of service benefits	**155,654**	156,915	164,139
Non-current portion of lease liability ROU Assets	**180,328**	185,090	183,137
Total non-current liabilities	**335,982**	342,005	347,276
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	**762,911**	752,776	895,615
Bank borrowings	**-**	17,079	12,737
Current maturities of term loans	**-**	2,623	-
Current maturities lease liability ROU Assets	**5,450**	5,133	5,289
Income Tax payable	**93,613**	77,854	99,284
Total current liabilities	**861,974**	855,465	1,012,925
Total liabilities	**1,197,956**	1,197,470	1,360,201
Total equity and liabilities	**3,522,872**	3,290,018	3,595,500
Net assets per share	**0.132**	0.128	0.136

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR SIX MONTHS ENDED

Amount in OMR

	30-Jun-2025	30-Jun-2024
Turnover/Revenue	**2,373,515**	2,089,766
Cost of Sale	**(1,663,678)**	(1,429,196)
Gross profit	**709,837**	660,570
Other Income	**6,364**	1,499
Distribution expenses	**(286,066)**	(263,444)
Administration & general expenses	**(112,337)**	(107,406)
Provision for slow moving inventories	**10**	(18,750)
Allowances for credit losses	**(9,838)**	10,394
Profit from operations	**307,970**	282,863
Finance expenses	**(12,444)**	(20,234)
Profit/(loss) for the period before income tax	**295,526**	262,629
Taxation	**(41,968)**	(39,824)
Total comprehensive income/ (loss) for the period	**253,558**	222,805
Earning per share	**0.014**	0.014

Note: The company does not have any items under other comprehensive income.

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- SME of the Year
- CEO of the Year
- CFO of the Year
- CHRO of the Year
- Industry Leader of the Year
- Public Service Leader of the Year
- Digital Transformation Leader of the Year
- Sports Icon of the Year
- Health & Wellness Icon of the Year
- Creative Icon of the Year
- Social Change Champion
- Young Corporate Leader of the Year (Under 35)
- Marketing Leader of the Year

Organization & Initiative Categories:
- Excellence in Women in Leadership
- Excellence in Women-Centric Products & Services
- Excellence in Women Empowerment at Workplace
- Excellence in CSR Initiative for Women
- Excellence in Female Entrepreneurship Support

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SPORTS

BLACKCAPS

Santner named NZ skipper for Zimbabwe series

AUCKLAND : Mitchell Santner becomes the 32nd player to lead New Zealand's men's side in Test cricket as regular Blackcaps captain Tom Latham was ruled out of the first Test against Zimbabwe due to a shoulder injury, as per the official website of the ICC.

Latham sufferd the injury while fielding in a domestic T20 game in England, and hasn't been deemed fit enough to feature in the playing XI. But the left-handed top-order batter will continue to remain with the squad, with the hope that he regains full fitness ahead of the second Test match against the Chevrons.

Santner, who has 1066 runs and 74 wickets from his 30 Tests, assumes the role fresh off a T20I Tri-Series victory in Harare where the Black Caps remained undefeated in the group stage into the finals.

Rob Walter, New Zealand head coach, expressed his disappointment for Latham but backed Santner to do well.

"It's never great when you lose your captain (Tom Latham), who's a world-class opening batter and a great team man, but that said we're going to work really hard to have him available for the second Test," he said.

"We'll continue to assess and see whether a replacement player is necessary, but at this stage we are hopeful that he'll recover in time," he noted.

"Mitch (Santner) did a wonderful job with the T20 squad in this recent series. Whilst the format is different, he certainly has the respect of the players and will be supported by some highly experienced Test cricketers, so I trust that he's going to do a great job," Walter said. New Zealand squad for the 1st Test: Mitchell Santner (c), Tom Blundell, Devon Conway, Jacob Duffy, Matt Fisher, Matt Henry, Daryl Mitchell, Henry Nicholls, Will O'Rourke, Ajaz Patel, Michael Bracewell, Rachin Ravindra, Nathan Smith, Will Young. -ANI

Indian head coach in a spat with Oval curator

As Lee Fortis stepped away, the Indian head coach animatedly pointed a finger and mouthed a couple of words

LONDON : India head coach Gautam Gambhir engaged in a heated verbal spat with Lee Fortis, chief curator at The Oval in London, ahead of the final Test of the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy, which is scheduled to begin on Thursday.

During India's practice session on Tuesday, Gambhir had a fierce altercation with Lee regarding the practice facilities. As he stepped away, the Indian head coach animatedly pointed a finger and mouthed a couple of words. India's batting coach, Sitanshu Kotak, was seen stepping in, taking Lee away and having a brief conversation with him.

While Kotak appeared to diffuse the situation while explaining their stance, Gambhir, who stood near the nets, pointed his finger towards Lee and furiously said, "You don't tell us what to do."

India assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate joined Kotak during his conversation with Lee, while Gambhir continued to make his point from the other end. Lee said a couple of words to Gambhir before eventually walking away from the scene. Lee was quizzed about the entire situation, but he chose to remain tight-lipped while speaking to the reporters and said, "It's not my job to be happy with him. I don't know, you have to ask him."

Kotak, along with a couple of members of the Indian management, were seen trying to explain the situation to an English official. Kotak was the one who spoke for the majority of the period.

The dramatic behind-the-scenes encounter echoes the emotions that have boiled over in the past two Tests in London and Manchester. In the third Test at Lord's, temperament frayed, fingers were pointed, emotions ran thin as the element of spice entered the picture.

It all started with captain Shubman Gill screaming at Zak Crawley in the final moments of the third day. He felt the lanky English opener was trying to run down the clock to deny India the opportunity of bowling a second over. Fingers were raised, words were said, and sarcastic applause further inflamed the tensions.

The emotions yet again spilt over in the final hour of the fifth Test at Old Trafford in Manchester when the draw appeared to be looming large. With Jadeja on 89 and Sundar on 80, the southpaws refused to accept it.

Shortly after the drama, England bowled loopy balls and delivered through Harry Brook, and Jadeja dispatched the ball for a maximum to bring up his fifth Test century.

A statement from Stokes was caught on the stump mic during which he said, "Jaddu, do you want to get a Test 100 against Brook & Duckett?" Jadeja responded to the English skipper's comment and said, "What do you want me to do, just walk off?" Zak Crawley, who stood close to the crease, chipped in, saying: "You can, just shake your hand."

India, trailing 1-2 in the series, stayed alive as the fourth Test ended in a draw. The tourists will look to conjure up a win to conclude the five Tests on 2-2. -ANI

PREMIER LEAGUE

Wanted to join a club that ranks among the top three: Wirtz on joining Liverpool

LONDON : Before the 2025-26 Premier League season, German star Florian Wirtz has officially joined Liverpool. The former Bayer Leverkusen attacking midfielder opened up about his move, sharing his joy, the thought process behind the decision, and a heartfelt message for the fans who had been eagerly waiting for his arrival.

"I feel very happy and proud. It's finally done, something I have been waiting for a long time. I'm really happy," Wirtz said on JioHotstar.

The 22-year-old playmaker was one of Europe's most sought-after talents this summer, with several clubs showing interest, but for Wirtz, there was clarity in his decision.

"I felt it was the right moment in my career to take the next step. I wanted to join a club that ranks among the top three in the world, and in my opinion, Liverpool is one of them," he explained.

"I saw myself in the best hands at Liverpool and was truly convinced by the people here, the club's vision, and what it offers me. Ultimately, it was an easy decision to make," he said.

Wirtz now begins a fresh chapter in the Premier League, a challenge he's excited to embrace, but even before kicking a ball for his new club, the young German already feels the warmth of the Anfield faithful.

"I would say thank you for the support," he said, addressing Liverpool fans who had flooded social media platforms, urging the club to sign him.

"I have seen on Instagram and elsewhere how much they wanted me to join. I'm really looking forward to playing in front of them and achieving great things together. I'm very happy and sorry for the long wait," he noted. -ANI

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OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by September 2025 reaching $73, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by $1.72 from the price of Monday, which was $71.28. - ONA

MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,747.40 points, up by 0.09% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.48% at 462.99 points. Muscat Finance, up 5.66%, was the top gainer while Liva Group, down 9.93%, was the top loser.

Abraj Energy signs contract for six new land rigs with PDO

Drilling operations are scheduled to commence gradually starting in the fourth quarter of 2026

MUSCAT: Abraj Energy Services has signed a strategic agreement with Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) to provide six onshore drilling rigs for Concession Area 6, a key strategic asset that forms a fundamental pillar of Oman's energy sector.

Drilling operations are scheduled to commence gradually starting in the fourth quarter of 2026. This agreement marks a significant expansion point within the long-standing partnership between Abraj and PDO, reflecting Abraj's operational efficiency in delivering competitive, safe, reliable, and high-performance drilling solutions that align with the highest international standards.

Houd Khalfan Al Barashdi, Acting Director of Business Development at Abraj Energy Services, stated that the signing of this agreement reaffirms Abraj's operational excellence and the deep trust the company has earned by providing competitive, reliable, safe, and efficient solutions and services to its partners, supported by its advanced fleet and unique technical expertise. He explained that the company is expanding its operational scope with PDO to achieve common goals, affirming its pivotal role in empowering the oil and energy sector and enhancing in-country value.

