

Times

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50

YEARS OF LEGACY

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OMAN LAUNCHES SURVEY TO BRIDGE GAP BETWEEN EDUCATION AND JOBS

The survey aims to bridge skills gap and bolster economic competitiveness

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MoHERI) on Sunday launched the Employers Survey 2025, a strategic initiative aimed at aligning higher education outcomes with the evolving needs of Oman's labour market. The survey, spearheaded by MoHERI's Department of Statistics and Information, will gather data from establishments that have employed higher education graduates between 2018 and 2025, focusing on the first six months of the current year.

The primary objective of the survey is to assess the compatibility of academic qualifications



with the skills and competencies required across various economic sectors. By identifying these requirements, the project seeks to inform educational policies that are responsive to market demands, thereby enhancing the employability of graduates and contributing to the nation's economic growth. Dr. Rahma Ibrahim Al Mahrouqi, Minister

of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, emphasised the significance of the survey in the context of Oman Vision 2040.

She said: "The initiative represents a fundamental pillar in devising educational policies that are closely linked to labour market needs, ultimately enhancing the competitiveness of the national economy." **>A2**

OMAN Draft Law on Civil Society Institutions

1 The Health and Social Committee of the Shura Council held a meeting on Sunday that was dedicated to continuing the deliberations on the Draft Law on Civil Society Institutions, referred by the government. **>A2**

OMAN National Health Insurance Platform

2 The Financial Services Authority (FSA) yesterday launched the National Health Insurance Platform (Dhamani), offering digital services to regulate the Omani health insurance market. **>A5**

WORLD Pope Francis delivers Easter Sunday wishes

3 Pope Francis delivered his Easter message from the balcony of St Peter's Basilica to thousands of people gathered in Vatican Square. The head of the Roman Catholic Church was recently discharged from hospital. **>A7**



HM TO VISIT RUSSIA TODAY

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik along with a high-ranking official delegation will go on a state-visit to Russia today. This comes following an invitation received by His Majesty from President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation. The visit comes within the context of promoting relations between Oman and the Russia in a manner that meets the aspirations of the two countries. The leaders will discuss areas of cooperation in various spheres and means of boosting them to serve the joint interests.



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Shura Council deliberates on Draft Law on Civil Society Institutions

The draft law comprises 83 articles distributed across six chapters, regulating the administrative, organisational, and financial aspects of civil society institutions in the Sultanate of Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Health and Social Committee of the Shura Council held its eleventh meeting of the second regular session (2024–2025) of the Tenth Term (2023–2027), on Sunday morning, under the chaired of H.E. Mansour Zaher Al-Hajri, head of the Committee, and in the presence of their Excellencies members of the committee.

The meeting was dedicated to continuing the deliberations on the Draft Law on Civil Society Institutions, referred by the government as part of the legislative process stipulated in the Law of the



Council of Oman. The draft law comprises 83 articles distributed across six chapters, regulating the administrative, organisational, and financial aspects of civil society institutions in the Sultanate of Oman.

The Committee's commitment to promoting community partnership and drawing on the views of relevant stakeholders, the Committee hosted representatives from the Omani Journalists Association, the Omani Film Society, the Omani Theatre Association,

and the Omani Society for Writers and Literati. The discussions focused on several provisions of the draft law, particularly definitions and the legal framework governing associations.

The meeting witnessed extensive discussions on the importance of enacting a comprehensive law that organises the functioning of civil society associations of all types, emphasising the need to take into account the specific roles and mandates of each organisation.

This would ensure clarity of roles and enhance complementarity among efforts.

The discussions also addressed the regulatory relationship between the competent ministry and civil society institutions, the role of public benefit associations, as well as the relationship between the law's executive regulations and the internal bylaws governing associations post-enactment.

The Committee also reviewed observations and recommendations from the competent ministry

on various articles of the draft law.

This legislative initiative aligns with the Sultanate's efforts to enhance the environment for civil work, regulate the establishment of associations and their funding mechanisms, and ensure transparency in their governance—enabling them to efficiently fulfil their developmental and social roles.

It also seeks to reinforce principles of governance, broaden societal participation, and promote synergy between civil society institutions and state entities.

DIGITAL ECONOMY STUDY TEAM

Digital economy's contribution to ICT sector in Oman reviewed

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Digital Economy Study Team held its fourth meeting today, chaired by Abdullah Zaher Al-Hinai, Head of the Team, with the participation of Their Excellencies the team members.

During the meeting, the team hosted a number of specialists from the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI), who presented a visual briefing on the national accounts related to the digital economy's contribution to the telecommunications and information technology sector in the Sultanate of Oman.

The presentation covered



several key topics, including the number of institutions classified under the economic activity, the detailed level adopted in national accounts, data sources and calculation methodology, as well as major economic indicators at current prices for the year 2022. It also included a review of relevant

developmental aspects in the field.

Team members called for the involvement of the NCSI in committees concerned with future foresight, strategic planning, and economic diversification projects. They emphasised the importance of data accuracy and its critical role in supporting informed decision-making and enhancing the efficiency of the national economy.

This meeting is part of the team's ongoing efforts to support the Sultanate's drive toward strengthening the digital economy, in alignment with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

SHURA COUNCIL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Behavioural problems among school students discussed

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Education Committee hosted Nasr Khamis Al-Sawai, the Public Prosecutor, and a number of specialists from the Public Prosecution, to discuss and address behavioural problems among school students and juvenile-related cases.

The meeting, chaired by Jamal Ahmed Al-Abri, head of the Committee, and in the presence of their Excellencies members of the committee, reviewed key issues and incidents within the school environment that have reached judicial authorities. It also examined statistics related to juvenile cases



and their distribution across the governorates.

The meeting highlighting the importance of cooperation between relevant authorities to effectively address and reduce these issues. The meeting also emphasised the vital role of public

awareness, with efforts required from both government institutions and civil society organisations. The role of families in promoting ethical behaviour among school students was also strongly underlined.

This meeting falls within the Committee's ongoing commitment to follow up on all educational and pedagogical aspects within schools across the Sultanate of Oman. It aims to identify challenges facing the educational environment and develop insights and recommendations, in partnership with concerned institutions, that contribute to enhancing the quality of education.



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EMPLOYERS SURVEY 2025

Evidence-based policy-making

< FROM A1 The launch event featured a visual presentation detailing the survey's objectives and implementation stages, underscoring the government's commitment to evidence-based policy-making.

By systematically collecting and analysing data on graduate employment, the survey aims to provide actionable insights that will guide curriculum development, training programmes, and strategic planning within higher education institutions.

The latest initiative reflects a proactive approach by the Omani government to address the challenges of workforce development and to ensure that the nation's educational system is aligned with its economic aspirations. Stakeholders across the education and employment sectors are encouraged to participate actively in the survey to contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the labour market dynamics. — ONA



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BILATERAL TIES

Foreign Minister receives written message from Saudi counterpart

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, received a written message from Prince Faisal Farhan Al Saud, Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia dealing with bilateral relations between the two countries.

On Sunday
The message was handed over to the Foreign Minister when he received on Sunday Ibrahim Saad Bishan, Ambassador of the King-

dom of Saudi Arabia to the Sultanate of Oman.

Fraternal relations
During the meeting, both sides underscored the depth of the fraternal and historic relations between Oman and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
They also expressed their keenness to enhance joint cooperation and coordination in pursuance of the two countries' leaderships' directives. — **ONA**



ROYAL OMAN POLICE

Three arrested in Oman for smuggling

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Three Yemenis were arrested for attempting to bring in large sums of money without declaring into the Sultanate of Oman. Royal Oman Police (ROP), said in a statement: "Sarfait Customs arrested three Yemeni nationals coming from the Republic of Yemen to the Sultanate of Oman for attempting to bring in large sums of money without declaring them. Legal procedures are being completed."



COMMENTARY

The universal words



SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

Long time ago, one of my teachers said in the class that simple words can change the world. As a ten year old, I was not sure how it worked. As a child, all I understood was that we got a slap from our teachers or parents if we did not say the right words. But now I know that people respond to compliments or contempt. Contrary to what most of us believe, there are no empty words.
If you didn't mean what you said then be sure your remarks made a significant difference to someone.
We see such examples all the time but it only bothers us when we are on the receiving end. I was attending a meeting with a CEO of a large corporate business and this man has obviously perfected the art of saying the right words for the right occasion. He paid compliments every time one was needed and tactfully disagreed when he had a different opinion. When we were alone, I told him about my observations. His explanation was not surprising at all. "I was the subject of ridicule when I was younger and I know how it feels to be run down by words," he told me.
How many would remember to use their bad experience to enlighten up the life of others? One would argue that saying the right words all the time is stressful.
But how you say things, in my opinion, reflect your character. You could pretend to be polite and considerate

but the mask would soon slip off to reveal the real you.
In my younger days as a communication engineer, I had a supervisor whose communication skill was not enviable. He was rude, loud, self-opinionated and would often drive to tears many young recruits. His bad attitude never caught up with him until he retired. He knew that someone would have to make a farewell speech on his last day at work. He never expected anyone to have any kind words and he braced himself for the worse.
However, he was taken completely by surprise when words of warmth were attributed at him. For a man who had a lot to say during his carrier, he was lost with words in his last day at work.
He was so taken aback that he was forced to shed a tear. The irony was that, this man, who drove to tears a few hundreds of people in his career, was finally at the receiving end. Did we at last have our own back? No, we did not see that way.
However, for many years I thought we could have been accused of insincerity and that we did not mean a word in that speech. But now, as I write these words, I am convinced that we were completely honest. We understood his problem he had with words and it was because he was not comfortably being around with people. Perhaps somewhere in our subconscious we looked deep at his good side and finding the right words was a simple exercise. I still see him around and perhaps he has mellowed with old age.
Perhaps, the simple words we casually prepared for him on his last day in the office changed his life. I shall never know the truth but then so many other things are hidden from sight and we are not meant to know. But what we are meant to know is when to put our words in good use so we can get the best out of people. It is that simple.
Ignore the bad side and look hard for the good one and trust your words to lighten up someone's day.

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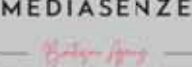
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RUSSIAN CITIZENS EXPRESS ADMIRATION FOR OMAN

MUSCAT: Beauty, diversity in its landscapes, a blend of history and progress, and the preservation of its cultural heritage, identity, reputation, security, and justice—these are the qualities that have drawn visitors from various world countries to the Sultanate of Oman for many purposes, such as tourism, education, residence, and investment.

In this context, some Russian citizens have highlighted these reasons for visiting Oman, a country located in the southeastern Arabian Peninsula with its warm waters overlooking the Arabian Sea and the Sea of Oman.

Marta Paramonova, a student at the Sultan Qaboos Institute for Teaching Arabic to Non-Native Speakers in the Wilayat of Manah (A'Dakhiliyah Governorate), said: "I first learned about Oman while preparing a postgraduate research paper. I was amazed by how it keeps pace with modern advancements, especially in education and renewable energy. Later, some of my friends encouraged me to visit this country, which motivated me to learn the Arabic language there."

She added: "What stands out about Omani citizens is their deep connection to their history—something many nations have lost. My friends and I were impressed by Oman's restoration of heritage sites like Nizwa Fort and the old neighborhoods and markets, which retain their historical spirit. Another marvel is Bahla, with its restored fort and markets, and how these landmarks are economically utilized."

Marta also spoke about the Omani national identity she experienced during her stay, including moral and social principles, mutual respect, tolerance, and the preservation of customs and traditions. In the Governorate of Dhofar, Oman News Agency (ONA) met two Russian tourists from St. Petersburg.

Inna expressed her admiration by saying: "This is my first visit to Oman, and I am dazzled by everything in this truly remarkable country. But what impressed me most are the Omani people—their kindness, and cooperation that surpassed all expectations. I urge everyone to visit Oman."

She described the breathtaking sunsets on Dhofar's beaches, some overlooking historical landmarks like Al Baleed Archaeological Park, home to ancient South Arabian ruins, the Museum of the Frankincense Land, Sumhuram Park, and the Zheng He Memorial.

On her turn, Yelena said: "This is my first time in Oman, though I have visited another Arab country before. But here—it's like a fairy tale. If you want an authentic Eastern fantasy, come to Oman."

She spoke about exploring Dho-



“Oman is an exceptionally friendly country, a sentiment shared by all nationalities here. Many Russians have lived here for over 10–15 years.”

Dr. Igor Egorov
Head of the Board of Russian Compatriots in Oman



“This year, we held the second Spring Festival in Muscat, featuring 100 elite Russian artists in dance, music, and singing, alongside Omani performers. The event, supported by Omani ministries, included a trade exhibition, traditional attire, and Russian cuisine.”

Anna Popova
Head of the Russian House in Oman



far's tourist sites, including desert life, and praised Omani cuisine. She said: "If you truly want to know a country, you must visit it—not just read about it online. Oman's hidden depths are fascinating, and I hope to keep visiting it every year."

Dr. Igor Egorov, Head of the Board of Russian Compatriots in Oman affirmed that the Russians feel deeply welcomed in Oman. He said: "Oman is an exceptionally friendly country, a sentiment shared by all nationalities here. Many Russians have lived here for over 10–15 years."

He underlined some of the

shared values like tradition, family cohesion and respect for heritage as key attractions. He added: "The community enjoys Oman's natural beauty—camping in deserts, mountain climbing, and beach relaxation. Group trips to Jabal Shams (Sun Mountain), Wadi Bani Khalid, Salalah, and Al Jabal Al Akhdar (Green Mountain), especially during the rose season, are popular."

