

Times

OF OMAN

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50

YEARS OF LEGACY



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OMAN'S GDP PROJECTED TO HIT OMR39.2 BILLION

The growth is expected due to the improved performance of oil activities, which grew during the year by 1.3 percent, after witnessing a decline of 3 percent last year

this to the improved performance of oil activities, which grew during the year by 1.3 percent, after witnessing a decline of 3 percent at the end of last year.

The contribution of oil activities to the GDP is expected to rise from OMR11.9 billion in 2024 to OMR12 billion by the end of this year. Non-oil activities are expected to grow by 2.7 percent this year compared to 3.9 percent in 2024.

The report further expects

continued rise in the added value of non-oil activities, reaching OMR28.6 billion by the end of 2025, compared to OMR27.9 billion in 2024.

In the medium term, the team's forecasts indicate that Oman's economic growth momentum will continue in 2026 as well as in 2027, amid the ongoing implementation of strategic projects in the non-oil sectors and the expected increase in oil production.

See also >B1

TRAINING PROGRAMME

HH Sayyid Theyazin flags off 2nd Military Discipline Programme for school students

MUSCAT: HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, launched the second edition of the Military Discipline Programme for school students, set to take place in Dhofar Governorate from 13 July to 6 August. The programme, overseen by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth with support from various military, security, and relevant government institutions, aims to achieve its intended objectives and national goals.

In a statement, HH Sayyid Theyazin emphasised that the programme aligns with national efforts to hone youth skills and channel their energies toward nation-building. This year, he said, it targets 850 students from across the Sultanate of Oman through an integrated training programme in Dhofar, focusing on reinforcing values of citizenship, identity, and

self-discipline via cultural, training, and sports activities. These initiatives, affirmed HH Sayyid Theyazin, reflect the objectives of

Oman Vision 2040 in empowering Omani youth as a national priority and enhancing their active role in development. >A2

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Oman-Cebu Investment Forum held

1 The Oman-Cebu Investment Forum, held in the Republic of Philippines, showcased investment opportunities and areas of bilateral cooperation in two countries. The event was organised by the Foreign Ministry, OCCI and relevant authorities in Cebu. >A5

OMAN Sezad launches tourism campaign

2 The Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad) launched on Saturday the 4th edition of its 'Mar' Alaina' drive, as part of its efforts to promote the rich tourism offerings of Duqm and to reinforce its position as a stopover for travellers. >A2

WORLD Air India crash preliminary report

3 India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AIB) released the preliminary report into the tragic crash of Air India flight AI171, a Boeing 787-8 aircraft, which crashed shortly after takeoff from Ahmedabad's Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Airport. >A7

PIONEERING INITIATIVE

Shabiba's Jawa'iz Basma to honour exceptional social impact initiatives and achievers

MUSCAT: Muscat Media Group, in partnership with Gulf Leaders Circle, has launched Shabiba Jawa'iz Basma 2025, a pioneering initiative dedicated to recognising outstanding contributions to the social, environmental and economic well-being of communities across the Sultanate. The awards presentation event will take place on 17th September at St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort, bringing together leaders from government, business and civil society.

The awards will felicitate initiatives, organisations and individuals that have made a significant impact in areas such as sustainability, environmental protection, youth engagement, women's empowerment, financial inclusion, SME development and more. With over 20 diverse award categories, the initiative aligns with the goals of Oman Vision 2040, promoting inclusive growth, public-private collaboration and sustainable development.

"The Shabiba Jawa'iz Basma

is more than a celebration," said Ahmed Essa Al Zedjali, CEO, Muscat Media Group. "It's a call to action – to honour those who are redefining what it means to create value for society and to inspire others to follow."

Awards will be presented across five major themes – Environmental Impact, Community Well-being, Inclusive Development, Corporate Responsibility

and Leadership in Sustainability. Specific categories include Biodiversity Conservation Initiative, Clean Energy Initiative, Community Healthcare Initiative, Women Empowerment Initiative, Financial Inclusion Initiative, SMEs Development, Omani-isation Achievement and Social Entrepreneurship. Additionally, awards for Leadership in ESG, Leadership in CSR, Leadership in ICV and Social Impact Leader of the Year will recognize visionary individuals and organizations driving long-term, systemic social development in Oman.

The evening will commence with a keynote address titled "Redefining Success: Embedding Social Impact in Policy, Business and Innovation," followed by the awards ceremony and a gala dinner. The event promises a distinguished gathering of senior officials, CEOs and leaders in CSR, ESG and ICV from across sectors.

For partnership or nomination inquiries, contact: hanaa@mmg.om or +968 9115 5585

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Fajr (Tomorrow) 4:03am

Special Economic Zone at Duqm launches tourism campaign

The campaign aims to enrich the tourist experience by highlighting the natural attractions and entertainment options available in Duqm and Al Wusta Governorate more broadly



Times News Service

DUQM: The Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD) launched on Saturday the fourth edition of its ‘Mar’ Alaina’ campaign, as part of its ongoing efforts to promote the rich tourism offerings of Duqm in Al Wusta Governorate and to reinforce its position as a preferred stopover for travelers heading to or returning from Dhofar during the Khareef (monsoon) season.

The campaign aims to enrich the tourist experience by highlighting the natural attractions and entertainment options available in Duqm and Al Wusta Governorate more broadly.

It encourages travellers to stop and explore Duqm’s landmarks instead of simply passing through on their way to other destinations.

The tourism route from Muscat to Duqm and then to Salalah is one of several that boost the tourism sector by enabling residents, expatriates, and tourists to discover numerous scenic spots along the Arabian Sea.



Mustafa bin Mohammed Al Balushi, Head of Communication and Media at SEZAD, stated that the campaign – first launched in 2022–has successfully enhanced Duqm’s standing as a promising destination on Oman’s tourism map.

He noted that this year’s edition aims to attract a broader audi-



ence by offering diverse activities, events, and comprehensive tourism experiences that merit multi-day stays.

He emphasised that SEZAD is an ideal location to stop over for several days either en route to Dhofar or on the return trip.

Al Balushi added that in recent years, Duqm has witnessed

remarkable developments in its tourism infrastructure, including facilities, services, hotels, restaurants, parks, and roads.

The city now offers over 2,500 hotel rooms spread across four- and three-star hotels as well as hotel apartments.

Additionally, camping options are available through the Duqm

Beach Park, which is equipped with necessary amenities.

The campaign targets various groups including families and travel groups heading to Dhofar from northern and central Oman, tourists from GCC countries, youth, nature and adventure enthusiasts, and social media influencers.

Al Balushi affirmed that Duqm

offers enriching experiences for every category.

Running until the end of September, the campaign includes poetry evenings, a kite festival, a charitable kitchen event, and children’s shows held at the new Duqm Park in Sai Commercial District.

Participating hotels will also offer special deals and discounts for travelers.

Furthermore, kiosks selling Omani products and handicrafts will be available to support local small and medium enterprises.

Duqm’s key tourist attractions include the Rock Garden, its diverse beaches, and nearby locations such as the Arabian Oryx Sanctuary, Barr Al Hikman, and Ras Madrakah—each adding unique value to visitors’ experiences.

The campaign is promoted through digital channels such as X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram to reach target audiences in a modern style that enhances Duqm’s digital presence and turns each visit into an inspiring story worth sharing.

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WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

SPIRIT OF DEDICATION

Innovative project of Musandam govt honoured at WSIS



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Musandam Governorate was honoured at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) 2025 Summit in Geneva on Saturday.

Organised by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) for its innovative project that develops smart street lighting systems using Internet of Things (IoT) technologies, it was recognised as one of the most outstanding in terms of sustainability and applicability.

The project caught the attention of the WSIS competition committee, with experts describing it as a practical model that can be replicated across urban environments, due to its technical innovation and alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Amina bint Mohammed Al-Shehhi, Director of the Information Technology Department at Musandam’s General Directorate of Administrative and Financial Affairs, explained that the project relies on an integrated tech infrastructure.

Smart sensors are installed on lighting poles to collect data on natural light intensity, pedestrian and vehicle movement, weather conditions, and the status of the devices themselves.

This data is sent to a centralised operations platform that analyses it and makes automated decisions to turn lights on or off or adjust brightness levels, aiming for maximum operational efficiency.

She noted that the system allows real-time monitoring of the

lighting network, enabling early fault detection and immediate alerts to maintenance teams. This improves response time and service quality for residents and visitors. The platform also generates analytical reports to support infrastructure planning and decision-making.

The project represents a major leap on several fronts.

It reduces electricity consumption by up to 40% compared to traditional systems and extends lamp life through need-based operation and helps lower the carbon footprint and supports Oman’s transition to green development and smart cities, and improves resource management and cuts long-term operational and maintenance costs.

Al-Shehhi said that this recognition marks a national achievement, solidifying Musandam’s status as a leading governorate in leveraging technology for public service and sustainable development.

It also reflects its commitment to Oman Vision 2040, which prioritises digital change and environmental sustainability.

The WSIS, backed by the United Nations and managed by the ITU in collaboration with several international organisations, stands as one of the foremost global initiatives in ICT for development.

The summit encourages digital innovation and fosters tech projects aimed at achieving the SDGs. Each year, WSIS hosts the WSIS Prizes competition, celebrating the most innovative and sustainable tech projects from across the globe.

Ministry to invest in youth potential

<FROM A1 He concluded, “The successes of the first edition—evident in the heightened awareness, discipline, and responsibility among students—serve as strong motivation to further develop this second edition into a model training programme. It aims to prepare a generation capable of facing future challenges and contributing to the progress of our beloved nation.”

The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth reaffirmed its commitment to initiatives that invest in youth potential and instill a spirit of dedication and belonging, supporting Oman’s ongoing development and prosperity under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik. -ONA

SOHAR

Child injured in games area

Times News Service

SOHAR: Emergency teams from the Civil Defence and Ambulance Department (CDAA) in North Al Batinah responded to an incident involving a child being injured at an electric games area at a commercial centre in Sohar.

The CDAA said in a statement, “Ambulance teams of the Civil Defence and Ambulance Department in North Al Batinah Governorate responded to a report of a child sustaining an injury in the area designated for electric games at one of the commercial centres in Sohar. Emergency medical care was provided to him at the site, and he was then transferred to the hospital, affected by a moderate injury.”

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COMMENTARY

Oman for foreign investors: Open doors with protected sectors

Oman actively encourages foreign investment under its Foreign Capital Investment Law, offering significant incentives such as national treatment, potential tax breaks, land access options, and strong guarantees against unfair expropriation. Foreign investors can establish projects across most sectors through the streamlined Investment Services Centre, benefiting from efficient approvals and freedom to transfer funds.

Speaking exclusively to the Times of Oman, a representative of Mohammed Ibrahim Law Firm, a leading law office in Oman, explained that specific economic activities are reserved solely for Omani nationals to protect local culture, preserve traditional crafts and livelihoods, and support small-to-medium enterprises. These prohibitions are clearly defined in recent Ministerial Decisions. Key sectors off-limits to foreign investment include the manufacture and retail of traditional Omani products like halwa, kummah, khanjars, abayas, incense, and frankincense items, as well as craft production using materials such as leather, fronds, wood, silver, copper, stone, or pottery. Retail of these traditional goods alongside items like honey, natural/herbal products, souvenirs, and traditional weapons is also restricted.

Numerous local service sectors are protected, including tailoring Arabian clothing, specific vehicle repairs and washes, driving instruction, laundry, hairdressing/barbering (outside tourist establishments), document photocopying, and building cleaning, said Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim Al



DR. MOHAMMED IBRAHIM AL ZADJALI,
Founding partner of Mohammed Ibrahim Law Firm



Zadjali, Founding Partner of Mohammed Ibrahim Law Firm.

Another spokesperson from the firm stated that basic retail including grocery shops, specialized sales of fresh produce, meat, fish, poultry, animal feed, cooking gas, scrap building materials including scrap iron, used vehicles, and telecommunication cards are generally reserved. Sensitive areas like

labour recruitment, real estate brokerage/management, customs clearance, Hajj/Umrah transport, water transport/sale, certain fuel station operations, beekeeping, small-scale poultry operations, and marine fishing are also prohibited. Recent amendments added further restrictions, including mobile coffee shops, commercial PO box services, skin care services,

plant nurseries, freshwater aquaculture, and event supply rentals.

Existing foreign investments in prohibited activities at the time the relevant decisions took effect are generally allowed to continue but cannot be transferred to new foreign owners without specific ministerial approval. This framework effectively balances Oman's openness to international capital with the protection of vital national economic and cultural interests, the expert said.

(Mohammed Ibrahim Law Firm (info@mohammedibrahim.net), (+968 244 87 600) was established 18 years ago and is serving clients through its offices in Muscat and Sohar, as well as operating on a request basis in other areas. It offers legal representation across a wide range of practice areas that include Labour Law, Corporate, Commercial, Contracts, Banking and Finance, International Trade, Foreign Investment, Insurance, Maritime Law, Construction and Engineering Contracts, International Arbitration, Intellectual Property and more).

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212TH BHANU JAYANTI

Literature and labour awareness event held by Nepal Embassy



Times News Service

MUSCAT: To mark the 212th Bhanu Jayanti, the Embassy of Nepal in Muscat organised a Literature and Labour Awareness Programme in collaboration with the International Nepali Literature Society, Oman.

The event took place at Nepal House on 11 July 2025 from 15:00 to 19:00 hours.

The primary objective was to raise awareness on labour-related issues through literary expressions while also celebrating and promoting the richness of Nepali language, literature, and culture in honour of Adikabi Bhanu Bhakta Acharya, the first poet of Nepal.

The programme commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the traditional Panas lamp by Dornath Aryal, Ambassador of Nepal to the Sultanate of Oman.

In his welcome address, Ambassador Aryal paid tribute to Bhanu Bhakta Acharya and reflected immense contributions of Bhanu Bhakta to Nepali literature.

He highlighted several matters of labour awareness including preparation of vital documents to raising awareness for safe foreign employment.

He also expressed gratitude to all the participants who showcased their literary presentations.

The event featured a variety of literary and cultural performances, including poetry recitals, songs, and ghazals, all celebrating Nepali heritage.

Labour awareness related video produced by the Embassy was also presented during the event. Few videos will be uploaded on the official website for mass dissemination.

A total of 18 participants shared their creative works, including poems, songs, and ghazals. Each participant received a certificate of appreciation and a token of gratitude for their contributions.