In the context of its continuous expansion, Abraj recently signed an additional contract with BP Oman to provide drilling services in Concession Area 61. Furthermore, it secured a new contract with ARA Petroleum to drill three wells in Concession Area 44. The company also expanded its operations in the Wafra Joint Operations field between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia by signing a contract to provide a third 3000-horsepower drilling rig. This move reflects Abraj's regional expansion strategy and strengthens its position in strategic oil and gas projects across the region.

Eng. Sulaiman Abdullah Al Salmi, Team Leader of Gas Well Drilling at Petroleum Development Oman, stated that the strategic relationship with Abraj Energy Services has demonstrated its continuous commitment to PDO's operational, health, and safety standards. He noted that this agreement confirms the joint commitment of Abraj and PDO to enhance Oman's oil and energy sectors through advanced and safe solutions that contribute to achieving operational efficiency and sustainability.

Since 2020, Abraj has contributed over RO 850 million in in-country value, achieving an Omanization rate of approximately 93 percent. In the past three years alone, the company's operations related to PDO have generated RO 79.1 million in local value, equivalent to 78 percent of total expenditure. These figures underscore Abraj's strong commitment to supporting national priorities and its pivotal role in the development of Oman's oil and energy sectors.

It is worth mentioning that Abraj concluded 2024 with positive operational and financial results. Revenues reached RO 151.6 million, operating profit before interest, taxes, and depreciation (EBITDA) was RO 53 million, and net profit after tax was RO 16.9 million.

The company also recorded exceptional occupational health and safety indicators, completing three consecutive years of incident-free and lost-time injury-free operations across all its operational units. Drilling rigs achieved high utilization rates exceeding 86 percent, and well maintenance rigs reached 100 percent, reflecting the long-term resilience of its operations and partners' deep trust in its services.

SESSIONS TARGET LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Sezad's Duqm Summer Series to focus on AI and automation

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad) launches its Duqm Summer Series on 5 August with a focus on AI and automation, targeting the zone's growing business community.

The opening session features Saeed Abdul Ghafoor, whose company Star Drones built TARIQ – Oman's first domestically manufactured drone using local materials. Star Drones has deployed their AI-powered drones over 19,000 acres of agricultural projects while developing applications spanning environmental monitoring to manufacturing. Ghafoor's experience is relevant to Sezad -based companies who are implementing AI solutions throughout their operations but need practical guidance on expanding these initiatives.

"Sezad -based companies are already successfully deploying AI solutions, but the real challenge lies in scaling these initiatives effectively," explains Eng. Ahmed Akaak, CEO, Sezad. "The Duqm Summer Series connects our tenant community with practitioners who've successfully made this transition - people who can share what worked, how they achieved it and what obstacles they overcame."

The potential for greater impact is substantial. The World Economic Forum's Global Lighthouse Network - 189 production facilities that have implemented AI - shows what systematic deployment can achieve: network members report 53% higher productivity and 26% lower costs. Beyond operational efficiency, AI implementation delivered 50% reductions in new product introduction times and substantial environmental benefits including 30% to 50% reduction in emissions and an average 30% reduction in material waste.

For Sezad, positioned between Europe, Asia and Africa such results create both opportunity and urgency. UNIDO research indicates that every manufacturing job generates more than two additional positions in other sectors, making technology adoption about broader economic development, not just efficiency. This focus on broader economic development shapes the Duqm Summer Series format.

"When a logistics manager learns supply chain strategies from someone in fisheries, or a renewable energy company shares workforce solutions with manufacturing executives, that's when real innovation happens," notes Eng. Akaak.

Each session runs for an hour starting at 1pm, combining presentations with discussions. Other sessions in the series continue this practical approach: workforce development with Development Bank's Auf Al Aufi (12 August), supply chain resilience featuring the Ministry of Transport, Communications & Information Technology's Nabeel Al Balushi (19 August) and workplace culture and wellbeing with Sultan Qaboos University's Dr. Aziza Al Sawafi (26 August).

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Muscat Finance, up 5.66%, was the top gainer while, Liva Group, down 9.93%, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,747.40 points, up by 0.09% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.48% at 462.99 points. Muscat Finance, up 5.66%, was the top gainer while, Liva Group, down 9.93%, 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 2456 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 32.42 million, with more than 211.37 million shares changing hands. Out of 64 traded securities, 21 advanced, 22 declined, and 21 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for RO 477K while foreign investors were net buyers for RO 277K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 201K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 8,121.70 points, up 0.42%. Prices of Muscat Finance, Oman Arab Bank, Sohar International Bank, Taageer Finance, Al Madina Takaful were up by 5.66%, 2.84%, 2.16%, 1.77%, 1.22% respectively. Prices of Liva Group, Oman & Emirates Investment, Al Anwar Investment, Ominvest, Bank Muscat were down by 9.93%, 2.82%, 1.15%, 0.88%, 0.34% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,888.77 points, up 0.65%. Prices of Oman Flour Mills, Al Maha Ceramics, Gulf Mushroom Products, Jazeera Steel Products, Al Anwar Ceramics were up by 4.75%, 1.62%, 1.29%, 1.21%, 1.12% respectively. Prices of Gulf International Chemicals, Oman Fisheries, Galfar Engineering, Oman Cement, Salalah Mills were down by 4.05%, 3.33%, 2.86%, 2.80%, 2.55% respectively.

Services Index was down by 1.24% before closing at 1,780.70 points. Prices of Al Jazeera Services, Sembcorp Salalah, Barka Desalination, Abraj Energy, Al Maha Marketing were up by 1.66%, 1.43%, 0.76%, 0.75%, 0.56% respectively. Prices of Phoenix Power, Al Batinah Power, Al Suwadi Power, Salalah Port Services, Renaissance Services were down by 9.28%, 7.45%, 6.38%, 5.00%, 1.39% respectively.

— United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,770.63	4,727.67	4,747.40	4,743.06	4.34	0.09
FINANCIAL INDEX	8,124.93	8,072.20	8,121.70	8,087.55	34.15	0.42
Industry Index	6,924.92	6,828.58	6,888.77	6,844.31	44.46	0.65
Services Index	1,809.48	1,780.70	1,780.70	1,802.99	-22.30	-1.24
MSX Shariah Index	462.99	460.25	462.99	460.80	2.20	0.48
MSX TR INDEX	7,060.30	6,996.72	7,025.91	7,016.08	9.83	0.14
FINANCIAL TR IDX	9,652.70	9,590.06	9,648.86	9,608.29	40.57	0.42
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	8,509.69	8,391.30	8,465.26	8,410.63	54.63	0.65
SERVICES TR IDX	2,314.32	2,277.51	2,277.51	2,299.25	-21.74	-0.95
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,204.48	1,204.48	1,204.48	1,204.48	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
211,371,018	32,420,482	2,456	29,088,169,928	21	22	21	64

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, JULY 29

REGULAR MARKET

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	77,595,436	10,825,347	346	0.138	0.142	0.138	0.142	0.139	0.003	2.158	0.142	0.142	0.142	0.100	939,648,970
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	173,200	31,480	12	0.184	0.184	0.181	0.184	0.181	0.003	1.657	0.184	0.184	0.184	0.100	7,883,110
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	32,965	2,727	7	0.082	0.083	0.082	0.083	0.082	0.001	1.220	0.083	0.082	0.088	0.100	14,525,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	22,831	9,585	15	0.419	0.421	0.419	0.420	0.415	0.005	1.205	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.100	52,457,143
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO.	19,065	1,578	4	0.082	0.084	0.082	0.083	0.083	0.000	0.000	0.083	0.083	0.090	0.100	7,470,000
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	7,100	3,330	2	0.469	0.469	0.469	0.469	0.469	0.000	0.000	0.469	0.440	0.469	0.100	56,280,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FIN.	42	1	1	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.000	0.000	0.140	0.140	0.000	0.100	28,000,000
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	1,063	861	6	0.810	0.810	0.810	0.810	0.810	0.000	0.000	0.810	0.810	0.891	0.100	75,826,661
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	1,945,185	200,218	57	0.104	0.105	0.102	0.105	0.105	0.000	0.000	0.105	0.100	0.105	0.100	234,880,068
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	15,023,242	4,377,643	222	0.293	0.295	0.290	0.291	0.292	-0.001	-0.342	0.291	0.295	0.291	0.100	2,184,361,545
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	40,848	9,644	8	0.237	0.237	0.236	0.236	0.237	-0.001	-0.422	0.236	0.236	0.237	0.100	153,622,838
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	246,169	220,827	40	0.899	0.899	0.893	0.895	0.899	-0.004	-0.445	0.895	0.895	0.810	0.100	671,250,000
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	25,242,974	3,719,598	449	0.147	0.151	0.145	0.147	0.148	-0.001	-0.676	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.100	636,601,716
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	121,928	27,524	13	0.228	0.228	0.225	0.225	0.227	-0.002	-0.881	0.226	0.226	0.226	0.100	210,535,109
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	222,249	63,384	22	0.288	0.288	0.283	0.283	0.287	-0.004	-1.394	0.284	0.284	0.284	0.100	66,904,030
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	1,405,353	126,535	72	0.094	0.094	0.088	0.088	0.094	-0.006	-6.383	0.088	0.088	0.087	0.100	62,867,758
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	1,617,200	145,307	85	0.093	0.094	0.087	0.087	0.094	-0.007	-7.447	0.088	0.087	0.088	0.100	58,715,206
Total	22	126,382,051	20,480,044	1,470												

