



among peoples.

ALECSO will hold an official ceremony at its headquarters in Tunis this Tuesday to honour His Majesty the Sultan with the attendance of senior officials, intellectuals, and those engaged in Arab cultural affairs.

The Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) is a specialised organization of the League of Arab States. Established in 1970 and headquartered in Tunis, Republic of Tunisia, ALECSO is concerned with the development of education, culture, and science in Arab countries; the promotion of Arab cultural and knowledge integration; the safeguarding of cultural heritage; and the building of intellectual and cultural partnerships among Arab states.

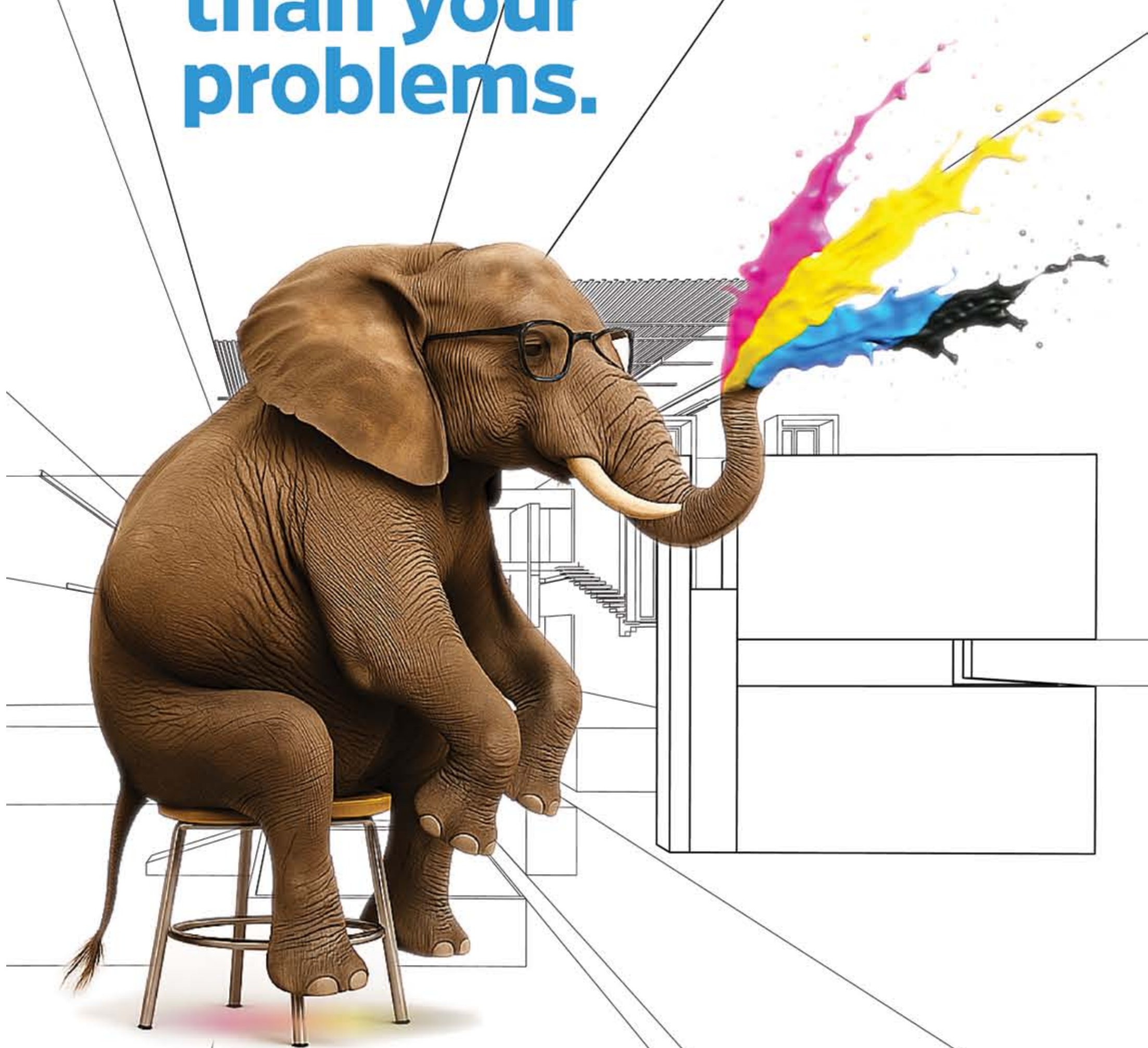


3 Russian President Putin addressed a military parade in Moscow. >B4

Nasra bint Sultan Al Habsi, Director General of Trade at Min-

Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment LLC

We make your Business bigger than your problems.



We get you ahead on

- Booth production
- Event conceptualisation
- Event management



Wait, there's more

- Large format digital printing
- Flex banners
- Vinyl stickers
- Back drops with metal frames
- Wooden standalones
- Backlit flex banners

The Courage to Care

You are often described as a pioneer in the field of mental health in Oman and the region. What inspired you to dedicate your life to this cause?

Mental health is not just a field to me. It is life itself. Your mental health is your being. It is what allows you to move forward or brings everything to a stop. I understood this very early on. As a teenager, from around Class Eight, I found myself deeply drawn to psychology and to understanding the human mind. I was not only interested in learning about mental health, but also in supporting people who were struggling. That awareness grew into a lifelong commitment. I knew I wanted to work as a practitioner, but also as an advocate and activist for mental health. This is something I intend to dedicate my life to, until the very last day.

Founding Whispers of Serenity was a breakthrough moment for mental health in the Sultanate. What has been the most transformative impact of the clinic so far?

What matters most to me is that people now know there is a place they can go to. A place that offers different approaches to healing, not just one traditional model. Mental health support can take many forms. It can be through art, music, movement, mindfulness, conversation, or awareness. Whispers of Serenity was created to reflect that belief. It was important for people to feel comfortable, safe, and welcomed in an environment that does not feel intimidating. The fact that we are now entering



our fifteenth year is something we are celebrating with great gratitude. I am deeply thankful to everyone who supported us along the way, and most of all, to our clients who trusted us with their journeys.

You have led initiatives both locally and internationally, from youth-focused campaigns to global humanitarian support. How do you see Oman's role in shaping mental health awareness on a wider scale?

From the beginning, my vision was for our work to extend beyond borders. While Whispers of Serenity is rooted in Oman, it was always meant to speak to the world. Oman is a country known for peace, compas-

TOP WOMEN LEADERS IN OMAN

sion, and humanitarian values. Mental health belongs naturally within that identity.

Our campaigns are international, reaching people across cultures and communities. This is not limited to the Arab world. It is global. In that sense, Oman continues to play its role as a country that leads with humanity, offering support not only materially, but emotionally and psychologically as well.



HH Sayyida Basma Bint Fakhri Al Said
Founder, Whispers of Serenity Clinic

Her Highness Sayyida Basma Bint Fakhri Al Said is a pioneering force in advancing mental health awareness in Oman and beyond. As the first woman to establish a mental health clinic in the Sultanate, she has combined clinical practice with advocacy, education, and humanitarian outreach. Her work has helped normalise conversations around mental well-being while expanding access to compassionate, culturally grounded care across communities.

Throughout your journey, what challenges have you faced in breaking the stigma around mental health, and how have you worked to overcome them?

Stigma exists, but it is far less than it once was. What I never believed in was the idea that something would not work simply because of culture, society, or tradition. Too often, we stop ourselves before we even try. I chose a different approach. I believed in trying first, learning from the experience, and then improving.

If something does not work, we look for another solution. But we do not assume failure. The real challenge has not been stigma as much as the responsibility to keep evolving. Every

Special Report By

Times OF OMAN

In Association with

the origin

Powered by

Ford

LINCOLN

Oman continues efforts to boost investment climate

Economic indicators showed gradual improvement in competitiveness levels, with Oman's competition performance index rising from around 59 percent between 2015 and 2017 to approximately 65% in recent years

Times News Service

Muscat: The Sultanate of Oman continues its efforts to establish a competitive and transparent business environment in line with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040 aimed at diversifying income sources and building a sustainable economy led by the private sector.

Competition and anti-monopoly legislation has emerged as a key pillar in regulating the market and ensuring equal opportunities among economic players, thereby enhancing the efficiency and competitiveness of the national economy amid global economic changes.

The Protection of Competition and Prevention of Monopoly Law issued in 2014 marked a major turning point in market regulation. This framework was further strengthened with the establishment of the Competition Protection and Monopoly Prevention Centre under Royal Decree No. 2/2018, which was tasked with overseeing the implementation of competition laws and monitoring anti-competitive practices.

The law aims to guarantee freedom of economic activity according to market principles and prohibits monopolistic agreements and practices that restrict competition, including abuse of domi-



nant market position, market division, and price manipulation.

The Centre has been equipped with advanced supervisory and legislative tools enabling it to carry out its responsibilities effectively.

These include granting judicial powers to employees, allowing inspections of establishments and records, and imposing administrative fines of up to OMR5,000, which may double in cases of repeated violations, in addition to referring violations to public prosecution authorities.

These measures contribute to strengthening market discipline, limiting unlawful practices, and enhancing investor confidence while ensuring balance within the business environment.

Gradual improvement

Economic indicators showed gradual improvement in competitiveness levels, with Oman's competition performance index rising from around 59 percent between 2015 and 2017 to approximately 65 percent in recent years, supported by stronger institutional frameworks and enhanced regulatory oversight.

Non-competitive practices also declined to around 14 recorded cases in 2024, reflecting higher compliance levels and stronger transparency across the market.

On the international level, Oman improved its global standing by ranking 74th in the Global Innovation Index 2024 among 133 economies.

The Sultanate also ranked 70th globally in the Ease of Doing Business Index and achieved 11th place worldwide in the tax payment indicator, highlighting

the development of the regulatory environment and its role in supporting economic activity and attracting investments.

The improvements in the competition framework have also been reflected in foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows, which reached around OMR5.2 billion during the recent period compared to OMR4.1 billion during the same period last year, indicating growing investor confidence in the Omani market.

Dr. Yousef bin Hamad Al-Balushi, economist and founder of Smart Gate for Consulting and Investment, said rapid global changes and increasing competition among countries to provide transparent and attractive business environments have heightened the importance of economic legislation and competitiveness policies.

Speaking to ONA, he said: "Oman Vision 2040 made improving the business environment a strategic priority since its launch in 2021, with results beginning to emerge through continued growth in FDI, although much of it remains concentrated in the oil and gas sectors."