He pointed out that over 50,000 Russian tourists visit Oman annually, particularly after direct flights were introduced. Conversely, the number of Omani tourists to Russia are rising, he added.



As an investor, Egorov assists Russian businesses in sectors like oil, gas, food, healthcare, and advanced technology, with growing interest in tourism and real estate.

On her turn, Anna Popova, Head of the Russian House in Oman, discussed bilateral cultural, tourism, educational, and business initiatives.

She said: "This year, we held the second Spring Festival in Muscat, featuring 100 elite Russian artists in dance, music, and singing, alongside Omani performers. The event, supported by Omani ministries, included a trade exhibition, traditional attire, and Russian

cuisine."

She highlighted mutual warmth between the two cultures saying: "Russian visitors are enchanted by Omani hospitality, while Omanis in Russia marvel at its cultural richness."

"Oman's nature and safety are its treasures," she Anna, who pointed out that the Russians are drawn to its uncrowded beaches, majestic mountains, and tranquility.

She further added that a business forum for Omani and Russian entrepreneurs is planned for upcoming 7 May.

Anna noted Oman's emergence as a preferred Arabic-learning

destination for Russians, replacing other countries, thanks to specialized Omani universities. Conversely, interest in learning Russian among Omanis and expats is rising.

She said: "With Oman Air's year-round flights to Russia, tourism is set to flourish. Russians adore the Royal Opera House Muscat, not just for Russian performances but for its global arts."

Anna concluded: "These efforts reflect a shared vision to strengthen bilateral ties through arts, education, and economy, building on historical relations now renewed with promising opportunities."—ONA



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Regulatory framework for govt digital transformation issued

The framework sets out clear roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders involved in executing digital projects and initiatives

MUSCAT: Eng. Said Hamoud Al Maawali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, on Sunday issued Ministerial Decision No. (108 /2025), enacting the Regulatory Framework for Government Digital Transformation.

The framework aims to regulate governance and establish the organisational structure for the Government Digital Transformation Programme, 'Tahawul', while also



defining the controls for implementation across the government sector. It sets out clear roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders involved in executing digital projects and initiatives.

The regulation provides a structured framework to strengthen digital governance and coordinate digital transformation efforts across government entities by clearly defining the roles, authorities and responsibilities of all concerned parties. It also promotes

The regulation outlines the Ministry's responsibilities in overseeing the Government Digital Transformation Programme. These include setting operational pathways for the programme, identifying priority initiatives, projects and services, and preparing and issuing relevant policies, frameworks, controls and guiding manuals. The Ministry is also tasked with monitoring the compliance of concerned entities, providing support across all areas of digital transformation and following up on implementation plans by developing the necessary programmes to ensure progress.

The regulation also sets out the obligations of government entities in implementing digital transformation projects and initiatives. Key requirements include establishing a supervisory committee responsible for meeting digital transformation objectives, monitoring the implementation of the IT governance policy issued by the Ministry and preparing and updating relevant plans. Entities must also implement approved digital initiatives, fully digitise essential services and make them

available through approved digital channels. Additionally, the regulation calls for enhancing integration, facilitating access to shared digital resources and systems, encouraging community participation in the development of digital services and policymaking and ensuring that all beneficiaries including persons with disabilities and the elderly can access digital information, services and applications.

The regulation also includes controls for delivering digital government services, along with mechanisms to improve user satisfaction.

The Regulatory Framework for Government Digital Transformation will help align efforts and unify direction toward a well-structured national digital transformation. It is based on a unified legislative framework that ensures coordination among state administrative units and promotes compliance with national policies. This, in turn, will strengthen collaboration among stakeholders, simplify work procedures through modern digital systems and support the goals of Oman Vision 2040 in achieving sustainable development. — **ONA**

DIGITAL EFFICIENCY



National health insurance platform 'Dhamani' unveiled

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Financial Services Authority (FSA) on Sunday launched the National Health Insurance Platform (Dhamani), offering digital services to regulate the Omani health insurance market.

Dhamani is an integrated electronic platform that facilitates the exchange of health insurance-related data and claims between insurance companies and private health institutions.

Abdullah bin Salem Al Salmi, CEO of the Financial Services Authority, explained the regulatory role of the platform at a press conference held by the Authority to unveil details of the Dhamani platform.

Al Salmi highlighted the platform's features and advantages in advancing the health insurance system in the Sultanate of Oman and its positive impact on all parties involved in the insurance process, from the policyholder to private and insurance health institutions.

He emphasised that the Dhamani platform represents a qualitative leap in the development of the Omani health insurance market by leveraging digital transformation to regulate this vital sector, facilitating citizens' access to health services and enhancing the principle of insurance inclusion.

He noted that the platform



has proven its digital efficiency and effectiveness during its pilot phase.

He explained that the number of health insurance transactions completed through the platform by insurance companies and private health institutions reached approximately 3 million transactions during the first quarter of 2025. The platform has also been linked to all insurance institutions, approximately 33 private hospitals, and 3 private health

complexes to date.

Al Salmi emphasised that this platform will address many of the challenges facing parties involved in the insurance relationship, ensuring the provision of high-quality health insurance services and prompt payment of dues to private health institutions by insurance companies. It will also provide a database of diseases, diagnoses, and treatments, enabling relevant authorities to conduct the necessary studies to develop the health sector.

He indicated that the platform provides its services to more than 650,000 health insurance policyholders, with an exchange rate of data and information reaching 40,000 transactions per day.

Al Salmi explained that a small fee will be imposed on hospitals to finance the development of the platform and cover its construction costs, which amounted to OMR1.6 million.

MINISTRY OF HERITAGE AND TOURISM



Oman marks World Heritage Day

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman on Sunday celebrated World Heritage Day under the theme "Heritage Resilience in the Face of Disasters and Conflicts".

The event seeks to raise public awareness about the value of cultural heritage and the need to protect it against challenges that arise from natural factors or human activities.

Eng. Ibrahim Said Al Kharousi, Undersecretary for Heritage at the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, said that the event seeks to highlight efforts made by the authorities concerned to preserve the national heritage and pass it on to future generations.

The celebration programme included an operetta presented by students from the University of Nizwa, folklore performances by traditional Omani troupes, theatrical shows by students from schools in the governorates of Muscat and A'Dakhiliyah Governorate and an art exhibition. — **ONA**

HEALTH MINISTRY

National Risk Register meeting

MUSCAT: The first meeting of the National Risk Register was held on Sunday. It meeting was organised by the Ministry of Health, represented by Centre for Emergency Management.

The meeting aims to enhance emergency and health risk management. It also reviewed risk mitigation procedures and examined risk management mechanisms and methodologies in line with global standards.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Mohammed Saif Al Busaidi, Director of the Centre for Emergency Management at the Ministry of Health, stated, "This strategic project represents a significant step toward building an integrated national system for monitoring, analyzing, and assessing health risks."

The meeting featured several visual presentations on risk man-

agement, environmental hazards, risks related to zoonotic and plant diseases, human infectious disease risks, and cybersecurity threats.

The session was attended by Dr. Said Harib Al Lamki, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health for Health Affairs and head of the health sector in the National Risk Register, along with representatives from health and academic institutions. — **ONA**

**Ministry of Defence**

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FOUR-DAY EVENT



Programme on principles guiding state’s domestic, foreign policy begins

MUSCAT: The Foreign Ministry is hosting the 9th edition of a Programme on principles guiding the state’s domestic and foreign policy. The launch ceremony was held under the auspices of Sayyid Suleiman Al Busaidi, Deputy Secretary-General of the Council of Minis-

ters. The programme continues until 24 April. The programme, organised by the Ministry of Labour in cooperation with the Foreign Ministry, seeks to enhance regional and international cooperation and contribute to raising the Sultanate of

Oman’s global standing. The four-day programme will highlight the experiences of ambassadors, officials and decision-makers. It deals with diplomatic immunities and privileges, seniority and precedence, the Sultanate of Oman’s foreign policy approaches, the 11th Five-Year Plan and institutional excellence. It will also offer an introduction to international relations and the difference between politics and diplomacy.

— ONA



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SUSPECT FLED

Gunman kills 2 in central Germany

BERLIN: Two people were shot and killed on Saturday in central Germany, police said. A large group of police has closed off the area in Bad Nauheim, which is about 35 kilometres (21 miles) north of Frankfurt. “As things stand at the moment, there is no danger to residents or the public,” a police spokesperson said. Initial reports indicated that the suspect fled the scene. “So far, we have indications of one perpetrator, but cannot rule out the possibility that other people are also involved in the crime,” police said, according to dpa. They did not provide any details about the background of the crime or a possible motive. No information about the victims has been released. -DW

SECOND ROUND OF TALKS

Iran hails ‘useful’ nuclear talks with the US in Rome

ROME : The second round of talks between the United States and Iran over the latter’s nuclear program concluded in Rome on Saturday, with signs of cautious optimism. Iran’s Foreign Minister, Abbas Araghchi, said that there is “movement forward” and that the two sides have reached an “agreement on some principles.” Saturday’s negotiations followed the first round of talks held last week in Oman’s capital, Muscat. The US delegation was led by Special Envoy Steve Witkoff, while Iran was represented by Foreign Minister Araghchi. Oman once again played the role of mediator, as reported by CNN. After four hours of negotiations, Abbas Araghchi commented on the tone of the talks, stating, “I can say that there is movement forward. We’ve reached a better understanding and agreement on some principles and goals in these Rome negotiations.” The third round of talks will be held next Saturday, according to Iran’s Foreign Ministry spokesperson. Oman’s Foreign Ministry confirmed that the meeting would take place in Muscat, CNN reported. Araghchi also informed that the talks between technical experts will begin on Wednesday. The US has been against Iran’s

nuclear plans, wanting Iran to stop production of highly enriched uranium, which it believes is aimed at building an atomic bomb. On the other side, Iran has doubled down on its right to enrich uranium, but has suggested it is willing to negotiate some compromises in return for sanctions relief to ease the pressure on its hard-hit economy. According to an Iranian official, the two sides did not communicate directly and sat in separate rooms with Oman’s Foreign Minister Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi serving as a mediator, CNN reported. After the first round of talks last week, Steve Witkoff outlined his stance on the ongoing negotiations with Iran and asserted that any final deal with Iran must align with President Trump’s vision for peace, stability, and prosperity in the Middle East. “A deal with Iran will only be completed if it is a Trump deal. Any final arrangement must set a framework for peace, stability, and prosperity in the Middle East -- meaning that Iran must stop and eliminate its nuclear enrichment and weaponisation program. It is imperative for the world that we create a tough, fair deal that will endure, and that is what President Trump has asked me to do,” Witkoff wrote on X. -aw



PM MODI’S VISIT

India to deepen defence, trade partnership with Saudi Arabia

NEW DELHI: India and Saudi Arabia are expected to strengthen their defence cooperation and expand their economic partnership, currently valued at nearly USD 43 billion during Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to the Kingdom on April 22 and 23, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said on Saturday. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said that defence cooperation has grown rapidly in recent years, with joint exercises, training, and defence trade gaining momentum. “The Defence Partnership has witnessed several firsts in the past few years. We had the first ever joint land forces exercise between the two countries in 2024. I think it’s called the ‘Sada Tanaseeq’. Two editions have been held of joint naval exercises. We’ve had regular



exchanges on training and capacity building and staff talks are taking place across all the three services,” he said. According to the MEA, India is also emerging as a key defence supplier to Saudi Arabia. “Our cooperation has also expanded on

the defence industry front. And India is gaining space as an important supplier of defence stores to Saudi Arabia. And a special agreement on the export of munitions to the Kingdom worth about USD 225 million was signed last year,” he added. The two countries will also discuss deepening economic engagement during the visit. The value of bilateral trade in FY 2023-24 was nearly USD 43 billion. Saudi Arabia is India’s fifth-largest trading partner overall, and India is the Kingdom’s second-largest trading partner overall,” Misri said. India’s imports from Saudi

Arabia stood at USD 31.42 billion, while exports were valued at USD 11.56 billion. “Apart from trade, investment also continues to do well. And there are investments across different sectors such as energy, steel, chemicals, food sector, telecommunications and startups,” he added. Energy will also be a key topic during the talks. “The value of the energy trade in FY 23- 24 was USD 25.7 billion. The Kingdom remains India’s third largest crude and petroleum sourcing destination... and also the third largest source of LPG for India, accounting for almost 18 per cent of the total LPG imports of India,” Misri said. The visit will include the second summit-level meeting of the Stra-

Asia, especially the Israel-Palestine conflict, would also feature prominently in the bilateral discussions. “For discussions on the situation, about on West Asia, the current state of affairs between Israel and Palestine, and obviously on that front, also, we’ve seen developments of some concern. Saudi Arabia plays a very important role in addressing this issue,” he said. -ANI

Participants accused the president of trampling on civil liberties and the rule of law, citing concerns over immigration, federal job cuts, economic policies, and other issues

WASHINGTON: Thousands of protestors across the United States rallied once again on Saturday, voicing strong opposition to President Donald Trump’s policies. Nearly a fortnight after the first wave of demonstrations, protesters returned to the streets to express frustration over Trump’s



policies, including the imposition and threats of tariffs, The New York Times reported. However, turnout in cities like New York, Washington, and Chicago appeared smaller than the protests held on April 5. According to an organiser quoted by The New York Times, More than 700 events were planned nationwide, from Jacksonville, Fla., to Los Angeles. Participants accused the president of trampling on civil liberties and the rule of law, citing concerns over immigration, federal job cuts, economic policies, and other issues. The protestors gathered outside the White House, repeatedly

chanting “shame!” to voice their dissatisfaction with the Trump administration. Thousands more marched from the Washington Monument, many demanding that the administration bring back Kilmar Armando Abrego Garcia -- a Maryland man wrongfully deported to El Salvador, The New York Times reported. **Undocumented immigrants** “I am worried that the administration would not stop at deporting undocumented immigrants without due process and would imprison and deport U.S. citizens,” said Aaron Burk, who joined the rally in Washington. He added,

“Where does it stop?” he said. Burk also said that his daughter is transgender and that he was most concerned about the dehumanisation of minorities, The New York Times reported. In Jacksonville, Fla., hundreds took to the streets to protest a number of causes, including the president’s attacks on the LGBTQ community and the government’s desire to alter the Endangered Species Act. “We are losing our country,” said one demonstrator, Sara Harvey. In the last few months, she said she had protested the federal job cuts led by Elon Musk and joined the nationwide protests on April 5. -ANI

MARITIME SECURITY

PM Modi’s Saudi visit to focus on West Asia

Pope Francis delivers Easter Sunday wishes

The 88-year-old head of the Roman Catholic Church was recently discharged from Rome’s Gemelli Hospital



VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis on Sunday delivered his Easter message from the balcony of St Peter’s Basilica to thousands of people gathered in Vatican Square. The 88-year-old head of the Roman Catholic Church was recently discharged from Rome’s Gemelli Hospital, where he spent five weeks receiving treatment for an infection that led to double pneumonia. On Easter Sunday he was able

to offer the “Urbi et Orbi” blessing to the “City [of Rome] and to the World”. Only the pope can offer this blessing which includes the offer of an indulgence, a remission for the effect of sins. Ahead of his Easter Sunday appearance, the Pope had a brief private meeting with Vice President JD Vance. “The meeting, which lasted a few minutes, provided an opportunity to exchange Easter greetings,” said the Vatican in a statement.