Parallel Market

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	2,302,698	127,676	67	0.054	0.057	0.054	0.056	0.053	0.003	5.660	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.100	17,200,194
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	5,300	2,602	5	0.499	0.499	0.485	0.485	0.463	0.022	4.752	0.485	0.463	0.500	0.100	80,206,875
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	100,700	14,599	9	0.142	0.145	0.142	0.145	0.141	0.004	2.837	0.145	0.144	0.145	0.100	242,064,450
OM0000010120	ASYAD SHIPPING	13,910,500	1,761,097	164	0.125	0.128	0.124	0.128	0.125	0.003	2.400	0.128	0.125	0.127	0.000	666,719,268
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	123	11	1	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.085	0.002	2.353	0.087	0.080	0.093	0.100	56,427,358
OM0000003281	TAAGEER FINANCE	46,727	5,374	4	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.113	0.002	1.770	0.115	0.114	0.115	0.100	32,110,669
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	1,500	470	2	0.313	0.313	0.313	0.313	0.308	0.005	1.623	0.313	0.306	0.314	0.100	17,215,000
OM0000009908	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	62,856,659	8,659,742	309	0.138	0.140	0.137	0.139	0.137	0.002	1.460	0.139	0.139	0.139	0.040	480,869,228
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	246,898	34,578	17	0.140	0.143	0.140	0.142	0.140	0.002	1.429	0.142	0.141	0.142	0.100	135,549,217
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	45,146	10,406	7	0.231	0.236	0.230	0.236	0.233	0.003	1.288	0.236	0.230	0.235	0.100	10,800,728
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	6,960	890	4	0.128	0.128	0.127	0.128	0.127	0.001	0.787	0.128	0.126	0.128	0.100	75,703,921
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	3,397	452	2	0.133	0.133	0.133	0.133	0.132	0.001	0.758	0.133	0.130	0.133	0.100	10,044,426
OM0000003006	ALMAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	2,900	2,625	4	0.900	0.906	0.900	0.905	0.900	0.005	0.556	0.905	0.906	0.945	0.100	62,445,000
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	11,680	2,266	4	0.194	0.197	0.194	0.197	0.196	0.001	0.510	0.197	0.194	0.197	0.100	39,328,213
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	58,301	4,847	9	0.083	0.084	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.000	0.000	0.083	0.079	0.085	0.100	7,055,000
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL INDUSTRIES	42,428	2,788	7	0.067	0.067	0.063	0.067	0.067	0.000	0.000	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.100	4,187,500
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	5,186	778	1	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.000	0.000	0.150	0.151	0.000	0.100	406,020,048
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	196,900	25,006	3	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.000	0.000	0.127	0.125	0.137	0.100	386,054,414
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	31,870	5,708	10	0.180	0.180	0.179	0.180	0.180	0.000	0.000	0.180	0.178	0.180	0.100	28,800,000
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	24,444	1,711	2	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.070	0.068	0.072	0.100	10,888,528
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	530,098	42,815	38	0.081	0.083	0.079	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.000	0.080	0.079	0.084	0.100	17,779,200
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	10,000	7,400	1	0.740	0.740	0.740	0.740	0.742	-0.002	-0.270	0.740	0.722	0.750	0.100	45,343,500
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	3,332,559	1,119,588	171	0.337	0.338	0.334	0.335	0.336	-0.001	-0.298	0.335	0.330	0.335	0.010	2,680,000,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INV.	131,021	15,661	7	0.119	0.120	0.119	0.119	0.120	-0.001	-0.833	0.119	0.119	0.121	0.100	17,850,000
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	2,000	1,240	2	0.620	0.620	0.620	0.620	0.627	-0.007	-1.116	0.620	0.620	0.651	0.100	58,900,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	161,754	13,911	14	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.087	-0.001	-1.149	0.086	0.081	0.086	0.100	25,675,552
OM0000001889	SALALAH MILLS	282	118	1	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.431	-0.011	-2.552	0.420	0.420	0.470	0.100	26,234,487
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	5,780	2,823	5	0.485	0.499	0.485	0.486	0.500	-0.014	-2.800	0.486	0.486	0.498	0.100	160,804,137
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	116,953	8,201	11	0.072	0.072	0.069	0.069	0.071	-0.002	-2.817	0.069	0.069	0.070	0.100	8,409,375
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	9,000	639	1	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.074	-0.003	-4.054	0.071	0.071	0.072	0.100	1,491,000
OM0000002333	SALALAH PORT SERVICES	600	148	1	0.247	0.247	0.247	0.247	0.260	-0.013	-5.000	0.247	0.247	0.260	0.100	44,419,838
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	497,900	43,870	63	0.088	0.090	0.088	0.088	0.097	-0.009	-9.278	0.088	0.089	0.088	0.100	128,708,928
OM0000007043	LIVA GROUP	10,455	2,860	6	0.288	0.288	0.272	0.272	0.302	-0.030	-9.934	0.272	0.272	0.300	0.100	108,357,821
Total	33	84,708,719	11,922,900	952												

FSA

Workshop held on Quality Management System – Documentation Phase

MUSCAT: As part of its ongoing efforts to enhance institutional performance and implement best administrative practices, the Financial Services Authority (FSA), in cooperation with the Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-up Unit, organised a workshop titled "Quality Management System – Documentation Phase". The workshop is part of the FSA's plan to obtain ISO 9001:2015 certification for its quality management system.

The workshop targeted a group of employees from various departments and units within the FSA, with the aim of raising awareness about the requirements of a quality management system, and equipping participants with the knowledge and skills needed to identify and document procedures, and to accurately and systematically track institutional process flows.

The 3-day workshop addressed the importance of documentation as a central element in building an effective institutional work environment that contributes to enhanced performance and ensures a high level of consistency in service delivery. It also focused on practical methods for identifying organisational procedures, conducting gap analyses, and developing manuals and templates in line with quality standards.

The workshop emphasised that documentation is not merely an administrative requirement, but rather a cultural value that reflects the FSA's commitment to continuous improvement. It enhances transparency and strengthens collaboration across various departments of the organisation.

SUPPORT INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Joint field visits conducted to boost local content in Dhofar

SALALAH: The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, in cooperation with the Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority, and Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) conducted a joint field visit to several factories in Dhofar Governorate as part of national efforts to enhance local content and support industrial development.

The visit included industrial facilities from various sectors located in the Salalah Free Zone, Madayn (Public Establishment for Industrial Estates), and Dhofar Industrial Zone.

The delegation reviewed production processes, highlighted key industrial achievements, and discussed avenues for development and innovation.

Challenges facing these factories were also addressed, along with available growth opportunities and ways to strengthen cooperation between government entities and the private sector. This aligns with the objectives of the National Industrial Strategy and contributes to boosting local value-added.

This visit comes as Oman's industrial sector is witnessing significant growth. By the end of 2024, the manufacturing sector's contribution to GDP at constant prices exceeded OMR3.6 billion, while non-oil commodity exports surpassed OMR6.2 billion, including OMR1.8 billion from metal products.

These indicators underscore the pivotal role of manufacturing industries in supporting economic diversification and enhancing local value-added.

Eng. Khalid Salim Al Qasabi, Director General of Industry at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, stated that such visits—conducted in partnership with relevant stakeholders at industrial sites—allow direct engagement with factory owners and workers. This, he said, helps develop a deeper understanding of their needs, identify suitable solutions, and explore industrial networking opportunities.

He added that the Directorate General of Industry will continue its visits to cover the rest of Oman's governorates as part of a systematic plan prepared in coordination with relevant entities. Al Qasabi emphasised the ministry's commitment to supporting and enabling the industrial sector in line with the government's direction to enhance local content and develop the national economy, achieving the goals of Oman Vision 2040. -ONA

IN MUSCAT GOVERNORATE

Opaz named Best Service Outlet

MUSCAT: For the second year in a row, the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones Opaz has won the award for Best Service Outlet in Muscat Governorate for the year 2024.

The award was granted as part of the government entities participating in the Institutional Excellence System, in recognition of the Authority's continuous efforts to enhance service quality and strengthen its position in global competitiveness indicators.

Dr. Ahmed bin Saif Al-Ma'amari, Acting Customer Services Manager Department at the Authority, stated: "This honour reflects the Authority's commitment to implementing the standards of the Institutional Excellence System, which is one of the key pillars for achieving the goals of Oman Vision 2040.

"It also reinforces a culture of continuous improvement in the work environment to ensure the delivery of high-quality and efficient services that meet the expectations of investors and beneficiaries."