He added that non-oil sectors have also witnessed notable growth, supporting economic diversification efforts and benefiting from the resources and economic potential available across Oman's governorates.

Al-Balushi stressed that the next phase requires further development of the business environment despite the progress achieved, due to evolving economic requirements and changing growth dynamics.

He highlighted the importance



of clarity and transparency in investment frameworks as a fundamental element in economic development and called for prioritising these aspects during the next phase of economic reforms.

Oman also continues to strengthen intellectual property rights protection as a driver of innovation, while ensuring such protections do not become tools for monopolistic practices that hinder market entry for new competitors.

The legislation subjects abuses of intellectual property rights to competition law provisions in order to balance innovation protection with market freedom.

SMEs remain central to these efforts,

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) remain central to these efforts, with competition policies helping reduce the dominance of large entities and creating greater opportunities for SMEs to enter markets and participate in supply chains, thereby increasing their contribution to the national economy.

These policies also support local content initiatives aimed at empowering national talent, encouraging innovation, and maximising added value within the economy.

Experts believe the next phase will require greater focus on improving the efficiency of legislative implementation, raising awareness within the business community, and expanding public-private partnerships to ensure laws become effective tools for sustainable economic growth and a more efficient business environment.

IN RUSSIA

Oman to take part in exhibition 'Halal Expo 2026'



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, represented by "Oman Exports" and in cooperation with Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, will participate in the Russia-Islamic World Kazan Forum and Halal Expo 2026, scheduled to take place from May 13 to 15 in Kazan.

The event will witness the participation of several Omani companies seeking to expand their business activities and enter the Russian market as well as markets linked to the Islamic economy.

Oman's participation comes as part of efforts to strengthen the presence of Omani products in global markets, explore new export opportunities, and establish trade and investment partnerships with promising economies. The initiative also supports the development of non-oil exports and aligns with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040 aimed at economic diversification and enhancing the competitiveness of national products.

The Halal Expo is regarded as one of the leading exhibitions specialising in the Islamic economy and halal industry sectors. It brings together companies, investors, and government institutions from Russia and countries across the Islamic world, serving as an international platform for showcasing trade and investment opportunities and facilitating business-to-business meetings.

Lubna bint Mohammed Al Harthi, Director of the Export Development Department at the Ministry, said the participation of "Oman Exports" forms part of the ministry's plans to expand into rapidly growing international

markets and enhance the access of Omani products to new destinations, particularly the Russian market, which is witnessing increasing demand for halal and high-quality products.

She noted that the exhibition offers an opportunity to highlight Oman's competitive advantages in the food industries, manufacturing, and consumer products sectors, in addition to introducing the services and facilities provided by the ministry to support Omani exporters and help them access international markets.

Mahmoud bin Sulaiman al Yazidi, Head of Export Promotion at Oman's Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, and General Supervisor of the Omani Pavilion, said the pavilion will feature a number of Omani companies operating across diverse sectors, including small and medium-sized enterprises.

He added that the participation aims to facilitate meetings with importers from Russia and other participating countries and create new international partnerships for Omani products to boost the volume of non-oil exports.

The participation will also include bilateral meetings between Omani firms and their counterparts from Russia and participating countries to discuss trade cooperation opportunities, export partnerships, and the promotion of Omani products and services in Russian and Islamic markets.

Al-Yazidi said the participation of Omani companies interested in the Russian market reflects the growing interest of the Omani private sector in diversifying export destinations and benefiting from trade opportunities available in Russia and Central Asia.

COMMENTARY

How Oman’s Consumer Protection Authority curbs abnormal price hikes

Under Oman’s Consumer Protection Law, where a natural crisis, pandemic, exceptional circumstances, or extraordinarily special situations in the market emerge and result in abnormal inflation in prices, regulatory intervention may be triggered.

In an exclusive interview with Times of Oman, Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim Al Zadjali, Founding Partner of Mohammed Ibrahim Law Firm, explains that “the Chairman of the Board of the Public Authority for Consumer Protection shall, after approval of the Board and the Council of Ministers, take temporary measures to stop, reduce, or control a continuous increase in prices.

“Such measures may be

extended for a similar period if the exceptional circumstances continue.”

“The law authorises the Chairman of the Authority to take temporary procedures to curtail abnormal inflation.

Clear criteria

“The Executive Regulation of the law sets out clear criteria for the Chairman to assess whether a price increase is abnormal, including the unavailability of a good, the rate of price increase, consumer complaints to the Authority, shipping and transport costs, energy prices, the exchange rate of foreign currency at the time of import, and the extent of competition or monopoly in the market,” he said.



He further stated that “the law strictly prohibits suppliers from charging a price higher than its previously advertised price. The



Executive Regulation explicitly bans increasing prices upon the emergence of a crisis, pandemic, exceptional circumstances, or an

extraordinary special situation in the market.”

“The law imposes strict penalties for non-compliance. A supplier who violates these price related provisions, including charging a price higher than its previously advertised price, may face imprisonment from 03 months to 03 years and a fine between OMR 2,000 and OMR 50,000, or either of these penalties. In addition, the law also provides for administrative fines for certain violations, which may reach up to OMR 1,000, doubled for repetition, and in the case of continuing violations, a daily fine of up to OMR 100 may be imposed until the total reaches OMR 2,000,” he said.

“These strict rules ensure that suppliers cannot exploit

emergencies to unjustifiably raise prices and that consumers are fully protected from market abuse,” he concluded.

(Mohammed Ibrahim Law Firm (info@mohammedibrahim.net), (+968 244 87 600) was established on 14th December 2006 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).

CAA registered 781 complaints in air transport

210 complaints were related to flight delays, 132 to flight cancellations, and 114 complaints involved passengers being denied confirmed seats



It clarified that airlines are exempt from financial compensation in force majeure situations such as severe weather conditions, political unrest, security risks, or exceptional technical malfunctions affecting flight safety, while remaining obligated to provide care and support to passengers.

Hamed bin Ahmed al Barashdi, Director General of Strategic Planning and official spokesperson for the Authority, said the Authority places significant importance on protecting passenger rights and improving travel experience through clear regulations governing the relationship between passengers and airlines.

He explained that the Authority continuously monitors airlines’ compliance with local and international laws and reviews operational performance to ensure high service standards. Complaints are examined carefully in coordination with relevant entities to enhance passenger confidence and improve service quality across the aviation sector.

Passengers can submit complaints through the Authority’s website or directly via its Customer Service Department. The Authority noted that it follows clear timelines for complaint handling and continuously coordinates with airlines to ensure efficient resolution.

Regarding delays and cancellations, the Authority said airlines are required to notify passengers in advance within the timeframes stipulated by regulations. In cases where delays exceed six hours, airlines must provide care, support, accommodation, and transportation where necessary.

Passengers are entitled to choose between alternative flights or cancellation of the contract with a full ticket refund, including any additional fees paid. In cases involving route changes or downgrading of travel class,

passengers are entitled to reimbursement of the fare difference in exchange for compensation.

The Authority added that it monitors airline compliance through operational reports, flight performance reviews, and passenger complaints. Regulatory measures, including warnings and penalties, may be imposed on airlines found in violation of the regulations.

The regulations also address overbooking practices by requiring airlines to first seek volunteers willing to surrender seats in exchange for agreed benefits. If passengers are involuntarily denied boarding, they are entitled to compensation, care, and the choice between a refund or rebooking on an alternative flight.

With regard to baggage, the regulations guarantee compensation for delayed, lost, or damaged luggage. Passengers are compensated financially from the first day of baggage delay, with additional reimbursement for essential expenses based on submitted documents. Compensation for lost or damaged baggage is determined according to the specified values and baggage weight limits.

The Authority also highlighted protections for persons with disabilities, requiring airlines to provide necessary assistance throughout the travel journey, including support during boarding and disembarkation, transportation of assistive equipment, and compensation in cases of non-compliance, which may reach up to 200 percent of the ticket value.

The Authority reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening passenger confidence in the aviation sector through the Passenger Rights Protection Regulations issued under Resolution No. 757/2024, promoting transparency, fairness, and improved service quality to enhance the competitiveness of Oman’s aviation sector regionally and internationally.

FIFTH PHASE

Awareness campaign on climate hazards, tsunami from Monday

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The fifth phase of the national awareness campaign on the dangers of climatic conditions and tsunami waves, held under the slogan “Awareness for Your Safety,” will be launched on Monday (May 11) in South Al Batinah Governorate and will continue for three days.

The campaign is organised by National Centre for Emergency Management in cooperation with Civil Aviation Authority, Ministry of Information, Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority, South Al Batinah Governorate, and Ministry of Education.

The campaign aims to raise awareness among communities and institutions about the dangers associated with severe weather conditions, climate-related events, and tsunami waves. It also seeks to strengthen understanding of the multi-hazard early warning system and provide comprehensive guidance on proper behaviour during emergencies.

Organisers said the initiative



is designed to enhance community preparedness and improve the capabilities of individuals in dealing with emergency situations through a range of training programmes and awareness activities.

The campaign targets representatives from government and private sector entities, as well as civil society organisations and volunteer teams. Activities include meetings, seminars, practical exercises, participation in governorate events, awareness bulletins, and an accompanying educational exhibition.

The Sultanate of Oman places significant emphasis on strengthening readiness levels in facing risks associated with tropical cyclones and tsunamis.

Officials noted that organising the campaign reflects the importance of promoting a culture of community awareness to ensure effective and rapid responses during emergencies and to minimise human and material losses. The campaign’s activities begin in coastal governorates and extend across various governorates of Oman.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Civil Aviation Authority recorded approximately 781 complaints in the air transport sector during 2025, covering issues related to flight delays, cancellations, denied boarding, baggage handling, and route changes.

According to the Authority, 210 complaints were related to flight delays, 132 to flight cancellations, and 114 complaints involved passengers being denied confirmed seats. Another 145 complaints concerned delayed, lost, or damaged baggage, while 5 complaints related to flight route changes.

A further 121 complaints were classified under other categories.

The Authority stated that the Passenger Rights Protection Regulations apply to all flights departing from airports in Oman on both national and foreign carriers, as well as flights arriving on national airlines and domestic flights.

The regulations also protect beneficiaries of frequent flyer programmes, while excluding certain categories such as passengers travelling free of charge or on discounted tickets not publicly available. Flights arriving on foreign airlines are subject either to the laws of the country of departure or to the provisions of the Montreal Convention in the absence of relevant local legislation.