Vance who has been visiting Italy with his family this weekend had posted on X earlier on Friday, “It was an honour to visit the Vatican during Holy Week, and a blessing to experience the beauty and reverence of the Good Friday liturgy at St Peter’s Basilica.” According to media reports, including CNN, Pope Francis, who is from Argentina, appeared without the nasal cannula he had been using to receive oxygen. Cardinal Angelo Comastri,

Archpriest emeritus of Saint Peter’s Basilica and Vicar General emeritus of Vatican City, led the liturgy in the Square and read the homily of Pope Francis prepared for the occasion as per Vatican News. Pope Francis dedicated his Easter Urbi et Orbi message to calling for peace worldwide, for global disarmament and for the release of prisoners. In a text of the Pope’s Easter Sunday message released by the Vatican says that he spoke first of the Holy Land, “wounded by conflict”, and home to an “endless outburst of violence”. He extended his closeness, in particular, to the people of Gaza and to the Christian community in the enclave where “the terrible conflict continues to cause death and destruction and to create a dramatic and deplorable humanitarian situation.” “I appeal once again,” Pope Francis said, “for an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, for the release of the hostages... and for access to humanitarian aid.” -ANI

US strikes Houthi-linked sites in Yemen, 3 killed

SANAA: The United States has carried out 13 air strikes on Hodeidah’s port and airport, days after strikes on the Ras Isa port, Al Jazeera reported, quoting Houthi-affiliated TV channel Al Masirah. At least three people were killed and four others were injured in the latest strikes on al-Thawra, Bani Matar, and al-Safiah districts in the capital, Sanaa, CNN quoted Al Masirah as saying. This comes after US airstrikes on Yemen’s Ras Isa oil port on Thursday, which resulted in at least 74 fatalities. The Houthis rebels’ Health Ministry spokesman, Anees Alasbah, said that the strikes carried out on Thursday also wounded 171 people. The US Central Command (CENTCOM) confirmed that the strikes were aimed at cutting off the Houthis’ fuel and revenue sources, describing the operation as an effort to target the economic power of the Iran-backed group. In a post on social media on Thursday, CENTCOM said, “To-



day, US forces took action to eliminate this source of fuel for the Houthis. The objective of these strikes was to degrade the economic source of power of the Houthis.” Meanwhile, Yemen’s Houthi rebels have vowed to continue their military operations against Israel and the United States “Yemen will not back down from continuing its support operations for the Palestinian people until the Israeli aggression on Gaza stops and the siege is lifted,” the Houthi-controlled armed forces in Yemen said in a statement, as reported by CNN. -ANI

RASTRIYA PRAJATANTRA PARTY

Nepali royalists call for protest in Kathmandu

KATHMANDU: Nepal’s royalist party, the Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP), has announced to break into the restricted zone near the parliament as it calls for a protest on Sunday afternoon. The RPP is staging a protest demanding the reinstatement of the monarchy and the release of their party leaders. “We are ready to be arrested by staging a demonstration in the restricted area. Rajendra Lingden is ready to be jailed,” the party president Rajendra Lingden confirmed to ANI over the phone. The party

is also planning to hold protest assemblies in all 77 districts on April 22. Last week, the party president during the party’s Executive Committee meeting had accused the government of infringing on citizens’ fundamental rights by arbitrarily designating prohibited areas. “We are being pushed into a corner. That’s why we’ve decided to protest in restricted zones,” said Lingden. The RPP has also decided to wage a legal and political struggle for the unconditional release of

party leaders Rabindra Mishra and Dhawal Shumsher Rana. Mishra and Rana were arrested following a deadly violence on March 28, for inciting the mob. The violence had claimed the lives of two people, injuring over 100, as the capital witnessed arson and vandalism. As the fifth largest party in the Nepali parliament, now in opposition, has announced that it will breach the restricted zone. The Ministry of Home Affairs has also issued a warning. “Legal action would be taken against those violating the law or inciting

public disorder,” the ministry said in the warning released on Saturday night. “Any activity that encourages the violation of the constitution or existing laws or spreads anarchy in society would not be tolerated,” the ministry warned. Along with this, it urged all individuals to refrain from ‘anarchic, provocative, or illegal acts’ that could incite violence. The government has designated areas surrounding the federal parliament building at New Baneshwar, among various

other places in Kathmandu, as restricted zones. The RPP has not only planned to stage a show of strength at Bijulibazar, near the parliament building, but has also announced to breach the restriction at Baneshwar. The party, which has been demanding the reinstatement of a constitutional monarchy and the establishment of Nepal as a Hindu state, staged a protest assembly at Balkhu as designated by the government on April 8. Republicans of the present time, whereas the public will be the sov-

ereign, the King will be a parental institution, a directly elected Prime Minister, a sovereign Hindu state, federal governments replaced with powerful local bodies and a strong central government.” Formed in the 1990s after the lifting of the ban on the formation of political parties by the then-monarchical system, the Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) has since then served as a force always supporting the Kingship. It has also been taking part in periodic elections and presenting its demands forth. -ANI



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Born in Oman, Heard Everywhere

Al Harthy, Rossi secure first pole of FIA WEC season at Imola

Composed and confident performance by Omani star in LMGT3 class at the 2025 FIA World Endurance Championship

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's Ahmad Al Harthy put in a composed and confident performance at Imola circuit on Saturday to help secure the LMGT3 class pole position for the second round of the 2025 FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC), alongside Team WRT team-mate Valentino Rossi.

Driving the No.46 BMW M4 LMGT3, Al Harthy was the quickest in the main qualifying session at the Autodromo Enzo e Dino Ferrari, clocking a best time of 1:42.731. His lap not only topped the session but placed the car 0.7 seconds ahead of the nearest com-



petitor - ensuring a place in the all-important Hyperpole shootout.

Rossi then took the wheel for the Hyperpole session and, despite

briefly slipping down the order, produced a strong lap of 1:42.355 in the final minutes to claim the LMGT3 pole for the 6 Hours of Imola.

Earlier in the weekend, the Team WRT trio of Al Harthy, Rossi, and Kelvin van der Linde showed consistent pace in both

Friday practice sessions. They placed third in each run with times of 1:43.453 and 1:43.186, staying within reach of the frontrunners.

The final practice on Saturday morning saw them finish sixth.

Supported by OQ Group, Sohar International, Omantel, Oman LNG, BMW Oman, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, and Experience Oman, Al Harthy entered the 12-minute qualifying session with the aim of progressing to Hyperpole.

He steadily improved across his laps - from an early 1:48.984 to a 1:43.718, before lowering the mark to 1:43.032 and finally 1:42.731 to top the session convincingly.

Rossi's run in Hyperpole followed a similar pattern. He opened with a 1:43.836 before improving to 1:43.011, and then pulled out his best lap of 1:42.355 near the end, securing pole for the No.46 BMW.

Al Harthy said: "I'm very pleased with how qualifying went - being quickest in my session and then Valentino doing a great job in Hyperpole. It's a strong result for the team and a positive step with BMW and WRT in the FIA WEC. It's fantastic to achieve our first pole position with BMW and WRT in FIA WEC and it's obviously the best place to start the race, I really am delighted.

"Thanks to all our supporters and partners for standing with us. Now the focus is on executing the race well - Imola is a challenging circuit and we'll need to stay sharp."

IPL 2025

Kohli, Padikkal fifties power RCB past PBKS for fifth away victory



MULLANPUR: Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) made it five wins in five away games in IPL 2025, chasing down a modest target with authority to beat Punjab Kings (PBKS) by seven wickets on Sunday.

The victory lifted Royal Challengers Bengaluru to ten points and third place on the table.

Virat Kohli once again proved to be the lynchpin of the chase, finishing unbeaten on 73 off 54 balls, while Devdutt Padikkal broke a 22-innings drought with a fluent 61 off 35 deliveries.

The pair added 103 runs for the second wicket to set up the chase perfectly as RCB crossed the line with seven balls to spare.

Earlier, PBKS got off to a brisk start after being asked to bat, racing to 62 in the powerplay with Prabhsimran Singh taking on the RCB bowlers.

But once the field spread out, RCB's spinners took charge. Krunal Pandya (2 for 25) and Suyash Sharma (2 for 26) stemmed the flow of runs and picked up crucial wickets in the middle overs.

The pressure built steadily as PBKS were held to 157 for 6, despite a late push from Shashank Singh, who stayed unbeaten on 31.

RCB's death bowling was particularly impressive, with Josh Hazlewood and Bhuvneshwar Kumar applying the choke in the

final overs and giving away just 27 runs in the last four.

In reply, Phil Salt fell early once again, dismissed by Arshdeep Singh for the fourth time in T20s. But Kohli and Padikkal soaked up the pressure and paced the innings smartly.

Kohli, in particular, was clinical in his approach. He began with a flurry - five boundaries in his first 20 balls - then shifted gears, taking singles and giving Padikkal the strike.

The duo took RCB to 109 before Padikkal departed, followed by captain Rajat Patidar shortly after for 12.

But Kohli stayed composed, bringing up his fifty off 43 balls and accelerating just enough in the final phase to guide RCB home.

He finished with seven fours and a six in a measured knock that underlined his mastery in run chases.

This was Kohli's 67th fifty-plus score in the IPL - the most by any batter in tournament history - and his effort ensured RCB's perfect away record remained intact.

Brief scores: Punjab Kings 157 for 6 (Prabhsimran Singh 33, Shashank Singh 31*; Krunal Pandya 2-25, Suyash Sharma 2-26, Romario Shepherd 1-18) lost to Royal Challengers Bengaluru 159 for 3 in 18.5 overs (Virat Kohli 73*, Devdutt Padikkal 61; Yuzvendra Chahal 1-36). - Agencies

ODI

Pakistan will not travel to India for Women's World Cup



LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Mohsin Naqvi has reiterated that Pakistan would not be travelling to India for the women's ODI World Cup later this year.

Pakistan will play their matches at a neutral venue, following the hybrid model that was adopted by the two boards earlier this year. Naqvi said that the BCCI and the ICC would decide what the neutral venue will be.

"Just like India didn't play in Pakistan in the Champions Trophy and were allowed to play at a neutral venue [Dubai], whatever venue is decided, we will play [there]," Naqvi said. "When there is an agreement, it has to be adhered to."

According to the hybrid model,

India and Pakistan are going to play their matches at neutral venues if one of the two countries were to host an ICC event - this is valid till 2027. India will host the women's World Cup from September 29 to October 26, with Australia the defending champions.

Pakistan hosted and won all their five matches in the recent women's ODI World Cup Qualifiers.

They beat Ireland, Scotland, West Indies, Thailand and Bangladesh and will join the ODI World Cup for which hosts India, England, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa and Sri Lanka had directly qualified based on their standings in the ICC Women's Championship. - Agencies

PREMIER LEAGUE

Arsenal trounce Ipswich to delay Liverpool title party

LONDON: Arsenal denied Liverpool the chance to win the Premier League title on Sunday as they comfortably beat 10-man Ipswich 4-0 at Portman Road on Sunday.

In their first match since seeing off Real Madrid to reach the Champions League semi-finals, the Gunners produced another excellent display against an Ipswich side on the verge of relegation.

Arsenal dominated from kick-off and took the lead in the 14th minute when Bukayo Saka's cross into the box was helped on by a slight touch from Martin Odegaard and turned into the net by Leandro Trossard.

They doubled their lead after more good work by Saka, whose cross into the area was cleverly flicked on by Mikel Merino for Gabriel Martinelli to tap into an empty net.

Ipswich's task was then made even harder when Leif Davis was shown a red card in the 32nd minute for a poor tackle on Saka.



Trossard added his second of the game in the 69th minute when he finished smartly from inside the area after a well-worked Arsenal short corner.