The programme was jointly conducted by Bishesh Kumar Sah, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Nepal and Bikash Ghale, representative of International Nepali Literature Society, Oman.

CAPTIVATING JOURNEY

Discover khareef's charm along Muscat-Duqm-Salalah route



Times News Service

DUQM: As The 1,100-kilometre drive from Muscat to Salalah has become the standard route for those heading to the annual khareef season.

But while most drivers push through non-stop to reach Dhofar, the smarter travellers know better.

They stop in Duqm. Positioned at the halfway point - 550 kilometres from the capital, 600 from the southern destination - this special economic zone has quietly built the infrastructure that transforms a fuel stop into a proper break.

The kind of place where you arrive planning to stay one night and find yourself extending to two.

Look at where you can stay and you'll understand what Duqm is really about. Yes, there are the expected four-star hotels for busi-



ness travellers but it's the Duqm Beach Camp that signals something more interesting.

Proper camping - not the rough-it variety - with the kind of

thoughtful amenities that let you wake to the sound of waves without sacrificing your morning coffee. The town's ambitions are written in its public spaces.



that suggests this isn't just another development project but a place where people actually want to linger.

Even the inclusion of a bowling alley - sometimes you want to knock down pins after a day of driving.

For travellers who judge a destination by its capacity to surprise, Duqm delivers.

Izbat Al Maha offers the kind of authentic desert experience that's increasingly rare - Arabic coffee served in settings that feel genuine rather than staged.

Hiking trails

The newly developed hiking trails show a commitment to the environment that goes beyond development.

But it's the day trips that transform a stopover into a base camp.

The Rock Garden, with its lunar geology.

The Arabian Oryx Reserve where conservation meets spectacular wildlife viewing.

The pink lakes of Al Jazir Instagram-ready but genuinely otherworldly.

Each excursion returns you to Duqm with the satisfaction of having seen something genuinely special. The khareef season will always be the main event and Salalah will always be the star.

But for those who understand that the best journeys are measured not in destinations reached but in discoveries made, Duqm represents something more valuable than a pit stop.

It's a proposition that sometimes the most rewarding travel happens when you're not in a hurry to get anywhere else.

EIGHTH TERM

On Royal directives, State Council concludes second regular session

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Based on the Royal directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the State Council concluded the work of the second regular session of the eighth term.

Khalid bin Ahmed Al Saadi, Secretary-General of the State Council, confirmed that this session witnessed intensive legislative activity, with the Council discussing a number of specialised draft laws related to current national priorities that meet the aspirations of citizens.

The Council also fulfilled its legislative role by examining several proposals for important national studies.

After reviewing the most prominent accomplishments of the Council, he said: "The importance of this session was evident in a comprehensive set of legislative activities that reflected the Council's dedication to fulfilling its national duties responsibly. During the session, the Council discussed 14 draft laws, in addition to amending a number of existing laws across various sectors such as economy, education, health, and technology. These discussions aimed to support the investment climate, improve social services, and reinforce national development."

He added: "The Council's standing committees were particularly active, holding multiple meetings to examine priority topics and preparing important recommendations for general sessions. Moreover, the Council organised open forums with civil society representatives, experts, and officials to enhance national participation in decision-making and achieve cross-sector cooperation. These efforts reflect the Council's commitment to sound legislative principles, aiming to meet national aspirations and professionally address present challenges.

He clarified that during the second regular session of the eighth term, the State Council held eight



general sessions and reviewed 18 topics, forming the official framework for exercising its legislative responsibilities. Among the national draft laws discussed were those related to electronic transactions, public health, financial legislation, income tax on individuals, and the regulation of organ and human tissue donation and transplantation.

These sessions featured constructive member contributions, exploring the legislative dimensions of those proposals. The sessions were marked by in-depth dialogue and the exchange of views, showcasing the Council's active engagement with its duties.

He stated that in the context of constructive cooperation between the State Council and the Shura Council, two joint sessions were held to discuss draft laws on certain disagreements. During these meetings, views were exchanged,

reflecting a spirit of national responsibility and concern for public interest. These discussions concluded with full agreement on the disputed articles, contributing to the completion of draft laws in a balanced format that reflects unified national will.

He said that the Council's office conducted regular activities during this session, holding six meetings that discussed sixty topics and issued forty-five decisions. Most of these decisions related to organising general sessions, coordinating committee work, member proposals, and the Council's administrative affairs.

He added: "The office also organised three meetings with heads and rapporteurs of the permanent committees to enhance cooperation and exchange views on various studies and proposals submitted by the committees. These efforts aim to support the

legislative process, ensure consistency with legal and regulatory frameworks, and strengthen joint coordination with the Council of Ministers. In line with Article (77) of the Law of the Council of Oman, the Council of Ministers held a meeting with the Chairman and members of the Council's office during this session.

He added: "During this session, the Council's standing committees held 72 main meetings and 90 subcommittee meetings, which included hosting officials from entities related to their topics of study. The total number of hosted individuals reached 45 from both public and private sectors, strengthening partnerships between the Council and various national entities.

In addition, the special committees held 27 main meetings and 3 sub-meetings and hosted several state officials to support their observations. The Council also held 11 joint committee meetings with the Shura Council to review articles of draft laws under discussion.

On external engagement, he stressed the Council's dedication to maintaining its presence in regional and international forums by participating in conferences, parliamentary events, and seminars organised by various legislative institutions worldwide. These engagements aim to deepen parliamentary cooperation with counterpart councils in friendly nations and exchange legislative expertise.

The Council participated in international meetings including those of GCC legislative bodies, the Arab Parliament, the Parliamentary Union of OIC Member States, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, neighbouring country parliaments, and regional organisations. Council representatives presented opinions that reflect national policy and reaffirm Oman's commitment to democratic principles, human rights, and international cooperation.

Such participation has elevated the State Council's reputation globally.

ENHANCE SMART SERVICES

Dhofar Municipality signs MoU to develop digital infrastructure



Times News Service

SALALAH: In a strategic move aimed at supporting digital transformation and strengthening digital infrastructure in Dhofar Governorate, AWASR signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Dhofar Municipality on July 10, to collaborate on the study and implementation of several joint technology and service projects.

These initiatives aim to enhance the quality of life and improve the efficiency of public services throughout the governorate.

The MoU was signed at the Dhofar Municipality headquarters in Salalah by Dr. Ahmed Mohsen Al Ghassani, Chairman of Dhofar Municipality, and Eng. Adnan bin Mohammed Al Alawi, Chief Executive Officer of AWASR.

Under the MoU, both parties will collaborate on a variety of initiatives, including the provision of managed Wi-Fi services in tourist sites, public parks, and coastal promenades; connecting municipality-owned buildings with high-performance networks; and exploring the application of modern communication technologies and AI-based solutions to enhance the management of municipal operations and services.

One of the key components of the MoU is the provision of free, managed public Wi-Fi in strategic public areas. This service will enable residents and visitors to enjoy seamless and secure internet access in high-traffic

locations, thereby enriching the digital tourism experience and promoting domestic tourism.

The initiative also supports the creation of a robust digital infrastructure that will serve as a foundation for launching interactive, innovative municipal services, in addition to enabling access to educational content and digital information services in parks and tourist areas.

Furthermore, the initiative is expected to facilitate integration with e-payment systems, geo-spatial services, and community awareness applications, reinforcing Dhofar's image as a technologically advanced destination and paving the way toward a future smart city model.

Commenting on the MoU, Dr. AhmedMohsen Al Ghassani, Chairman of Dhofar Municipality, stated: "This partnership is vital for enhancing municipal services and improving the overall visitor experience. It represents a key step toward achieving the goals of Oman Vision 2040 by building smart infrastructure and balancing urban development with digital progress."

From his side, Eng. Adnan bin Mohammed Al Alawi, CEO of AWASR, affirmed: "This MoU reflects our deep commitment to supporting government entities in advancing their digital capabilities. We are confident that our partnership with Dhofar Municipality will yield impactful projects that benefit citizens, residents, and tourists alike, and contribute to building smart, tech-enabled communities."

Tourism sector boosts revenues

The tourism sector's contribution to Oman's GDP rose to OMR 2.7 billion in 2024, reflecting the growing impact of tourism on the national economy

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The tourism sector in the Sultanate of Oman has seen an upswing in terms of financial revenues and visitor numbers, stimulating economic activities that support and intertwine with the sector, which is an effective economic pillar and a promising sector for economic diversification.

Data released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) showed that the tourism sector's contribution to the national economy rose to OMR2.12 billion by the end of 2024, compared to OMR1.75 billion in 2018, representing a growth rate of 3.2 percent.

The tourism sector's contribution to Oman's GDP rose to OMR2.7 billion in 2024, compared to OMR2.3 billion in 2018, reflecting the growing of tourism on the national economy.

Salim Mohammed Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Heritage and Tourism, emphasised that the positive indicators achieved by the tourism sector in 2024, whether in terms of the number of visitors, the volume of spending, or the added value, represent the fruit of focused and ambitious efforts adopted by the Ministry to enhance the Sultanate of Oman's position as a rich and diverse tourist destination.

He praised the efforts of the



sector's partners for their efforts to improve facilities and services, which contributed to achieving these qualitative indicators.

The Minister of Heritage and Tourism said that these indicators are the result of the government's support for economic diversification policies and integration with various government agencies, which plays a pivotal role in creating an attractive environment for investment and accelerating the pace of tourism projects.

He pointed out that the ministry is keen to adopt innovative promotional policies, expand partnerships with the private sector, and develop tourism products and services to meet visitors' aspirations and enhance the tourist experience.

He added that the Ministry is proceeding with plans to diversify tourism products and expand partnerships with local communities, enhancing the sector's contribution to economic growth

in the labour market, in line with existing trends to raise the level and numbers of national workers in this sector.

These efforts were reflected in other sector-related indicators. Total tourism consumption in the Sultanate of Oman rose to OMR1.02 billion in 2024, compared to OMR960 million in 2018.

Meanwhile, direct tourism added value grew by 5.3 percent to OMR1.09 billion, compared to OMR7997 million in 2018. This



demonstrates the strong interconnectedness between tourism and other economic sectors such as transportation, hospitality, retail, and culture.

In terms of tourism flow, the Sultanate of Oman received approximately 3.8 million visitors in 2024, of whom 68.2 percent were overnight visitors and 31.8 percent were same-day visitors.

Total tourism spending by these visitors amounted to approximately OMR989 million, with an average per capita expenditure of OMR253.8.

The data indicated that more than 55 percent of incoming visitors were UAE residents, reflecting the strength of the Gulf market as a primary target market and underscoring the importance of enhancing land connectivity and facilitating travel between Gulf countries. European visitors accounted for 16 percent of the total, while visitors from Asian countries accounted for 13.2 percent, indicating the diversity of markets and the effectiveness of the promotional campaigns launched by the Ministry in cooperation with external offices.

Recreational tourism topped the list of reasons, accounting for 70.2 percent, followed by visiting relatives and friends at 17.9 percent,

and shopping at 5 percent. The average length of stay ranged between 5 and 6 nights, with a total of 14.8 million tourist nights.

This confirms the ability of Omani destinations to attract visitors for longer periods, thanks to the diversity of tourism products, cultural experiences, natural sites, and historical and archaeological landmarks.

Regarding accommodation options, hotel establishments have witnessed a growth in demand, enhancing the feasibility of investing in tourism facilities, particularly in governorates with developing tourism infrastructure, such as Dhofar, Musandam, and Ad Dakhiliyah.

Projects underway and public-private partnerships are expected to contribute to expanding accommodation capacity and improving the quality of services.

On the other hand, the number of departing visitors reached 8.1 million, spending a total of OMR1.8 billion, with an average per capita expenditure of OMR218.5. This reflects the volume of domestic spending on outbound tourism and opens the door to developing initiatives to promote domestic tourism and direct purchasing power towards domestic destinations.



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OMAN-CEBU INVESTMENT FORUM

Oman-Philippines explore new opportunities, bilateral cooperation

CEBU: The Oman-Cebu Investment Forum, held in the Republic of the Philippines, showcased investment opportunities and areas of bilateral cooperation between the two friendly nations.

The event was organised by the Foreign Ministry, Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) and relevant authorities in Cebu.

In his opening remarks at the forum, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, emphasized the importance of transforming existing friendly relations into mutual trade and investment partnerships by fostering a conducive environment and raising awareness of available opportunities.

These include green and renewable energy, logistics, tourism, real estate development, food industries, healthcare, artificial intelligence,

data centres, robotics, and information technology.

He stated, “The Sultanate of Oman is a preferred destination for many Filipino workers, who have found a second home where they enjoy safety and respect. Around 50,000 Filipinos live in an environment marked by understanding and tolerance.”

He added that this strong human foundation serves as a starting point for expanding cooperation beyond labour into trade and investment, opening wider horizons for the business communities of both Oman and the Philippines.

The first edition of the Oman-Cebu Investment Forum aimed to promote cultural, commercial, tourism, and investment ties between Oman and the Philippines while enabling economic partner-



ships by providing an attractive platform for exchanging ideas and fostering collaborations across various sectors of the two nations.

The forum was attended by Dr. Mahad bin Said Ba’awin, Minister of Labour, along with representatives from the public and private sectors of both countries. — ONA



RELATIONS

‘Oman and Algeria witnessing remarkable economic growth’

ALGIERS: The economic and investment relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria are witnessing notable development in all sectors, mainly the investment sector, following the two visits of the leaders of the countries.

Saif bin Nasser Al Badaei, the

Sultanate’s ambassador accredited to the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria said that the two countries witnessed remarkable economic development within the keenness of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and president Abdelmadjid Tebboune, for boosting the economic and investment relations through the agreements

and Memoranda of Understanding signed between the two sides and the establishment of the Joint Investment Fund, of which key projects are under negotiations. The ambassador said that the Algerian side showed its interest with the investment environment in Oman.

He said that the Sultanate Embassy in Algeria is working on

transfer of many applications to the “Invest in Oman Lounge” as to provide the investors and interested parties in the Algerian market with the information, and facilities offered by the Sultanate of Oman.

Mohammed bin Ali Al Lawati, Acting Director of Investment Promotion at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment

Promotion, said that Oman allows foreign investors own projects at 100% without the need for a local partner in most economic sectors, something that gives investors control over their project.