The Authority stressed that airlines are obligated to display ticket prices transparently, avoid imposing undisclosed fees, and provide passengers with all transport contract terms and conditions before booking confirmation.

Airlines must also ensure that passengers’ travel documents comply with applicable regula-

ELECTRONIC TRANSACTION

Sharp increase in epayment

<FROM A1 She added that the positive performance aligns with the ministry’s efforts to enhance spending flexibility, develop an attractive business environment that meets consumer expectations, and support sustainable economic growth in local markets.

Meanwhile, Director of Commercial Affairs and E-commerce at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Pro-

motion, Azza Ibrahim Al Kindi, said the sharp rise in electronic payment gateway transactions was supported by the substantial increase in transaction volumes, reflecting a significant shift in consumer behaviour and growing confidence in digital channels.

She noted that the diversity of payment options has contributed to facilitating purchases and increasing spending flexibility, adding that the continued growth in electronic transactions reflects

greater consumer awareness of the security and reliability of digital payment methods across different commercial sectors.

The strong performance highlights the continued expansion of the retail, services, and e-commerce sectors, supporting the efficiency of the local market and reinforcing Oman’s efforts to accelerate comprehensive digital transformation and build a more flexible and competitive business environment.

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVOURITE BRAND NOW!

OMAN CX AWARDS 2026

BEST BRAND IN CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

For more information, contact:
Sanjeev Rana – sanjeev@mmg.om | +968 9722 1630
Syed Amir Saleem – syed.amir@mmg.om | +968 7847 1944

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SUBMIT YOUR VOTE!

His Majesty, Egyptian President hold talks on US-Iranian crisis

During the meeting, the two leaders discussed a number of regional issues and their security implications

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and President Abdul Fattah el Sisi of the Arab Republic of Egypt, held a cordial meeting at Al Barakah Palace on Thursday.

During the meeting, the two leaders discussed a number of regional issues and their political, economic, and security implications. They also exchanged views on ways to reach a final agreement to resolve the American-Iranian crisis through understanding, dialogue, and diplomatic channels.

The meeting was attended from

the Omani side by Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Dr. Hamad bin Said Al Aufi, Head of the Private Office and Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Abdullah Al Hina'i, Ambassador-at-Large at the Foreign Ministry.

Meanwhile, it was attended from the Egyptian side by Maj. Gen Ahmed Ali Mohamed, Chief of the President's Office, Dr. Badr Abdelatty, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Emigration, and Egyptian Expatriates, Counselor Omar Marwan, Director of the President's Office and Yasser Shaaban, Ambassador of Egypt to Oman.

Egypt President leaves Oman

President Abdul Fattah el Sisi and his accompanying delegation left Muscat, following a private fraternal visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik led the farewell party for President el Sisi at the Royal Airport.

Alongside His Majesty, the President of Egypt was seen off by a number of senior officials. **-ONA**



ROP

47 arrested

MUSCAT: The South Al Batinah Governorate Police Command, in cooperation with the Police Special Tasks Unit in Wadi Al Maawil, arrested 47 expatriates of African and Asian nationalities for violating labour and residency laws and illegally entering the country.

The ROP reaffirmed the importance of public cooperation in refraining from dealing with individuals who violate labour laws.



Printed and published by:
Muscat Media Group
Post Box: 770,
Postal Code: 112

Founder: **Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali**
Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: **Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali**
Deputy Editor-in-Chief: **Anees bin Essa Al Zedjali**
Chief Executive Officer: **Ahmed Essa Al Zedjali**

EDITORIAL: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24813153, E-mail: editor@timesofoman.com
ADVERTISING: Telephone: 22009004, E-mail: amcoman@choueirigroup.com
CIRCULATION: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24818270, E-mail: circulation@timesofoman.com

FROM TODAY

Survey to measure digital economy contribution to GDP

Times News Service

MUSCAT: National Centre for Statistics and Information will begin implementing the Digital Economy Survey 2025 on Sunday, to measure the contribution of the digital economy to the gross domestic product (GDP) of Sultanate of Oman. The survey will continue until mid-August 2026.

The survey targets institutions operating in information and communication technology (ICT) activities, companies providing e-commerce services, and digital intermediation platforms, in addition to a sample of establishments representing various economic sectors across the Sultanate.

Abdulaziz bin Khamis bin Mohammed Al Sunaidi, Director of the National Accounts Department at the NCSI, said the survey forms part of the Centre's efforts to measure the size of the digital economy and monitor its contribution to the national economy.

He explained that the survey will support the development of accurate indicators to assist decision-makers in formulating economic policies and advancing digital transformation initiatives in Oman.

Al Sunaidi said that the survey results will enable the estimation



STATISTICAL PROJECT: The NCSI stated that data collection will be conducted electronically through a dedicated survey link. - ONA

The data will be collected electronically through a dedicated survey link

of the digital economy's contribution to GDP for 2025 at current prices, based on the three internationally recognised classifica-

tions of the digital economy: the basic, narrow, and broad digital economy.

He noted that the survey represents one of the important statistical projects aimed at keeping pace with rapid economic and technological developments.

The data collection will be conducted electronically through a dedicated survey link.

The Centre will communicate directly with targeted institutions and provide the necessary technical support, urging establishments to cooperate and provide the required data to enhance the quality and accuracy of statistical outputs.

Investment Manager Report

On behalf of the Fund Management Board, I am pleased to present the financial results of ahli Global Equity Fund for the quarter ended 31st March 2026:

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED	Mar-26	Dec-25
Net asset value (RO)	3,406,476	3,250,864
Number of units	4,002,900	3,748,150
Net asset value per unit (RO)	0.851	0.867
Dividend Paid Per Unit (RO)	-	-
Net profit/(loss)	(70,966)	108,781

For the first quarter of 2026, the Fund delivered a return of -1.0%, compared to the benchmark return of +0.2%, resulting in an underperformance of 1.2%. The quarter was marked by a sharp shift in global market conditions, driven by geopolitical escalation, supply chain disruptions, and a rapid repricing of interest rate expectations. Despite the near-term volatility, the Fund's long-term performance remains strong, with annualized returns of 9.1% and 9.0% over the 3-year and 5-year periods, respectively, reflecting the continued strength of the investment strategy and disciplined portfolio construction. Stock selection remained the primary driver of performance during the quarter. Key positive contributors included Abraj, OQEF, Rasan, and Al Rajhi, supported by strong earnings momentum and resilience in regional markets. On the other hand, positions in AXON, ELM, ServiceNow, Emaar, Aldar, and Microsoft detracted, as global equities, particularly technology and rate-sensitive sectors, faced pressure amid the broader market correction.

Markets Performance

Global equity markets experienced a broad-based correction during Q1 2026, reversing part of the strong gains seen in 2025. The MSCI World Index declined -3.9% YTD, while Emerging Markets ended the quarter slightly negative at -0.5% YTD, reflecting capital outflows and heightened risk aversion.

U.S. markets were particularly impacted, with the S&P 500 declining -4.6% YTD and the Nasdaq falling -6.0%, as rising oil prices, persistent inflation, and shifting Federal Reserve expectations led to a repricing of growth and valuation multiples.

Within the GCC, performance was highly divergent. Oman was the standout performer globally, rising +39.2% YTD, supported by higher oil prices, strong domestic liquidity, and dividend inflows. Saudi Arabia also demonstrated resilience, gaining +7.2% YTD, driven by strength in financials and energy. In contrast, UAE markets experienced a sharp correction, with Dubai declining -10.1% YTD and Abu Dhabi also under pressure, reflecting foreign outflows and weakness in real estate-linked equities. Other regional markets such as Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait also declined, reflecting broader geopolitical risk sentiment.

Commodities were a defining feature of the quarter, with Brent crude oil rising sharply, driven by supply disruptions and geopolitical risk premia. This created both opportunities and volatility across regional equity markets, particularly within energy-linked economies.



*As of 31st March 2026

Market Outlook

The global macro environment has shifted meaningfully entering 2026, with markets transitioning from expectations of monetary easing to a more constrained policy outlook. The Federal Reserve is now navigating a complex environment characterized by a triple supply shock including higher oil prices, trade disruptions, and persistent services inflation, limiting its ability to ease policy despite slowing growth expectations. Inflation has re-accelerated modestly, while financial conditions have tightened organically through higher yields and borrowing costs.

Oil markets remain a key driver of global conditions, with supply disruptions leading to a significant tightening in physical markets. While prices have already increased materially, further upside risk remains if disruptions persist, with implications for inflation, growth, and policy direction.

Within the GCC, the impact of these dynamics is uneven. Oman and Saudi Arabia are benefiting from higher oil prices, supporting fiscal strength and market performance, while other markets face greater pressure due to supply constraints and external vulnerabilities. Global equities are likely to remain volatile in the near term, as markets adjust to higher-for-longer interest rates, geopolitical uncertainty, and shifting growth expectations. However, underlying fundamentals in key regions remain intact, particularly in economies with strong balance sheets and structural growth drivers.

From a portfolio perspective, we maintain a balanced and selective approach, focusing on:

- High-quality global companies with strong earnings visibility and balance sheet strength
- Select GCC exposures benefiting from oil-linked macro tailwinds
- Opportunities created by market dislocations and valuation compression

Structural themes such as AI infrastructure, industrial automation, energy transition, and healthcare innovation remain intact and continue to guide long-term positioning. Overall, while near-term volatility is expected to persist, we remain constructive on the medium- to long-term outlook and continue to focus on disciplined stock selection and capital preservation alongside long-term growth.

ahliGlobal equityfund

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2026

	Q1 2026 RO	FY 2025 RO
Assets		
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	3,090,633	3,123,962
Cash and cash equivalents	328,493	138,392
Dividend Receivable	-	-
Amount due from brokers	3,577	3,577
Total assets	3,422,703	3,265,931
Liabilities		
Accruals and other payables	15,555	14,395
Amount due to unitholders	672	672
Total liabilities	16,227	15,067
Net assets attributable to the unitholders	3,406,476	3,250,864
Net assets per unit attributable to the unitholders (per unit)	0.851	0.860

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE 3 MONTH ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

	Q1 2026 RO	FY 2025 RO
Income		
Dividend income	30,235	109,176
Other income	-	4,102
Total income	30,235	113,278
Net realised gain/(loss) on sale of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	21,757	(14,236)
Net unrealised gain/(loss) on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	(110,605)	88,058
Total gain/(loss) on financial assets	(58,613)	187,100
Expenses		
Management fees	(10,636)	(40,682)
Custody fees	-	(12,276)
General and administrative expenses	(1,717)	(25,361)
Total expenses	(12,353)	(78,319)
Profit and total comprehensive income/ increase in net assets attributable to the unitholders for the period ending March 31 2026	(70,966)	108,781
Profit/(Loss) per unit	(0.019)	0.029

الأهلي الإسلامي
ahli islamic

البنك الأهلي
ahlibank



Empowering Businesses

PRESENTS

OMAN CX FORUM 2026

10TH JUNE, 2026
KEMPINSKI HOTEL MUSCAT



The Next Level of Customer Experience Starts Here.