The selection of the Authority was based on the results of surveys and indicators measuring client satisfaction. Opaz affirms its ongoing efforts to enhance institutional excellence, adopt best practices in service delivery, and achieve top performance levels through innovation and continuous improvement.

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Urgently required for a leading Engineering Consultancy firm:Structural Designer [RCC & Steel Structure] – min. 7 to 10 yrs. experience in gulf. Pls. mail CV to: info@abdullamukadam.com

ENGINEER

Urgently required MEP, QS, Civil, & Electrical Eng with Oman Exp. Interested candidates send their updated CV to: hr.feloman@gmail.com

MISCELLENOUS

Urgently required Ele Eng for Solar Energy & Electrical Salesman with Oman Exp. Interested candidates send their updated CV to: hr.feloman@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

M.Com , 31 yrs of professional experience in accounts & finance of this 22 yrs in Oman, is seeking new opportunity ,experienced in ERP & accounting software , valid D/L. Contact: 97702491,96141754 Email:vijaykumar48@hotmail.com

Indian male, MBA finance, 15 yrs experience in accounting up to finalisation, VAT submission. Immediate joining. Contact: 96290882, Email: ajithakes@gmail.com

Indian male, 10 yrs experienced, Currently in Oman looking for a job in pay roll, accounts, indoor sales and any administrative job. Contact: 99632298. Email: irfanm2804@gmail.com

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

Indian male, experience in basic accounting, stock maintaining, purchasing, customer support & sales. Looking for an suitable position & Can be available immediately.Contact 76873640

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

9 yrs Oman experienced Accountant looking for job. Contact: 93846292

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

Indian male B.Com graduate with over 4+ yrs of experience in accounts looking for job opportunities. Contact: 76226098.ara.raza.akrami98@gmail.com

Indian male (B com) having 2+yrs of experience in India accounts sales looking for suitable placement, can join immediately. Contact: 76324360

Indian (M), B.Com graduate with 2 yrs of experience Accounting in Oman Looking for a suitable job in accounts. Ready to join immediately. Contact: +968 78047716

Indian male Accountant M.Com 12 yrs exp. in Oman with DL/NOC looking for suitable job Contact 95061334. Email: eliyasbeig87@gmail.com

Indian male, accountant, M.com (finance)12 yrs experience in Oman. Handling accounts up to finalization independently. NOC & D/L available. Contact: 99859141

ADMINISTRATION

Indian (F) Admin head and HR manager with 9 yrs of experience, can join immediately. Contact:+968 98735177 Email: chithranair1993@gmail.com LinkedIn: linkedin.com/in/chithra-nair-821177248

Indian (M), Oman experience includes projects, corporate communications, CEO office, operations. Contact: 99283938

Indian male (29) MBA in HR and marketing, BBA., LLB. (Hons) more than 3 yrs experience in Human resource management, administration and operations.Contact: 72864808, 79213394 Email :harisuneethan96@gmail.com.

ARCHITECT

Graduate Architect with valid Oman D/L. Proficient in various Design software. Looking for Architect, interior designer roles. Contact: 93249129, Email: psmenez2015@gmail.com

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

DESIGNER/AUTOCAD D/MAN

16 yrs in animation, 9 as a CG animator, 6.5 as a studio owner. Contact /WA +919830660503, +96899354966.

DRIVER

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Looking for suitable job. Has 10 yrs driving experience. Knows Arabic, English & Hindi. 97133246

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

Looking for driving job have car. Contact: 98586920

Looking for driving job. Contact: +968 99532361

Looking for driving job with 2 yrs experience. Contact: 97995898

EDUCATION/TRAINING

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

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

ENGINEER

Mech, oil & gas, D/MA,QA/QC, NDT. Contact: 76255997

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

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

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

Senior Electrical engineer with 17 yrs of experience in Oman seeks placement. Contact: 98148034

Civil Engineer, 4 yrs experience in construction in India,lab technician, soil, aggregate, cement, concrete, bitumen, rock test & supervision. Contact: 78903049

Civil Engineer with 08 yrs of experience looking job. Contact 92741260. Email akhtareitizaz@gmail.com

13 yrs Oman experienced Site engineer with draftman,have DL seeking for suitable positions. Contact: 76973307

Indian (M), 22 graduate mechanical engineer, fresher Contact: 98070822, 91977187 Email: hariphoenix465 @gmail.com

Sri Lankan Senior quantity surveyor BSc (Hons) in Quantity Surveying. Experienced and detail-oriented with over 12 yrs of professional experience in the construction industry, including 6 yrs in the Gulf (Qatar) and over 6 yrs in Oman. Presently in Oman & can join immediately.Contact +968 98901163 | Email azathaam@gmail.com

Quantity Surveyor (B.Tech Civil), 3+yrs Oman experience. Skilled in Primavera, BIM, revit. Ongoing RICS accreditation, valid Oman D/L. Seeking infrastructure, oil & gas role. Contact: 97649953

Indian male qualified civil engineer with MSc in construction project management (UK), 2 yrs' site supervision experience. Skilled in AutoCAD, project management. UK D/L & presently in Oman & ready to start. Contact: +968 94772353.

IT

Experienced systems administrator with 12+yrs in UAE healthcare. Bachelors in IT with certifications in AWS, Microsoft & Cisco. Skilled in SAP & Dhamani. Currently in Oman seeking new opportunities in Oman. Ph: +968 98377611. Email: rajnkri71@gmail.com

Indian female, 2 yrs experience in web development in service based company. Searching for a suitable position as system engineer. Contac: +968-95220137.Email ashnanidabn@gmail.com

MECHNICAL/ TECHNICAL

Electrical Sr. Supervisor, Indian, Diploma, 21 yrs GCC experience (13 yrs Oman) with D/L, substation projects. Contact: 92396737. Email pramodkp400@gmail.com,

LOGISTICS

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

Indian male, 8 yrs Saudi experienced is looking jobs in tours, logistics, indoor and van sales, car rentals, money exchange and similar jobs in Muscat. Contact: +968 76229214. Email: ebymathewkm1@gmail.com

Indian male looking for a job in logistics,finance,accounts. Currently in Oman. Contact 98269059

MEDICAL

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

MANAGER

Indian project manager seeks job 23+yrs experience in oil & gas, buildings, and infrastructure. Available immediately. Contact: 93932763. Email: captainmahan@gmail.com

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

SALES/MARKETING

Senior Sales executive with 20 yrs experience in Oman with valid D/L, associated with reputed companies, seeks suitable placement. Contact 96440275. Email: divineshiju1@gmail.com.

Indian male, 20 yrs of Oman experience in Business transformation, sales, marketing, finance, supply chain looking for management role. Contact 76492535

Indian male, 08 yrs experience having Oman D/L looking for suitable placement in Sales and Marketing. Contact: 9456 6786

6 yrs experience Indian male looking for job in sales. Contact 78627221

Indian male searching immediate placement in showroom, van sales, factory supervisor or back end support. GSM: 98390419

Sales & marketing manager MBA Indian 27 yrs experience for consumer durables, FMCG. Strong relationships with major retailers across Oman. Contact: 93340457

Indian male 22 yrs, Diploma in Precision manufacturing with VMC knowledge, actively seeking for position in sales, marketing, purchases, administration or any other suitable field. Contact 76778110. Email: aqibkaleem018@gmail.com

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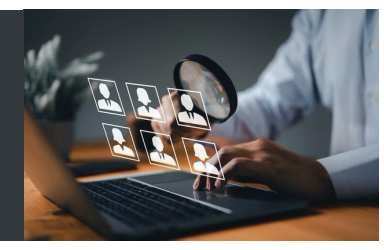