He said that Oman offers a package of tax incentives attractive to investors such as exemption from income tax for 10 years in some

vital sectors such as industry, tourism, agriculture and technology industries.

Meanwhile, Omar Rekkache, Director General of the Algerian Agency for Investment Promotion (AAPI) said that AAPI targets Oman investments in Algeria exceeding – in the medium term USD 10 billion. — ONA

CULTURAL COOPERATION

RGO takes part in Basel Tattoo 2025 music concert



BASEL: The Royal Guard of Oman (RGO) Music Wing participated in Basel Tattoo 2025 concert for military music in Swiss Confederation.

The concert has been organised within the activities of the international festival which lasts till 21 July.

The participation of the RGO Music came at an official invitation from the Swiss Ministry of Defence.

The RGO participation depicts the deep-rooted relations and cultural cooperation between the two countries.

Brigadier Ramis bin Jamaan al Awairah, Director General of Music at the Royal Guard of Oman said that the participation aimed



to shed light on the cultural aspects of the Sultanate of Oman.

He pointed out that the Sultanate of Oman views culture and art as a way of dissemination of messages of peace and communication.

He said that the performance of the concert has displayed the ad-

vance level of the players of musical instruments.

The concert of the RGO Music was warmly welcomed by the attendees and the organisers of the event who described it as reflecting the concern and attention accorded to military music.

— ONA

ROYAL OMAN POLICE

Tourist held

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Royal Oman Police has apprehended a Chinese tourist involved in a sophisticated cyber fraud operation in coordination with an international criminal gang specialising in cross-border digital scams.

According to sources, the suspect used advanced technology to infiltrate local residential network systems.

ANNOUNCEMENT



This is to inform all concerned that **Mr. SAHUL HAMEED KADER MOHIDEEN**, holder of **Indian Passport No.T3960790 Resident card No.97397042** has relieved from our company M/s. Al Manarah Engineering Consultancy from 17.06.2025. Therefore, all the concerned are requested to stop dealing with the above named in favor of the company. If anyone is dealing with him it is at their own risk and company will not take any responsibility hereafter. If anybody has any claim, he/she should report to the company within next 3 working days.



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MUSCAT MUNICIPALITY

Advertisement No. 21 /2025

Muscat Municipality invites interested companies to the following bidding

Sl No.	Bidding No.	Bidding description	Document fee	Deadline for obtaining bidding docs.	Deadline for inquires submission	Deadline for submission
1	1F/2025	Design, Manage, Operate & Implementation of Different Events at Qurum Natural Park	150/- OMR	03/08/2025	10/08/2025	21/08/2025

Registered companies with Muscat Municipality which are Specialized in above bid are invited to participate as per the following procedures:

- Company registration with Muscat Municipality have to be valid as per note number one below, to be able to get the bid document.
- Pay the specified document fee for the requested bid via bank deposit to Muscat Municipality's Bank account as follows:

BANK MUSCAT 0423010702710024

- A copy of the transaction& receipt MUST be send to the following e-mail (**SQ.QS@mm.gov.om**), provided with the company data (name and bid number, delegate name,office phone number, mobile number, email address approved by the company and commerical registration number of the company).
- The tender document will be provided to the company via email.
- 2:00 PM** 2:00 PM on the above mentioned dates, is the last timing for obtaining Bidding Documents.
- Documents must be enclosed in a plain closed envelope (without any company information) and place in the box located in bulding (A) in Muscat Municipality, Head Office, Darsait.

NOTES:

- Companies which are not registered in Muscat Municipality or their registration has been expired shall register through the municipality& website (**www.mm.gov.om**). For technical support, please contact Muscat Municipality through this email (**crm@mm.gov.om**).
- If the bidders have any inquiries regarding the scope of the work, they have to sent their inquiries through the following e-mail (**mais.h.alnofli@mm.gov.om**)
- 10:00 AM** on the above submission mentioned dates, is the last timing for receiving bids. Offers submitted after the above mentioned date & time shall not be accepted for any reason.
- Muscat Municipality has the right to accept or reject any offer without assigning any reason.

Website: **www.mm.gov.om**

RED SEA

UN strongly condemns resumption of Houthi attacks on civilian vessels

NEW YORK: The UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, strongly condemned the resumption of Houthi attacks on civilian vessels transiting the Red Sea, especially the attacks that took place on July 6-8.

“The sinking of both the MV Magic Seas and the MV Eternity C, along with the deaths of at least four crew members and injuries to others, is a dangerous re-escala-



tion in this critical waterway,” said Guterres in a statement.

With at least 15 crew members reported missing, he calls on the Houthis not to take any actions that impede the ongoing search and rescue operations for the missing crew. Beyond being an unacceptable attack on the safety and security of seafarers, these acts also violated the freedom of navigation, caused a hazard to

maritime transport, and represent a serious risk of environmental and damage to an already vulnerable coastal environment. The Secretary-General emphasised that international law must be respected by all parties at all times. He also underscored that UN Security Council resolution 2768 (2025) related to Houthi attacks against merchant and commercial vessels must be fully respected. — **ANI**

ISLAM QALA BORDER CROSSING

Around 30,000 Afghans returning daily from Iran, say Herat govt officials



HERAT: Government officials have established facilities at the Islam Qala border crossing in Herat to help manage the increasing influx of Afghan returnees from Iran, with nearly half a million people having re-entered the country in just the past 20 days, TOLO News reported.

The Deputy Spokesperson of the Islamic Emirate, Hamdullah Fitrat, visited Islam Qala and urged both the private sector and general public to assist with humanitarian support. “My call to all citizens, traders, and wealthy individuals is to come forward and join the Islamic Emirate in showing solidarity and compassion with these people,” TOLO News quoted Fitrat as saying.

According to local officials in Herat, an estimated 30,000 people are entering Afghanistan daily through the Islam Qala border. Abdul Ghani Kamil, the head

of committees at Islam Qala and district governor of Kohsan, said: “Based on what we have seen over the past 15 to 20 days, nearly 500,000 migrants have likely returned, as around 30,000 people enter the country every day.”

Many of the returnees cited the harsh living conditions in Iran as their reason for returning and called on the caretaker government to provide employment opportunities. “We no longer intend to go to foreign countries. Even if we eat only a piece of bread, we want to live in our own country with dignity and honor,” said Ahmad Zia, a returnee from Iran.

Another returnee, Matiullah, echoed similar sentiments. “If these youth are provided with jobs, none of them will leave the country. They will work in their homeland and stay where they belong,” TOLO News quoted him as saying. — **ANI**

The representatives of the two countries will sit down for further talks again

DHAKA: The three-day second-round tariff talks between Bangladesh and the United States have ended without conclusion.

“The two countries have agreed on some more issues on the third and final day of the second round of trade talks. However, some issues still remain unresolved. Both sides have decided that inter-ministerial talks will continue between them. Then representatives of the two countries will sit down for talks again,” Bangladesh Chief Adviser’s Press Wing said in a statement on Saturday.

“The discussion can be held both virtually and face-to-face. It is expected that the time and date will be fixed very soon. The Trade Advisor, Secretary and Additional Secretary will return to the country tomorrow. If necessary, they will go again,” it added.

“Following three days of talks,



Commerce Adviser Sheikh Bashir Uddin and Security Adviser Khalilur Rahman are optimistic that a positive position can be reached within the stipulated time,” the statement said.

Commerce Adviser Sheikh Bashir Uddin leads the Bangladeshi side. National Security Advisor Dr Khalilur Rahman and Special Assistant to the Principal Advisor Faiz Tayyab participated virtually from Dhaka.

High-ranking government officials and experts were also present virtually.

Earlier, two days ahead of the

July 9 deadline, US President Donald Trump issued a letter to Bangladesh, imposing a 35 per cent tariff. According to the letter, the tariff will take effect on August 1.

“We have had years to discuss our Trading Relationship with Bangladesh and have concluded that we must move away from these long-term and very persistent Trade Deficits engendered by Bangladesh’s Tariff and Non-Tariff Policies and Trade Barriers. Our relationship has been, unfortunately, far from Reciprocal. Starting on August 1, 2025, we will charge Bangladesh a Tariff of only

35 per cent on any and all Bangladeshi products sent into the United States, separate from all Sectoral Tariffs. Goods trans-shipped to evade a higher Tariff will be subject to that higher Tariff,” the letter read.

“Please understand that the 35% number is far less than what is needed to eliminate the Trade Deficit disparity we have with your Country...If for any reason you decide to raise your Tariffs, then, whatever the number you choose to raise them by, will be added onto the 35% that we charge,” it further added. — **ANI**

SWARM OF QUAKES

Japan steps up earthquake and tsunami defences

TOKYO: The Japanese government on July 1 approved significant upgrades to the plan to safeguard the public in the event of a major earthquake off southern Japan and to respond in the event that disaster does strike.

The move comes amid an unprecedented swarm of quakes hitting the Tokara Islands.

Dozens of residents of the remote island chain, half-way between Japan’s most southerly main island of Kyushu and Okinawa Prefecture, have been evacuated to the mainland after enduring more than 1,700 tremors since June 21.

The islands were hit by 60 quakes on Monday alone, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency, with Akusekijima island shaken by multiple tremors of magnitude 5.

Experts say earthquake swarms have been recorded in the area before, but never of such magnitude or for such an extended period of time.

Authorities have instructed residents who have chosen to remain on the islands to be prepared for further tremors, although they have gone to great lengths to emphasize that the ongoing seismic activity in the Tokara islands is not a precursor to the much-feared Nankai Trough earthquake.

They agree, however, that disaster is unavoidable and edging closer.

Nankai Trough threat

Japan is one of the world’s most seismically active countries. The archipelago, home to around 125 million people, sits on top of four major tectonic plates along the western edge of the Pacific “Ring of Fire.”

The nation typically experiences around 1,500 jolts every year and accounts for about 18% of the world’s earthquakes of magnitude 6 or greater.

In March, the Japanese government released an updated report on the threat posed by a quake in the Nankai Trough, a 900-kilom-



eter fault that runs parallel to the coast of southern Japan, from Kyushu in the west to Tokyo at its far eastern end. The study puts the likelihood of a magnitude-9 quake on the fault at 80% in the next 30 years.

In 2014, a similar report estimated a potential death toll of 332,000 and the destruction of 2.5 million buildings, primarily due to a resulting tsunami impacting coastal communities.

But the latest revised report has lowered the number of potential fatalities to 298,000, the vast majority of them victims of tsunami waves, while 2.35 million buildings would be destroyed.

In response, the government’s Central Disaster Management Council has drawn up new plans, aiming to cut the projected death toll by 80% within the next decade.

Takeshi Sagiya, a professor at Nagoya University’s Research Center for Seismology, Vulcanology and Disaster Mitigation, says the 80% target is commendable but probably not achievable in the event of a magnitude-9 disaster.

“The government’s priority is to reduce loss of life, but while we learned a lot from the Tohoku earthquake of 2011, we also realized that it is impossible to protect everyone and everything,” he told DW.

Taller and more robust sea walls have been constructed in some areas, with hundreds of tsunami refuge towers built in communities identified as most at risk in the event of an earthquake-trig-

gered tsunami. One of the newest is in Kuroshio town in Kochi Prefecture, where experts suggest a tsunami of up to 34 meters could come ashore in a worst-case scenario.

Education key to saving lives

“The infrastructure is important, but probably more important is to educate local people on what to do when an earthquake happens, how they can evacuate quickly and which routes they should take,” Sagiya said. “People need to better understand the hazards because the estimates say that the first tsunami could hit the shore just five minutes after a quake.”

In 2011 in Tohoku, in contrast, it was around 30 minutes before the first waves struck the coast, with the tsunami blamed for virtually all the 20,000 dead.

Sagiya said it is “clearly impractical” to attempt to build 30-meter seawalls around the entire coastline of southern Japan and that, inevitably, the coastal cities of Nagoya and Osaka will be impacted by a tsunami.

“And when there is widespread destruction in the cities, who is going to be available to provide help in the coastal communities that have been hit?” he asked.

The other hard lessons that Japan learned in 2011 involved the nuclear power plant at Fukushima, said Kazuto Suzuki, a professor of science and technology policy at Tokyo University and leader of the 10-year investigation into the disaster. — **nw**



MUSCAT GOVERNORATE

MUSCAT MUNICIPALITY

Advertisement No. 20/2025

In reference to Advertisement No (20/2025), Muscat Municipality informs you of the modification of the dates related to the tenders as follows:

SI No.	Bidding No.	Bidding description	Document fee	Deadline for obtaining bidding docs.	Deadline for inquiry submission	Deadline for submission
1	5/2025	Construction, implementation, and operation of a café on plot No. (1542), Block (M/1), in Sur Al-Hadeed, Wilayat Al-Seeb.	25/- OMR	3/8/2025	10/8/2025	21/8/2025
2	6/2025	Investment of plot No. (590), Block (M/1), in the Al-Khoud area, Wilayat Al-Seeb, with an area of (16,279 m²).	35/- OMR	3/8/2025	10/8/2025	21/8/2025
3	7/2025	Investment of plot No. (787), Block (M/4), in the Al-Khoud area, Wilayat Al-Seeb, with an area of (80,000 m²).	90/- OMR	3/8/2025	10/8/2025	21/8/2025
4	8/2025	Investment of plot No. (2137) in the Bimmah area, Wilayat Quriyat, with an area of (3,373 m²).	25/- OMR	3/8/2025	10/8/2025	21/8/2025
5	9/2025	Establishment, management, and operation of a café at Al-Rabea Walkway in Wilayat Al-Amerat.	25/- OMR	3/8/2025	10/8/2025	21/8/2025
6	10/2025	Establishment, management, and operation of a slaughterhouse on plot No. (967), Block (M/2), in the Al-Misfah area, Wilayat Bousher.	650/- OMR	3/8/2025	10/8/2025	21/8/2025
7	11/2025	Investment of plot No. (1578), Block (M/3), in the Al-Misfah area, Wilayat Bousher, designated for truck parking.	228/- OMR	3/8/2025	10/8/2025	21/8/2025
8	12/2025	Selling of Goods at the Central Market for Fruits and Vegetables in Al-Mawaleh – Seeb.	25/- OMR	3/8/2025	10/8/2025	21/8/2025

Registered companies with Muscat Municipality which are Specialized in above bids are invited to participate as per the following procedures:

1. Company registration with Muscat Municipality must be valid to obtain the bid document.

2. Pay the specified document fee for the requested bid via bank deposit to Muscat Municipality’s Bank account as follows:

BANK MUSCAT 0423010702710024

3. A copy of the transaction’s receipt MUST be sent to the following e-mail (SQ.QS@mm.gov.om), provided with the company data (name and bid number, delegate name, office phone number, mobile number, email address approved by the company and commercial registration number of the company).