Oman CX Forum 2026 brings together CX leaders, experts and solution providers to foster innovation, share actionable insights and advance customer experience excellence across industries.



10+ SPEAKERS



400+ DELEGATES



80+ COMPANIES

FOCUS AREAS

- Digital transformation in CX
- AI-powered customer engagement
- Personalization at scale
- Omnichannel excellence
- CX-driven revenue growth
- Data privacy and trust
- Employee experience (EX)
- Measuring CX success

OMAN CX AWARDS 2026

Oman's top brands across 40+ product and service categories—selected through extensive consumer voting—will be honoured with the 'Times of Oman Best Brand in Customer Experience Award', while select CX industry leaders will also be felicitated at the Oman CX Awards 2026.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO SUBMIT YOUR VOTE!

For partnerships, speaking opportunities, table or seat bookings, & other inquiries, please contact:
SANJEEV RANA | sanjeev@mmg.om
| +968 97221630
SYED AMIR SALEEM | syed.amir@mmg.om
| +968 78471944

ORGANIZED BY



EVENT PARTNER



RADIO PARTNERS





Sayyid Bilarab graces launch of Greater Muscat Structure Plan



During the launch ceremony, HH Sayyid Bilarab was briefed on the components of the ‘Greater Muscat’ plan

MUSCAT: At the behest of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, HH Sayyid Bilarab bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of State and Governor of Muscat, graced on Thursday the launch ceremony of the Greater Muscat Structure Plan.

The event took place at the Experience and Sales Centre in Sultan Haitham City, located in the Wilayat of A’Seeb, Muscat Governorate.

During the launch ceremony, HH Sayyid Bilarab was briefed on the components of the “Greater Muscat” plan, which proceeds with a future vision aimed at building a prosperous and integrated city, driven by diverse economic opportunities and supported by an attractive investment environment.

This vision is rooted in its rich heritage and unique natural beauty, thereby providing a high quality of life and sustainable global competitiveness.

HH Sayyid Bilarab also toured the “Greater Muscat” hall, where he was acquainted with its prominent pillars, which included: Productive Muscat, Green Muscat, Resilient and Safe Muscat, and Vibrant Muscat.

Several officials provided explanations regarding the targets of each pillar and its role in enhancing sustainable urban develop-

ment in the capital, Muscat.

Furthermore, His Highness viewed a scale model illustrating the latest developments of the A’Thuraya City project and listened to an explanation of the project’s most prominent features and advancements.

Following this, HH Sayyid Bilarab bin Haitham proceeded to the theater to watch a visual presentation on the identity of Muscat and its unique urban spirit.

Afterwards, His Highness toured the “Royal Trust” exhibition, which featured all the royal approvals granted by His Majesty the Sultan, for future city projects in the Sultanate of Oman. These represent advanced models of human-centric cities that place people at the core of urban planning and enhance the quality of life.

His Highness then proceeded to the balcony overlooking Sultan Haitham City, where he observed the progress of the construction works in the city. He listened to a detailed explanation regarding the completion rates, the ongoing implementation phases, and the timelines for the upcoming phases.

He also examined a detailed scale model of the city, familiarizing himself with its urban components, the distribution of its vital facilities, and the modern design



visions it incorporates, which reflect the objectives of sustainable urban development.

His Highness the Minister of State and Governor of Muscat stated in a press release on the occasion of the launch: “We view Greater Muscat as a timeless spirit and boundless vision—one that preserves its place in the heart of Oman. It is deeply rooted in its identity, serving as a civilizational showcase for a nation advancing confidently toward the future, grounded in its values, its distinct character, and its ever-renewing ambition.”

His Highness further explained that the Greater Muscat Structure Plan translates the far-sight-



ed vision of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik into action by building cities that are more efficient, sustainable, and interconnected; capable of adapting to change; organizing urban growth; preserving the identity of place; and elevating quality of life.

His Highness noted that this approach is centered on people as both the driver and ultimate goal of development. It is founded on an integrated understanding of the key dimensions shaping the city of the future—ranging from mobility, environmental sustainability, and quality of life, to economic opportunity and social safety.

His Highness also highlighted that Greater Muscat’s joining to the Innovation District for Global Business Districts as the first project from the Middle East reflects the growing recognition of this vision on the global urban landscape. It affirms the capital’s ability to harmonize local authenticity with the demands of competitiveness and innovation.

His Highness concluded that through this integrated approach, Greater Muscat is being established as a national framework for developing the capital and enhancing its future readiness—turning vision into tangible reality, with positive impact on people, place, and the economy.

At the conclusion of the event, Dr. Khalfan bin Said Al Shuaili, Minister of Housing and Urban Planning, presented a commemorative gift to HH Sayyid Bilarab, the chief guest of the occasion.

The launch ceremony was attended by several royal family members, ministers, undersecretaries and project officials. **ONA**

MEETING

Oman’s Minister of Economy participates in swearing-in ceremony of Djibouti President

MUSCAT: On the Royal directive of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, Dr. Khamis bin Saif Al Jabri as Oman’s Minister of Economy, attended the swearing-in ceremony of Ismail Omar Guelleh for a new presidential term in Djibouti on Saturday.

Continued progress

During the ceremony, Dr. Al Jabri conveyed the greetings and congratulations of His Majesty the Sultan to President Guelleh, along

with wishes for continued progress and prosperity for the people of Djibouti. President Guelleh, in turn, asked the Omani delegation to convey his greetings and best wishes to His Majesty the Sultan and the Omani people.

The Omani delegation also included Ambassador Abdullah bin Nasser al Rahbi, Oman’s Ambassador to Egypt and Permanent Representative to the League of Arab States, in addition to several officials.



SAYYID BADR BIN HAMAD AL BUSAIDI

Oman reaffirms support for global food security, freedom of maritime navigation

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman participated on Thursday in a ministerial meeting held via video-conferencing, jointly organised by the Italian Republic and the Republic of Croatia, to discuss several international issues related to food security and international cooperation.

The meeting saw the participation of several foreign ministers from the GCC and the European Union, alongside foreign ministers from the Arab League and a number of international and regional partners. The Sultanate of Oman was represented at the meeting by Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Bu-

saidi, Foreign Minister. He emphasised the importance of reaching a complete end to the war and the final and total lifting of the existing blockade. He noted that such steps would create the necessary conditions to address humanitarian and economic repercussions, bolster international efforts aimed at achieving food security, and ensure the smooth flow of essential supplies and the stability of global supply chains.

He reaffirmed the Sultanate of Oman's approach of supporting international cooperation and constructive dialogue, underlining its keenness to contribute to ini-

tiatives that enhance stability and sustainable development while serving the interests of the peoples of the region and the world. He further stressed that the Sultanate of Oman has taken an active role during crises in supporting safe access to food supplies and fertilizers, and in contributing to ensuring the safe passage of ships and the continuity of maritime navigation through the Strait of Hormuz.

The meeting discussed a new political initiative aimed at supporting food security and facilitating access to fertilizers, with the participation of representatives from the Food and Agriculture Or-

ganization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations, the GCC, and the European Union.

This initiative comes within the framework of strengthening international cooperation to face challenges associated with global food security. Participants emphasized the importance of coordinating international and regional efforts to enhance the stability of food supply chains and ensure the sustainable provision of essential materials and resources, thereby contributing to mitigating the repercussions of global crises on food security and sustainable development. — **ONA**



Delusional tweets no longer hold any sway, Iran hits out at Trump

‘The consequences of this whimsical adventurism and roguish behaviour have now become clear to the entire world,’ Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman said



TEHRAN: Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei sharply criticised “whimsical adventurism and roguish behaviour” of the US, saying recent developments had exposed the consequences of “lawless irresponsibility.” In a post on X on Friday, Baghaei said that “vermin-like

nocturnal scheming” and dismissive descriptions such as “a light slap” could not erase a “profound disgrace born of narcissism, greed, reckless miscalculation, and lawless irresponsibility.”

“The consequences of this whimsical adventurism and roguish behaviour have now become

clear to the entire world,” he said.

Baghaei added that “disjointed, delusional tweets no longer hold any sway over reality,” while quoting a line that “the deeper they sink into folly, the more inventive they become in justifying it.”

The remarks appeared to build on an earlier X post published

on May 6, in which the Iranian spokesman cited the concept of “wooden-headness” as a source of self-deception in governments.

Quoting from the earlier message, Baqaei said, “It consists in assessing a situation in terms of preconceived fixed notions while ignoring or rejecting any contrary signs,” adding that it reflects acting according to wishes while refusing to be guided by facts.

Earlier, US President Donald Trump on Thursday described the US action against Iranian targets as a “love tap” while insisting that a ceasefire remains in effect despite the recent military exchanges between the two sides in the region.

Trump made the remarks in a phone conversation with Senior Political Correspondent for ABC News, Rachel Scott, during which he characterised the strikes as limited in scope.

“President Trump tells me in a phone call that the retaliatory strikes against Iranian targets are just a ‘love tap.’ It’s just a love tap,” Scott wrote in a post on X.

When asked by Scott whether the reported escalation meant the

ceasefire had collapsed, Trump responded, “No, no, the ceasefire is going. It’s in effect.”

Meanwhile, the United States Central Command (CENTCOM) said that US naval forces disabled two more Iranian-flagged oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman as part of the ongoing US blockade measures against the Islamic Republic, while also redirecting 57 commercial vessels in the region. In a statement issued on Friday, CENTCOM said US forces disabled the Iranian unladen tankers M/T Sea Star III and M/T Sevda before the vessels could enter a port of the Islamic Republic on the Gulf of Oman.