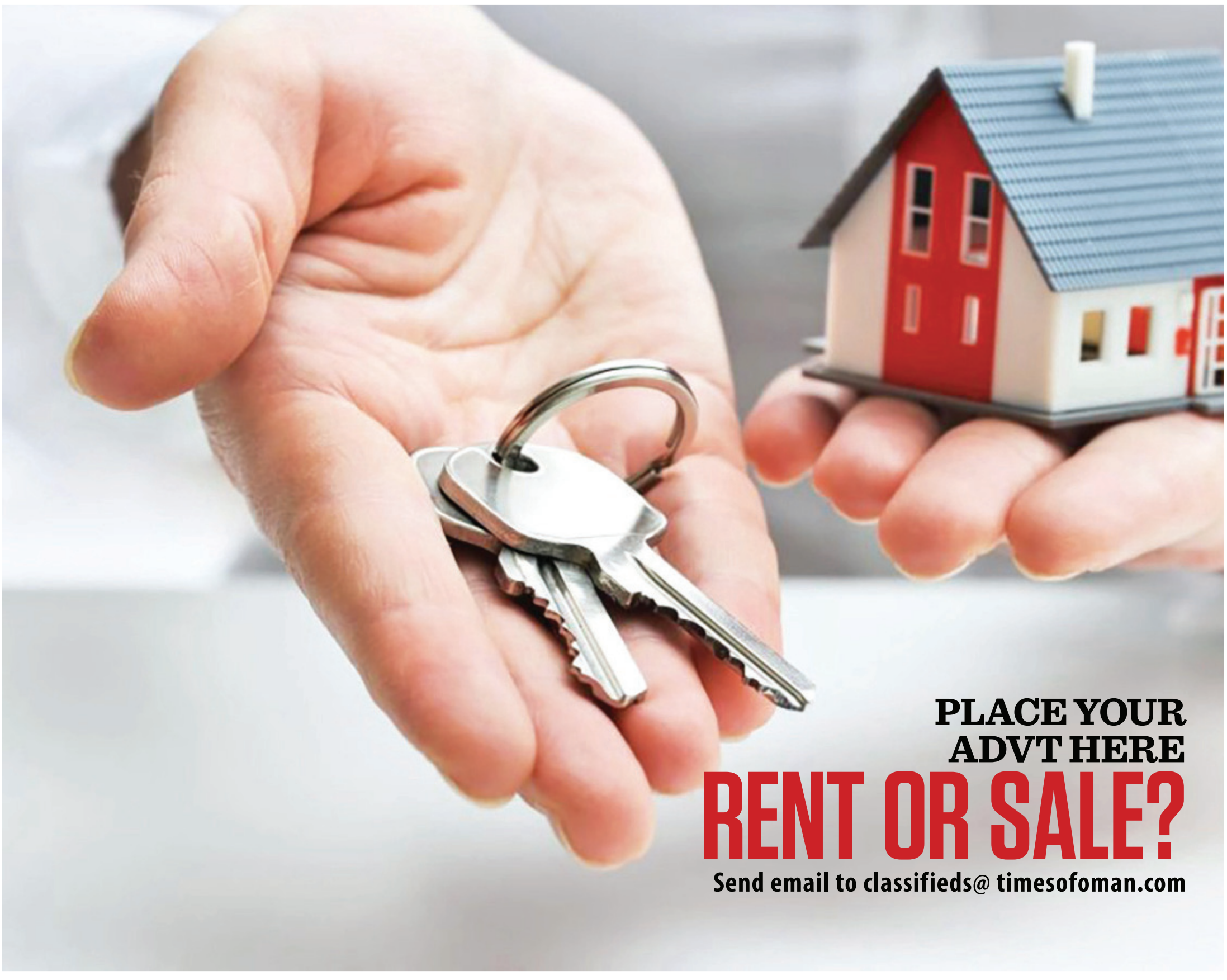

Trump takes credit for brokering Cambodia-Thailand ceasefire

Trump said that he spoke to Cambodian Prime Minister and Thai Acting PM, warning them that no trade deals would be made while the conflict persisted

WASHINGTON, DC: US President Donald Trump touted his role in the Cambodia-Thailand ceasefire, saying that he has instructed his team to restart trade negotiations with the two south-east Asian nations.

Trump said that he spoke to Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet and Thai Acting PM Phumtham Wechayachai, warning them that no trade deals would be made while the conflict persisted.

"Just spoke to the Acting Prime Minister of Thailand and the Prime Minister of Cambodia. I am pleased to announce that, after the involvement of President Donald J. Trump, both Countries have reached a CEASEFIRE and PEACE. Congratulations to all! By ending this War, we have saved thousands of lives, Trump wrote on Truth Social from Scotland.

"I have instructed my Trade Team to restart negotiations on Trade. I have now ended many Wars in just six months -- I am proud to be the President of PEACE!," he added.

"I have instructed my Trade Team to restart negotiations on Trade," he added. Over the weekend, Trump said he told the leaders he wouldn't make a trade deal with the countries "unless you settle the war."

Speaking during a bilateral meeting with UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer earlier Monday, Trump took credit for the diplomatic breakthrough.

"We solved that war, you probably saw it just, came out over the wire, so we solved it through trade. I said, 'I don't want to trade with anybody that's killing each other,' so we just got that one solved," he said.

The ceasefire declaration between Cambodia and Thailand was announced by Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, the current chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), who mediated talks between Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet and acting Thai Prime Minister Phumtham Wechayachai at his official residence near the capital, Kuala Lumpur, CNN reported.

Both sides have accused the other of starting the latest border flare-up and traded blame for the ongoing fighting, which has killed at least 35 people and injured more than 200, according to figures from Thai and Cambodian officials, as per CNN.

The dispute over their border goes back decades.

Reports of fighting dragged on even after the ceasefire was announced.

The head of an evacuation shelter on the Cambodian side, Moun Nara, said that hours after the announcement, "I still hear the sound of the shooting... It's not yet ended yet. Let's wait and see until midnight."

US President Donald Trump announced on Saturday that the Southeast Asian nations had agreed to ceasefire talks, but localised fighting continued throughout the weekend. Trump said he warned the Thai and Cambodian leaders that he would not make trade deals with either country if the deadly border conflict continued. -ANI

MANHATTAN

Gunman opens fire in New York office, killing several

NEW YORK: A shooter opened fire at an office tower in Manhattan in New York City, killing a police officer and at least three civilians, officials said on Monday.

The New York Police Department (NYPD) posted to X that the shooter is also dead and that the scene has been contained.

Police said that the shooter died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound and that authorities were yet to establish a motive. A sixth man is also critically injured.

The shooter targeted a high-rise building that houses some of the country's top financial firms, including hedge fund giant Blackstone and auditor KPMG, and the headquarters of the National Football League or NFL.

At a press conference, New York Mayor Eric Adams said officials are still "unraveling" what took place. "Five innocent people were shot" in addition to the perpetrator, he said.

Adams said "another male is seriously injured, fighting for his life in critical condition." The suspect died of a "self-inflicted gunshot wound," Adams said, confirming earlier reports in US media.

New York Governor Kathy Hochul condemned the "senseless act of violence" that had killed "four New Yorkers, including one of New York's Finest."

"Our hearts are with their loved ones and everyone affected by this tragedy, and we honor the first responders who bravely ran toward danger," Kothul said on X.

NYPD officer killed in shooting emigrated from Bangladesh

The NYPD officer killed in the shooting was identified as Didarul Islam, a three-and-a-half-year veteran of the department who was born in Bangladesh, Adams said.

"He died as he lived. A hero," Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch said at a news conference. He was married with two young boys, and his wife is pregnant with their third child, she said.

Tisch described how surveillance video footage showed a man exiting a double-parked BMW and carrying an M4 assault rifle as he walked toward the building.

He immediately opened fire on the police officer who was killed and shot a woman who tried to take cover.

The suspect then began "spraying" the lobby with bullets, Tisch said, before making his way to the elevator bank, where he shot a security guard behind a security desk. He also shot another man in the lobby, the police commissioner explained.

She added that police had found a rifle case, a revolver, magazines and ammunition in the suspect's car.

The Fire Department of New York (FDNY) said emergency teams received reports of shots being fired at around 6:30pm local time (10:30pm GMT), during rush hour in the busy part of the city.

Gunman had mental health issues, NYPD commissioner says

Police have identified the gunman as 27-year-old Shane Tamura from Las Vegas, with Tisch telling reporters at the news conference that the suspect had a "documented mental health history." But it was unclear what the motive was.

"We are working to understand why he targeted this particular location," Tisch said, referring to the tower the gunman attacked. The area where the shooting took place is popular with tourists and people visiting on business.

The front runner in the race for New York mayor, Zohran Mamdani, said he was "heartbroken" at the news of the "horrific shooting."

NY mayor condemns gun violence

"The horrific crime reminds us all how easy it is to gain access to a gun. Gun violence has scarred so many neighbors and ripped apart too many families across this entire country," Adams said during the press briefing.

According to the Gun Violence Archive, there have been over 250 shootings in the US so far this year in which four or more people have been shot or killed. -DW

INTENSE RAINSTORMS

Heavy rainfall in Beijing kills at least 30 people

BEIJING: At least 30 people have died in the outskirts of Beijing after intense rainstorms battered China's north, state media reported on Tuesday.

"The latest round of heavy rainstorms has left 30 people dead in Beijing as of midnight Monday," state news agency Xinhua said.

Over 80,000 people have been evacuated from the Chinese capital, according to state broadcaster CCTV.

28 deaths were reported in the hilly district of Miyun and two in Yanqing, both of which are on the outskirts of the sprawling city, far from the downtown.

Torrential rain causes floods and landslides in northern China

Intense rainfall lashed northern China over the weekend, including in the provinces of Hebei, Jilin and Shandong. The rains intensified around Beijing on Monday. The Huairou district in the capital's north and Fangshan in the southwest were also badly impacted.

Roads and communication infrastructure were damaged, while over 130 villages were left without power. -DW

RESEARCH STUDY

New cosmic mechanism behind lightning formation discovered

WASHINGTON: A significant breakthrough by Pennsylvania State University researchers, led by Victor Pasko, has provided the first quantitative explanation for precisely how lightning initiates. This groundbreaking work has revealed the powerful chain reaction that triggers lightning.

In the study published on Monday in the Journal of Geophysical Research, the authors described how they determined strong electric fields in thunderclouds accelerate electrons that crash into molecules like nitrogen and oxygen, producing X-rays and initiating a deluge of additional electrons and high-energy photons, the perfect storm from which lightning bolts are born.