Substitute Ethan Nwaneri

scored a fourth for Arsenal with a deflected shot two minutes from time.

The Gunners had good chances to score more - one for Merino and two for Saka - and Mikel Arteta



would have expected them to be taken.

This was Ipswich's seventh home defeat of 2025, which leaves them clinging on to their Premier League status for one more week.

This victory delayed Liverpool's inevitable title win but the focus for the Gunners is on their Champions League campaign.

Arsenal take on Crystal Palace next but these games feel like a

build-up to their season-defining Champions League assignment.

At Craven Cottage, late goals from teenager Tyrique George and Pedro Neto gave Chelsea a dramatic 2-1 derby win at Fulham on Sunday to boost the Blues' hopes of Champions League football next season.

Having failed to win in their previous eight Premier League away trips, Chelsea's travel woes seemed set to continue when Alex Iwobi fired Fulham into a first-half lead.

The hosts held that advantage for more than an hour but 19-year-old George came off the bench to score his first league goal with a fine first-time strike from the edge of the area.

And, in virtually a carbon copy of December's thrilling finale at Stamford Bridge, when Fulham scored twice late on to snatch a 2-1 win, it was the Blues' turn to complete a stirring comeback in stoppage time. - Agencies

ODP, ELEVATUS PARTNER

Oman Data Park (ODP) announced a strategic partnership with Elevatus, a global leader in smart recruitment technology, to modernize and enhance its talent acquisition capabilities

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



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MONDAY, APRIL 21, 2025



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) general index (30) gained 1.3 points, comprising a rise by 0.03% to close at 4306.40 points, compared to the last session, which stood at 4305.05 points.



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CBO enhances direct debit service to support digital transformation

These improvements, made in both operational and technical aspects, facilitate the issuance, processing, and fulfillment of the Direct Debit instrument through electronic means.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: As part of its continuous efforts to develop the banking sector and payment services in line with the latest advancement and innovations, and to support digital transformation, the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) has implemented several enhancements to the Direct Debit service. These improvements, made in both operational and technical aspects, facilitate the issuance, processing, and fulfillment of the Direct Debit instrument through electronic means. The objective is to streamline the use of this service, and to enhance its accessibility for individuals and businesses.

CBO has also collaborated with the relevant authorities to establish the necessary legal steps for



beneficiaries to take criminal actions in the event of the returned irrevocable Direct Debit instrument. The National Payment Systems Law (NPLS) No. 8/2018 provides the criminal protection for beneficiaries in the case of Direct Debit instrument return similar to that afforded to cheques.

It is worth noting that, CBO in collaboration with the banking sector, has introduced the Direct Debit System and the Mandate Management System as soft-launch in 2021. While Licensed banks have taken various measures to offer Direct Debit services to their customers, they faced some challenges during the implementation due to the service being relatively new. However, CBO has addressed all these challenges leading to the completion of all the necessary technical and

operational requirements.

Direct debit is considered a payment instrument in which a person (the beneficiary) withdraws a certain amount from the bank account of another person (the payer), and thus it falls within the required payment instruments and is valid for payment in all transactions in the business sectors and between individuals.

NPSL has introduced this instrument and provided it with the necessary legal framework and criminal protection as Chapter Six of the law included provisions that regulate direct debit and define the roles, duties and rights of all parties dealing with it, while Article (32) of the law defines direct debit as "a payment order issued to debit the payer's bank account for the benefit of the beneficiary, and on request by the latter"

The NPSL also provides the necessary criminal protection for this instrument, as Article (63) stipulates that "Whoever deliberately issues an irrevocable direct debit order without a payable or the consideration is insufficient, or who prevents the bank from paying its value by issuing an order not to pay to the beneficiary without a legitimate reason, shall be punishable by a term of imprisonment of not less than (1) one month but not exceeding (2) two years and a minimum fine of not less than OMR (100) hundred but no exceeding OMR (500) five hundreds . The beneficiary who claims through the civil right might request the court to allow him a compensation of an amount equivalent to the unpaid amount of the irrevocable direct debt order and the returns on this amount calculated from the

day of presentation of the order for payment, as well as the compensation where appropriate". In addition to that, Article (38) prescribes the statutory limitation period applicable to direct debit. Also, the Executive Regulation of the NPSL issued by the Board of Governors of the Central Bank of Oman pursuant to Resolution No. 1/2019 sets out more detailed provisions for the direct debit service, including the operational procedures for issuing and processing.

As a result of providing the legal and operational framework for direct debit, it is expected to reduce the use of cheques, especially in recurring payments such as monthly installments to finance the purchase of various goods and services, and this shall reduce consequence the risks associated with payment by cheque such as forgery and fraud, as well as speeding up the process of collecting payments. Direct debit is an additional payment instrument in the Sultanate of Oman that contributes to providing an appropriate payment mechanism for the introduction of various products and services in the national economy. In order to encourage the public to use direct debit services and enable their expansion in various fields, CBO has decided not to impose any fees on direct debit transactions until further notice.

Given the significance of Direct Debit service in facilitating the financial transactions between individuals and businesses and promoting the digital transformation witnessed in the Sultanate of Oman across various fields, CBO has launched the electronic authorization for Direct Debit

through electronic banking channels provided by banksand issued the necessary instructions to banks on how to implement this service and ensure its execution in accordance with approved standards. Additionally, several banks have in late 2024 launched the electronic authorization service for direct debit for their customers, and it is expected that other banks will complete the implementation of this service during 2025.

This new service will allow bank customers in the Sultanate of Oman to electronically approve Direct Debit authorization through electronic banking services. Electronic authorization is expected to bring multiple benefits to individuals, businesses, and the financial sector. It offers several advantages compared to the current paper-based system, including reduction of operational costs compared to cheques, increasing efficiency through automated process, minimizing error risks, and enhancing transaction security. Moreover, it will reduce transaction processing time and increase the speed of fund transfers between various parties, and provide opportunities for the introduction of new financial services.

Ahmed Al Musalmi - Governor of CBO - emphasized that CBO is diligently working towards the continuous development of payment systems and services in the Sultanate of Oman.

This effort aligns with global best practices and standards, supporting Oman's Vision 2040 to achieve a society with less cash usage and to ensure that payment systems and services are on par with advanced economies.

DUQM ECONOMIST MAGAZINE

Major developments in special economic and free zones highlighted

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz) has issued the 39th edition of Duqm Economist Magazine, which features a collection of specialised topics highlighting the latest developments and achievements across the special economic zones, free zones and industrial cities in Oman.

The issue reviews the significant qualitative achievements made in 2024, both in terms of the volume of new investments and the expansion of existing projects. It also reaffirms the Authority's continued commitment to cementing its position as one of the main drivers of economic growth in the Sultanate of Oman. On the first pages, Sheikh Dr. Ali bin Masoud Al Sunaidy, Chairman of Opaz, said, "The new Special Economic and Free Zones Law represents a major step forward aimed at strengthening investor confidence, stimulating the business environment, and providing flexible tools that keep pace with the ambitions of the coming phase."

The magazine includes a special interview with Eng. Salim bin Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals, who affirmed the continued efforts to establish an integrated industrial complex to support the energy sector within the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD).

The issue also highlights the growth of total investments in the economic zones, free zones and industrial cities, reflecting investor confidence in these zones as promising investment destinations. It also sheds light on Opaz's efforts to enhance its services for investors through a package of measures aimed at streamlining procedures, alongside the advancement of digital transformation for investor services.

The issue further includes several important topics, such as the localisation of 37 food security projects in Khazaen Economic City during 2024, in addition to the localisation of 9 healthcare projects with a total value of OMR 156 million.

It also includes a survey of students from the College of Economics and Political Science in Sultan Qaboos University regarding their perspectives on the role of economic zones in supporting the national economy.

The issue features a report on the International Monetary Fund's projection of global economic growth reaching 3.3 per cent in 2025, along with inspiring stories of successful projects across various economic fields, and diverse analytical articles addressing current topics in the world of economics. Additionally, the magazine spotlights key developments at Port of Duqm, as well as the progress made by Karwa Motors in its industrial projects.

PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

Muscat to host forum showcasing Oman's investment landscape

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman is set to welcome global attention this April with the launch of the inaugural Advantage Oman Forum, an exclusive two-day business gathering taking place on Sunday 27 and Monday 28 April at the St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort.

Organised by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, represented by Invest Oman, the forum will bring together senior figures from government, international business, financial institutions, and strategic sectors to examine Oman's rising profile as an investment destination and explore new economic frontiers. The forum is held under the strategic partnership of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Sohar International.

The Advantage Oman Forum is expected to play a central role in reinforcing Oman's economic diplomacy efforts and its commitment to attracting high-quality, sustainable investments in alignment with Oman Vision 2040 and the country's Net Zero 2050 strategy. Over the course of two days, the forum will present a comprehensive outlook on Oman's investment opportunities, sectoral competitiveness, and global relevance, particularly in light of its increasing integration within regional and international trade and investment flows.

The programme will feature a series of curated panel discussions,



fireside conversations, and strategic meetings addressing critical global megatrends and their implications for Oman's future. The discussions will explore how sectors such as clean energy, logistics, advanced manufacturing, mining, agri-food, and tourism are being positioned to attract future-ready investment. With sustainability, resilience, and innovation as key themes, the forum will also address how Oman is preparing for a world of heightened economic competition, climate transitions, and rapid technological transformation.

The Advantage Oman Forum will feature a distinguished lineup of speakers representing both regional leadership and global thought. Among them are Abdulsalam Al Murshidi, President of the Oman Investment Authority; Qais Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion; Dr. Said Al Sagri, Minister of Economy; and Salem Al

Mahrouqi, Minister of Heritage and Tourism. From the private sector, high-profile business leaders such as Mohamed Al Abbar, Founder of Emaar Properties; Mohammed Al Barwani, Chairman of MB Holding Group; Mohammed Mahfoodh Al Ardhi, Chairman of Muscat Stock Exchange; and Yussuff Ali, Founder of LuLu Group, will share their strategic insights.

International voices will include Abdulla Al Marri, UAE Minister of Economy; Luigi Di Maio, EU Special Representative for the Gulf Region and former Foreign Minister of Italy; Creon Butler, Director of the Global Economy and Finance Programme at Chatham House; Michelle Karavias, Managing Director and Head of Industry Research at Fitch Solutions; Diana Mangalagiu, Associate Fellow at Said Business School, University of Oxford; and Jonathan McClory, Research Associate at Hertford College, Oxford University. Du-

shyant Thakor Deputy Executive Director at WAIPA, will also offer a global investment promotion perspective. The sessions will be moderated by Dr. Florian Klein, Co-Founder and Managing Partner of ananki.ai GmbH i.G., who will guide the conversation toward actionable strategies in an increasingly complex global economy.

One of the headline sessions will be led by CNN Editor-at-Large Richard Quest, titled "The Shape of Things to Come." The session will explore the megatrends reshaping business and governance, including climate adaptation, renewable energy, AI, and Industry 5.0. It will examine how technologies like edge AI and telemedicine are transforming industries, and how businesses can build resilience amid geopolitical shifts. Framed by global insights and practical strategies, the session will offer a roadmap for thriving in a rapidly evolving world.

The event is not only designed as a convening of high-level minds, but as a platform that allows Oman to actively engage with foreign investors, sovereign funds, and multinational corporations looking to expand their footprint in the region. With a regulatory environment that supports 100% foreign ownership in most sectors, a streamlined investor journey through the Oman Business Platform, and dedicated facilitation by Invest Oman, the Sultanate is offering one of the region's most investor-friendly environments.