According to CENTCOM, a US Navy F/A-18 Super Hornet operating from USS George HW Bush (CVN 77) fired precision munitions into the smokestacks of both unladen oil tankers, preventing them from reaching Iranian territory. This comes after US forces on May 6 disabled another Iranian-flagged tanker, M/T Hasna, as it attempted to sail to an Iranian port in the Gulf of Oman.

Meanwhile, Trump on Friday (local time) said his administra-

tion may consider reviving the now-suspended maritime security initiative, “Project Freedom”, aimed at helping the passage of commercial vessels trapped in the Strait of Hormuz amid escalating regional tensions in the Gulf.

If a deal is not reached with Iran, Trump added that the renewed effort would be expanded into what he called “Project Freedom plus.”

Speaking to reporters at the White House before travelling to a dinner at his golf course in Sterling, Virginia, Trump said that he might “go back to Project Freedom” if a deal is not reached, but it would be “Project Freedom plus”, noting that the initiative would be the same as its predecessor, “plus other things.”

“We’ll go a different route if everything doesn’t get signed up, but-toned up,” Trump said.

“I think Project Freedom is good, but I think we have other ways of doing it also. We may go back to Project Freedom if things don’t happen, but it’d be Project Freedom plus, meaning Project Freedom plus other things,” he added.

— **ANI**

DUTCH-FLAGGED MV HONDIOUS

US plans evacuation flight for Americans on hantavirus ship

WASHINGTON: The US says it is organising an evacuation flight for American nationals on a cruise ship hit by an outbreak of hantavirus.

The Dutch-flagged MV Hondius is currently on its way to the Canary Islands, where it is expected to arrive on Sunday morning.

“The Department of State is closely tracking the hantavirus outbreak on a Dutch cruise ship in the Atlantic Ocean and maintaining close contact with the cruise ship staff, Americans on board, and US and international health authorities,” a US State Department spokesperson said.

The spokesperson said a repatriation flight is being arranged, and that the department is ready to provide consular assistance to Americans on board as soon as the ship reaches the island of Tenerife. There are 17 US citizens among the more than 140



passengers aboard the ship, according to cruise operator Oceanwide Expeditions.

Spain: Hantavirus evacuation must happen Sunday-Monday due to weather

Spain's government says passengers aboard the cruise ship at the center of a hantavirus outbreak will be flown to their home coun-

tries soon after the vessel arrives in the Canary Islands on Sunday.

“That same day, we will have planes available and will be able to start getting these people onto the planes,” Cabinet minister Angel Victor Torres told journalists.

Separately, the Spanish archipelago's regional government said adverse weather conditions meant the evacuation had to hap-

pen swiftly. “The only window of opportunity we have to carry out this operation is around 12 o'clock on Sunday morning and until conditions change from Monday,” regional government spokesman Alfonso Cabello told reporters.

He said failure to get passengers out in that window could mean the ship will have to leave again.

— **DW**

CENTRE-RIGHT TISZA PARTY

Magyar sworn in as Hungary's PM

BUDAPEST: Conservative Peter Magyar was sworn in as Hungary's new prime minister on Saturday.

Magyar's centre-right Tisza party defeated Viktor Orban's right-wing populist Fidesz by a landslide last month, ending his 16-year rule.

“Hungarian people have given us a mandate to put an end to decades of drifting,” Magyar said. “They have given us a mandate to open a new chapter in Hungary's history. Not only to change the government, but to change the system as well. To start again.”

Hundreds of people gathered outside parliament to watch the swearing-in ceremony on big screens.

Magyar's Tisza party won 141 of parliament's 199 seats in the April elections, giving it the two-thirds majority needed to change the constitution and push through reforms.

The 45-year-old has pledged to tackle corruption and undo policies enacted under Orban to con-

trol the judiciary, the media and other sectors.

He has also vowed to repair ties with the EU. Relations between the NATO member and the bloc were strained under Orban, who moved closer to Moscow and opposed EU efforts to support Ukraine against Russia's invasion.

Magyar inherits an economy that only just emerged from stagnation in the first quarter and is now coming under pressure from surging energy costs related to the war in the Middle East.

One of his first tasks as prime minister will be trying to unblock billions of euros in suspended EU funding to help kickstart the economy. The money was frozen during Orban's time in office due concerns about rule of law and corruption in Hungary.

Also on Saturday, the EU flag was raised on the parliament building in Budapest for the first time since Orban removed it in 2014.

— **DW**

WITH MIRV SYSTEM

India successfully tests Agni missile

BHUBANESWAR: India has conducted a successful flight trial of an Advanced Agni missile with MIRV (Multiple Independently Targeted Re-Entry Vehicle) system from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha on May 8 2026.

The missile was flight tested with Multiple payloads, targeted to different targets spatially distributed over a large geographical area in the Indian Ocean Region.

Sharing an X post, DRDO wrote, “Advanced Agni missile with MIRV (Multiple Independently Targeted Re-Entry Vehicle) system was successfully tested from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha on 08th May 2026. The missile was flight tested with Multiple payloads, targeted to different targets spatially distributed over a large geographical area



in the Indian Ocean Region.”

The telemetry and tracking were carried out by multiple ground and ship-based stations. These systems tracked the en-

tire missile trajectory from lift-off till the impact of all payloads. Flight data confirmed that all mission objectives were met during the trial.

With this successful trial, India once again demonstrated the capability to target multiple strategic targets using a single missile system. The missile is developed by DRDO laboratories with the support of Industries across the country. The trial was witnessed by senior scientists of DRDO and the Indian Army personnel.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has complimented DRDO, the Indian Army, and Industry on the successful flight-test. This will add an incredible capability to the country's defence preparedness against the growing threat perceptions, he said. — **ANI**

المدينة الطبية للأجهزة العسكرية والأمنية

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

1. The medical city of military and security invites specialized companies to participate in the following Tenders:

No	subject	Tender number	Grade	Last date for inquiries	Last date to submit bids	Tender document Fees + Vat
1.	Construction Of Raysut Medical Center	2026\05	First, Excellent	28 May 2026	09 June 2026	130 OMR
2.	Gate And Entrance Extension And Facade Modifications At The Hospital Of Medical City Of Military And Security Services - Al Khoudh	2026\06	First, Excellent	28 May 2026	09 June 2026	263 OMR
3.	Supply Of Digital Pathology Scanner	2026\09	—	27 May 2026	03 June 2026	53 OMR
4.	Gate And Entrance Extension And Facade Modifications At The Hospital Of Medical City Of Military And Security Services - Al Qurm	2026\10	First, Excellent	28 May 2026	09 June 2026	263 OMR

2. Tenders documents and terms may be obtained on payment from the office of the secretary of the the Tender Committee in Medical City of Military and Security Services between 0900 to 1300 on the working days.

3. Omanisation compliance certificate (issued by ministry of labor) with a validity period not exceeding one month from the date of issuance must be submitted when tenders document collection.

4. payment of the tenders document to be made by transferring the amount to the bank account of Medical City of Military and Security Services details are provided on the official website (www.mcmss.gov.om/tenders).

RUSSIAN CRUDE OIL

As Southeast Asian governments scramble to respond to the unprecedented energy crisis, the European Union is turning up the pressure to keep them from buying Russian energy. >B2

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



TRUMP'S TRADE AGENDA

The ambitious trade agenda of the Trump administration has encountered a fresh legal hurdle as a federal court on Thursday declared the 10 per cent blanket tariffs unlawful, marking a significant defeat for the President's cornerstone economic strategy, according to media report. >B2

Total refinery output in Oman rises marginally

INDIA

FII ownership hits 14-year low to 14.7%

The production of premium (95) car fuel recorded an increase of 9.5 percent to reach 3.50 million barrels until the end of March 2026, compared to 3.20 million barrels during the same period of 2025



Muscat: Total refinery products in the Sultanate of Oman recorded a slight increase of 0.2 percent until the end of March 2026, while the production of motor fuel decreased by 9.3 percent compared to the same period in 2025. Preliminary statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) showed that the production of regular (91) octane gasoline decreased by 22.8 percent to reach 3.42 million barrels until the end of March 2026, compared to 4.43 million barrels during the same period in 2025. Its sales also recorded a decrease of 1.5 percent, reaching 3.79 million barrels, compared to 3.85 million barrels in the same period last year. Its exports also decreased by 61.5 percent to

reach 415,400 barrels, compared to 1.78 million barrels until the end of March 2025. The production of premium (95) car fuel recorded an increase of 9.5 percent to reach 3.50 million barrels until the end of March 2026, compared to 3.20 million barrels during the same period of 2025. Its sales also saw an increase of 5.9 percent, reaching 3,502,600 barrels, compared to 3,306,500 barrels in the same period last year. Gas oil (diesel) production recorded a slight increase of 0.3 percent, reaching 18.11 million barrels by the end of March 2026, compared to 17.95 million barrels during the same period in 2025. Its sales also increased by 5 percent, reaching 4,434,100 barrels, compared to 4,223,600 barrels in the same period last year. Its

exports also increased by 0.8 percent, recording 14,886,900 barrels, compared to 14,761,900 barrels up to the end of March 2025. In contrast, jet fuel production recorded an increase of 8.4 percent to reach 6,684,100 barrels by the end of March 2026, compared to 6,165,700 barrels during the same period in 2025. Its sales also witnessed growth of 19.9 percent to reach 1.127 million barrels, compared to 940.100 barrels in the same period last year, and its exports increased by 7.6 percent to reach 5,448 million barrels, compared to 5,064 million barrels up to the end of March 2025. As for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) production, it recorded a decrease of 6.1 percent to reach 2,678,500 barrels, compared to 2,853,500 barrels during the same period in 2025.