"Our findings provide the first precise, quantitative explanation for how lightning initiates in nature," Pasko said. "It connects the dots between X-rays, electric fields and the physics of electron avalanches."

The team used mathematical modelling to confirm and explain field observations of photoelectric phenomena in Earth's atmosphere - when relativistic energy electrons, which are seeded by cosmic rays entering the atmosphere from outer space, multiply in thunderstorm electric fields and emit brief high-energy photon bursts. – WAM

MUNICH RE

Natural disasters cause $131 billion in global losses in first half of 2025

MUNICH: Natural disasters, including wildfires, storms, and earthquakes, have resulted in estimated global economic losses of $131 billion during the first half of 2025, marking the second-highest recorded losses since 1980, according to an analysis by German Reinsurance company Munich Re. The United States (US) suffered the most significant damage, with losses totaling $92 billion due to storms and hurricanes—accounting for approximately 70% of global losses.

The wildfires that ravaged California in January alone caused an estimated $53 billion in damages, making them the costliest wildfire disaster on record.

In Southeast Asia, the deadliest event was the earthquake that struck Myanmar on 28 March 2025, claiming around 4,500 lives.

Munich Re experts warn that weather-related disasters are becoming more frequent and intense due to climate change, highlighting the accelerating impacts of global warming.

The company also noted that the thawing of permafrost in the Alps, driven by climate change, is increasing geological risks in mountainous regions.

While disaster severity has escalated in some areas, Europe experienced relatively limited losses of about $5 billion during the same period.

A notable exception was the landslide in Switzerland's Valais canton in May, which buried the village of Platten and destroyed 130 homes, resulting in approximately $500 million in damages.

Tobias Grimm, Munich Re's chief climate scientist, stated, "Europe was fortunate to avoid major climate disasters in the first half of the year," while cautioning against complacency in climate risk preparedness.

The analysis revealed that insured losses amounted to around $80 billion—significantly higher than the long-term average of $79 billion (adjusted for inflation). The only year with higher losses was 2011, primarily due to Japan's earthquake and tsunami. -DNA

FOOD CRISES

'Worst-case scenario of famine in Gaza'

GAZA: The top international authority on food crises issued a new alert on the situation in the Gaza Strip on Tuesday, warning that there could be "widespread death" by starvation if immediate action is not taken.

The "worst-case scenario of famine is currently playing out in the Gaza Strip," the Intergrated Food Security Phase Classification, or IPC, said.

The alert falls short of being a formal famine declaration but comes amid growing pressure on Israel to take measures to prevent the reported widespread starvation in the Palestinian enclave amid Israel's offensive against the militant group Hamas.

The lack of external access to Gaza stands in the way of a formal famine declaration, which is rare.

However, according to the World Food Programme, one in three people in Gaza is going without food for days at a time, while hospitals are reporting a surge in hunger-related deaths in children under five.

UK prime minister recalls cabinet for an emergency meeting on Gaza

British Prime MinisterKeir Starmer has recalled his ministers from the summer break to discuss a Gaza peace plan.

This comes as Starmer is increasingly under pressure from his own party to recognize a Palestinian state, a move that was included in the Labour Party's election-winning manifesto last year.

The UK plan is said to focus on achieving "sustainable peace" while outlining conditions needed to recognise a Palestinian State.

Last week Starmer said he is "working on a pathway to peace" that will "set out the concrete steps needed to turn the ceasefire so desperately needed, into a lasting peace."

"Recognition of a Palestinian state has to be one of those steps. I am unequivocal about that," he added. -DW

SPORTS

West Indies skipper stays positive as they shift attention to Pakistan

Shai Hope pointed to his side's lack of consistency as the key factor behind the West Indies' series defeat

BASSETERRE: After the West Indies' terrible 5-0 T20I series defeat to Australia, skipper Shai Hope has now shifted focus to the upcoming challenge against Pakistan, according to the official website of the ICC.

Shai Hope pointed to his side's lack of consistency as the key factor behind the West Indies' series defeat.

The skipper expressed disappointment over the batting unit's inability to put together a complete performance, which allowed Australia to comfortably chase down targets in each game.

"I just didn't think we put together a proper batting display. We either started well and finished poorly or the other way around," he said, as quoted from the official website of ICC.

"When you're playing against quality opposition like Australia, you've got to put things together for a more complete game," he noted.

The first three matches of the series were marked by West Indies' batters failing to capitalise on strong starts.

In the opener, they were cruising at 123 for 1 in the 13th over but ended up with just 189. The second game followed a similar pattern--after a promising 63 for 0 start, they could only post 172.

In the third match, a 125-run opening stand went in vain as the middle order failed to fire on a batting-friendly pitch. While in the last two games, West Indies struggled with poor starts that left too much to do for the middle order.

"As a batting group, we didn't really give ourselves the best chance to put a big score on the board consistently. And that's probably where we fell short. We've always been one step behind the eight ball," he said.

A significant aspect of this series was that the West Indies consistently set the target, which goes against the common belief that chasing is usually the easier option in the Caribbean.

"I think here in the Caribbean, we all know the stats show chasing is always the better thing to do," Hope said.

"Whether it's the dew factor or wind factor, you always have that scoreboard in front of you, so you have an idea of how to go about the chase. But it's something that I can't control. Unfortunately, I didn't win any (tosses)... It's just one of those things for us," he added.

The skipper, however, praised his bowling unit for showing great fight in what was a challenging series. He expressed confidence that the upcoming series against Pakistan, starting July 31, would be a valuable opportunity for the team to build on the lessons learnt from the Australia series.

"I think that we're a little bit clearer in the bowling unit," said Shai Hope.

"I still must commend the guys for the effort that they showed in the back end to give ourselves a chance to win the game. But once you don't have that many runs on the board, then you have got to hope everything goes perfectly in the field. It just didn't happen for us," he noted.

"We certainly executed a lot better than we did in the first few games. We've got to put this one behind us and look ahead for the Pakistan series and see where we can get that combination and that success going," he added. -ANI

WOMEN'S EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

England defender Bronze hides her broken leg to help team win

GENEVA: England defender Lucy Bronze revealed that she had been playing the 2025 UEFA Women's European Championship with a broken leg after helping her side retain the title on Sunday night following a nail-biting penalty shootout win against Spain.

The 33-year-old played 598 minutes in the tournament, and will be remembered for slamming home the decisive penalty in the quarterfinal win against Sweden after she had got her team back into the game with a 79th-minute goal, with England two goals down and seemingly heading out.

That game also saw her tightly pulling strapping around her upper thigh during a break in play in the closing minutes, but she was still able to play in the semifinal win over Italy.

Bronze also played 105 minutes of Sunday's final before suffering a knee injury that forced her off in tears. After Chloe Kelly scored the decisive goal in the shootout, Bronze made a shock admission that she had been playing with a broken leg.

"I actually played the whole tournament with a fractured tibia, but no one knew," said Bronze in a post-game interview. -Xinhua

AFTER INDIA SERIES

Nat Sciver-Brunt regains top spot in ODI rankings

DUBAI : A change at the top of the ODI batter rankings, with England's Nat Sciver-Brunt being rewarded for her good form against India, as she reclaimed the No 1 position, according to the official website of the International Cricket Council (ICC).

Sciver-Brunt returned to the top ranking for the first time in 2025 on the back of a series-high 160 runs across three matches on home soil against India, with her innings of 98 in the final match of the series a clear standout.

The England skipper just missed out on a 10th ODI century in the contest as India wrapped up a 2-1 series triumph over her side at Chester-le-Street but regained the No 1 ranking as a result of the 105-ball knock in the unsuccessful run chase.

It is the first time Sciver-Brunt has held the top ranking in 2025, with the 32-year-old having first reached the No 1 spot for ODI batters in July 2023 and then remained inside the top five behind the likes of South Africa captain Laura Wolvaardt and India's Smriti Mandhana in recent times.

Mandhana drops one spot to second after totalling 115 runs across the three matches against England, while India teammates Harmanpreet Kaur (up 10 spots to 11th) and Jemimah Rodrigues (up two places to 13th) make some ground following some decent efforts during the series.

There is also some movement for a host of Ireland players following the first two matches of their ODI series at home against Zimbabwe, with star all-rounder Orla Prendergast leading the way in all three rankings categories.

Prendergast gains 12 spots to move to equal 22nd on the list for ODI batters after an unbeaten 67 in the second match of the series in Belfast, while she also rises 10 places to jump to 33rd on the rankings for ODI bowlers following a tidy spell in that same contest against Zimbabwe.

Ireland teammate Arlene Kelly (up four spots to equal 30th) makes some gains for ODI bowlers following a two-wicket haul in the series opener with Zimbabwe, with England spinner Sophie Ecclestone and Australia all-rounder Ash Gardner remaining in the top two places on the rankings for ODI bowlers.