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

A'Saffa Foods, up 6.58%, was the top gainer while, Dhofar Insurance, down 9.91%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,306.40 points, up by 0.03% from previous close. The Shariah Index ended up by 0.34% at 392.84 points. A'Saffa Foods, up 6.58%, was the top gainer while, Dhofar Insurance, down 9.91%, 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 864 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 2.66 million, with more than 16.12 million shares changing hands. Out of 56 traded securities, 18 advanced, 18 declined, and 20 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for RO 540K while GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for RO 283K, followed by foreign investors for RO 257K worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 7,578.61 points, up 0.06%. Prices of Oman & Emirates Investment, Bank Nizwa, Taageer Finance, and Ominvest were up by 3.18%,

2.06%, 0.98%, and 0.87% respectively. Prices of Dhofar Insurance, Al Madina Investments, National Finance, Al Sharqia Investment, and Al Anwar Investment were down by 9.91%, 9.43%, 4.03%, 2.78%, and 1.25% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,712.44 points, up 0.07%. Prices of A'Saffa Foods, Galfar Engineering, Al Anwar Ceramics, and Jazeera Steel Products were up by 6.58%, 1.45%, 0.81%, and 0.27% respectively. Prices of Oman Flour Mills, and Oman Cement were down by 3.61%, and 1.76% respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.43% before closing at 1,551.51 points. Prices of Oman Education & Training, Al Suwadi Power, Ooredoo, Phoenix Power, and Al Batinah Power were up by 6.00%, 2.94%, 2.38%, 1.70%, and 1.45% respectively. Prices of Muscat Gases, Muscat Desalination, Renaissance Services, OQ Gas Networks, and Musandam Power were down by 2.27%, 1.52%, 1.00%, 0.78%, and 0.77% respectively. — United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,311.91	4,296.65	4,306.40	4,305.05	1.35	0.03
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,581.25	7,560.18	7,578.61	7,574.43	4.18	0.06
Industry Index	5,734.99	5,707.83	5,712.44	5,708.35	4.10	0.07
Services Index	1,555.36	1,544.89	1,551.51	1,544.89	6.62	0.43
MSX Shariah Index	394.07	391.52	392.84	391.52	1.32	0.34
MSX TR INDEX	6,373.65	6,351.09	6,365.50	6,363.51	1.99	0.03
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,984.73	8,959.76	8,981.60	8,976.65	4.95	0.06
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	7,047.44	7,014.06	7,019.73	7,014.70	5.03	0.07
SERVICES TR IDX	1,977.69	1,964.38	1,972.80	1,964.38	8.42	0.43
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,166.89	1,166.89	1,166.89	1,166.89	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	2,663,735	Trades	864	Market Cap	27,172,535,453	Up	18	Down	18	Equal	20	Sec. Traded	56
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SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 20

ISINSECURITY NAMEVOLUMETURNOVERTRADESOPEN PRICEHIGHLOWCLOSE PR.PREV. CLOSEDIFFDIFF %LAST PR.LAST BIDLAST OFFERPRE VALUEMARKET CAP

REGULAR MARKET

OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	100	41	1	0.405	0.405	0.405	0.405	0.380	0.025	6.579	0.405	0.370	0.400	0.100	45,600,000
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO	100	7	1	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.063	0.002	3.175	0.065	0.062	0.065	0.100	7,921,875
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	672,826	46,588	29	0.069	0.070	0.069	0.070	0.068	0.002	2.941	0.070	0.070	0.074	0.100	50,008,444
OM0000003989	OMINVEST	118,255	20,125	30	0.168	0.172	0.168	0.172	0.168	0.004	2.381	0.172	0.171	0.172	0.100	11,962,408
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	885,580	61,702	23	0.069	0.070	0.069	0.070	0.069	0.001	1,449	0.070	0.069	0.075	0.100	47,242,120
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	57,813	13,359	15	0.230	0.232	0.229	0.232	0.230	0.002	0.870	0.232	0.229	0.232	0.100	21,708,090
OM0000002188	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	64,500	7,994	18	0.124	0.124	0.123	0.124	0.123	0.001	0.813	0.124	0.122	0.124	0.100	27,780,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	325,596	265,534	26	0.816	0.820	0.812	0.819	0.816	0.003	0.368	0.819	0.816	0.819	0.100	61,250,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	1,000	375	1	0.375	0.375	0.375	0.375	0.374	0.001	0.267	0.375	0.374	0.375	0.100	46,836,735
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	40,000	2,280	2	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.000	0.000	0.057	0.000	0.057	0.100	20,290,256
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	28,650	2,356	5	0.084	0.084	0.082	0.082	0.080	0.000	0.000	0.082	0.083	0.082	0.100	16,400,000
OM0000004735	SEMOBOP SALALAH	650	61	2	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.000	0.000	0.094	0.094	0.100	0.100	89,729,763
OM0000004789	MADINA TAKAFUL	15,222	1,173	4	0.078	0.078	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.000	0.000	0.077	0.076	0.077	0.100	13,475,000
OM0000008634	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	798,049	181,901	27	0.229	0.229	0.228	0.228	0.229	-0.001	-0.437	0.228	0.228	0.228	0.100	175,605,600
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	25	5	1	0.214	0.214	0.214	0.214	0.215	-0.001	-0.465	0.214	0.209	0.214	0.100	21,400,000
OM0000003389	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	4,213,088	548,387	76	0.131	0.131	0.130	0.131	0.132	-0.001	-0.758	0.131	0.128	0.138	0.100	866,859,261
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	1,500	389	1	0.259	0.259	0.259	0.259	0.261	-0.002	-0.786	0.259	0.250	0.259	0.100	18,231,010
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	972,736	124,543	69	0.129	0.129	0.128	0.128	0.129	-0.001	-0.775	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.100	554,319,862
OM0000002786	BANK MUSCAT	1,146,800	288,352	16	0.252	0.253	0.251	0.251	0.253	-0.002	-0.791	0.251	0.251	0.251	0.100	1,884,109,683
OM0000003234	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	77,953	23,221	10	0.298	0.300	0.296	0.297	0.300	-0.003	-1.000	0.296	0.296	0.295	0.100	70,213,770
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	4,266	1,673	4	0.398	0.398	0.390	0.390	0.397	-0.007	-1.763	0.390	0.390	0.395	0.100	129,040,357
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO	76,726	5,443	8	0.072	0.072	0.070	0.070	0.072	-0.002	-2.778	0.070	0.070	0.071	0.100	6,300,000
Total	22	9,503,585	1,595,539	369												

Parallel Market

OM0000002580	OMAN EDUCATION & TRAINING INV	3,000	3,098	2	1.030	1.060	1.030	1.060	1.000	0.060	6.000	1.060	1.060	1.030	0.100	74,200,000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	1,065,490	107,408	19	0.098	0.099	0.098	0.099	0.097	0.002	2.062	0.099	0.097	0.099	0.100	221,458,350
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	11,000	661	2	0.061	0.061	0.060	0.060	0.059	0.001	1.695	0.060	0.060	0.064	0.100	87,756,088
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	188,394	13,188	14	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.069	0.001	1.449	0.070	0.070	0.074	0.100	14,209,051
OM0000004348	SMN POWER HOLDING	149,442	31,916	77	0.215	0.220	0.213	0.220	0.217	0.003	1.382	0.219	0.219	0.219	0.100	43,919,832
OM0000003281	TAAGEER FINANCE	9,083	936	4	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.102	0.001	0.980	0.103	0.103	0.104	0.100	28,759,991
OM0000001020	ASTAD SHIPPING	260,233	30,198	47	0.116	0.117	0.115	0.116	0.115	0.001	0.870	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.000	604,214,336
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	22,000	1,605	3	0.072	0.073	0.072	0.073	0.073	0.000	0.000	0.073	0.070	0.073	0.100	6,205,000
OM0000001509	DHOFAH INTERNATIONAL DEV. & INV HO	4,448	1,562	1	0.349	0.349	0.349	0.349	0.349	0.000	0.000	0.349	0.349	0.349	0.100	99,210,116
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	974	154	1	0.158	0.158	0.158	0.158	0.158	0.000	0.000	0.158	0.000	0.157	0.100	371,245,880
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	6,832	1,018	2	0.149	0.149	0.149	0.149	0.149	0.000	0.000	0.149	0.147	0.149	0.100	6,383,606
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	10,255	2,252	4	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.000	0.000	0.220	0.219	0.220	0.100	10,068,476
OM0000002372	OMAN OIL MARKETING	3,868	2,708	4	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.000	0.000	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.100	42,852,500
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	142,706	95,856	17	0.664	0.677	0.664	0.672	0.672	0.000	0.000	0.672	0.672	0.700	0.100	62,908,045
OM0000004669	SHARQIAH DESALINATION	2,000	268	1	0.134	0.134	0.134	0.134	0.134	0.000	0.000	0.134	0.128	0.134	0.100	13,105,489
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	2,208	2,293	7	0.162	0.165	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.000	0.000	0.162	0.162	0.178	0.100	8,910,000
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	76,995	5,956	4	0.078	0.078	0.077	0.078	0.078	0.000	0.000	0.078	0.075	0.078	0.100	39,673,241
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	3,000	384	1	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.000	0.000	0.128	0.123	0.128	0.100	9,668,816
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	1,753,416	488,719	117	0.278	0.281	0.278	0.278	0.278	0.000	0.000	0.278	0.278	0.278	0.100	102,022,000,000
OM0000009908	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SFC)	1,842,401	184,335	81	0.101	0.101	0.100	0.101	0.101	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.096	0.100	0.000	349,408,576
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	3,250	380	3	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.118	-0.001	-0.847	0.117	0.117	0.118	0.100	69,198,115
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	231,000	18,249	6	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.080	-0.001	-1.250	0.079	0.078	0.079	0.100	22,678,540
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	25,415	2,222	4	0.066	0.066	0.065	0.066	0.066	-0.001	-1.515	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.100	10,068,476
OM00000010178	MUSCAT GASES	5,000	438	2	0.090	0.090	0.086	0.086	0.088	-0.002	-2.273	0.086	0.083	0.090	0.100	2,580,000
OM00000014040	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	51,563	26,625	17	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.415	-0.015	-3.614	0.400	0.400	0.405	0.100	66,150,000
OM00000012241	NATURAL GAS	77,540	21,122	13	0.274	0.274	0.274	0.274	0.274	0.000	0.000	0.274	0.274	0.274	0.100	10,068,476
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	509,699	24,511	22	0.448	0.450	0.448	0.448	0.453	-0.005	-0.434	0.448	0.448	0.448	0.100	4,080,000
OM0000001095	DHOFAH INSURANCE	34,914	6,983	9	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.222	-0.022	-9.910	0.200	0.219	0.219	0.100	22,550,510
Total	28	6,568,135	1,061,251	484												

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- Strong knowledge of accounting principles and financial reporting.
- Excellent analytical and problem-solving skills.

Location: Muscat, Oman

If you meet the criteria and are interested in this opportunity, please send your updated resume to:
E-mail: sajanjose@jagwanigroup.com

JOB WANTED

PROJECT ASSISTANT

Female, well-versed in **Project Administration** with 13 years of proven experience in training, recruitment, administration, finance, and secretarial support.

As an **Executive MBA** holder, I can contribute effectively to your organizational goals and looking forward to an interview call and the opportunity.

Contact: 98260708 | meena.v24@gmail.com

ENGINEER

Mechanical Engineer with 15 yrs of rich experience in Sales, marketing and business development in Oman in the field of MEP, Industrial, civil infrastructure and building material products holding valid D/L and NOC available. Can join immediately.

Contact: 97748860, WA: +91 9307500399
Email: samit00123@gmail.com

ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

Indian Male MBA (Finance) having 5 yrs Exp. in Accounts, Finance, Admin upto finalization, well versed with software's, ERP, Tally, Microsoft Dynamics, with Oman D/L. Available in oman. Looking for suitable position.

GSM +968 78647611/95171197
Email: shaikmansoor782@gmail.com

Engineer

Engineering graduate with over 5 years of experience as a consultant, skilled in SAP Material Management, Warehouse Management, and Procurement, seeking IT job opportunities. Open to transitioning to new domains.

Contact: abhin4nd@gmail.com / +968 95997016

ADMINISTRATION

Indian (29), with 5 yrs experience at Amazon and InsertV, holds a Master's from Canada, valid Oman D/L & 2yrs visa. Seeking roles in HR, admin, sales co-ordinator, accounting or management.

Contact: 98234945

ENGINEER

Indian, BE Civil engineer with 13 yrs of experience (11 yrs in Oman) in construction & industrial projects. Currently available in Oman with valid D/L, Employment visa & OSE membership.

Contact /WA: +968-95628080
Email: prakasam1991@yahoo.com

PROJECT MANAGER - MEP

Seeking suitable placement. B. Tech in Electrical Engineering with 25 years of experience, including 18 years in Oman, specializing in the construction field and tender estimation.

Mobile: 97007489

MEP PROJECT MANAGER

Seeking for a job opportunity with solid background in MEP Project management with 21 years of professional experience in managing MEP projects across GCC (Bahrain, Saudi, Oman).

Contact number: +968 76861551,
E-mail: karthi.engr2004@gmail.com

MANAGER

HR manager 15 yrs experience in the Gulf looking for a suitable position. NOC available, valid D/L. Qualification: MBA in HR & Certifications. Available to join immediately.

Contact: 95323264
Email: deep.vg9@gmail.com

SERVICE

Civil maintenance, gypsum, painting, carpentry, plumbing, glass partition, office fitout.
Contact: 94160282

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Urgently required AC technician with 15 yrs experience in a prestigious company.Please send CV iblitaunited@gmail.com or 77450707

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Senior Accountant Indian male, M.com with 20 yrs of experience. Well versed with accounts finalization and VAT. Currently working in Muscat. Seeking for suitable placement.having valid Oman D/L. Contact: 93056492 Email : shijokskaria@gmail.com

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

Accountant, Indian male with 6 yrs of Oman experience, seeking a job. Contact: 95689250

Indian male 21 yrs with 1+ yr experience looking for job in accounts,marketing field. Contact: 76356476

MBA finance,1 yr experience, proficient in accounting software. Available in Oman. Contact: 76463921. Email: jobinjoseph26feb@gmail.com

ACCA affiliate, B.Com (accounting & finance)/graduate 23 yrs female, Indian 1yr-1mths, audit assistant at Deloitte USI India has driver's license. Contact:79827269

Indian, male, with 16 yrs experience as accountant and finance executive in real estate,mining, construction, logistics, trading Co. in Oman & UAE. Contact: 92194086

Indian, male , Accountant, 9yrs experience of accounts & finance, looking job. Contact: +91 8075983713 & +968 94713034 (WA only) Email: rjathiv999@gmail.com

Indian male, M.com (finance) 12 yrs experience in Oman for accounts and office assistant. Noc & D/L available. Contact: 99859141

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Indian ,male, CPA, CMA, CA finalist & B.com 12+ yrs of experience in financial reporting & analysis, budget & forecast, MIS reports, audit & assurance services, available for Senior management roles in finance. Contact: 78611653, Email: su.cpacma@gmail.com

Senior Accountant upto finalization with D/L. Contact: +96879471027

ADMINISTRATION

HR manager 15 yrs experience in the Gulf looking for a suitable position. NOC available, valid D/L. Qualification: MBA in HR & finance & HR certifications. Available to join immediately. Contact: 95323264, Email: deepvg9@gmail.com