Its sales also increased by 1.7 percent, reaching 994,900 barrels, compared to 978,400 barrels in the same period last year, while its exports recorded a decrease of 2.1 percent to reach 824,500 barrels, compared to 842,400 barrels up to the end of March 2025. Naptha production witnessed an increase of 1.1 percent to reach 9.12 million barrels by the end of March 2026, compared to 8.90 million barrels during the same period in 2025. Its sales also increased by 13.3 percent, reaching 3.61 million barrels, compared to 3.18 million barrels in the same period last year. Its exports, recorded a decrease of 2.9 percent, to reach 5.92 million barrels, compared to 6.10 million barrels by the end of March 2025. Production of other refinery products rose by 3.5 percent to

10,053,900 barrels, compared to 9,712,000 barrels during the same period in 2025. Meanwhile, its sales declined by 18.9 percent, reaching 7.37 million barrels, compared to 8.67 million barrels in the same period last year. Its exports achieved a significant jump of 46.1 percent, reaching 3.81 million barrels, compared to 2.60 million barrels until the end of March 2025. Statistics showed that gasoline production increased by 17.6 percent, reaching 52,600 metric tonnes, compared to 44,700 metric tonnes during the same period in 2025. Its exports also increased by 10.5 percent, reaching 47,900 metric tonnes by the end of March 2026, compared to 43,300 metric tonnes in the same period last year. Paraxylene also achieved a 14.3 percent growth in production, reaching 160,500 metric tonnes by the end of March 2026, compared to 140,400 metric tonnes during the same period in 2025. Its exports recorded a decrease of 6.6 percent, reaching 161,100 metric tonnes, compared to 172,600 metric tonnes in the same period last year. Polypropylene production fell by 34.8 percent to 51,100 metric tonnes, compared to 78,500 metric tonnes during the same period last year. Its domestic sales witnessed a remarkable increase of 26.6 percent, reaching 9,600 metric tonnes, compared to 7,600 metric tonnes in the same period of 2025. Meanwhile, its exports declined by 22.8 percent, reaching 47,200 metric tonnes, compared to 61,200 metric tonnes in the same period of 2025. - ONA

NEW DELHI: Foreign Institutional Investor (FII) ownership as a percentage of total Indian equities has fallen from 19.9 per cent in April 2016 to 14.7 per cent in April 2026, marking its lowest level since June 2012, according to JM Financial's Fundamental Research report. However, as per the report, domestic Institutional Investor (DII) ownership has concurrently risen over the years, reaching 18.9 per cent. This shift highlighted a significant transformation in the market's holding structure as domestic mutual funds reached a record-high share of domestic equity holdings, a trend fuelled by consistent Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) inflows.

Counter-absorption

In what the report characterised as a near-perfect counter-absorption, DIIs increased their stake in 39 out of 41 Nifty stocks where FIIs sold. This movement indicated that domestic institutions were acting as a systematic buyer of every FII exit. The breadth of this retreat is reflected in the fact that over the past three years, 41 out of 50 Nifty-50 stocks saw net FII selling, signaling a macro-level decision to reduce India allocation. "The 12-month FII flow data reveals a market where selling has been the dominant theme, with 10 out of 16 sectors recording net outflows over the period. The bleeding is most severe in IT (-USD 9,222 mn), BFSI (-USD 6,056 mn) and FMCG (-USD 3,744 mn)--three sectors that collectively account for a disproportionate share of Nifty weightage, explaining why index-level FII ownership has been declining steadily," the report further said.

- ANI

WEEKLY TRADING

MSX closes lower amid selling pressure

MUSCAT: Omani individual investors turned to buying in weekly trading on the Muscat Stock Exchange as the announcement of the first quarter financial results was completed and investors assessed the financial positions of publicly listed companies on the exchange. This comes at a time when the Muscat Stock Exchange has redistributed companies across the regular, parallel and follow-up markets as part of the annual evaluation conducted by the exchange of companies' performance, level of shareholders' equity, average return on investment, number of trading days, stock turnover rate and stock trading volume. During the week, individual Omani investors purchased shares worth OMR80.6 million, representing 22.1 percent of the total trading value, compared to sales worth OMR75.3 million, representing 20.7 percent of the total trading value. At the end of April, the Muscat Stock Exchange announced a new amendment to the distribution of public shareholding companies across market divisions. It came into effect on May 7 and included the transfer of 19 companies from the parallel market to the main market, the transfer of one company from the main market to the parallel market, and the transfer of two companies from the follow-up market to the parallel market after fulfilling the shareholders' rights criterion. With the new amendments, the number of companies listed on the main market increased from 24 companies to 43 companies, and the number of companies listed on the main market decreased from 72 companies to 56 companies. The number of companies listed on the follow-up market also decreased from 17 companies to 14 companies. The number of transactions executed during the week rose by 11.7 percent from 27,000 to more than 30,000 transactions, ben-



efitting from the increased buying interest of individual investors. In contrast, the value of trading declined slightly by 1.7 percent, from OMR370.1 million Omani riyals to OMR363.6 million. Trading data released by the Muscat Stock Exchange during the week showed good performance for sectoral indices, which closed higher, while the main index declined by about 19 points and closed at 8,350 points amid selling pressure on the shares of a number of leading companies. The services sector index recorded the highest gains, rising 61 points and closing at 3,328 points, benefiting from the rise in shares of Asyad Shipping, Abraj Energy Services, Sembcorp Salalah, Al Anqa Energy and a number of other energy companies. The financial sector index rose 28 points and closed at 13,267 points, the industrial sector index rose 23 points and closed at 10,214 points, and the Sharia index recorded an increase of 6 points and closed at 662 points. The market capitalisation of securities listed on the Muscat Stock Exchange declined at the end of the week's trading to OMR38.33 billion, recording weekly losses of OMR93.6 million. OQ Exploration and Production topped the list of most traded companies with a trading value of OMR67.2 million, representing 18.4 percent of the total trading value. The stock rose at the beginning of the week's trading to 548 baisa, but it was unable to continue rising amid heavy selling that pushed it back down to 510 baisa, recording a weekly decline of 7 baisa. - ONA

FIRST QUARTER OF 2026

Net profits of banks listed on MSX rise by 10.2% to over OMR144mn

MUSCAT: The net profits of local banks listed on the Muscat Stock Exchange rose in the first quarter of this year to OMR144.3 million, compared to OMR130.9 million in the same period last year, registering a growth of 10.2 percent. Banks boosted their gains in the first quarter of this year, benefiting from increased government spending, improved overall economic performance, expanded financing of government projects, private sector projects, small and medium enterprises, and increased deposit volumes. Banks also focused on increasing the efficiency of banking services provided to individuals and companies, expanding electronic banking services, working to diversify revenue sources, improving asset quality, and reducing non-performing loans. All banks recorded an increase in their net profits except for Bank Nizwa, whose profits declined in the first quarter of this year to OMR2.6 million, compared to profits of OMR4.5 million in the same period last year. Bank Muscat topped the list of banks with the highest net profits, exceeding OMR63.9 million, compared to OMR58.5 million in the same period last year. Bank Sohar International achieved a jump in its net profits, which rose in the first quarter of this year to OMR26.1 million, compared to OMR21.4 million in the same period last year, an increase of 21 percent. The National Bank of Oman (NBO) came in third place with net profits of OMR19.4 million, Bank Dhofar came in fourth with net profits of 13.2 million, Ahli Bank came in fifth with net profits of OMR10.8 million, and Oman Arab Bank came in sixth place with net profits of OMR8.2 million. Financial data released by banks indicated that the volume of assets at the end of March 2026 increased by 13 percent to reach OMR47.7 billion, compared to OMR42.2 billion in March 2025, while shareholders' equity in-



creased from OMR6.1 billion to about OMR7.1 billion, registering a growth of 16.4 percent. Bank Muscat accounted for 32 percent of the total assets of banks listed on the Muscat Stock Exchange, recording an annual growth of about 7 percent in asset size by the end of last March, rising to OMR15.3 billion Omani riyals compared to OMR14.3 billion in March 2025. Bank Sohar came in second with asset size of OMR9.6 billion, and the National Bank of Oman (NBO) came in third with asset size of OMR5.9 billion. During the current year, banks announced a number of ambitious plans to raise their efficiency, enhance the services provided, improve their overall performance, and increase their contributions to the national economy. Shareholders of a number of banks approved, in extraordinary general assembly meetings held in the first quarter of this year, an increase in their capital as part of their efforts to strengthen their financial solvency, expand lending and financing programs, and increase their ability to cope with risks.

The Extraordinary General Assembly of Bank Muscat approved increasing the bank's authorised capital from OMR800 million to OMR1.2 billion. The Extraordinary General Assembly of Bank Dhofar approved increasing the bank's capital to OMR500 million over the next five years. The Extraordinary General Assembly of Bank Nizwa approved a proposal to establish a programme to issue Sukuk Mudaraba worth OMR60 million through 4 issuances of OMR15 million each. Bank Sohar shareholders approved issuing Tier 1 shareholder bonds that are mandatory convertible into shares at maturity, up to a maximum of approximately 259.5 million bonds at an issuance price of 102 baisa per bond. These decisions are subject to regulatory approval. During the first quarter of this year, banks distributed dividends to their shareholders. Bank Muscat distributed cash dividends of 18 baisa per share, Ahli Bank distributed cash dividends of 6 baisa per share and mandatory convertible bonds of 6 baisa as well, National Bank of Oman distributed cash dividends of

10.5 baisa per share, Bank Dhofar shareholders approved the distribution of cash dividends of 7.5 baisa per share, Oman Arab Bank distributed cash dividends of 5 baisa per share, Bank Nizwa distributed cash dividends of 2.7 baisa per share and distributed free mandatory convertible Mudaraba certificates equivalent to 4.47 certificates per 100 shares, and Bank Sohar International distributed 4 baisa per share. The financial results recorded by banks in the first quarter of this year were reflected in their market value, which rose by the end of last April to OMR7.72 billion, recording gains of about OMR2 billion compared to its level at the end of last year. This rise came as a result of the increases recorded by stocks with the rise in investor sentiment and positive expectations that banks would be able to achieve growth in their performance in conjunction with the improvement in the performance of the national economy and the increase in government spending and its economic and social repercussions.