4. The tender document will be provided to the company via email.

5. 2:00 PM on the above mentioned dates, is the last timing for obtaining Bidding Documents.

6. Documents must be enclosed in a plain closed envelope (without any company information) and place in the box located in building (A) in Muscat Municipality, Head Office, Darsait.

NOTES:

1. Companies which are not registered in Muscat Municipality or their registration has been expired shall register through the municipality’s website (www.mm.gov.om).

2. For technical support, please contact Muscat Municipality through this email (crm@mm.gov.om).

3. If the bidders have any inquiries regarding the scope of the work, they have to sent their inquiries through the following e-mail (mais.h.alnofli@mm.gov.om)

4. 10:00 AM on the above submission mentioned dates, is the last timing for receiving bids. Offers submitted after the above mentioned date & time shall not be accepted for any reason.

5. Muscat Municipality has the right to accept or reject any offer without assigning any reason.

Website: www.mm.gov.om

BURNING SINCE JULY 4

Wildfires force evacuations from the Grand Canyon



NEW YORK: Evacuations have been ordered in parts of Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona due to wildfires, park officials said Friday.

One of the fires, the Dragon Bravo Fire, has been burning since July 4 after being sparked by lightning.

As of Friday evening, the fire had burned 150 acres (61 hectares) and was 0% contained, according to a US government incident report.

“Due to the advancing Dragon Bravo Fire within Grand Canyon National Park, all North Rim residents are now in “GO” status and should evacuate immediately,” the Grand Canyon National Park said on Facebook.

“Due to the advancing Dragon Bravo Fire within Grand Canyon National Park, all North Rim residents are now in ‘GO’ status and should evacuate immediately,” the park said on Facebook.

About 500 visitors to the North Rim, which is less popular than the South Rim, were evacuated Thursday night.

A larger blaze north of the park, called the White Sage Fire, was burning near Jacob Lake, where evacuation orders and road closures were also in effect.

That fire, also started by lightning, had burned 10,973 acres as of Friday and was likewise 0% contained, according to the Arizona Bureau of Land Management.

“Strong, gusty winds, low relative humidity and critically dry vegetation in rugged terrain continue to challenge firefighting resources,” the bureau said.

In neighboring Colorado, several lightning-sparked fires forced the evacuation of all visitors and staff from Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park.

Hot, dry weather conditions in the western US in recent weeks have raised the risk of wildfires. **AW**

Air India crash linked to fuel switch shutdown

The report mentions that both engines of the Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner shut down one second apart shortly after takeoff



NEW DELHI : A preliminary investigation into the Air India flight AI171 crash has revealed that just seconds before the aircraft lost power and went down near Ahmedabad airport, one pilot asked the other why he had cut off fuel to the engines, an action the second pilot reportedly denied, saying, “did not do so.”

“In the cockpit voice recording, one of the pilots is heard asking the other why did he cut off. The other pilot responded that he did not do so,” the preliminary report on the Air India crash said.

The report mentions that both engines of the Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner shut down one second apart shortly after takeoff. This caused the aircraft to lose altitude rapidly and crash near the boundary of Ahmedabad’s Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport. Investigators have ruled out any bird strike or external damage, although the cause of the fuel cutoff remains under investigation.

According to the report, “the aircraft achieved the maximum recorded airspeed of 180 knots IAS at about 08:08:42 UTC, and immediately thereafter, the Engine 1 and Engine 2 fuel cutoff switches transitioned from ‘RUN’ to ‘CUT-OFF’ position one after another with a time gap of one second. The

Engine N1 and N2 began to decrease from their take-off values as the fuel supply to the engines was cut off.”

CCTV footage from the airport showed the Ram Air Turbine (RAT) deploying shortly after takeoff, indicating that power was lost early in the flight. “The CCTV footage obtained from the airport showed the Ram Air Turbine (RAT) getting deployed during the initial climb immediately after lift-off. No significant bird activity is observed in the vicinity of the flight path. The aircraft started to lose altitude before crossing the airport perimeter wall,” the report added.

Further, the report said that data downloaded from the forward Enhanced Airborne Flight Recorder (EAFR) is being analysed in detail.

The report also stated that no immediate safety actions have been recommended for B787-8 aircraft or the GE GENx-1B engines at this stage. However, investigators will continue to review more evidence, records, and information from relevant stakeholders.

Meanwhile, a 2018 safety warning from the United States Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regarding a possible flaw in Boeing’s fuel control switches has resurfaced as part of the investigation. The FAA had earlier warned that the locking feature on these switches, which prevents accidental engine shutdown, could become disengaged. However, it did not mandate corrective action.

“The FAA issued Special Airworthiness Information Bulletin (SAIB) No. NM-18-33 on December 17, 2018, regarding the potential disengagement of the fuel control switch locking feature. This SAIB was issued based on reports from operators of Model 737 aeroplanes that the fuel control switches were installed with the locking feature disengaged. The airworthiness concern was not considered an unsafe condition that would warrant an airworthiness directive (AD) by the FAA,” the report states.

“The fuel control switch design, including the locking feature, is similar on various Boeing airplane models, including part number 4TL837-3D, which is fitted in B787-8 aircraft VT-ANB. As per the information from Air India, the suggested inspections were not carried out as the SAIB was advisory and not mandatory. The scrutiny of maintenance records revealed that the throttle control module was replaced on VT-ANB in 2019 and 2023. However, the reason for the replacement was not linked to the fuel control switch. There has been no defect reported pertaining to the fuel control switch since 2023 on VT-ANB,” it added.

On 12 June this year, the London-bound Air India Boeing 787-8 crashed shortly after takeoff from Ahmedabad. The aircraft struck a hostel building at BJ Medical College, killing 241 of the 242 people on board. Among the victims was former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani. The incident is among India’s deadliest aviation disasters in recent times. **ANI**

August 25, 2025

St.Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort

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

Organization & Initiative Categories:

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- Excellence in Women-Centric Products & Services
- Excellence in Women Empowerment at Workplace
- Excellence in CSR Initiative for Women
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Sensational Swiatek claims maiden Wimbledon crown



Polish star inflicts 6-0, 6-0 defeat on American Anisimova to add to her four French Open titles and one US Open victory

LONDON: Poland's Iga Swiatek ruthlessly took advantage of American opponent Amanda Anisimova's nerves to win her maiden Wimbledon title, with the 6-0 6-0 victory taking just 57 minutes on Saturday.

Swiatek, 24, was also playing in her first final at the All England Club but looked more assured from the very start.

No woman had won a Wimbledon with a double bagel - the name given to a victory without dropping a game - since 1911.

It is the sixth Grand Slam victory of Swiatek's career, having won on each of her appearances in major finals.

Eighth seed Swiatek, whose five



previous titles came on clay or hard courts, raced through the first set in just 25 minutes.

Anisimova, just three months younger than Swiatek, looked tense from the very start and made a flurry of errors in an opener where she won just nine points.

Despite a sympathetic Centre Court crowd willing her on, things did not improve in the second set for the 13th seed. A total of 28 unforced errors, plus five double faults, starkly illustrated Anisimova's struggles.

"It seems super surreal," Swiatek said at the presentation ceremony. "First I want to congratulate Amanda for an amazing two weeks. You should be proud of the work you are doing and I hope we will play more finals here."

"I didn't even dream, for me it was way too far. I feel like I am already an experienced player after winning the Slams before but I never expected this one. This year I really, really enjoyed it and feel I improved my form here."

"I am always going to remember the opening of champagne bottles between serves! It is a sound that will keep me away at night!"

"See you next year."

Fighting back the tears as she addressed the crowd, Anisimova said: "It's been an incredible fortnight for me - even though I ran out of gas. I wish I could have put on a better performance for you today."

"Lastly, I know I didn't have enough today but I'll keep putting in the work. I keep believing in myself and I hope to be back here one

day. Thank you everyone."

In addition to making her the first Wimbledon singles champion from Poland in the Open Era, the victory also marks Swiatek's 100th career Grand Slam match win.

She now is 100-20 in Grand Slam main draws since her Grand Slam main-draw debut in 2019.

Swiatek stamped her authority on the match with the first 6-0 opening set in a women's singles final at Wimbledon since 1983 -- when Martina Navratilova defeated Andrea Jaeger 6-0, 6-3. Prior to that, the 1973-75 finals all saw 6-0 first sets - including Billie Jean King's 6-0, 7-5 win over a then-18-year-old Chris Evert in 1973.

Anisimova found stronger strokes in the early stages of the second set - including a 90-mph forehand winner to pull to 30-30 with Swiatek serving 6-0, 1-0.

But it did not translate to the scoreboard, and Swiatek became the second player in the Open Era to win a major title without losing a game in the final after Stefanie Graf beat Natalia Zvereva at the 1988 French Open.

Despite the ending, Anisimova's effort at SW19 was overall a career-changing one: She scored her first-ever win over a World No.1 against Aryna Sabalenka

In the semifinals, and will crack the Top 10 for the first time in her career on Monday. - Agencies

ENGLAND VS INDIA: THIRD TEST

Rahul's defiant century holds India steady at Lord's at tea

LONDON: KL Rahul produced a masterclass in composure and control to register a vital hundred on the third day at Lord's, keeping India in the contest in a gripping second Test.

At tea, India had reached 316 for 5, just 71 runs behind England's first-innings total of 387, with Ravindra Jadeja (40*) and Nitish Kumar Reddy (25*) holding firm after a flurry of wickets around the lunch interval.

Rahul's innings was the backbone of India's reply -- a patient 100 that combined solid defence with crisp strokeplay. It was his second century of the series, and

eighth in Tests, underscoring a return to form born from a shift in mindset rather than just technique. In a series dominated by India's top-order run-makers, this century marked the team's eighth of the tour -- a new record for an away campaign.

He was well supported by Rishabh Pant, who batted through clear discomfort from a left-hand injury to produce a characteristically audacious 74. The pair added 141 for the fourth wicket and looked set to bat deep until a moment of misjudgment shifted momentum.

But a moment of misjudgment

saw Pant run out in the final over before lunch, attempting a sharp single to get Rahul back on strike. The drama continued immediately after the break, as Rahul nicked off to a sharp-turning delivery from Shoaib Bashir, departing for an even 100 off 177 balls, which was laced with 13 boundaries. His exit left India wobbling at 254 for 5.

It was then up to Jadeja and debutant Reddy to stem the slide. The pair endured a fierce spell from Jofra Archer with the second new ball, which Stokes introduced shortly after Rahul's dismissal. Archer, clocking 90mph, probed relentlessly, but the batters stayed

patient, leaving well and resisting any rash temptation. They added an unbroken 62 for the sixth wicket and looked increasingly comfortable as the session progressed.

England had a chance to press the advantage, but Bashir's finger injury -- sustained while trying to stop a Jadeja straight drive -- left them a bowler short.

Stokes turned again to Archer for a second burst before tea, but the accuracy waned, and India saw out the threat.

Brief scores: (At Tea): India 1st innings 316 for 5 (Rahul 100, Jadeja 40*, Reddy 25*, Archer 1-45) vs England 1st innings 387. - Agencies



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CREDIT GRANTED BY BANKS

An analysis of the activities of conventional commercial banks indicated continued credit growth in the Sultanate of Oman, with the total credit granted by banks increasing by a robust 6.9 percent during May 2024 to May 2025. >B2

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MSX TRADING VALUE RISES

Muscat Stock Exchange trading value rose during the week to OMR111.6 million, compared to OMR52.6 million in the previous week, marking an increase of more than 100 percent. The number of transactions executed rose from 7,175 to 9,290. >B2

ROBUST DEBT METRICS

Moody's upgrades Oman to Baa3, changes outlook to stable

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Moody's Ratings (Moody's) on Thursday upgraded the Government of Oman's long-term issuer and long-term senior unsecured ratings to Baa3 from Ba1 and changed the outlook to stable from positive. Moody's has also upgraded the Government of Oman's senior unsecured medium-term note programme rating to (P)Baa3 from (P)Ba1.

The upgrade reflects Moody's expectation that Oman's government debt metrics will remain robust even if oil prices moderate below Moody's medium-term assumption of \$65/barrel in the coming years. The recent years' significant reduction in debt burden together with the cumulative impact of spending restraint increase Oman's resilience to potential future declines in oil demand and prices.



Stronger debt metrics also afford the government more fiscal space and time to implement structural reforms that could, over time, reduce the sovereign's still-heavy economic and fiscal reliance on the hydrocarbon sector and po-

tentially support a higher rating. The stable outlook balances fiscal risks under alternative oil price scenarios.

The upside risks stem primarily from regional geopolitical tensions, that could drive oil

prices higher than Moody's medium-term assumptions, without affecting Oman's ability to export. Conversely, the downside risks include the possibility that global carbon transition accelerates more than we currently assume,

leading to weaker hydrocarbon revenue streams in the medium term compared to our baseline. Significantly and durably lower hydrocarbon revenues could reverse the past few years' improvements in Oman's fiscal strength if not met with similarly significant new fiscal consolidation measures.

Thursday's rating action also applies to Oman Sovereign Sukuk, a special-purpose vehicle domiciled in Oman, whose obligations, in our view, are ultimately the obligation of the Government of Oman.

Senior unsecured ratings

The entity's backed senior unsecured ratings and its backed senior unsecured medium-term note programme rating were upgraded to Baa3 from Ba1 and to (P)Baa3 from (P)Ba1, respectively. The outlook has been changed to stable from positive.

Oman's local currency (LC) and

foreign currency (FC) country ceilings were raised by one notch to A3 from Ba1 and to Baa1 from Baa2, respectively.

The local currency country ceiling at A3, three notches above the sovereign issuer rating, incorporates the economy's heavy reliance on a single revenue source, the government's large economic footprint, and Oman's track record of material external imbalances during the periods of lower oil prices, mitigated by predictable institutions and moderate political risk.

The FC country ceiling at Baa1, one notch below the local currency ceiling, reflects relatively modest transfer and convertibility risks, taking into account the sovereign's robust foreign-currency buffers and Oman's track record of improving fiscal policy effectiveness, balanced by the economy's high, albeit declining, external indebtedness.