Indian, male, well experienced in Oman, seeks job for secretary, admin or any suitable job. D/L holder. Contact: 94019955

Dynamic and well-experienced professional: 5 yrs of Dubai and 4.5 yrs of Muscat experience in operations management, business excellence or key account management looking for new challenges. Contact: 96766702, Email: ilyas3299@gmail.com

Indian(M), excellent English, 16 years Oman experience including oil & gas, airport, hospital, construction. Contact: 99283938

Executive with good communication. Contact: 76348697

Indian male, have 6 yrs experience in Oman as coordinator looking for suitable job. Contact: 90789282

Indian male MBA(HR) & B.tech (Comp) with nearly 10 yrs of over all experience seeks job. Contact: +968 94168194, +91 9745020204, Email: gokulgopan91@hotmail.com

Indian female 30, BA English Literature (4 yrs experience as operation executive in India) seeking any suitable job. Contact: 77237423, Email: nivyapaul11@gmail.com

ARCHITECT

Qualified junior Architect with experience in software such as Auto- CAD, lumion, sketchUp, revit, 3Ds max etc. looking for job in Oman. Contact: +968 78902260, E-mail: ar.mohamedadhelka@gmail.com

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

ARCHITECT

B.Arch graduate BIM certified. Skilled in AutoCAD, revit, sketchUp, 3D modeling, Experienced in design, drafting & project coordination. Contact: 71719254, Email: architectraedfaiz@gmail.com

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

DESIGNER/ AUTOCAD D/MAN

Indian, Masters in Digital fashion (UK) & Bachelors in Fashion design (Dubai), knowledge in various design tools, looking for suitable opportunity. Contact: 76410194

Freelancer MEP Design Engineer and drafting Autocad. Contact : 99506977

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Looking for driving job. Contact: 97932665

7 yrs experienced driver (manual) looking for suitable placement. Contact: 95870540

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

MSc, B.Ed graduate with 2 yrs of experience in teaching and IELTS qualified Indian female looking for job in Oman. Preferably in Sohar. Contact: +968 77198123, +91 9047182775, Email: deenafrancis75@gmail.com

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

20 yrs, G.C.C experienced, Diploma civil engineer seeking a suitable job. Contact: 95880140 WA: 9072131978

ENGINEER

Electrical engineer (Indian, M-Tech in ower System) having 6+ yrs in consulting and contracting experience, seeking suitable positions in Oman. Contact: 91219437 / 77039005.

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

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

Indian, male with 10 yrs. Experience in Oman, have 3 yrs Electrical diploma, General maintenance, valid Oman D/L. Contact: 93220672

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

Civil engineer, 11+ yrs experience, Indian male, site execution, auto cad, site inspection and project management. 2 yrs experience in UAE construction industry. Contact: +96876365203. Email: joshygeorge7@gmail.com

Indian, male, fresher, BE (Mechanical) looking for placement. Contact: +96871383941. Email: ajithp5398@gmail.com

Automation engineer, electronics & communication engineering BE certified in PLC, SCADA & autocad. Contact: 76622441. Email: fatinkisho10@gmail.com

Mechanical design engineer related to robotics & automation with 1 yr experience.Contact +968 93551277, +91 8870601417. Email: kishorealagarsamy25@gmail.com

BSc in Civil engineer. OSE member, with 11 yrs experience in civil construction. Seeking suitable position in Oman. Contact: 93326947, WA: 94086556, Email: ccceng.bd@gmail.com

Civil engineering diploma holder with experience in office administration,vehicle logistics, civil supervisor, valid D/L, fluent in English, Hindi, Malayalam. Contact: 92408334

Mechanical engineer (estimator) over 12 yrs experience in tendering, estimation experienced in steel, Al & glass, interior fitout,joinery related project estimation. Contact: 78810852

Mechanical engineer with over 4 yrs experience in sales and operations having Oman D/L with MSc in Engineering management from UK available to join immediately. Contact: 96111283. Email: dobin.mathew@gmail.com.

ENGINEER

MEP Design engineer, exp in design softwares and calculations available in own visa. Contact: 99506977

Civil engineer supervisor, 14 yrs experience civil & tower project with D/L & own visa. Contact: 78002980

BE Project engineer 12-13 yrs experience. Contact: 93850875, Email: abdulcivilco2015@gmail.com

IT

Application & business Intelligence Developer 24yrs experience, indian male PowerBI, PowerApps, SharepointOnline, C#ASP.NET, SQL Server, SSIS. SSRS Nintex Cloud, Con: 92056372

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

10+ yrs Oman experienced IT support & SAP professional looking for suitable opportunities Oman D/L. Contact: 78029268 Email: united.emri@gmail.com

LOGISTIC

Highly organised and professional warehouse operations Manager (Indian) with 20 yrs experience in UAE & KSA seeking job. Available for immediate joining. Contact: 76418250, WA:+971 556545070, Email: kaupummer@yahoo.com

MANAGER

Business development manager MBA Indian 27 yrs of experience in Oman in FMCG, consumer durables. Strong relationships with major retailers across the country. Seeking a suitable position. Contact: 93340457

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

Procurement Engineer, 19 yrs experience construction and trading. WhatsApp: 95839964

PROCUREMENT/ PURCHASE

Procurement officer 14 yrs experience in construction,oil & gas & MEP materials looking for placement. D/L & local release available. ready to join immediately. Contact : 79563830. Email: rayancriston@gmail.com

Indian male having 10 yrs exp. in fasteners & build. materials sales in Oman with DL looking for suitable job Contact: 93473879

28 yrs old Indian male MBA sports management 02 yrs UK experience with GCC D/L looking for suitable job. Contact: 93358575

Indian (male) , with 5 yrs experience looking for Sales,marketing & merchandiser jobs, have with valid Oman D/L. Contact: 78256380

10 yrs experience in showroom sales & 3 yrs experience in sales exclusive tools 7 equipment. Contact: 78500188, 98328806. Email: rafeeekpbasheer@gmail.com

Indian (male) 25yrs, living in Muscat. Sales man with valid Oman D/L and own car. Contact: 78405313

Sales & Marketing Pro, MBA, 5+ yrs UAE & Oman exp. Dynamic leader with proven success in top conglomerates. Ready to boost your growth. Contact: 78456572

Indian male 31 yrs, completed Bachelor of Business Management with 5+ yrs sales experience in Oman holding valid D/L. Contact: +968 76474353 Email: mrasma18891144050@gmail.com

Indian male, Sales executive (MBA in Marketing) with 10 yrs of experience in FMCG & automobile with strong communication skills, holding valid Oman. D/L. Contact: 92350798

Indian male MBA graduated specialized with Marketing & HR (fresher). Looking for suitable positions. Currently in Muscat Oman. Contact: +968 71084371, Email: ccrashid9@gmail.com

SALES/MARKETING

Indian male having 10 yrs exp. in fasteners & build. materials sales in Oman with DL looking for suitable job Contact: 93473879

28 yrs old Indian male MBA sports management 02 yrs UK experience with GCC D/L looking for suitable job. Contact: 93358575

Indian (male) , with 5 yrs experience looking for Sales,marketing & merchandiser jobs, have with valid Oman D/L. Contact: 78256380

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Grace La Margna St. Moritz in Switzerland blends timeless style, modern comfort, and exceptional hospitality. Open 365 days a year, this five-star boutique retreat turns every stay into a cherished unforgettable memory

Rahul Das
rahuldas@timesofoman.com

Perched high on the sunny side of the Swiss Alps, St. Moritz glistens like a well-kept secret - one that's both timeless and thrillingly alive. Here, snow-draped peaks shimmer under the alpine sun, the frozen lake mirrors an ever-changing sky, and the quaint village hums with a unique rhythm - where Italian warmth and German precision meet in a seamless cultural confluence. From the dialects spoken to the dishes served, this rare harmony adds another layer to St. Moritz's charm.

It's no surprise that St. Moritz holds its head high as a destination unlike any other. Nicknamed the "Top of the World" and proudly bearing the sun as its emblem since the 1930s, this celebrated corner of the Engadine Valley has long lured the world's elite - from sports icons and movie stars to wide-eyed first-timers - each seeking their own Alpine story to treasure.

Best known for hosting the Winter Olympics in 1928 and 1948, St. Moritz today is a gleaming symbol of world-class winter experiences.

The frozen lake turns into a grand stage every year, hosting cricket matches, polo tournaments, and horse races in spectacular fashion.

Skiers and snowboarders descend upon the slopes of Mt. Corviglia and Mt. Corvatsch, while spa-seekers flock to the mineral-rich springs of St. Moritz Bad, drawn by the promise of therapeutic relaxation and rejuvenation.

But to assume that St. Moritz is only for winter is to miss the heart of its story.

Beyond the snow: Four seasons of alpine magic

As the snow begins to melt, a new charm unfurls. St. Moritz doesn't retreat with the season - it transforms. Spring paints the valley in pastel greens and blooms, summer invites adventure seekers to hike, bike, or sail on the lake, and autumn burns bright with golds and crimsons across forested ridges. This is when the crowds thin, the air is crisp, and the real luxury begins: space, serenity, and personal time with nature.

Yet not all resorts remain open beyond ski season. That's what makes Grace La Margna St. Moritz a rare jewel - a luxurious sanctuary that welcomes guests 365 days a year, redefining alpine hospitality for every kind of traveller, including families seeking quality time away from the bustle.

Grace La Margna St. Moritz: Elegance in every detail

Located just above the St. Moritz railway station and offering panoramic views of the lake and surrounding mountains, Grace La Margna blends old-world glamour with forward-looking design.

Originally opened in 1906, the hotel underwent a major renovation led by London's Divercity Architects, who revived its soul while embedding modern-day sophistication across its 74 rooms and suites.

As you enter, you're met with a quiet sense of grandeur.

Sunlight streams through expansive windows, original architectural elements coexist with contemporary art pieces, and there's a palpable sense of welcome - for individuals, couples, and families alike.

"Our guests experience the best of both worlds - world-class luxury and heartfelt warmth. Whether it's dining in our stylish restaurants or enjoying a carefully crafted mocktail at the bar, every moment is a pleasure," says Federico Scribani Rossi, Sales Manager of Grace Hotel. "Guests can unwind in our spacious wellness area, complete



with a 20-metre pool, multiple saunas and steam baths, and a relaxing lounge. Families are warmly welcomed with a thoughtfully designed play paradise for our youngest guests."

Rooms with a view - and a story

Each room is a personal retreat. My deluxe third-floor room offered sweeping views of the imaginatively named Lake St. Moritz and the ridge marking the border between Switzerland and Italy.

The decor - soothing neutrals punctuated with deep blue and

bronze - creates an atmosphere of calm, with tactile richness in every detail. A king-sized bed, hand-made in Switzerland, is perfectly placed to take in the views the moment you wake with a dark blue plush headboard - a striking feature in a room filled with muted, relaxing tones.

Many suites offer private balconies, rain showers, separate living areas, and complimentary minibars. For active guests, the hotel offers on-site ski and bike rentals and a state-of-the-art fitness centre. HD televisions and free WiFi.

For those seeking slower in-



brings a taste of the region alive, offering traditional fondue and Engadine specialties in a warm, wood-paneled atmosphere.

Whether it's a romantic dinner or a lively family meal, the hotel ensures that every table is a place of celebration and comfort.

The Journey: Getting there is half the experience

My trip began in Tirano, a charming Italian town just across the Swiss border. After a three-hour journey from Milan, I boarded the Bernina Express, fondly nicknamed the "Little Red Train."

What followed was one of the most unforgettable train rides of my life.

The Bernina Express, Europe's highest railway and the steepest in the world, winds through 55 tunnels and 196 bridges.

The route spans stark contrasts - from Tirano's palm trees to alpine glaciers - taking you over landmarks like the dramatic Landwasser Viaduct. Panoramic carriages offer an immersive experience; it's less a commute and more a moving postcard.

Fresh snow appeared about an hour into the ride. The silence of

the white landscape, broken only by the train's rhythmic climb, was hauntingly beautiful. I arrived in St. Moritz awestruck, the landscape etched into memory.

Famous for its mineral springs discovered more than 3,000 years ago, St. Moritz began its ascent to international fame as a summer spa town. Over the years, it has stayed ahead by offering not just stunning vistas, but a sense of identity.

Here, heritage and innovation live side by side, and travellers of all ages find something to hold on to.

Children play in snowbanks while parents sip coffee on sunlit terraces. Artists and adventurers brush shoulders on lakefront paths. Every season writes its own story.

And at the heart of it all, Grace La Margna St. Moritz stands as a home - a stylish, warm, welcoming retreat that proves you don't have to wait for winter to experience the best of the Alps. So whether it's snow you seek or sunshine on the slopes, a spa retreat or a culinary adventure, St. Moritz offers a luxurious, family-friendly escape all year round. And with Grace La Margna as your base, every visit becomes a memory that lingers long after you've left the mountains behind.

SPORTS

Verstappen claims Saudi GP pole after Norris crash

The Red Bull driver pipped Piastri by 0.01 seconds to take his second pole position of the year

JEDDAH: Championship leader Lando Norris crashed out of qualifying at the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix and will start 10th as Max Verstappen beat the Briton's McLaren team-mate Oscar Piastri to pole position on Saturday.

Verstappen in his Red Bull pipped Piastri by 0.01 seconds to take his second pole position of the year in scintillating style.

Mercedes' George Russell was third, split from team-mate Andrea Kimi Antonelli by Ferrari's Charles Leclerc.

Williams' Carlos Sainz beat Ferrari's Lewis Hamilton to sixth place, ahead of Red Bull's Yuki Tsunoda and Alpine's Pierre Gasly.