- ONA

MARKET

US court strikes down President Trump’s 10% global levies as illegal

The court’s directive requires the administration to immediately halt the collection of these duties from the plaintiffs involved in the case and to issue refunds for previous payments

WASHINGTON DC: The ambitious trade agenda of the Trump administration has encountered a fresh legal hurdle as a federal court on Thursday declared the 10 per cent blanket tariffs unlawful, marking a significant defeat for the President’s cornerstone economic strategy, according to media report. In a split 2-1 decision, a judicial



panel at the US Court of International Trade determined that the government failed to provide adequate legal grounds to implement the levies under Section 122 of the

1974 Trade Act. This particular set of tariffs was introduced as a replacement after a Supreme Court intervention earlier this year struck down an even more exten-

sive series of duties. According to CNN, the court’s directive requires the administration to immediately halt the collection of these duties from

the plaintiffs involved in the case and to issue refunds for previous payments. While the ruling currently only shields the specific companies that brought the lawsuit, it represents a profound blow to the administration’s ability to unilaterally reshape trade through executive action. Under the provisions of Section 122, a president may impose tariffs of up to 15 per cent across all import categories without the consent of Congress, provided specific criteria are satisfied. However, the judges found the administration’s justification for the current move to be lacking. The majority ruling pointedly observed that the presidential proclamation “identifies no ‘large and serious United States balance-of-payments deficits’ as Congress understood that phrase.” CNN noted that while the legal victory is significant for the litigants, the tariffs will remain active for all other importers through July. Currently, the administration’s primary remaining trade tools are industry-specific levies, though officials have already initiated procedures to potentially roll out an alternative set of nationwide tariffs. Reacting to the judicial setback on Thursday night, President

Donald Trump remained defiant, suggesting he would circumvent the ruling. “Nothing surprises me with the courts,” Trump told reporters. “Nothing surprises me, so we always do it a different way. We get one ruling, and we do it a different way.” The ongoing legal battles underscore the atmosphere of “chaos and uncertainty” surrounding the administration’s economic direction. Following the Supreme Court’s February decision that a broad portion of the initial tariffs were illegal, the President pivoted to these now-disputed global duties, relying on the then-untested authority of the 1974 Act. As reported by CNN, the landscape for businesses remains volatile. Although importers are now eligible to seek refunds for payments made under the tariffs previously invalidated by the Supreme Court, the reimbursement process is expected to be slow and tiered. Furthermore, the timeline for the full opening of the refund system remains murky, and payments could face additional delays if the administration introduces new measures that alter the calculation of these returns.

— ANI

SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR



Sohar International wins big at Visa Awards for growth and payment volume

MUSCAT: Sohar International has been awarded two prestigious recognitions from Visa — Fastest-Growing Debit Card Issuer in Oman and Payment Volume Leadership for the second consecutive year — marking a milestone that reflects the Bank’s ability to design and execute a payments strategy that systematically drives behavioural change at scale. This performance is not the outcome of product expansion alone, but the result of a deliberately structured model that integrates data-led insights, ecosystem partnerships, and context-driven engagement to embed payment solutions within customers’ everyday lives. By aligning credit proposition with real consumption patterns, the Bank has shifted from transactional relevance to habitual usage, positioning its cards as core enablers of daily financial activity.

Abdul Qadir Al Sumali, Chief Retail and Wealth Management Officer at Sohar International, stated: “This recognition reflects the strength of a disciplined execution model that is anchored in how customers behave, not simply what they are offered. Our approach has been to move beyond traditional product-led growth and instead design a payments ecosystem that is embedded within the rhythm of everyday life.. A data driven and consumer behaviour led approach has enabled us to generate consistent growth in engagement, expand relevance across customer segments, and translate strategy into measurable outcomes.” From his side, Nasser Bdeir, General Manager & Country Manager, Visa in Oman, commented: “This recognition reflects Sohar International’s strong performance and its ability to deliver accelerated growth across the payments ecosystem, supported by a clear strategic vision and continued investment in digital infrastructure and cus-

A milestone that reflects the Bank’s ability to design and execute a payments strategy that systematically drives behavioural change at scale

tomer experience. At Visa, we value this partnership and look forward to further collaboration in delivering innovative payment solutions that support the growth of Oman’s banking sector.” The Payment Volume Leadership award reflects Sohar International’s success in driving sustained growth in total spend across Visa cards, supported by increased customer activity, broader merchant acceptance, and deeper integration of digital payment solutions. Meanwhile, securing the title of the fastest-growing Visa card issuer for the second consecutive year highlights the Bank’s ability to expand its customer base and strengthen debit cards as a primary payment method for everyday transactions. Sohar International continues to reinforce its position as a leading banking institution in innovation and digital services, leveraging its capabilities to deliver sustainable growth in the payments sector. This achievement also reflects the strength of its strategic partnership with Visa and its commitment to advancing digital payment solutions that support financial inclusion and align with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

NEW PERSPECTIVE

Experience the Kia EV6: A bold vision for the future of mobility in Oman

MUSCAT: As the Sultanate continues to embrace a more sustainable future, the Kia EV6 stands as a powerful symbol of how electric vehicles are redefining the driving experience. The EV6 is more than just an electric vehicle; it is a sophisticated blend of long-range performance, ultra-fast charging and forward-thinking design that caters to the evolving lifestyles of everyone.

A New Perspective on Design and Space The EV6 makes a definitive statement on the road with its futuristic design, inspired by electronic pixels and sleek, aerodynamic lines. One of its most striking features is the auto-flush door handles, which remain hidden within the body for a seamless look and pop up only when needed. This attention to detail extends to the rear as well, where a curved full LED lamp setup gives the vehicle a sporty and unmistakable presence. Built on Kia’s dedicated Electric-Global Modular Platform (E-GMP), the EV6 features a flat floor that creates an exceptionally spacious interior, offering roominess comparable to much larger SUVs while maintaining a compact and agile exterior.

Dynamic Performance and Rapid Charging Driving in Oman often involves long distances and the EV6 is engineered to handle them with ease. Equipped with a 77.4kWh battery, the vehicle offers an impressive driving range of up to 528 km on a full charge. For those focused on daily city commuting, a 58kWh battery option is also available. Performance remains a priority, with the All-Wheel Drive (AWD) model capable of reaching 100 km/h in just 3.5 seconds. The EV6 also solves the time constraint of charging through its



800V ultra-high-speed charging capability. In just 4.5 minutes, the vehicle can gain 100 km of range, and a charge from 10% to 80% takes less than 18 minutes. This ensures that drivers spend less time at charging stations and more time on the road. **Sustainability Meets Premium Comfort** The interior of the EV6 is a sanctuary of modern luxury that does not compromise on environmental responsibility. The cabin utilizes sustainable materials, including high-quality vegan leather and recycled PET plastics, reflecting a commitment to a greener future. To enhance the experience, the front “Relaxation Comfort Seats” are designed to recline to a nearly horizontal position, allowing passengers to rest comfortably while the vehicle charges. The sense of openness is further amplified by a wide sunroof and a curved panoramic display that integrates a

12.3-inch cluster and a 12.3-inch navigation screen into one seamless, immersive interface. **Innovative Technology and Intelligent Safety** The EV6 is packed with advanced technologies that simplify every journey. The unique Vehicle-to-Load (V2L) function allows the car to act as a portable power source, capable of charging external electronic devices, making it perfect for outdoor activities. For entertainment, the 14-speaker Meridian Premium Sound System delivers a rich audio experience that complements the quiet nature of the electric motor. Safety is integrated into every aspect of the drive through the Advanced Driver Assistance System. This includes the Intelligent Front-lighting System, which automatically adjusts high beams to protect the vision of oncoming drivers while maintaining a clear field of view. Other key features

like Forward Collision-Avoidance Assist, Blind-Spot Collision-Avoidance and a Surround View Monitor work together to ensure that every trip is as safe as it is exhilarating. The Kia EV6 is not just a leap forward for the brand, but a move toward a cleaner and more innovative transportation landscape in Oman. We invite you to witness this revolution first-hand and explore the many features that make the EV6 a leader in its class. Visit your nearest Kia showroom to experience how the electrifying EV6 is moving the Sultanate toward a brighter tomorrow. Reliable International Automotive LLC (RIA), the official distributor for Kia in Oman, ensures a rewarding ownership experience. Ranked #1 by Kia in 2024 for Sales Customer Satisfaction in the Middle East and Africa, RIA delivers excellent products and unmatched facilities to guarantee customer satisfaction every mile.

NEW REPORT

Global gold ETF demand rebounds by \$6.6 billion

NEW DELHI: Global investors began rotating back into gold ETFs in April as India recorded positive flows of \$297 million, marking its 11th consecutive month of inflows, according to a report by the World Gold Council (WGC). Following notable outflows in March, global physically backed gold ETFs recorded inflows of \$6.6 billion during the month. As per the report, all regions registered positive flows with European funds leading the recovery. The April expansion lifted global gold ETFs’ total assets under management to \$615 billion, which represented a 1 per cent increase month-on-month (MoM). Collective holdings also rose 1 per cent to 4,137 tonnes. This figure stood as

the third highest ever and remained just below the record high of 4,176 tonnes set on 27 February 2026. “India recorded positive flows of \$297mn in April, its 11th consecutive month of inflows, and Japan attracted \$246mn,” the report highlighted. China led the Asian region during the month. Funds in Hong Kong added a record \$732 million, supported by new product listings. Meanwhile, gold ETFs in mainland China continued to draw inflows of \$498 million amid elevated geopolitical tensions, falling yields, and continued official-sector gold buying announcements. “Gold ETFs in Asia extended their inflow streak to eight months, adding \$1.8bn in April,” the report said.

Similarly, European funds saw a large inflow of \$3.7 billion in April, which flipped their year-to-date (YTD) total from negative to positive. The United Kingdom led this surge, while Switzerland and Germany also contributed meaningfully to the regional total. The report noted that “positive flows in the region appeared linked to heightened geopolitical and geoeconomic risks, as investors assessed the inflationary implications of a more protracted Iran conflict and the associated pressure on energy prices.” With local equities retreating and the Bank of England acting less hawkish than expected, WGC stated that investor interest in gold is likely strengthened as prices sta-

bilised. North America reversed course in April by recording inflows of \$1 billion. The rebound remained concentrated in the first half of the month as gold recovered from its March lows and broader market pressures eased. “Flows softened again in the back half of April as the US-Iran conflict showed signs of further escalation and higher opportunity costs re-emerged through a stronger dollar and higher yields,” the report mentioned. Funds in other regions recorded solid inflows of \$106 million. Unlike the choppy flow patterns seen across major regions, these markets saw steady, marginal buying throughout April, led by Australia and South Africa.