Prendergast also makes up three rungs to move to 10th on the list for ODI all-rounders that is headed by Gardner, while Ireland skipper Gaby Lewis jumps four spots to 14th on the list for T20I batters following a pair of half-centuries against Zimbabwe in Dublin. -ANI

FORMER CRICKETER

Doesn't reflect well on Stokes' team: Former England cricketer on handshake row

MANCHESTER : Former cricketer Mark Ramprakash was critical of India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja and England players' confrontation on the final day of the fourth Test at Old Trafford in Manchester.

In the final moments of Day 5, drama unfolded after India fought with every ounce of strength to keep the series alive courtesy of Ravindra Jadeja's (107*) and Washington Sundar's (101*) gritty 203-run unbeaten partnership.

With the draw looming large, England captain Ben Stokes went to the Indian pair to offer his hand to call the end of the contest.

With Jadeja on 89 and Sundar on 80, the southpaws refused to accept it. Shortly after the drama, England bowled, tossed up, and delivered through Harry Brook, and Jadeja dispatched the ball for a maximum to bring up his fifth Test century.

Mark gave his take on the entire exchange of words and felt it didn't reflect well on Stokes and his team. He even questions if England stood in India's place, what course of action would they have chosen?

"You have to wonder if England had a player on 90 not out, would we have continued. We hear about England players being very proud on being on the honour boards at Lord's and other grounds because those milestones are huge achievements. I can understand where India were coming from," Mark told Sky Sports Cricket.

A statement from Stokes was caught on the stump mic as he said, "Jaddu, do you want to get a Test 100 against Brook & Duckett?" Jadeja responded to the English skipper's comment and said, "What do you want me to do, just walk off?" Zak Crawley, who stood close to the crease, chipped in, saying: "You can, just shake your hand."

"The stump microphone and words don't reflect well on Ben Stokes' team, who, let's be fair, are doing a fantastic job of reinvigorating Test cricket. They are playing wonderfully well. The cricket has been on such high class that it is a shame to dwell on it," he added.

After Washington brought up his maiden Test hundred, the match eventually ended as players walked back.

India head coach Gautam Gambhir was questioned about the incident after the game, and he clarified his stance with a simple reply.

"If someone's batting on 90 and another on 85, don't they deserve their centuries? Would England have walked off if their own players were close to milestones? No. Our boys weathered the storm. They earned those tons. We're not here to please anyone," Gambhir told reporters at the post-match press conference. -ANI

ROUND-UP

Foton Auman EST M delivers reliable performance for intercity freight

Designed specifically for intercity freight operations, this medium-duty truck combines strength, efficiency, and driver comfort in one reliable package

MUSCAT: A powerful and well-engineered solution, the Foton Auman EST M is the perfect choice for commercial use and businesses that rely on dependable transport.

Designed specifically for intercity freight operations, this medium-duty truck combines strength, efficiency, and driver comfort in one reliable package. With its perfect weight and capacity, it is ideally suited for companies prioritising long-term performance and durability.

At the heart of the Auman EST M is the Cummins ISD270 50 engine. This 6.7-litre, six-cylinder diesel unit produces 245 hp and delivers peak torque of 970 Nm. Featuring water cooling, turbocharging, intercooling, and direct injection, the engine ensures consistent performance under a wide range of operating conditions. Whether navigating congested highways or tackling steep gradients, it is engineered to deliver both power and fuel efficiency.

The truck is matched with a FAST 8-speed manual transmission that offers smooth gear changes across various terrains. Its gear ratios provide the flexibility needed for both low-speed torque and high-speed cruising. A robust 430 mm single-disc dry clutch transfers power efficiently, supporting the vehicle under substantial loads during extended journeys.

In terms of physical dimensions and load-bearing capacity, the Auman EST M is purpose-built for commercial demands. It measures 10,695 mm in length, 2,487 mm in width, and 2,790 mm in height, with a wheelbase of 6,100 millimeters. With a curb weight of 5,600 kilograms, it is capable of carrying a rated payload of 13,900 kilograms and supports a gross vehicle weight of 19,500 kilograms. The front axle accommodates up to 6.5 tonnes, while the rear axle can handle 13 tonnes.

Its safety features are comprehensive, the vehicle includes drum brakes with air cut-off functionality and an engine exhaust brake for added control on slopes. Anti-lock braking (ABS) and a driver's airbag seat contribute to safer operation. For added comfort, the cab is fitted with an air-suspended driver's seat, air conditioning, power windows, and a reverse parking sensor. Entertainment and connectivity are supported through a media system with radio, MP3, and USB compatibility.

A 260-litre fuel tank enables long-range operation between refuelling stops. Foton supports the vehicle with a three-year or 100,000 km warranty, which can be extended to five years or 300,000 km.

The Foton Auman EST M offers a complete freight solution that delivers strength, reliability, and thoughtful design across every kilometre travelled.

RECOGNITION

Euromoney names Bank Muscat Best Digital Bank in Oman for 2025

MUSCAT: In line of the Bank's customer-centric vision and its commitment to providing the best digital banking services to customers, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, has been honored with the Best Digital Bank in Oman Award at the Euromoney Excellence Awards 2025.

These awards recognize the pioneering roles of institutions in providing top-tier and innovative digital banking services that aim to enhance the experience of customers. The recognition of the Bank came post careful evaluations and discussions with specialists in this field from around the world.

On this occasion, Abdullah Hamood Al Jufaili, Assistant General Manager -Digital Banking at Bank Muscat, said: "We are pleased to have wonthe Best Digital Bank in the Oman Award, which reaffirms our commitment to satisfying customers' current needs and keeping pace with global trends.

Prestigious

"We would like to extend deep thanks and appreciation to Euromoney for awarding Bank Muscat this prestigious award. The Bank's commitment to modern digital developments coincides with the Sultanate's efforts to encourage the creation of a digital society and keep pace with global technological progress. The Bank is working to implement a plan and strategy to enhance its leading role in this field by launching several projects and initiatives that contribute to providing the best digital services to our valued customers.

Various digital platforms

Currently, many customers rely on the Bank's various digital platforms and mobile banking application, which allow them to access the banking services offered to them smoothly and quickly. Bank Muscat continues to make further efforts to improve benefits and facilities to enhance the banking experience for customers and meet their current aspirations and needs.

Abdullah Al Jufaili further added:"This accolade reflects the Bank's dedication to implementing its customer-centric strategy and its tireless efforts to create various notable development indicators during its digital transformation journey.

The Bank is constantly keen to develop the package of banking services and facilities it offers to customers through the Bank's digital platforms. These services are available at the Bank's branch network distributed across the Sultanate, which currently amounts approximately 190 branches including Meethaq Islamic Banking branches.

The Bank also offers the solutions and services around the clock through over 900 devices, including ATMs, cash deposit machines, and self-service kiosks. Bank Muscat is continuously committed to employing digital transformation concepts in line with Oman Vision 2040, seen in the Bank's ongoing launch of a diverse package of banking services and products for various customer segments. We would like to thank all our customers for their continued confidence in the Bank's digital solutions and services."

Significant impact

Given the significant impact of digital transformation and changes on the range of banking services provided to customers, Bank Muscat constantly upgrades its digital platforms to increase operational efficiency.

Within this framework, Bank Muscat offers customers a range of distinguished and enhanced online and mobile banking services and solutions tailored to customer needs. For example, customers can use these platforms to conduct various transactions, including applying for credit or prepaid cards, money transfers, investment solutions, insurance products, bill payment, checkbook requests, account opening services and other services.

TEASER IMAGE

iCAUR Brand Night: All-new mid-to-large SUV set for cool debut

MUSCAT: iCAUR has recently unveiled a teaser image of its all-new mid-to-large SUV. The vehicle features a boxy silhouette with a rugged profile, its sharp contours highlighted by dramatic interplay of light and shadow, sparking bold visual imagination. According to official sources, the SUV will make its global debut at the iCAUR Brand Night in Dubai on August 1.

As iCAUR's first mid-to-large SUV, the model embodies the brand's J-Style category innovation. Its retro-inspired silhouette collides with modern technology to create a boxy stance that makes a visual impact. This distinctive design language resonates deeply with the global young and young-at-heart audience's affection for classic off-road aesthetics, while also capturing the dynamic spirit of contemporary style, echoing the rising international trend toward rugged, stylish SUVs.

For decades, iconic models have set the benchmark in the global mid-to-large SUV segment with their formidable performance. But the new generation is no longer satisfied with these old-school classics. Today's young and young-at-heart users seek cool design, intelligent experiences and a vehicle that stands out both on the dunes and in the city.

They want a cool player, one that unleashes wild power in the desert, delivers warmth during family camping trips and turns heads on urban streets.

As iCAUR's strategic model for the global market, this all-new mid-to-large SUV is born from a deep understanding of evolving user needs. In the Middle East

and other key regions, SUVs of this size are not just essential for family travel, they also embody off-road culture and social connection. From conquering complex terrains and adapting to extreme climates to providing space for multi-member journeys, these factors remain central to user decision-making. iCAUR's new SUV is purpose-built for full-scenario adaptability, backed by solid technical foundations to meet the expectations of users worldwide.