FINANCIAL YEAR 2025-26

Indian aviation industry to post net loss of Rs30 billion

NEW DELHI: India's aviation industry is projected to record a net loss in the range of Rs20-30 billion in the financial year 2025-26 (FY26), broadly in line with the estimated losses for FY2024-25 (FY25), according to the credit rating firm ICRA.

The firm said in a report that these losses are expected to continue compared to a net profit of around Rs16 billion in FY2024 due to the anticipated pressure on yields as airlines strive to maintain adequate passenger load factors (PLF) amid continued aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices.

The report stated that while demand for air travel remains robust, airlines are unlikely to raise ticket prices significantly due to competitive pressures and price sensitivity in the domestic market. This, coupled with costlier fuel, is expected to eat into profitability.

Adding to the financial strain, interest costs are likely to rise in FY26 due to growing lease liabilities, as several airlines have scheduled aircraft deliveries. The increased debt burden is expected to raise financing costs, further compressing margins.

Despite these challenges, the projected losses for FY26 are a marked improvement compared to the massive setbacks of the past. The industry had posted staggering net losses of Rs 235 billion in FY22 and Rs 174 billion in FY23, largely driven by COVID-19-related disruptions and fuel cost volatility. Financial resilience, however, is slowly improving. The sector's interest coverage ratio, a key indicator of its ability to service debt, is expected to range between 1.5 and 2.0 times in FY26, suggesting relatively stable debt-servicing capacity even amid bottom-line pressures.

For June 2025, domestic air passenger traffic was estimated at 138.7 lakh, 5.1 per cent higher than 132.1 lakh in June 2024.

However, it witnessed a marginal decline of 1.3 per cent on a sequential basis. The airlines' capacity deployment in June 2025 was 4.9 per cent higher than June 2024; however, it was 2.3 per cent lower compared to May 2025. — ANI

Oman's economy to grow to 2.2% by the end of this year

Ministry of Economy's Economic Forecast report said that inflation rate is expected to see a small increase reaching 1.3 percent by the end of this year compared to 0.6 percent in 2024



MUSCAT: The real growth rate of the Omani economy will rise from 1.7 percent by the end of 2024 to 2.2 percent by the end of this year (the final year of the Tenth Five-Year Plan, according to the Ministry of Economy's Economic Forecasts 2025 report.

The report further indicated Oman's gross domestic product (GDP) at constant prices could rise from OMR38.3 billion at the end of 2024 to OMR39.2 billion at the end of 2025.

This is attributed to the improved performance of oil activities, which resumed growth during the year by 1.3 percent, after witnessing a decline by 3 percent at the end of last year. The contribution of oil activities to the GDP is expected to rise from OMR11.9 billion in 2024 to OMR12 billion by the end of this year. Non-oil activities are expected to grow by 2.7 percent this year compared to 3.9 percent in 2024. The report further expects continued rise in the added value of non-oil activities, reaching OMR28.6 billion by the end of 2025, compared to OMR27.9 billion in 2024.

In the medium term, the team's forecasts indicate that Oman's economic growth momentum will continue in 2026 as well as in 2027, amid the ongoing implementation of strategic projects in the non-oil sectors and the ex-

pected increase in oil production.

The report further indicated that inflation rate, based on the consumer price index (CPI) in the, is likely to see a small increase reaching 1.3 percent by the end of this year compared to 0.6 percent in 2024. The ministry said that this rate will remain within the target range of the Tenth Five-Year Plan (2021-2025), with the government continuing to subsidise prices of basic goods and services and the expectation of relative stability in commodity prices in global markets.

Regarding the global economic front, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) made significant adjustments to its economic growth forecasts in its April 2025 World Economic Outlook, lowering its global economic growth forecast for the current year from 3.3 percent in its January 2025 report to 2.8 percent in its April 2025 report. This reflects the direct and indirect impacts of new policies on global trade and global demand amidst heightened risks that require a continuous reassessment of forecasts, policies, and economic priorities.

The IMF's recent revisions cover most global economies at varying levels. The Fund expects advanced economies to grow at a slower pace from 1.8 percent in 2024 to 1.4 percent in 2025, driven by cautious expectations for the US economy, which is the main

driver of growth in this group.

In the developing and emerging markets group, the IMF lowered its growth forecast to 3.7 percent in 2025, compared to 4.3 percent in 2024. This decline reflects increased pressure on supply chains due to higher tariffs. This reduction was significantly concentrated in the Chinese economy due to declining US demand for Chinese exports, the continuing repercussions of the real estate crisis, and weak levels of consumption and investment.

Regionally, although the International Monetary Fund lowered its growth forecasts for the Middle East and North Africa (Mena) region, the IMF was more optimistic compared to other economic groups. Growth in the region's economies is expected to rise to approximately 3 percent in 2025, compared to 2.4 percent in 2024.

The improved growth in the region is attributed to the recovery in the growth rate of the economies of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, with expectations of rising oil production levels and continued improvement in the non-oil sectors, supported by the expansion of strategic investments in economic diversification and renewable energy projects.

Regarding the outlook for global economic growth, the future trajectory of the global economy is

likely to be influenced by developments in protectionist trade policies, leading to increased levels of uncertainty and market volatility. If tariffs escalate, this could lead to a significant slowdown in global growth and trade, with repercussions for governments' financial policies and the interest rate orientations of major central banks.

The report indicated that, under the fundamental changes announced by the United States this year to its tariff regime, a 10 percent base tariff will be applied to imports of goods from all countries, with an additional 'reciprocal tariff' applied to approximately 90 countries. The additional tariffs use an unconventional methodology to achieve the concept of 'reciprocity,' as they are calculated based on multiple criteria, most notably the volume of bilateral trade and the structure of customs duties imposed on US goods in those countries' markets.

Regarding the impact of this policy on the economies of the GCC countries, the imposed customs tariff of 10 percent is among the lowest compared to other targeted economies. Therefore, the direct impact of these new customs tariffs is expected to be relatively limited. However, there remains the possibility of indirect effects resulting from reciprocal tariffs between the United States and its trading partners, which

could collectively negatively impact global economic activity levels. Potential impacts may include fluctuations in oil prices, in addition to disruptions in global supply chains.

The report explained that by analysing foreign trade data between the Sultanate of Oman and the United States of America during 2014-2024, the balance of trade generally tends in favour of the American economy, with the exception of 2020, 2021, and 2022, when the trade exchange movement between the two countries achieved a trade surplus in favour of the Sultanate of Oman during these years.

However, the Omani economy, like other global economies, may be vulnerable to indirect repercussions from tariffs. Potential shifts in the global market could impact the Omani economy's trading partners. Slowing global growth is expected to lead to lower oil prices and reduced demand for oil. Tariffs could also exacerbate inflationary pressures in the US economy, potentially prompting the Federal Reserve to back down or postpone plans to cut interest rates, leading to higher imported inflation.

The report explained that, in the context of global trade variables and their potential impact on trade flows, global supply chains, and import and export costs, the Sultanate of Oman is an attractive investment destination, given its strategic geographic location linking Asian, African, and European markets. It also possesses advanced infrastructure and free zones that attract foreign investment. Re-export levels can also be increased by leveraging this unique geographic location and advanced infrastructure, as it can attract the exchange of goods from countries affected by customs duties and re-export them to target markets.

Global transformations could also lead to increased foreign investment in special economic zones and free zones, and European companies may seek to restructure their production chains by relocating their manufacturing operations to free economic zones. — ONA

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MARKET

MSX trading value increases to OMR111.6mn in weekly trading

The MSX has been witnessing high demand from local investment funds and institutions for shares for several weeks now, boosting growth and increasing investor confidence

MUSCAT: Local investment funds and institutions increased their purchases on the Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) during the week amid increased confidence in the performance of public joint-stock companies that began announcing their preliminary financial results for the first half of this year.

Trading value rose during the week to OMR111.6 million, compared to OMR52.6 million in the previous week, marking an increase of more than 100 percent. The number of transactions executed rose from 7,175 to 9,290.

Trading data released by the MSX showed a rise in purchases by local investment institutions, which accounted for 76.2 percent of the total trading value, compared to sales of 41.6 percent of the total trading value. Meanwhile, individual investors turned to selling, benefiting from the gains achieved by stocks in recent weeks.

The MSX has been witnessing high demand from local invest-



ment funds and institutions for shares for several weeks now, boosting growth and increasing investor confidence.

Bank Muscat announced that it had appointed Ubar Capital as a liquidity provider for the bank's shares. The agreement, signed by the two parties, is valid for one year, starting from July 6. It is in line with the Muscat Stock Exchange's strategy to promote investment, contribute to revitalising the capital market, and strengthen its position in supporting economic development.

The trading value of Bank Muscat shares reached OMR32.4 million, representing 29 percent of the total trading value. The stock saw 422 transactions, closing at its previous level of 275 baisas.

Over the past week, the MSX witnessed institutional interest in a number of other stocks, such as OQ Basic Industries, which saw trades worth OMR22.6 million, representing 20.2 percent of the total trading value. Asyad Shipping saw trades worth OMR14.4 million, while OQ Gas Networks saw trades worth OMR6.2 million. Dhofar International Development and Investment Company saw trades worth OMR4.9 million,

representing 4.4 percent of the total trading value.

During the week, public joint-stock companies began announcing their preliminary financial results for the first half of this year. The results showed that the net profits of Al Batinah Power Company rose to OMR7.35 million in the first half of this year compared to OMR7.30 million in the same period last year. The net profits of Muscat City Desalination Company rose from OMR1.1 million to OMR1.2 million. The net profits of Musandam Power Company also rose to OMR1.13 million in the first half of this year compared to OMR1.57 million in the first half of last year. The net profits of the National Biscuit Manufacturing Company rose from OMR71,000 to approximately OMR99,000.

While Dhofar Power Generation Company recorded a slight decline in net profits during the first half of this year, reaching OMR1,594,000, compared to OMR1,715,000 in the same period last year, the Financial Centre Company (Fincorp) recorded losses of OMR928,000, compared to profits of OMR173,000 in the same period last year. It is expected that leading banks and

companies will announce their preliminary financial results in the coming few days, which will contribute to determining investor trends during the second half of this year.

During the week, the Muscat Stock Exchange witnessed an increase in the prices of 40 securities, compared to a decline in the prices of 33 securities and 26 securities remained unchanged. This performance was reflected in the market value and the Muscat Stock Exchange indices, with the market value recording weekly gains of OMR52.3 million and ending the weekly trading at OMR28.43 billion.

The Muscat Stock Exchange's main index rose 52 points last week, closing at 4,602 points. The industrial sector index achieved the highest gains, rising 263 points. The financial sector index rose 128 points, the services sector index rose 90 points, and the Sharia index rose 10 points to close at 449 points.

International Financial Investments, Fincorp Financial Centre, and Voltamp Energy were the top gainers, while Oman Chlorine, Dhofar Tourism, and Muscat Desalination City led the losers. - **ONA**

Omani stock market gains

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Omani stock market recorded another weekly gain, continuing its positive trend. The market is currently experiencing the initial release of second-quarter earnings, which could serve as a potential catalyst for further gains, according to an analyst. "Positive performance is anticipated to continue, especially if the results exceed expectations. Investors are now looking ahead to next week for more key earnings announcements," said Ahmed Negm, Head of Market Research MENA at XS.com.

"Regionally, markets were slightly impacted by ongoing trade tariff uncertainties, which capped gains for some sessions. The Omani stock market, however, remained mostly unaffected," he further added.

Adding to the positive sentiment, Moody's recently upgraded Oman's credit rating to 'Baa3' with a stable outlook. The move to an investment-grade rating signals greater confidence in Oman's financial stability and economic management. The upgrade is expected to attract foreign investment and lower borrowing costs for the government and local companies, further stimulating economic growth. This fundamental improvement in the country's credit profile could provide a long-term catalyst for the stock market's



performance.

The performance across all sectors was positive. The Services sector demonstrated strong performance with a 5.56% gain. Notable movers included Renaissance Services, which surged by 11.93%, and Sembcorp Salalah, which gained 12.38%. Ooredoo saw a 14.74% gain, while Abraj Energy Services rose by 3.08%, Oman Telecom increased by 0.83%, and Asyad Shipping was up by 2.4%.

The Industrial sector also posted robust gains, rising by 4.03%. Leading performers in this sector were Voltamp Energy, with a 22.6% increase, and Muscat Thread Mills, which climbed by 9.27%. Other notable gains included Al Maha Ceramic, up by 4.73%, Al Anwar Ceramic, which rose by 4.47%, and Dhofar Foods and Investment, with a 4.41% increase.

The Financial sector recorded a 1.62% increase. Global Financial Investment Holding was a standout performer, soaring by 35.04%.

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MAY 2024 TO MAY 2025



Credit granted by banks in Oman to private sector rises

MUSCAT: An analysis of the activities of conventional commercial banks indicated continued credit growth in the Sultanate of Oman, with the total credit granted by banks increasing by a robust 6.9 percent during May 2024 to May 2025.

The credit granted by the banks in Oman to the private sector, increased by 5.2 percent to reach OMR21.4 billion by the end of May 2025.

Total investments of conventional commercial banks in securities decreased by 1.7 percent to

approximately OMR5.5 billion by the end of May 2025.

Within this group, investment in government development bonds (GDBs) increased by 2.2 percent reaching OMR2 billion by the end of May 2025 compared to the same period last year.

Foreign securities

The investments in foreign securities decreased by 11.9 percent reaching OMR2 billion by the end of May 2025.

On liabilities side, total deposits at conventional commercial

banks increased by 5.7 percent to reach OMR25.2 billion by the end of May 2025.

Within this, government deposits with commercial banks rose by 11 percent to approximately OMR5.7 billion, while deposits with public sector institutions decreased by 1.7 percent to approximately OMR1.7 billion.

Private sector deposits increased by 5.8 percent to OMR17.1 billion in May 2025, representing 67.9 percent of total deposits at conventional commercial banks. - **ONA**

GCC-STAT

‘GCC countries’ population reached 61.2 million in 2024’

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The latest data released by the Statistical Centre for the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf (GCC-Stat) revealed that the population of GCC countries reached 61.2 million by the end of 2024, an increase of more than 2.1 million people compared to 2023 figures, which represents a growth rate of 3.6 percent.