Norris' crash interrupted the first runs of all his rivals in Q3 apart from Piastri, who laid down a marker just before his team-mate lost control over the kerb at Turn Five and slid sideways into the wall.



When the session resumed, Verstappen went out on his semi-used tyres and took over top spot in his Red Bull from Piastri by just 0.001secs.

The four-time world champion came straight back in to switch to fresh tyres and, while he warmed up, first Russell - and then Piastri - took top spot.

But Verstappen signalled his intent with a blistering first sector, 0.123secs quicker than Piastri. Although the Australian was quicker in both the second and third sectors, the Dutchman had

done enough to grab pole.

Verstappen said: "I definitely didn't expect to be on pole here but the car came alive in the night and it was a lot more enjoyable to drive. The grip was coming to me. Around here a qualifying lap is extremely difficult. It is really satisfying."

"Tomorrow in the race it will be tough to keep them behind but we are going to give it a good go."

Norris did not want to speak about his crash in interviews after qualifying

Piastri said: "Max has done

a good job, another high-speed circuit for them, where they seem to have a little more success.

"Our pace is good. It's going to be a tough race, the tyres are softer than last year and we'll see if that plays to our advantage."

Norris will have to rely on the strong race pace of the McLaren to try to limit the damage to his championship position, as he starts the race three points clear of Piastri and eight in front of Verstappen.

His accident was caused by him misjudging the entry to the chi-



cane at Turns Four and Five. The car oversteered on to the kerb at Five and was flicked into the wall on the exit, damaging the left-hand side of the car.

He swore over the radio that he was an "idiot", but was unhurt.

"Disappointed but I'm fine," Norris said. "The team has a lot of work to do. It has been such a smooth positive weekend so far, so I'm disappointed to have such a big setback. But I have to take it on the chin, and try to go again tomorrow."

"The car is quick. It has been

quick all weekend, so I have to work hard to overtake the cars tomorrow."

At Ferrari, Hamilton's travails this season continued, underlined by the statistic that he has only once so far qualified higher than the seventh place he managed this weekend.

"I've been nowhere all weekend," Hamilton said.

"I am happier than I was yesterday. It really wasn't coming easy, so P7 is OK. I still have work to do to try to gel with this car," the British driver added. - **Agencies**

SPANISH FOOTBALL

No conflict with Perez, says Ancelotti



MADRID: Real Madrid manager Carlo Ancelotti said on Saturday that there is "no conflict" with club president Florentino Perez despite his side's Champions League exit.

Arsenal knocked Real Madrid out in the quarter-finals on Wednesday, leading to speculation over the 65-year-old's future. But before their next La Liga match with Europa League semi-finalists Athletic Bilbao, the Italian insisted there was no issue with Perez.

The defending champions are seven points behind leaders Barcelona and will also face the Catalans in the Copa del Rey final on 26 April. "We have the same idea - there is no conflict with the club," said Ancelotti.

"Whoever says that there is a conflict is false. The president shows more affection in these mo-

ments than when we win.

"The Champions League is the most important competition for everyone. And the Champions League is the most important history of Madrid. But it's not true that the rest do not count."

The three-time Champions League winner said what hurt most was the criticism that followed the 15-time European champions 5-1 aggregate defeat by Arsenal.

"The reality is that in this world everything is questioned," he went on. "Questioning a club that has won almost 30 titles in the last decade seems misleading to me."

"The only thing I want to do is thank all these players because I've had a great time so far and I want to continue doing so. These players have given me the opportunity to

Raphinha's winner in Barca's thrilling victory over Celta

BARCELONA: Raphinha scored a penalty in the eighth minute of stoppage time as La Liga leaders Barcelona completed a remarkable comeback to beat Celta Vigo 4-3 on Saturday.

The Brazil forward scored with almost the last kick of the game after a video assistant referee (VAR) review ruled that Dani Olmo was tripped inside the area.

Hansi Flick's side had been staring at a shock home defeat after 62 minutes, with Borja Iglesias' hat-trick wiping out Ferran Torres' early finish to give the visitors a 3-1 lead.

Barcelona regrouped and scored two goals in four second-half minutes - through Dani Olmo and Raphinha - to

get back level and piled on the pressure.

It appeared as though Celta had weathered the storm and were going to see out the game for a point, but then Olmo was tripped, the penalty was given on VAR advice and Raphinha stepped up to score.

The win extends Barcelona's lead over second-placed Real Madrid to seven points, before Los Blancos host Athletic Bilbao. - **Agencies**

win two Champions Leagues in recent years. "I have spoken with the players and the club, we all agree, we have to fight for the titles that are on the line."

BUNDESLIGA



Kane on target for Bayern Munich

HEIDENHEIM: England captain Harry Kane scored his 24th Bundesliga goal of the season as they closed in on the German title with a convincing 4-0 win at Heidenheim on Saturday.

The leaders raced into a 3-0 lead after 36 minutes with 31-year-old Kane scoring the first - his 24th in the league this term - from an assist by former Crystal Palace winger Michael Olise.

Further goals before half-time by Konrad Laimer and Kingsley Coman put Bayern in control.

Joshua Kimmich rifled the fourth as Bayern went nine

points clear at the top with four games to go.

Nearest rivals Bayer Leverkusen, who won the title last season, can reduce the gap to six points if they win at 15th-placed St Pauli next.

Bayern's latest win lifted spirits after the German club went out of the Champions League 4-3 on aggregate against Inter Milan in midweek.

Kane has scored 35 goals in the Bundesliga and Champions League this season.

Heidenheim are 16th in the table, two points above the automatic relegation places. - **Agencies**

PREMIER LEAGUE

O'Reilly shines in Man City win over Everton; Villa thump Newcastle

LONDON: Manchester City remain on track to qualify for next season's Champions League after winning 2-0 at Everton on Saturday with late goals.

An uninspiring contest looked to be heading for a drab draw before being brought to life with six minutes remaining when young full-back Nico O'Reilly stole in from close range to convert Matheus Nunes' cutback.

Substitute Mateo Kovacic added a second in injury time on the stretch as Pep Guardiola's men climbed to fourth in the table, four points clear of sixth-placed Chelsea, who face neighbours Fulham next.

The first half was often flat and made for a poor spectacle, with Everton's best chance going the way of centre-back James Tarkowski, who rose highest to James Garner's corner and flicked a header against the post.



On the stroke of half-time, City could have gone ahead with a rapid break forward but Kevin de Bruyne saw his goalbound strike brilliantly cleared off the line by Jake O'Brien's diving header.

Savinho's low drive was kept out by Jordan Pickford's sharp save in the second period, before City had the final say.

City have competed in Europe's elite club competition for 14

consecutive seasons - but with the clock on 84 minutes at Goodison Park, that sequence was under real threat. Then came the rally for a monumental victory in the context of their season.

They host in-form Aston Villa at Etihad Stadium on Tuesday and the result there may well go a long way to ensuring City's status in the top echelon of the European club game next season.



City have had a long injury list to contend with this season and there was a real lack of quality on show in the final third at Goodison Park, with youngster O'Reilly and Kovacic needed to bail them out.

Villa outplay Newcastle

Aston Villa produced a sensational performance to beat Newcastle United 4-1 at Villa Park and lay down a marker in the race

for the top five and Champions League qualification on Saturday.

Ollie Watkins became Villa's joint-top Premier League goalscorer - alongside Gabriel Agbonlahor - on 74 when his shot took a wicked deflection off Fabian Schar after just 33 seconds.

Newcastle levelled in the 18th minute when Schar met Harvey Barnes' deep, curling cross and headed through the legs of Villa

keeper Emiliano Martinez.

But in the 64th minute Watkins sent in full-back Ian Maatzen who deservedly restored Villa's lead with a cool dink over the goalkeeper.

Villa added a third in the 73rd minute when Jacob Ramsey's pass across goal bounced in off Newcastle defender Dan Burn.

And a fourth came moments later through substitute Amadou Onana's stunning strike which found the top corner from the edge of the box.

Villa's convincing win lifts them to sixth in the table, level on p with fifth-placed Nottingham Forest.

Newcastle remain third but are now just two points ahead of Villa with five games of the season remaining.

Other results: Brentford 4 Brighton & Hove Albion 2, Crystal Palace 0 AFC Bournemouth 0, West Ham United 1 Southampton 1. - **Agencies**

ROUND-UP

Vodafone Oman and SQU partner to drive innovation and advanced research in AI and digitalisation

As part of the agreement, the company will launch a Vodafone Innovation Award to recognise and encourage technological breakthroughs that solve real-world challenges

MUSCAT: Vodafone Oman has signed a strategic partnership with Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) to advance research and innovation that will contribute to Oman's digital economy.

As part of the agreement, the company will launch a Vodafone Innovation Award to recognise and encourage technological breakthroughs that solve real-world challenges. In addition, Vodafone Oman will sponsor a PhD scholarship in Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Digitisation, reinforcing its com-

mitment to supporting academic research that strengthens Oman's position in emerging technologies.

"Innovation is not just about technology. It's about people, ideas, and the right environment to turn potential into impact," said Eng. Bader Al Zidi, CEO of Vodafone Oman. "Our partnership with Sultan Qaboos University is a step towards building that environment, one where academic research meets industry expertise to create meaningful advancements.

The Vodafone Innovation Award and the PhD sponsorship

are designed to accelerate research in AI and emerging technologies, equipping the next generation with the knowledge and know-how needed to drive Oman's digital transformation."

The agreement underscores the growing role of industry-academia partnerships in driving technological progress and aligning research with market needs. As AI and digital transformation become central to economic growth, bridging academia and industry has become key to building a workforce equipped for the demands of a data-driven economy. According to global research, AI and automation are expected to contribute up to \$15.7 trillion to the global economy by 2030, with the Middle East positioned as a growing hub for AI-driven innovation. Oman's investment in digital capabilities is part of a broader strategy to leverage these advancements for economic diversification in line with Vision 2040, which places digital transformation, knowledge-based industries, and innovation at the core of the nation's future development.



ACADEMICS

ISWK (Cambridge) hosts A Level Graduation Ceremony 2025

MUSCAT: ISWK [Cambridge] hosted its A Level Graduation Ceremony 2025, honoring the accomplishments of 15 exceptional learners. The evening was a celebration of academic excellence, personal growth, and the promise of bright futures. The event was graced by Chief Guest Zahra AbdulAmir Saeid, Chief Risk Officer, Oman Arab Bank, dignitaries, parents, staff, and the school community. The ceremony commenced with the traditional lighting of the lamp, accompanied by a moving piano performance by student Manav Tailor. This set a reflective tone for the evening, symbolizing transitions and new beginnings.

In her welcome address, Gargi Chugh, President of the School Management Committee, encouraged students to honor their own stories. Quoting Michelle Obama—"Don't ever underestimate the power of your story"—she urged the graduates to live with authenticity, courage, and self-belief.

Principal D.N. Rao, expressed profound appreciation for the entire school ecosystem and the collective efforts of faculty, parents, and support staff in guiding the students to success. In her address, the Chief Guest Saeid, encouraged the graduates to pursue their passions with courage, resilience, and purpose, emphasizing that true success lies not just in achievements, but in values and impact.

A key highlight of the evening was the Special Felicitation Segment, which recognized students for outstanding performance in



the June 2024 Cambridge International Examination series:

Dylan Riley Menezes – Top in Oman in AS Level Computer Science

Ruchit Devraj Karnik – Top in Oman in AS Level Mathematics, Best Across Five AS Levels (First Place in Oman), High Achievement in AS Level Accounting and Economics

Jinay Prashant Bafna – Best Across Seven IGCSE Subjects (Third Place in Oman), High Achievement in IGCSE Combined Science

Krish Sachin Kamath – Best Across Three AS Levels (Third Place in Oman)

Mannat Ajmani – Best Across Three A Levels (Third Place in Oman)

Valedictorian Ruchit Devraj Karnik took to the stage with a heartfelt address, reflecting on the class's collective journey—the laughter, the challenges, the lessons, and the dreams ahead. His words resonated deeply with everyone in the audience, capturing the spirit of gratitude and anticipation that filled the evening.

The Vote of Thanks was delivered by School Captain Samarth Pramod Pujari, whose warmth, wit, and sincerity lit up the room. With heartfelt gratitude, he acknowledged the many hands and hearts that guided the graduates to this milestone, leaving the audience both smiling and moved.

The evening's programme also featured a multimedia presentation titled "Memories in Harmony"—a nostalgic tribute that took the audience on an emotional journey through the shared experiences of the graduating class. This was followed by a lively dance performance, "Believe in You," celebrating self-confidence, personal growth, and the joy of embracing one's true self. The evening concluded with the singing of the National Anthems, marking the end of a memorable celebration and the beginning of new journeys for ISWK [Cambridge]'s Class of 2025.

POST-EID CAMPAIGN

TYREPLUS offers instant Lulu vouchers with Michelin tyre purchases

MUSCAT: The Eid celebrations may have ended, but the spirit of giving continues at TYREPLUS! As part of a special post-Eid campaign, TYREPLUS is offering customers instant Lulu vouchers worth up to OMR 50 with the purchase of Michelin Tyres for SUVs and passenger cars—ensuring your journey ahead remains safe, smooth, and rewarding.

Valid up till 18th May, this offer is our way of extending the joy and gratitude of the festive season, while encouraging drivers across Oman to equip their vehicles with globally trusted Michelin Tyres.