A true hardcore SUV that earns its place in the global market always speaks through capability. This all-new mid-to-large SUV is built on iCAUR's industry-leading platform, purpose-developed for future mobility. Centered on full-scenario adaptability, the platform is engineered to flexibly support diverse powertrains and intelligent systems, while leaving ample room for continuous evolution. The SUV meets today's demands for both off-road adventure and family use, while keeping pace with the evolving expectations of young users for cutting-edge technology.

This forward-looking design is a direct reflection of iCAUR's commitment to category innovation. iCAUR continues to connect with young and young-at-heart users through personalised expression. With this new mid-to-large SUV, the brand aims to carve out a new path in the hardcore SUV segment, where off-road capability coexists with a bold, trend-driven attitude.

Notably, the vehicle's range-extended system is designed to address some of the most pressing user pain points in today's market. Engineered for long range and low energy consumption, this power solution offers an innovative alternative, avoiding the range anxiety often associated with EVs in high-temperature regions while delivering greater efficiency than traditional internal combustion vehicles. Its strong adaptability to areas with limited charging infrastructure positions it as a powerful contender in the mid-to-large SUV segment, which has long been dominated by models known for their reliability.

It is reported that ICAUR will launch two models during the event, 03T REEV and the V27,powered by industry-leading powertrain technologies at the Middle East Brand Night on August 1. This launch marks a significant milestone in iCAUR's deepening commitment to the Middle Eastern market, representing a strong push by the brand to enter the mainstream mid-to-large SUV segment. When the young-at-heart lifestyle meets classic off-road heritage and category innovation integrates closely with regional needs, this SUV has the potential to redefine the value standards of the global mid-to-large SUV market.

In Oman, ICAUR vehicles will soon be distributed by New World Autos, a Saud Bahwan Group Company.

LIMITED OFFER PERIOD

ahlibank announces exclusive 20% discount at Lulu Hypermarket for its credit cardholders

MUSCAT: Reinforcing its customer-centric philosophy and ongoing commitment to delivering tangible value to credit cardholders, ahlibank has announced an exclusive limited-period offer in partnership with Lulu Hypermarket.

The offer extends a 20% instant discount to customers using ahlibank credit cards at Lulu Hypermarket's in-store cash counters, official website, and mobile application during the limited offer period from 1 to 2 August. Designed to make routine purchases more rewarding, the offer allows customers to enjoy up to OMR 10 off per transaction, applicable on grocery items with exclusions on electronics, home appliances, and other non-grocery categories.

The offer reflects ahlibank's

broader strategy of designing targeted campaigns that ease essential household expenses, particularly in high-frequency categories such as groceries. In doing so, the bank not only amplifies customer purchasing power but also delivers immediate, practical value on everyday spending.

Furthermore, such initiatives strengthen the bank's ongoing commitment to building lasting customer relationships anchored in relevance and trust. By tailoring offers that resonate with varying customer lifestyles, from families managing household budgets to individuals seeking financial flexibility, ahlibank fosters deeper engagement and encourages continued loyalty across its comprehensive suite of products and services.

Lulu Hypermarket, known for its extensive network, diverse product range, and strong market presence, represents a trusted partner for ahlibank in delivering such impactful initiatives. By collaborating with retail leaders who share a customer-first ethos, ahlibank ensures that its cardholders consistently benefit from exclusive market-leading privileges that distinguish its credit card portfolio in an increasingly competitive financial landscape.

Through its consistent efforts, ahlibank remains committed to anticipating the evolving needs of its customers by continuously innovating its offerings and forging meaningful partnerships. Through a combination of forward-looking strategies and customer-oriented initiatives, the bank seeks to create long-term value and cement its position as a preferred financial partner within the community.

ROUND-UP

Al Kiyumi Electric unveils new showroom in the heart of Ruwi

The newly opened showroom reinforces the company's commitment to providing high-quality electrical products and solutions to customers across Oman

MUSCAT: Al Kiyumi Electric and Trading Co LLC marked a significant milestone with the launch of its new showroom at the Old ROP Building on Honda Road, Ruwi.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by key members of the leadership team including Chairman Adil Al Kiyumi, Managing Director Mohamed Al Kiyumi, General Manager Tushar Hamlai, Assistant General Manager Sushil Hamlai, and Branch Head of the new showroom Zahir Majid Al Kiyumi.

The newly opened showroom reinforces the company's commitment to providing high-quality electrical products and solutions to customers across Oman. With this addition, Al Kiyumi Electric and Trading Co LLC further strengthens its presence in the Sultanate, adding to its growing network of branches in Sohar, Bidaya, Barka, Ruwi, Salalah, Duqm, Nizwa and Sinaw with the main corporate office being at Azaiba.

Al Kiyumi Electric and Trading Co. LLC is the exclusive distributor in Oman for globally recognized electrical brands such as EATON, PCE, HAWKE, and CALTER, offering a wide range of high-performance electrical components and solutions catering to both industrial and commercial needs.

Speaking at the launch, Chairman Mr Adil Al Kiyumi said: "This new showroom in Ruwi reflects our vision of being closer to our customers and supporting them with reliable products and dedicated service. As a proud Omani company, our continued expansion is a testament to the trust our clients place in us and our commitment to excellence in the electrical trading sector."

The event highlighted Al Kiyumi's focus on customer satisfaction, accessibility, and operational excellence. The new showroom is expected to play a key role in servicing contractors, retailers, and end-users in the bustling commercial hub of Ruwi.

About Al Kiyumi Electric and Trading Co. LLC

Established as a leading provider of electrical solutions in Oman, Al Kiyumi Electric and Trading Co. LLC specializes in the trading of a wide range of electrical items from globally reputed brands. The company also operates a Switchgear Manufacturing Unit in Sohar and a Plastics Manufacturing Unit in Buraimi. Al Kiyumi has expanded into the media sector with its office located at Azaiba. Additionally, it runs an oilfield trading unit at Ghubra and a separate trading division under the name Mehabright Trading, based on Honda Road in Ruwi.

SYSTEMS INTEGRATION & MANAGEMENT

SIM: A new era of smart, integrated project delivery begins

ABU DHABI: Douglas OHI announced the official launch of Systems Integration & Management (SIM), a wholly owned subsidiary delivering end-to-end Piping, Mechanical, Electrical, and Instrumentation (PMEI) solutions across Oman, the United Arab Emirates, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Originally registered in 2018, SIM was acquired by Douglas OHI as part of a strategic move to expand its regional capabilities and integrated service offering. The formal launch under Douglas OHI now brings renewed focus, investment, and market visibility, establishing SIM as a trusted and capable delivery partner.

Built on over 45 years of operational and technical excellence, SIM combines deep engineering expertise, regional experience, and a forward-looking approach to serve the evolving needs of the oil & gas, petrochemical, desalination, and industrial sectors.

Developed in response to growing demand for high-quality, integrated engineering and construction services, SIM has been purposefully designed with agility and innovation at its core. Leveraging advanced digital tools, predictive analytics, and automation technologies, SIM supports EPC contractors and subcontractors in delivering smarter, faster, and more efficient projects.

"The launch of SIM is a strategic milestone in our continued evolution as a group," said Aaron Hennessy, Group Managing Director, Douglas OHI. "By integrating SIM's capabilities into our wider portfolio, we're enhancing our ability to deliver complete solutions, strengthening our responsiveness, technical depth, and long-term value to clients."

Although wholly owned by Douglas OHI, SIM will operate as a standalone entity, ensuring the flexibility and autonomy required to respond to market needs with precision and focus.

With multidisciplinary expertise spanning design, execution, commissioning, and asset management, SIM delivers fully integrated solutions aligned with the highest safety, quality, and environmental standards. From sophisticated control systems to predictive maintenance, SIM connects every stage of project delivery to drive efficiency and performance.

"SIM is built for today's industrial challenges," said Anil Kumar, Regional Director. "With a focus on collaboration, digitalisation, and technical excellence, we are well-positioned to support complex projects across the region while maintaining an uncompromising commitment to safety, sustainability, and operational excellence."

Rooted in a values-led culture of innovation and teamwork, SIM empowers its people to think boldly, act decisively, and deliver meaningful outcomes for clients and communities.

As SIM officially launches under Douglas OHI, it represents more than a new subsidiary, it signals a bold step forward in shaping the future of integrated construction solutions in the region.

LED Daytime Running Lights (D.R.L)

Smart Key with Remote Engine Start

Integrated 4" Cluster + 12.3" Audio Display

- K4 2.0 L 150 HP / 6200 RPM
- Wide Sunroof (Out Sliding Type)

Designed to be noticed. Built to be remembered. The Kia K4 is smart where it matters, powerful when it counts and always ready when you are.

Reliable International Automotive LLC. C.R. No. 1707183, Wattayah: 24579846/47; Al Mawelah: 93204360; Barka: 93201347; Nizwa: 99874368; Sohar: 92837722; Sur: 25546190/98235042; Rustaq: 92869449; Salalah: 23211460/99884217. Saturday Showroom Timing: Muscat, Al Mawelah, Barka, Sohar & Salalah from 9.00 AM to 1.00 PM. The Vehicle Specifications may vary as per the grade chosen. Pictures, Colours & Features may physically differ in actual.

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