The Centre's statistics, issued on the occasion of World Popula-

tion Day, observed annually on July 11th, indicated a swift recovery in population numbers across GCC countries from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since 2021, the population has increased by around 7.6 million people, representing growth rate of 14.2 percent. This reflects the rapid resumption of population growth following the slowdown experienced by some countries during the pandemic.

The population of the GCC countries constitutes 0.7 percent

of the world's population.

The total number of males in the GCC countries reached approximately 38.5 million, accounting for 62.8 percent of the total population, while the number of females stood at around 22.7 million, representing 37.2 percent of the total population.

The sex ratio in the GCC countries reached 169 males for every 100 females in 2024, compared to a global sex ratio of 101 males for every 100 females in the same year.


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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

Senior Engineer 20+ yrs exp in Elec. & Mech. projects in design, supervision & execution. Available with NOC, OSE membership & D/L. 99148940, joblukom@gmail.com

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

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

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

B. Tech Civil Engineer with 15+yrsl experience. PDO HSE and Oman society engineering certificate,valid Omani D/L. Looking for a suitable position. Available for immediate join. NOC available. Mob: 78790123

Bsc in civil engineer, looking suitable position in Muscat,having 12 yrs experience in Oman and D/L. Contact: 93326947, emsa5054@gmail.com

Indian male, B.Tech Mechatronics engineer, 24yrs, having 1yr experience. Interested in MEP, HVAC, electromechanical & robotics jobs. Presently in Oman. Contact: 92027064. Email: syedarshian90@gmail.com

Indian male, automobile engineer, 10 yrs experience in dealership workshop operations and supervision, seeking job opportunity. Contact +96878406449.

ENGINEER

MechD/MA, petroleum, QA/QC, NDT. Contact: 76255997

Mech engineer with 5 yrs experience as site engineer and 2 yrs sales experience looking for suitable placement. Contact: 98554815. Email: jithinrajivt@gmail.com

Indian male Diploma civil site engineer with 27 yrs experience in Oman looking for a job. Contact 99423274. Email: mmthomasvarghese@gmail.com

Female microbiologist, lab technician with MOH license including 6 yrs experience in Oman seeking suitable placement. Contact: 93515501

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

Indian female, PhD in Mathematics with teaching experience. Based in Oman (family visa). Open to teaching, administration, research, data science, ML, or any suitable job. Contact: 95690524

Indian female, PhD in Mathematics with teaching experience. Based in Oman (family visa). Open to teaching, administration, research, data science, ML, or any suitable job. Contact: 95690524

IT

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

System administrator with 1.9 yrs of experience at Tata Consultancy Services, seeking a role in IT Infrastructure support or system administration. Contact +91-6282116824. Email: nithintmathew2001@gmail.com, linkedin.com/in/nithin-mathew-963203254

Software Engineer (29) with 6+ yrs experience in dev, QA, PM, IT support & sales, system admin, ERP data. Handles full IT tasks. Call: 78558980.

SALES/MARKETING

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

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

B.Com with knowledge of excel, MS office, MS word, etc. looking for suitable job, having Omani D/L. Contact: 76396024

PG from New Zealand with 1 yr of local experience in Oman and exposure to India & NZ markets. Open to roles in sales, marketing, or operations. Holds a valid Oman D/L. Contact: 77582238

Indian male (35) MBA in Oman with 10 yrs exp in marketing, BDM position in multiple industries with D/L. Contact: 78607549

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LIFESTYLE

HERE IS HOW

These gut bacteria are responsible for some aspects of digestion, though what's surprising to some is how they can relate to many other aspects of human health as well

TOKYO: Gut bacteria are considered to be a key factor in many health-related issues. However, the number and variety of them are vast, as are the ways in which they interact with the body's chemistry and each other.

For the first time, researchers from the University of Tokyo used a special kind of artificial intelligence (AI) called a Bayesian neural network to probe a dataset on gut bacteria in order to find relationships that current analytical tools could not reliably identify.

The human body comprises about 30 trillion to 40 trillion cells, but your intestines contain about 100 trillion gut bacteria. Technically, you're carrying around more cells that aren't you than are. Food for thought. And speaking of food, these gut bacteria are, of course, responsible for some aspects of digestion, though what's surprising to some is how they can relate to many other aspects of human health as well.

The bacteria are incredibly varied and also produce and modify a bewildering number of different chemicals called metabolites. These act like molecular messengers, permeating your body, affecting everything from your immune system and metabolism to your brain function and mood. Needless to say, there's much to gain by understanding gut bacteria.

"The problem is that we're only beginning to understand which bacteria produce which human metabolites and how these relationships change in different diseases," said Project Researcher Tung Dang from the Tsunoda lab in the Department of Biological Sciences, adding, "By accurately mapping these bacteria-chemical relationships, we could potentially develop personalized treatments. Imagine being able to grow a specific bacterium to produce beneficial human metabolites or designing targeted therapies that modify these metabolites to treat diseases."

There are uncountably many and varied bacteria and metabolites, and therefore far more relationships between these things. Gathering data on this alone is a monumental undertaking, but unpicking that data to find interesting patterns that might betray some useful function is even more so. To do this, Dang and his team decided to explore the use of state-of-the-art artificial intelligence (AI) tools.

"Our system, VBayesMM, automatically distinguishes the key players that significantly influence metabolites from the vast background of less relevant microbes, while also acknowledging uncertainty about the predicted relationships, rather than providing overconfident but potentially wrong answers," said Dang. "When tested on real data from sleep disorder, obesity and cancer studies, our approach consistently outperformed existing methods and identified specific bacterial families that align with known biological processes, giving confidence that it discovers real biological relationships rather than meaningless statistical patterns."

As VBayesMM can handle and communicate issues of uncertainty, it gives researchers more confidence than a tool which does not. Even though the system is optimized to cope with heavy analytical workloads, mining such huge datasets still comes with high computational cost; however, as time goes on, this will become less and less of a barrier to those wishing to use it. Other limitations at present include that the system benefits from having more data about the gut bacteria than the metabolites they produce; when there's insufficient bacteria data, the accuracy drops. Also, VBayesMM assumes the microbes act independently, but in reality, gut bacteria interact in an incredibly complex number of ways.

"We plan to work with more comprehensive chemical datasets that capture the complete range of bacterial products, though this creates new challenges in determining whether chemicals come from bacteria, the human body or external sources like diet," said Dang. "We also aim to make VBayesMM more robust when analyzing diverse patient populations, incorporating bacterial 'family tree' relationships to make better predictions, and further reducing the computational time needed for analysis. For clinical applications, the ultimate goal is identifying specific bacterial targets for treatments or dietary interventions that could actually help patients, moving from basic research toward practical medical applications." -ANI

CAN HELP TO UNDERSTAND
GUT BACTERIA

SPORTS

‘Great opportunity for Oman to showcase depth in T20 format’

Nine Associate nations to vie for 3 World Cup spots in the ICC Asia-EAP Final at the Oman Cricket Academy in Al Amerat from October 8-17

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman will take centre stage this October as it plays host to the Asia-East Asia Pacific (EAP) Final 2025, a major qualifier in the road to the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, at the Oman Cricket Academy twin-grounds in Al Amerat.

The high-stakes tournament from October 8-17 will bring together nine top Associate nations from Asia and the EAP region, all competing for three crucial spots at the global tournament to be held in India and Sri Lanka in 2026.

The ICC's decision at its 2024 AGM to merge the Asia and East Asia-Pacific qualification pathways has elevated the competitiveness of this event.

"The ICC has done a phenomenal job during the 2024 AGM by



integrating the Asia and East Asia-Pacific regions into one competitive qualifier," said Alkesh Joshi, Oman Cricket Treasurer.

"This gives both regions an equitable platform — three spots for nine determined teams — to prove their mettle and qualify for the global showpiece in 2026."

The tournament will take place in two stages: a Group Stage from October 8 to 10, followed by a Super Six Stage from October 12 to 17.

The format is straightforward — teams are split into three groups of three, and the top two teams from each group will advance to the Super Six stage.

At the end of the Super Six, the top three teams will earn their

place in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, which will feature 20 teams.

Oman enters the tournament with high hopes, not just as the host but also as a serious contender.

"This is a great opportunity for Oman to showcase our depth in the shorter format," Joshi emphasised.

"We are the only associate nation from Asia to have participated in three ICC T20 World Cups in the past decade, and our boys are hungry to make it a fourth."

Recent performances have buoyed Oman's confidence, including their win in the Bowl Cup at the Hong Kong Super Sixes 2024 where they defeated several

internationally recognized teams.

"The team has been training intensively, and playing at home gives us an added advantage. Familiar conditions, passionate supporters, and strong board backing all combine to boost our confidence," Joshi said.

Warm-up matches will be played between October 3 and 6 across venues in Muscat, helping teams acclimatize and prepare. Fixtures include Oman facing Kuwait and Nepal, while other participating teams like UAE, PNG, Japan, and Samoa will also get valuable match practice.

Beyond the cricketing action, Oman Cricket is making concerted efforts to make the event inclusive

and celebratory.

"As a board, we are fully committed to providing our players with world-class preparation platforms. We also want this tournament to be a celebration for fans," said Joshi. "That's why entry to all matches at Amerat will be free. We invite the community to turn out in numbers and cheer for the team."

Joshi also expressed gratitude to local authorities. He said, "We sincerely thank the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth for their unwavering support in Oman's cricketing journey. Hosting major ICC events elevates Oman's status in the global sporting arena."

"This tournament is a celebra-



tion of associate cricket. Hosting it in Oman proves we are not just participants but contributors to the growth of global cricket," added the senior Oman Cricket functionary.

Warm-Up matches: October 3-6: Oman vs Kuwait, UAE vs PNG, Japan vs Samoa (Oct 3); Malaysia vs Samoa, Oman vs Nepal (Oct 4); UAE vs Japan, Kuwait vs Qatar (Oct 5); Nepal vs Qatar, Malaysia vs PNG (Oct 6).

Group stage fixtures: October 8-10: Oman vs Samoa, UAE vs Qatar, Nepal vs Kuwait (Oct 8); Malaysia vs Qatar, Kuwait vs Japan, PNG vs Samoa (Oct 9); UAE vs Malaysia, Nepal vs Japan, Oman vs PNG (Oct 10).

Super Six stage: October 12-17: Top two teams from each group play four cross-group matches; top three teams qualify for ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026

Group pairings: Group 1: UAE, Malaysia, Qatar; Group 2: Nepal, Kuwait, Japan; Group 3: Oman, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Samoa.

TRAGIC DEATH

Liverpool to retire No.20 shirt in honour of Jota

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool are to retire the No.20 shirt in honour of forward Diogo Jota, who tragically died in a car crash along with his brother Andre Silva.

The Reds took the decision after consulting with Jota's wife Rute Cardoso and his family which means the Portugal international "will forever be Liverpool's number 20".

A Liverpool statement, said the number "will be retired in honour and memory of Diogo across all levels", including the women's team and throughout the academy.

They added: "The move is recognition of not only the immeasurable contribution our lad from Portugal made to the Reds' on-pitch successes over the last five years, but also the profound personal impact he had on his team-mates, colleagues and supporters and the everlasting connections he built with them."

Jota joined Liverpool from Wolves in 2020 and scored 65 goals in 182 appearances for the club.

He also helped them win the FA Cup and League Cup in 2022 - also winning the latter in 2024 - and the Premier League title last season.

It was Liverpool's 20th top-flight crown and the Reds posted a video on social media, with the message 'forever our number 20' at 20:20 BST on Friday.

"As a club, we were all acutely aware of the sentiment of our supporters - and we felt exactly the same way," said Fenway Sports Group chief executive of football Michael Edwards.

"It was vitally important to us to involve Diogo's wife, Rute, and his



family in the decision and to ensure they were the first to know of our intention.

"I believe this is the first time in Liverpool's history that such an honour has been bestowed upon an individual. Therefore, we can say this is a unique tribute to a uniquely wonderful person.

"By retiring this squad number, we are making it eternal - and therefore never to be forgotten."

Jota and his brother died after their car, a Lamborghini, left the road because of a tyre blowout while overtaking another vehicle at about 00:30 local time on Thursday, 3 July.

Jota's wife Rute Cardoso, members of the brothers' family and Liverpool's squad all visited Anfield on Friday to pay their respects.

Cardoso had three children with the Portugal international and the pair had married only 11 days prior to his accident.

She was seen carrying flowers at Anfield as she viewed the wealth of tributes that have been left outside the stadium in honour of Jota and his brother.

Liverpool players and staff have paid personal tributes in the week but the squad went as one with manager Arne Slot along with Cardoso on Friday. - Agencies

WIMBLEDON MEN'S SINGLES FINAL

High-stakes clash: Alcaraz ready for Sinner showdown

WIMBLEDON: The last time Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner met in a Grand Slam final it turned into an epic encounter lasting almost five and a half hours. Now, 35 days on from that French Open thriller, they will meet again in Sunday's men's final at Wimbledon.

After ending Novak Djokovic's hopes of achieving a 25th Grand Slam title, world No.1 Sinner was asked what fans could expect when he faces Alcaraz once again. "We saw the last final - you never know [what will happen]," he said.

"Hopefully it's going to be a good match like the last one, I don't know if it can be better because I don't think it's possible. But we will do our best."

For those who somehow missed that epic encounter at Roland Garros, here's a reminder.

Alcaraz, the defending champion, recovered from two sets down - saving three championship points on the way - to beat Sinner.

Both players pushed themselves and each other to the limit in a classic contest that showcased all of their shot-making, athleticism and resilience.

Despite it being an all-time classic, Alcaraz has not yet got around to watching it back.

"I've just seen a few clips and a few points but not that much," he said after his semi-final win over Taylor Fritz. "I am still thinking about that moment sometimes. It was the best match I have ever played so far. I'm not surprised he pushed me to the limit. I expect that on Sunday."

Sinner and Alcaraz are very much the dominant force in the



men's game as we enter the post-'Big Three' era of Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Djokovic.

The pair have won the last six majors between them and will wrap up a seventh on Sunday.

Only once before in the Open era have the top two seeds met in the men's singles final at the first three Grand Slams of the year - and that was in 1978.

"I reach the final stages, I reach the semis of every slam this year, but I have to play Sinner or Alcaraz," Djokovic said following his defeat. "These guys are fit, young, sharp. I feel like I'm going into the match with tank half empty."