Reward Tiers:

- Buy 4 tyres in rim sizes 18", 19" or 20" Lulu voucher worth OMR 40 (Buy 2 tyres in the same size range Lulu voucher worth OMR 20)
- Buy 4 tyres in rim sizes 21", 22" or 23" Lulu voucher worth OMR 50 (Buy 2 tyres in these sizes Lulu voucher worth OMR 25)
- Buy 1 tyre in rim sizes 18" to



23" Lulu voucher worth OMR 5

To make the offer even more accessible, Bank Muscat credit card holders can take advantage of a 0% interest Easy Payment Plan for 12 months at select TYREPLUS locations.

This exclusive offer is available at participating TYREPLUS outlets in Al Wadi Al Kabir, Sohar, Azaiba, Mabela, Nizwa, Salalah, Al Khuwair, and Barka, including Al Najem – Khat Al Batinah

Mohsin Hani Al Bahrani, CEO of MHD ACERE, said: "At MHD ACERE, we believe the spirit of celebration should not end with Eid. Through this extended offer at TYREPLUS, we aim to reward our loyal customers while encouraging them to prioritize safety and performance with Michelin Tyres. It's a gesture of appreciation and a reminder that every journey begins with the right foundation—your tyres."

TRAILBLAZING ELECTRIC SUV



BYD's stunning SUV Sealion 7 EV launched in Oman

MUSCAT: In an exclusive gathering of distinguished guests from both the public and private sectors, World Auto Business unveiled BYD's trailblazing electric SUV – the Sealion 7 EV, at the BYD showroom in Wattayah. This exclusive event attended by a select audience, emphasised BYD's commitment to revolutionising sustainable mobility without compromising on power, elegance and cutting-edge technology.

The evening commenced with a warm and engaging welcome address setting the stage for an unforgettable showcase of the exceptional innovations behind the BYD Sealion 7 EV. The BYD spokesperson articulated how the brand continues to redefine automotive excellence, with the Sealion 7 EV standing as a bold testament to innovation and confidence. Drawing inspiration from the ocean, its aesthetics seamlessly merge form and function, making every drive an immersive and exhilarating experience.

Highlighting the vehicle's technological advancements, he detailed how the Sealion 7 EV is designed to shape the future of transportation with BYD's cutting-edge Platform 3.0. Engineered to eliminate range anxiety, this next-generation platform is complemented by fast-charging capabilities, ensuring seamless and efficient travel. He also emphasised the game-changing introduction of BYD's Blade Battery, an innovation that enhances the Sealion 7 EV performance, durability and dynamic driving experience.

Following the welcome remarks, an insightful product presentation provided a deep dive into the Sealion 7 EV electrified performance, intelligent features and eco-conscious efficiency.

This presentation reinforced BYD's leadership in the electrification space and its role in making sustainable driving a main-

stream reality.

The highlight of the evening was the momentous unveiling of the Sealion 7 EV, met with enthusiastic applause from the audience. This was followed by a ceremonial key handover to the first few owners of the Sealion 7 EV in Oman, marking the beginning of an exciting new era in the country's electric SUV segment.

Guests at the event shared their perspectives on the Sealion 7 EV's transformative impact. One attendee described it as a game-changer, recognising BYD's mastery in crafting an electric SUV that seamlessly blends power, efficiency and space while setting a new standard in sustainable mobility. Another guest lauded the Sealion 7 EV's futuristic design and intelligent performance, acknowledging its role in redefining innovation and practicality while making sustainable driving more aspirational and accessible.

Designed with a bold, aerodynamic silhouette the BYD Sealion 7 EV commands attention with its sculpted lines, striking front grille and futuristic LED lighting signature. The sleek bodywork and assertive stance exude dynamism and efficiency, ensuring an unmistakable road presence.

Inside, the cabin is a seamless fusion of luxury and technology. Premium leather upholstery, a panoramic sunroof and customisable ambient lighting create an inviting atmosphere, while a spacious, ergonomically designed interior ensures supreme comfort for passengers. At the heart of the dashboard is the rotating 15.6-inch infotainment screen, serving as a digital command centre that offers seamless connectivity and entertainment.

The Sealion 7 EV is equipped with Intelligent driving assistance systems, Intelligent Adaptive Cruise Control and a high-resolution digital instrument cluster elevate the driving experience to a new level of sophistica-

tion. With Over-the-Air (OTA) updates, the vehicle's software remains at the cutting edge, continuously enhancing performance and user experience.

Powered by BYD's revolutionary Blade Battery, the Sealion 7 EV offers an extended electric range, making it ideal for both urban commutes and long-distance journeys. Its fast-charging capabilities ensure quick energy replenishment, delivering greater convenience while significantly reducing carbon emissions.

Safety remains a cornerstone of the Sealion 7 EV design. Built with a reinforced body structure and equipped with a comprehensive airbag system, the vehicle integrates state-of-the-art ADAS (Advanced Driver Assistance Systems), including lane-keeping assist, autonomous emergency braking and 360-degree camera visibility. These cutting-edge features guarantee maximum protection for both drivers and passengers, setting a new benchmark in automotive safety.

Beyond introducing an extraordinary vehicle, World Auto Business reaffirmed its dedication to delivering an exceptional ownership experience. A spokesperson from World Auto Business emphasised a commitment to world-class after-sales services, comprehensive warranty programs and an expanding service network, ensuring that every BYD owner enjoys unparalleled support and peace of mind.

The unveiling of the BYD Sealion 7 EV represents a pivotal milestone in Oman's automotive landscape, further solidifying BYD's footprint in the region. With its advanced technology, sophisticated design and robust after-sales support, the Sealion 7 EV is poised to redefine the way Oman embraces sustainable luxury, marking the dawn of a new era in electric mobility.

In Oman, BYD vehicles are distributed by World Auto Business.

ROUND-UP

Bank Dhofar, Western Union enhance digital remittances, offer free transfers

With an emphasis on security, speed, and customer convenience, the service has rapidly gained popularity, driven by the combination of competitive exchange rates and a low transaction fee of just OMR1.5

MUSCAT: By integrating Western Union's global money transfer services into its digital banking platforms, Bank Dhofar is providing customers unparalleled convenience and efficiency through its advanced digital banking platforms. The collaboration allows Bank Dhofar's customers to easily transfer funds internationally with just a few taps on their smartphones. With an emphasis on security, speed, and customer convenience, the service has rapidly gained popularity, driven by the combination of competitive exchange rates and a low transaction fee of just OMR1.5. To further enhance the service



and provide added value, Bank Dhofar has introduced a series of special promo codes for free international remittances. This initiative, which allows customers to send money at zero cost, has been met with enthusiasm, significantly increasing the adoption of the service. The convenience of digital-first banking solutions combined with these customer-centric offers has led to a noticeable increase in

usage, underscoring the growing demand for efficient, online financial services. Customers can now enjoy a seamless remittance experience without the need to visit a branch or deal with the traditional barriers of international money transfers. Acknowledging Bank Dhofar's pioneering efforts in expanding digital remittances, Western Union recently presented the bank

with a commemorative memento, celebrating their leadership in driving international payment innovation within Oman and beyond. This accolade underscores the impactful partnership between the two organisations, setting the stage for future growth and innovation. Commenting on the strategic alliance Amjad Al Lawati, Chief Retail Banking Officer of Bank

Dhofar, said "Our strengthened partnership with Western Union reflects our commitment to deliver unparalleled financial solutions to our customers. We are deeply committed to leveraging digital innovation to simplify and enhance the international remittance experience. The overwhelming positive response to our free transfer promotion underscores the growing preference for digital

banking solutions. We are proud to be at the forefront of this digital transformation, empowering our customers with seamless and efficient global financial services." Looking forward, both Bank Dhofar and Western Union remain committed to expanding their partnership by introducing more customer-centric solutions and continuously enhancing the international remittance experience.

MODERN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND SCIENCE

MCBS promotes cultural understanding and peace in inspiring session

MUSCAT: The Modern College of Business and Science recently hosted an insightful session featuring renowned philanthropist and motivational speaker, Sheikh Hatim Al Abdissalam, from the Oman LNG Development Foundation. The event, held on campus, focused on the topic "Modern Islam: Tolerance and Peaceful Connections" and provided a profound discussion on the values of tolerance, understanding, and peaceful relationships, in the true spirit of Islam. Sheikh Al Abdissalam highlighted the importance of Islam's core teachings on justice, benevolence, and peace, values that resonate deeply with MCBS's mission. Through this session, MCBS reaffirmed its commitment to fostering respect, cultural understanding, and peace among our students and community. "At MCBS, we remain dedicated to upholding ethical principles and preserving the legacy of harmony that Oman is known for," said Dr. Said Al Kitani, Associate Dean for



Community Engagement at MCBS. "This session contributes to our ongoing efforts to cultivate an environment that reflects the values of peace, tolerance, and open dialogue." In line with MCBS's strategic focus on internationalization and enhancing diversity among students and faculty, this session also emphasized the importance of fostering an inclusive environment. It underscored the college's role in preparing students for global challenges and promoting unity

through cultural understanding. The college continues to cultivate an environment where universal values of respect, integrity, and compassion serve as foundational pillars of its educational philosophy. These principles will be thoughtfully integrated into future initiatives as the college continues its dedication to empowering students as reflective leaders who will contribute meaningfully to building a peaceful and prosperous future.

IN SAMAIL

Bank Muscat celebrates inauguration of lighting project of Al Baz Sports

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, recently celebrated the inauguration of the lighting system project of the Al Baz Sports Team in Samail, Al Dakhiliya Governorate. The event was organised under the patronage of Sheikh Ali Mohammed Al Tamimi, Wali of Samail, and in the presence of Adel Saeed Al Nuaimi, Regional Manager of Bank Muscat Branches in Al Dakhiliya Governorate, in addition to a number of invitees and team members. On this occasion, Adel Saeed Al Nuaimi, Regional Manager of Bank Muscat Branches in Al Dakhiliya Governorate, said: "Bank Muscat proudly celebrates the success of its "Green Sports" programme, a cornerstone of the Bank's commitment to social responsibility. This initiative has made a significant impact on national sports teams, Omani youth, and society at large. By organizing a diverse array of ac-



tivities and events, the programme fosters the development of young people's skills across sports, culture, and social engagement, while also highlighting their talents and serving local community. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the team's management and members for this remarkable achievement and wish them continued success in their endeavours." Abdullah Mahfouz Al Sulaimi, Head of Al Baz Sports Team in Samail, expressed his delight in organizing this ceremony to cel-

ebate the inauguration of the team's field lighting project. He emphasized that: "The "Green Sports" programme is a key initiative dedicated to supporting local sports teams. This programme has had a significant and positive impact on the community, as evidenced by the numerous beneficiaries since its inception. Throughout this project, we aim to further enrich the community by utilizing this space to host a variety of social, sports, and cultural activities and events."

ENHANCING KNOWLEDGE



Alizz Islamic Bank honours graduates of second batch of 'Tamkeen' programme

MUSCAT: Alizz Islamic Bank, represented by the Shari'a Compliance & Audit Department, celebrated the graduation of the second batch of the Tamkeen programme for 'Empowering the Second Line of Shari'a Supervisory Board Members'. The bank also announced the enrollment of the third batch of candidates for the programme. The ceremony was graced by Ali Al Mani, CEO of Alizz Islamic Bank, members of the Shari'a Supervisory Board, members of executive management and other guests from various organisations. The first-of its-kind programme which aims to enhance the knowledge and strength of potential future Shari'a Supervisory Board (SSB) Members as one of the bank's initiatives under the Manar Alizz umbrella, the program that aims to develop Omani Islamic Scholars to assume the role of Members in Shari'a Supervisory Boards in Islamic Financial Services Institutions in the future, by enhancing their knowledge on Banking, Economics, Legal, Finance & Governance in addition to the leadership skill sets aligned to SSB roles. As part of the graduation ceremony the bank conducted a panel discussion on 'Financial Aware-

ness during modern economic challenges' with the participation of esteemed scholars from the Shari'a Supervisory Board and a representative from Ministry of Finance's National Program for Financial Sustainability and Financial Sector Development 'Etidama'. Alizz Islamic Bank continues its efforts in raising financial awareness through various initiatives, as it believes is imperative for today's youth to have a solid understanding of basic financial concepts and skills to navigate their way to achieve a successful and sustainable future. Speaking about the graduation ceremony Issa bin Salim Al Riyami, Head of Shari'a Compliance and Audit said, "We emphasise the importance of collectively serving our country and we are dedicated to develop the future Shari'a Supervisory Board members and equipping them with the necessary knowledge and tools to succeed. "The program is the result of close cooperation with the Ministry of Endowment and Religious Affairs, represented by the Office of His Eminence the Grand Mufti of the Sultanate of Oman. This program, enhances the trainees knowledge of Islamic banking and provides them with the required

skills in Shari'a review and auditing mechanisms. On the other hand, their experience expands through shadowing the esteemed scholars who are members of the Shari'a Supervisory Board. It has been our immense pleasure to witness first-hand the success and growth of the second batch of candidates from the office of the Grand Mufti and we would like to welcome the third batch and wish them success." It is worth noting that the Shari'a Supervisory Board, through the reports submitted to it, monitors the Shari'a performance of the bank, which enables the board to evaluate the extent of compliance with Shari'a directives and decisions. It also provides its recommendations and advice to create value-added products for the Islamic banking industry and providing financing solutions to meet the high customer demand in the market. The Shari'a Compliance and Audit Department plays a vital role in monitoring the correct application of the Shari'a Supervisory Board's instructions by overseeing the mechanisms used to create products and develop product related documents, while examining the executed transactions and applying control and auditing measures.

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