But Sinner does not believe his and Alcaraz's recent dominance can be mentioned in the same breath as that of Federer, Nadal and Djokovic. "You cannot compare what the big three did for 15-plus years," he said

"Six Grand Slams are one-and-a-half years. It's not that big yet."

Alcaraz is 22 and Sinner is 23, meaning there will be plenty more years of the two meeting in major finals. Right now it is Alcaraz who has the measure of Sinner, with the world No.2 winning the past five meetings between them.

Since the start of his title-winning run at the China Open in September 2023, Sinner has lost just 11 of the 127 matches he has contested - meaning almost half of his losses in that time have been to Alcaraz.

But the last time they met at Wimbledon back in 2022, it was Sinner who came out on top.

"I remember that match, but it was three years ago," Alcaraz added. "We are completely different player on grass, but on all surfaces. I'm pretty sure that it's going to be different." - Agencies

CRICKET

Italy book spot in T20 World Cup for first time as Jersey miss out

THE HAGUE: Captain Joe Burns said it was "special moment" when he realised Italy had qualified for the ICC T20 World Cup for the first time despite suffering a nerve-shredding nine-wicket defeat to the Netherlands on Friday.

The result simultaneously ended Jersey's hopes of progressing to the tournament in India and Sri Lanka next year as the Dutch finished top of the standings at the European Qualifier in The Hague.

Italy finished level on five points with the Channel Islanders, who

beat Scotland in a last-ball thriller earlier in the day, but secured second spot thanks to a superior net run rate (+0.612) compared to Jersey's (+0.306).

The Italians batted first and their 134-7 meant the Netherlands would have to chase down their total in the 15th over for Jersey to qualify.

That initially appeared unlikely on a pitch which had looked tricky for batting.

However, the Dutch made a flying start to the chase as Michael



Levitt and Max O'Dowd put on 71 for the first wicket in 7.3 overs causing Italian hearts to flutter.

Italy's spinners Ben Manenti (0-25) and Crishan Kalugamage (1-25) managed to settle the nerves for the Azzurri during the middle overs as they stemmed the run rate with some tight bowling.

Jersey's players watched from the pavilion hoping the Dutch could continue their assault but were left crestfallen when O'Dowd and Scott Edwards could not score the requisite number of runs off

the 15th over bowled by Kent's Grant Stewart.

The Dutch eventually got home in 16.2 overs as O'Dowd finished unbeaten on 47 off 42 balls while Edwards made 37 not out.

"This is obviously a very special moment for us," Burns said. "We are trying to make people proud, trying to create a legacy for Italians going forward."

Italy and the Netherlands join England and Ireland as Europe's other representatives at the T20 World Cup. - Agencies

Ferrari 12Cilindri: For the few

The Ferrari

12Cilindri is the natural evolution of the company's uncompromising powertrain philosophy, which over the decades has continued to develop without ever straying from its original DNA and the marque's core values

MUSCAT: There has been a single leitmotif that has been thrilling Prancing Horse enthusiasts since 1947: the naturally-aspirated, mid-front-mounted V12, the very first Ferrari engine to roar its way through the factory gates in Maranello. Unveiled to public and media against the spectacular backdrop of Miami Beach in celebration of the 70th anniversary of Ferrari's arrival on the American market, the Ferrari 12Cilindri is the natural evolution of the company's uncompromising powertrain philosophy, which over the decades has continued to develop without ever straying from its original DNA and the marque's core values.

The Ferrari 12Cilindri is inspired by the legendary Grand Tourers of the 1950s and '60s, embodying the front-mounted Ferrari V12 two-seater mission with its effortless combination of elegance, versatility, and performance. The car represents the latest evolution in this bloodline and continues that unique legacy, elevating it towards new standards in performance, comfort, and design. Its silhouette exudes sportiness and class: simple yet harmonious lines feature an integrated active aerodynamic device to guarantee peerless performance, a front-hinged bonnet that exalts the view of the engine bay, and the two twin tailpipes that have become a signature of Ferrari's 12-cylinder cars.

The Ferrari 12Cilindri's engine is the latest development of the iconic V12 that laid the foundations for the Maranello legend, in this version unleashing 830 cv and with maximum revs rising to a heady 9500 rpm. The impressive power curve ensures 80% of total torque is already available at just 2500 rpm, resulting in instantaneous pick-up for maximum accelerator response and a feeling of never-ending power all the way to the red line.

The Ferrari 12Cilindri's cockpit guarantees superb comfort for both driver and passenger, even on long journeys: its feeling of airiness and space is heightened still further by a glass roof, prestigious materials and a central display in addition to one for the driver and a third ahead of the passenger.

The Ferrari 12Cilindri is aimed at driving enthusiasts, but also at those who demand new standards of performance, comfort and design: long-standing Ferraristi, loyal to the unique emotions that only the Ferrari V12 can deliver, as well as new clients dreaming of combining comfort and Italian design with exhilarating driving pleasure. The Ferrari 12Cilindri is designed for connoisseurs with a very clear vision of what Ferrari's DNA has always been, truly making it a car for the few.

Powertrain

The F140HD engine equipping the Ferrari 12Cilindri is the new version of the iconic naturally-aspirated Ferrari V12, the purest expression of Ferrari's soul: its peerless performance, powerful soundtrack and exclusivity make it the worthy heir to the legendary berlinetta sports cars that wrote some of the most glittering chapters in the marque's history. The engine can unleash up to 830 cv while its max revs have been increased to 9500 rpm by adopting challenging and innovative solutions.

The engine features modified components and software, some of which were already adopted on the



special series 812 Competizione, ensuring it tops its category in terms of performance. To allow the V12 to rev so high, the engineers worked to reduce the weight and inertia of the engine's components, adopting titanium con rods, which guarantee a saving of 40% in rotating mass compared to steel with the same mechanical resistance. A different aluminium alloy was used for the pistons, making them lighter than on previous applications. Further weight reduction was gained by the adoption of a rebalanced crankshaft which is 3% lighter.

The valvetrain with sliding finger followers is derived from Ferrari's unparalleled experience in Formula 1 and was developed specifically for the V12 with the aim of reducing mass and availing of more high-performance valve profiles. The sliding finger follower, which is steel with a Diamond-Like- Carbon (DLC) coating, transmits the action of the cam to the valve using a hydraulic tappet as the pivot for its movement. The use of DLC reduces the coefficient of friction at critical points, significantly improving the mechanical efficiency of the engine.

Most of the modifications focused on optimising torque delivery in all operating conditions. The result is an engine with exhilaratingly smooth, seamless response, that delivers peak power at the red line.

The manifold and the plenum layout is now very compact: shortening the length of the tracts and optimising the cam profiles allows power to be unleashed at high revs, while the torque curve is optimised at all engine speeds by a system of variable geometry inlet tracts which enables the length of the intake tract to be continuously varied to maximise the dynamic charge in the cylinder.

For the very first time on a naturally-aspirated engine, an innovative software strategy was developed that can modify the maximum torque available as a function of the gear selected. This gives the driver the feeling of smooth, progressive pick-up as the transmission ratio increases, another vital factor in making the driving exhilaration delivered by the Ferrari 12Cilindri truly unique.

A crescendo of never-ending acceleration and power delivery has been a signature of all Ferrari V12s. Now innovative Aspirated Torque Shaping (ATS) has allowed the Maranello engineers to sculpt the torque curve in third and fourth gears using sophisticated electronic control that improves perception of the torque without impinging on acceleration, all to the benefit of driving pleasure. The introduction of new gear ratios furthermore keeps acceleration levels high and allowed the engineers to define a new torque curve shape for an aspirated engine.

Optimising the engine's mechanical efficiency and that of the lubrication circuit is critical to delivering blistering performance and low fuel consumption. The calibration of the variable displacement oil pump allows the oil to circulate throughout the entire engine and then be recovered along with the vapours from the sump. A solenoid valve, controlled by the engine ECU in a closed loop, is used to control the pump's displacement in terms of engine revs and pressure, delivering only the amount of oil required and thereby simultaneously saving a significant amount of energy. The new configuration of the oil tank and pump's hydraulic circuit reduces losses to a minimum and optimises functionality in all operating conditions.

The gasoline direct injection system (GDI at 350 bar) comprises two petrol pumps and four rails with pressure sensors that provide feedback to the pressure control

system. The electronic injectors can also control up to three injections per engine cycle. The ignition system is constantly monitored by the engine control unit which has a single and a multi-spark function. The ECU also controls combustion in the chamber to ensure that the engine is always working in peak thermodynamic efficiency conditions, using a sophisticated strategy that recognises the octane rating of the fuel in the tank to avoid knocking.

The new exhaust system, developed to allow the car to comply with the latest emissions requirements (EU6E, China6B and BIN50), introduces a ceramic catalytic converter coupled with a particulate filter. This is the most advanced emissions-reduction technology available and involved lengthy calibration of the software strategies.

Sound is pivotal to marrying the comfort, luxury and exhilarating driving emotions typical of a Ferrari V12: to this end, every element of the intake and exhaust lines were optimised. Equal-length exhaust tracts, the 6-in-1 manifold for every cylinder bank and the innovative design of the central sections has resulted in Ferrari's typical V12 howl that comprises all of the noble combustion orders. The perfect integration and calibration of high and low frequencies coming from the intake and exhaust systems respectively also influence the engine's timbre. The shape of the ducts and the internal fluidynamics of the silencer baffles have been designed to reduce backpressure to a minimum thereby improving power delivery. The geometry of the forms and curves of the exhaust system was also perfected to guarantee the very purest notes of the signature Ferrari sound all the way to the limiter.

To guarantee that the soundtrack in the cabin is perfectly balanced, the intake tract was modified: modifying the position of the resonators also changed the pressure waves resulting in a richer range, particularly in terms of the middle frequencies. The result is a cleaner, more full sound in the cabin in all driving conditions, but especially in sportier situations.

The Ferrari 12Cilindri sports the 8-speed DCT (Dual Clutch Transmission) that received such an unanimously rapturous welcome on other cars in the range, starting with the SF90 Stradale. Thanks in part to larger tyres on 21" rims, this solution delivers 5% shorter gear ratios in the lower gears and a 12% increase in torque at the wheels compared to previous V12 applications, all to the benefit of longitudinal performance under acceleration and gear shifting times (30% faster than the previous V12 berlinetta applications).

Performance under acceleration through the gears has been significantly improved and the introduction of the 8th gear improves range in motorway driving. The eight-speed DCT thus both improves efficiency and is more engaging in all gears.

Design (Exterior)

With the Ferrari 12Cilindri, Flavio Manzoni and the Ferrari Styling Centre design team set out to radically transform the stylistic codes of Ferrari's previous mid-front-engined V12s. The car in fact marks a clear departure from the sculptural language that characterised the 812 Competizione, for example, instead favouring a more sophisticated language that still retains the necessary formal design rigour to achieve a sense of stylistic unity.

Clean lines dominate the car's geometry, underscoring the volumes that make up a seamlessly interconnected whole. The ultra-clean flanks sweep back along the entire car from a dihedral section. Although retaining a signa-

ture Ferrari sensuality, the wings have been sculpted with extreme geometric precision: all the lines are the result of intersections between the volumes and a more functional approach to form has been taken that echews nostalgia. The muscular rear wing is imposing, yet also perfectly controlled geometrically. On the front wing, that muscular tension extends slightly, coming to rest along the flank and further accentuating the car's monolithic aesthetic.

The sculpted bonnet is extremely sleek and incorporates the front wings. Removing the cut lines from the wings gives a smooth, uninterrupted surface to the muscularity of the design, lending the entire bonnet a sense of ultra-clean fluidity, interrupted only by two vents to cool the engine bay. One of the objectives of the Ferrari 12Cilindri was to explore design languages only tangentially related to the car world. The front has thus lost certain signature elements, such as the elongated form of the headlights and the traditional grille shape, in favour of geometries and intersections innate to the car's design. The headlights are integrated into a single wrap-around band from which the DRLs emerge like blades.

A similar approach has been taken with the rear architecture: once again, rigour is the order of the day with the shape obtained by the subtraction of volume. Consistent with the front of the car the taillights are set into a blade that traverses the entire, concave rear section and also provides what is possibly the Ferrari 12Cilindri's real signature theme, demonstrating once again how cleverly the Ferrari Styling Centre's designers are able to meld technical and functional demands with beauty.

Instead of adopting a rear spoiler, the designers have used two active flaps integrated with the rear screen, creating a signature delta theme. The overall perception is of a seamless whole, creating the idea of a very high-tech form. The development of this concept allowed the designers to treat the Ferrari 12Cilindri's cabin in a new way, tracing the frame of the surface in body colour to echo the rear screen theme and integrate organically with the rest of the cabin which itself is characterised by a black screen effect.

The tail section ends in a very clean, monolithic volume in body colour as well. The lower section – in black or carbon fibre – is characterised by the prominent diffuser keels over which the body almost seems to float. This area also includes the sensors and two twin tailpipes. The latter, comprising four elements altogether, also have a completely new shape, with a metal surround to reduce the perception of their size and create a more compact look.

Cockpit

The design of the Ferrari 12Cilindri's interior sees it split into three different levels: the first, dominated by the upper part of the dash, continues around to blend into the door panel trim. Next is the central area while the third includes the footwells and seats. Each level is clearly defined, heightening the dual-cockpit effect through the colour and material combinations. These are used to create either an elegant or sporty look for the seats and other features. Ferrari's signature luxury and performance are flanked on the Ferrari 12Cilindri by a focus on environmental sustainability: extensive use has been made of sustainable materials such as Alcantara® containing 68% recycled polyester.

The interior style takes its inspiration from the Prancing Horse's dual-cockpit architecture. In recent years, that layout was used for the Ferrari Roma and Roma Spider as well as the Ferrari Puro-

sangue. The Ferrari 12Cilindri's cabin has an almost-symmetrical structure comprising two modules for driver and passenger and offering an astonishing standard of comfort and involvement in the driving experience.

The dashboard extends horizontally, a fact underscored by a clear separation between the trimmed volumes in the upper section and the technical functions in the lower section. The upper section features two distinct binnacles dedicated to the driver and passenger instrumentation and to the climate control vents. A deftly elegant colour and material change draws the eye to the two volumes separated by the body of the dash, which seem almost to float, further enhancing the feeling of lightness in this area.

The panels of the central tunnel extend outward from the dashboard geometries as if they were almost an extension of the latter. The trimmed area features a large sculptural gash emphasised by contrasting materials. The armrest is in the trimmed area of the tunnel and extends into the medallion area, revealing contrasting metallic edging that creates an elegant intersection between the volumes.

The side section of the tunnel itself has been scooped out, again recreating that floating feeling. It is trimmed with luxury materials and also features a Y-shaped metal element into which the iconic gate shift has been set.

On the Ferrari 12Cilindri, the quality of life on board was one of the main drivers for the development of the bespoke interior's features. A new a new generously-sized tinted glass roof has been incorporated, which significantly improves the airiness of the cabin and thus the feeling of space on board, ensuring optimum thermal efficiency in both summer and winter. In terms of design, the darkened glass roof is perfectly integrated into the upper part of the cabin, giving it an elegant and refined appearance and creating continuity between the wind-screen and the rear screen.

The Ferrari 12Cilindri introduces a new Human Machine Interface (HMI) comprising three displays that raise the Ferrari V12 berlinetta onboard experience to new heights. All of the main functions can be controlled from the central 10.25" touchscreen capacitive display within reach of both driver and passenger. This is flanked by a 15.6" driver display showing all of the driving and vehicle dynamics information. Lastly the passenger is always completely involved in the driving experience thanks to an 8.8" display that ensures they feel like a genuine co-driver.

The car sports the capacitive steering wheel seen on all of the latest models in the range featuring the indented buttons for ease of use. This means that command activations are more precise, instant and intuitive even in sporty driving conditions. The Ferrari 12Cilindri comes with Apple CarPlay® and Android Auto®-based mobile connectivity systems as standard, both easily controlled from the new central display. A wireless charging mat on the central tunnel (as standard) makes phone charging simple too.

Available as an optional on the Ferrari 12Cilindri is the high-end audio system developed in collaboration with Burmester®, comprising 15 loudspeakers and unleashing a massive 1600 W for a genuinely unprecedented in-car experience at any volume and any speed. The high frequencies are crystal clear and sparkling, thanks to Ring Tweeter technology which minimises distortion. The powerful dual coil subwoofer guarantees a wonderfully full, rich sound which, thanks to Ultraflat Headliners, is all part of a 360-degree listening experience.

Aerodynamics

The main objective of the Ferrari 12Cilindri's aerodynamics was to produce a sober, elegant car without compromising on performance. The 25 nm nolder on the boot lid and the active aero are the two signature elements of the tail section. The former guarantees the recompression required to maintain the car's aero efficiency when drag is minimal while the flaps permit two different configurations, Low Drag (LD) and High Downforce (HD) respectively.

In the low drag position, the flaps are flush with the bodywork so that the air runs over it uninterrupted, making them invisible to the flow. This configuration is

retained until a speed of 60 km when downforce is not very relevant to the performance of the car, something that is also the case over 300 km/h. In between these two speeds, however, downforce plays a central role and the spoilers' movement depends on the car's longitudinal and lateral acceleration. In high downforce configuration, the Ferrari 12Cilindri generates maximum downforce and guarantees that the car is aerodynamically balanced.

The plan form and profile of the louvres in the central opening of the underbody minimise the impact of the hot air which is not highly energised. Two louvres have been created in the low-pressure area behind the front wheels which, by reducing overpressure inside the engine compartment, increase the efficiency of the radiating masses, lowering drag and increasing downforce generation.

As was the case with the 812 Competizione, downforce on the front underbody is generated by three pairs of vortex generators optimised in the wind tunnel. The front underbody also contributes to brake cooling by delivering a flow of lower-temperature air from the front splitter.

The central underbody was designed to correctly channel air flows to retain the available energy all the way to the rear diffuser. To that end, the transmission tunnel opening was reduced to balance the amount of air that would flow inside it. A raised section ahead of the rear wheel shields the tyres and deflects the flow towards the rear.

The rear underbody sports a pair of vortex generators which are used to produce efficient downforce and channel the flows towards the extractor. In line with Ferrari's philosophy of transferring innovations from the racing world to the road-going sports cars, the engineers designed an air inlet near the outer edge of the rear fender to provide ventilation for the silencer's electronics.

Cooling layout

The heat dissipation requirements of the engine and ancillaries demanded a redesign of the car's entire cooling system which resulted in front underbody evacuation being optimised, with no fewer than seven openings in the front bumper. In particular, the space between the longitudinal elements of the chassis houses the engine coolant radiator and air-con circuit condenser, which are fed by the central opening, while the oil radiator has been split into two separate elements, lying ahead of the front wheels. The two side air intakes are divided in two: the outer part is designed to cool the engine oil radiator while the inner one cools the brakes.

A generous brake cooling duct is fed by two openings, one between the radiator intakes and the other on the lower part of the front splitter. The entire system is integral to the oil radiator intake to optimise the routing of the front brake intakes.

The side intakes are framed by an L-shaped element designed to maximise the amount of air entering the opening whilst simultaneously correctly channelling the flow along the car's flanks.

The air in the engine bay exits through two vents on the bonnet which reduce overpressure, improving cooling efficiency.

Thanks to the latter, there are fewer openings on the underbody, thereby maximising efficient downforce generation.

On the wing behind the front wheels there is also a vent for the air from the wheelarch which minimises overpressure on the underbody caused by the cooling duct for the brakes and front diffusers.

Vehicle dynamics and chassis

The Ferrari 12Cilindri boasts the very state of the art in front-engined berlinetta dynamic controls. The introduction of brake-by-wire allowed the latest innovations from the range to be adopted, including ABS Evo that debuted on the 296 GTB and the 6D sensor that guarantees optimal precision to the Virtual Short Wheelbase (PCV) 3.0 and Side Slip Control (SSC) 8.0 systems, together with reduced braking distances and a more accurate repeatability of braking. The Aspirated Torque Shaping, an entirely new control logic, also emphasises even further the smoothly linear power delivery from the legendary naturally-aspirated engine, thanks to electronic control.

ROUND-UP

Meethaq Islamic Banking awarded the Pioneer in Digital Islamic Banking title

This accolade reaffirms Meethaq’s pioneering role in the country’s Islamic banking sector by offering comprehensive solutions that meet the varied requirements of customers

MUSCAT: Reaffirming its leadership in delivering Sharia-compliant banking and financial solutions, Meethaq Islamic Banking from Bank Muscat has been awarded the Pioneer in Digital Islamic Banking for 2025 title at the OER DX Live Conference and Awards event, organised by Oman Economic Review (OER). The event was held under the



patronage of H.E. Suba’ Hamdan Al Saadi, with the attendance of H.E Sheikh Salim Mustahail Al Mashani, Ali Ahmed Al Lawati, Assistant General Manager, Meethaq Corporate Banking, received the award on behalf of Meethaq Islamic Banking, alongside officials from various institutions and practitioners from the digital banking industry. On this occasion, Ali Ahmed Al Lawati expressed his pride in the

recognition Meethaq has gained with this prestigious award. He stated: “This accolade reaffirms Meethaq’s pioneering role in the country’s Islamic banking sector by offering comprehensive solutions that meet the varied requirements of customers. Meethaq has significantly contributed to reshaping the Islamic banking landscape in the Sultanate, evident in the trust and strong uptake from customers

for Meethaq’s Sharia-compliant financial solutions. Meethaq continues to uphold its excellence and innovation by delivering distinguished and forward-thinking Islamic banking solutions aligned with aspirations and financial goals of Meethaq’s institutional and individual customers.” Meethaq provides a full suite of Sharia-compliant banking products and financing solutions designed to serve the

needs of individuals, SMEs, and corporate entities.

Sharia-compliant offerings

All offerings are subject to the regulatory framework of the Central Bank of Oman and undergo thorough Sharia audit and supervision by Meethaq’s Sharia Supervisory Board to ensure full compliance with Islamic jurisprudence. The Sharia-compliant offerings for retail customers include deposit products such as savings accounts, current accounts, children’s savings accounts, fixed deposits and Meethaq’s structured savings plans.

On the financing front, Meethaq offers a range of Islamic finance facilities, including personal finance, auto finance, home finance, and funding for travel, education, marriage, and personal purchases. For its SME and corporate customers, Meethaq offers a variety of commercial banking solutions, including current accounts, project finance, short-term and long-term financing facilities, trade finance based on “Tjarah”, and large-scale project financing.

All these offerings are structured in accordance with Islamic financial principles. In addition, Meethaq has upgraded its digital platforms thereby individual and corporate customers may avail a

suite of Sharia-compliant solutions and services, aiming to offer them an exceptional banking experience.

Meethaq operates the largest branch network in the Islamic banking sector in Oman, with 32 dedicated branches across the Sultanate.

It also maintains over 50 self-service machines for cash deposit and withdrawal.

In addition, Meethaq’s customers benefit from access to over 900 ATMs and CDMs across Bank Muscat’s network, offering seamless access to its banking services.

Meethaq’s commitment to excellence in Islamic finance has been recognised over the years through numerous regional and global accolades.

These include the Best Islamic Investment Bank Award from Islamic Finance News, Best Digital Islamic Bank and the Market Leadership Awards from Global Finance, and Best Islamic Banking Window Award at the Thimar Excellence Awards by The Arabian Stories. These honours underscore Meethaq’s position as a leading Islamic financial institution, firmly dedicated to offering Sharia-compliant banking and investment solutions that align with the evolving needs of both individual and institutional customers.

THRILLING BOUTS

UFC brings world-class MMA to Qatar in historic ‘UFC Fight Night’ debut in Doha on November 22

MUSCAT: UFC®, the world’s leading mixed martial arts organisation, brings the Octagon® to Qatar for the first time in partnership with Visit Qatar on Saturday, November 22. This action-packed Fight Night at Doha’s state-of-the-art ABHA Arena marks a milestone moment for regional fans and UFC®’s global rise.

Fans are encouraged to register their interest via <https://www.ufc.com/qatar> to have the best chance of securing tickets early.

Set for November 22, the unforgettable debut of UFC® FIGHT NIGHT DOHA will deliver a stacked lineup of thrilling bouts, spotlighting the best in combat sports and live entertainment. Marking a major milestone in UFC®’s regional expansion, the event brings the electrifying energy of a blockbuster showdown to fans in Doha and across the Middle East.

Known for hosting world-class sporting events, Qatar adds another milestone with the debut of UFC® FIGHT NIGHT DOHA. This event contributes to Qatar’s goal of becoming a leading global destination for sport.

Eng. Abdulaziz Ali Al-Mawlawi, CEO of Visit Qatar said: “This collaboration marks a significant step that reflects our continued commitment to positioning Qatar as a leading global destination for major sporting events. The event forms part of a vibrant season of major activities, supported by ongoing infrastructure development and notable growth in the events and conferences sector. The inclusion of UFC®, with its fanbase of over 700 million worldwide, underscores this strategic direction and offers a unique platform to showcase Qatar’s sporting excellence and cultural richness. We look forward to welcoming the UFC® community to Doha this November for an exceptional experience that highlights our capabilities and strengthens our international partnerships.”

Dana White, UFC® President and CEO, commented: “I’ve al-



excellence and cultural richness. We look forward to welcoming the UFC® community to Doha this November for an exceptional experience that highlights our capabilities and strengthens our international partnerships.”

Dana White, UFC® President and CEO, commented: “I’ve al-

ways said we’re going to take UFC® all over the world—and Qatar is the next stop. They already hosted the World Cup and Formula 1, and now we’re bringing a UFC® Fight Night there for the first time. Our fights in the Middle East are always incredible so I can’t wait to get out there.”

With a soon-to-be-announced fight card, the highly anticipated inaugural UFC® FIGHT NIGHT DOHA will see some of UFC®’s most talented athletes enter the Octagon® for a must-see event for both longtime and new UFC® fans in the region.

For more information on this historic event and for the latest updates visit www.UFC.com. For those looking for details on local attractions and travel tips, visit the official tourism site at www.visitqatar.com

UNTIL 17TH JULY, 2025

Now own a Chery Arrizo 6 PRO with exciting summer campaign benefits



MUSCAT: Now own the Chery Arrizo 6 Pro avail benefits including Free AAA Roadside Assistance, Free Service up to 6 Years/60,000 kms (whichever is earlier. Not available on all models.), an unparalleled 10 year/1,000,000 km engine warranty, Free Insurance, Walk-in and Win Raffle with a chance to win a Samsung Galaxy S25 Ultra 5G and Test Drive & Win exciting prizes as raffle.

Also available is attractive EMI options across the full range.

This exclusive campaign that began on 18th May 2025 will last until 17th July, 2025. (Prospective buyers may be advised that the benefits vary between model variants, model year and manufacturing year. Terms & Conditions apply. Customers can visit any Chery showroom for exact details.)

The Chery Arrizo 6 PRO is a statement of sophistication, power and innovation.

Designed for drivers who value technology, comfort and safety, the Arrizo 6 PRO redefines everyday journeys, turning every drive into

a memorable experience.

With a bold front grille, sleek LED headlamps and a sculpted aerodynamic silhouette, the Arrizo 6 PRO commands attention wherever it goes.

Its modern and dynamic design blends sportiness with elegance, leaving a lasting impression at every turn.

Step inside, and you will discover a cabin that is crafted with premium materials and a thoughtful, driver-focused layout.

From plush leather seating to ambient lighting and an intuitive dashboard, every detail enhances your comfort.

Whether navigating the city or heading out on a long road trip, the spacious interior is your sanctuary.

Stay connected and entertained with the 10.25-inch touchscreen infotainment system, seamlessly integrated with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto.

The Arrizo 6 PRO is equipped with a turbocharged engine paired with a continuously variable transmission (CVT) delivers the perfect

balance of power and efficiency.

The Arrizo 6 PRO offers smooth acceleration, responsive handling and impressive fuel economy making every drive feel effortless.

Your safety is always the priority.

The Arrizo 6 PRO comes equipped with a suite of intelligent safety technologies, including a 360-degree camera system, blind-spot monitoring, lane departure warning and an advanced electronic stability programme.

Multiple airbags, a reinforced high-strength body and a smart braking system provide peace of mind on every journey.

In Oman, Chery vehicles are distributed by New World Autos. For the latest Press Releases, Test Drive requests and more, please visit www.chery.om, www.youtube.com/@OmanChery, www.facebook.com/CheryAutoOman, and www.instagram.com/cheryoman. For any further details & to ascertain the availability of stocks, please visit the Chery Showroom at Wattayah, Al Hail, Sohar and Salalah.

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800 50800
9662 8909
@changanoman
www.changanoman.com