ADVERTISE WITH US.
FIND THE RIGHT **CANDIDATES**
FOR YOUR COMPANY

CONNECT

PRINT EDITION

WWW.TIMESOFOMAN.COM
SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2026

PLACE YOUR
ADVT HERE

Email to : amcoman@choueirigroup.com



RENT

CARGO

VACANCY



RENT OR SALE?
PLACE YOUR
ADVT HERE

Email: amcoman@choueirigroup.com



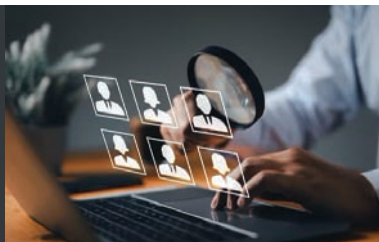
CARGO MADE
SIMPLE

Advertise with us

Send your advertisement to:
amcoman@choueirigroup.com

PLACE
YOUR
ADVT HERE

Send your ad to: amcoman@choueirigroup.com





WJ Towell Group Company

**Quality car rentals
at competitive prices.**

- Fleet of 2,000 vehicles
- Choose from a wide range of brands & models
- PDO, OXY and BP spec vehicles available
- Attractive rates for short-term & long-term lease

Muscat 9679 0594
9679 0684

Sohar 9731 6218
Salalah 9429 9325

www.orbit-oman.com



أوربت
ORBIT
Car Rental & Lease

LOOKING FOR
ENGINEERING
JOB ?



Send your advertisement to:
amcoman@choueirigroup.com

CHANGE OF NAME

I Golda Harikumar (holder of Indian passport No.Y5752090) daughter of Kanagaraj having permanent residence in No.105, Indira Nagar, Kalinjur Gandhi Nagar Vellore Pin 632006, Tamil Nadu India (complete postal address in India) and presently residing in Muscat lights buildin, Al Hail North Oman. PC. 121 (complete postal address in Oman) intend to change my name from **GOLDA HARIKUMAR** (old name) to **GOLDA KANAGARAJ** (new name) for all practical purpose. Any objection towards my name may please be communicated to Embassy Of India, Muscat, Diplomatic Quarters, Al Khuwair, P.Box. No. 1727, Postal Code 112, Ruwi, Sultanate Of Oman.

JOB WANTED

FINANCE MANAGER

M.com graduate with 32+ yrs of experience in Oman & India.
Expertise in budgeting, costing, accounting upto finalization, Consolidation, financial reporting, cash flow, VAT taxation, banking relations, internal controls & ERP (SAP/Focus) implementation. Strong background in statutory compliance and financial management.

Contact: +968-94676186

SENIOR MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONAL

Experienced Indian Male with EXPERT in all SECTOR PROJECTS, 30+ yrs Exp: (27yrs in OMAN) in Construction, Infrastructure & Industrial Projects 15-20% Growth | Budget & Cost Control Project & Contract Mgmt | P & L | Risk Mgmt M.Tech, B.Tech | LSS | PMP

Seeking Senior position & open to all Industries

Contact: +968 79227820 | Email: adamintfc@gmail.com

FINANCE

Chartered Accountant, presently Finance Controller, with 22 plus years' experience as Finance Head in leading companies of Oman as well in Auditing firm. Well versed with Banking, IFRS and taxation seeks suitable position.

Contact: 94274470
Email: azamca7@gmail.com

FINANCE

Indian Male/CPA, CMA, CA Finalist & B.com

having OACPA membership 13+ years of experience in Financial Reporting & Analysis, Budget & Forecast, MIS Reports, Audit & Assurance Services, available for Senior Management roles in Finance.

Email: su.cpacma@gmail.com - GSM: 90605330

SALES & MARKETING

Seeking a suitable position in **SALES, MARKETING** having 16 yrs of experience in Oman & 25 yrs of total experience in the field of Infrastructure, Industrial and Building material products. BE Mechanical, DIM, Valid D/L

Contact: 9497 6056

JOB VACANCY

SITUATION VACANT

A well established company based in MUSCAT, OMAN is looking for

- Accounts staff - 2 to 3 years experience with Good communication skills
- Sales Engineer/Executive 2 to 3 years experience, preferably in Industrial products

Email: asimahjobs25@gmail.com

URGENTLY REQUIRED

An Excellent grade construction company required following staff for CIVIL DIVISION

- SR. PROJECT ENGINEER
- PLANNING ENGINEER
- DRAUGHTSMAN
- HSE EXECUTIVE
- CONSTRUCTION MANAGER

- MEP ENGINEER
- SITE ENGINEER
- SURVEYOR
- QA/QC MANAGER

Kindly send your CV to
civilrecruitment2627@gmail.com

WAREHOUSE FOR RENT

- Location: Bousher, Al Misfah
- Total 3,400 sqm across 6 warehouses (each 566.5 sqm)
- One warehouse contains an office and an electric meter of 400 kW + the remaining 5 warehouses contain a 3-phase electric meter.

Contact Number: 9604 6951

Permanent Building accommodation available for rent in Al Ansab with 600 nos bed space.

- Workers Shared accommodation with common toilet & bathroom.
- Two gates for Entry and Exit with 24/7 security guard.
- Parking area, Open yard with compound wall. Under CCTV surveillance.

Contact person:
Mr. Varzhadad: +968-99440860, Mr. Prince: +968-94762289



URGENTLY REQUIRED

A reputed excellent grade construction company have the following vacancies

- PROJECT MANAGERS (CIVIL & MEP)
- SITE ENGINEERS (CIVIL)
- CARPENTRY DIVISION FOREMAN

Those who have Oman experience kindly forward their CV to
vacancyoman2026@gmail.com

URGENTLY REQUIRED

CIVIL ENGINEER

5 years Oman/ GCC experienced

Civil Engineer required for a reputed construction company in Oman.

Interested candidates may send their CV to
E-mail: civilengjobs2025@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Indian male Accountant, 10 yrs experience in Muscat, valid Oman D/L. 79774800

Sr. Accountant - 20 yrs exp., full accounts, VAT & audit, D/L. Contact: 96761026 Email: mehreenraiz@gmail.com

Accounts Manager, 47 yrs graduate with 22yrs of exp in Oman seeks suitable placement Contact 91410602

B.Com, CA articleship completed. 29yrs experience in Oman. Expert in book keeping & accounts finalization, seeking part time job. Contact: 99072361

MBA finance with 14 yrs of GCC experience as a senior accountant, with expertise up to finalization. Contact: 98869499

CA Inter qualified lady (Keralite, 3+ yrs experience) available in Oman (family visa), seeking full-time,part-time opportunities. Contact: 91281006,78536919

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

42yrs female (M-com) with D/L working as finance manager 18 yrs of exp overall (15 yrs in Oman) currently working in a reputed shipping company Contact: 98184705

Senior Accountant Indian-male, 19-yrs exp-in-Oman, shipping& logistics, trading&contracting upto finalization with Oman-D/L cont-95915852

Looking for job accounts, purchase etc. with D/L Cont. 92505721, Email:sagarjohn28@gmail.com

Senior Accountant with BSc in Accounting & MBA (OACPA Certified) 9 years Oman experience, capable of handling all accounting-related works, with Oman D/L. Contact: 7959 6642

Sri Lankan accountant, reading CA. 3+yrs of experience. Expertise in accounting, audit, bookkeeping, VAT, finalization. Contact: +968 76297279

ADMINISTRATION

Indian (M) 29 yrs, MBA graduate with 4 yrs experience in operations, stores management, office administration, yard management, accounts, finance and graphic designing. Looking for suitable job. Contact: 78439875

MBA graduate (Sri Lankan, female) with 3 yrs corporate experience seeks admin,office support role. Immediate joining.+968 78414146

IT

IT support professional with 14 yrs' experience in international private school IT environment. Skilled in hardware, networking, IT infrastructure, time and attendance systems & user support. Call: 93027572

IT

Sr Program manager (B.Tech, MBA) female, 11+ yrs in product delivery, operations management & AI led projects. Seeking opportunity in Muscat on dependent visa. Contact : 90963084 Email: challapranavi@gmail.com

Experienced IT Support professional with 8+ yrs of expertise in ITSM. Immediate joiner. Contact: +968 76461900 (+91) 9952190495, WhatsApp

ENGINEER

Civil, project engineer (Indian male) 10 yrs Oman experience in building construction having valid D/L looking for suitable opportunity. Contact: 94965278 Email : mdulings@gmail.com

ENGINEER

Mechanical engineering graduate (B.Tech) with basic site exposure. Knowledge in HVAC, plumbing, drawings & AutoCAD. Immediate joining. Contact: +96871208991

MEP Engineer with 3 yrs experience seeking suitable placement & can join immediately. Contact +968 75099651

BE Civil Engr. Indian male, 11yrs experience in Oman, holding Oman D/L seeks placement. Contact: 93867573, Email:pineasdhas@gmail.com

MANAGER

SriLankan MBA over 22 yrs of GCC experience seeking opportunities as Commercial manager, contract manager, or senior quantity surveyor in the construction industry. Available immediately. Contact: +96890452762 Email: similyaas@gmail.com

MANAGER

Well experienced Indian Manager Business development, Sales & Marketing, with local market experience seeks suitable placement. Contact: 92133277

Accounting manager, Indian (M), 43 yrs, 18+ yrs in Oman, D/L & NOC. Contact: 76432203

LOGISTICS

Indian male, warehouse, logistics supervisor, 15+yrs of overall experience looking for a job. Contact: 98531104

SALES/MARKETING

Looking for merchandiser job or salesman of 10 yrs in Oman. Contact 75137846, 79510980

Russian President Putin oversees Victory Day parade at Red Square

The traditional Victory Day parade commemorates the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II. Images broadcast on state television showed a formation of soldiers carrying the Russian flag into the square

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin addressed a scaled-back military parade in Moscow's Red Square on Saturday, saying Russian soldiers in Ukraine were fighting an "aggressive force" backed by all of NATO.

The traditional Victory Day parade commemorates the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II. Images broadcast on state television showed a formation of soldiers carrying the Russian flag into the square.

"Victory has always been and will be ours," Putin said in his speech. "The key to success is our moral strength, courage and valor, our unity and ability to endure anything and overcome any challenge."

Russian soldiers in Ukraine "are confronting an aggressive force armed and supported by the entire NATO bloc," he said, adding that he believed they are fighting a "just" cause.

The Russian president typically uses Victory Day, a major national holiday in Russia, to showcase the country's military prowess and ral-



ly support for the war in Ukraine. But this year's festivities were scaled back over fears of a potential Ukrainian attack. For the first time in two decades, the parade won't feature tanks, missiles and other heavy weapons.

A large security detail could be seen surrounding the president during his appearance at the parade. There were also fewer guests attending, and mobile internet access was blocked for the public in Moscow and other cities.

Foreign leaders attending the parade included Malaysia's King Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar, Laos President Thongloun Sisoulith, Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Uzbekistan's

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Belarus' authoritarian leader Alexander Lukashenko.

Prime Minister Robert Fico of Slovakia was the only EU leader visiting Moscow on Saturday, but he did not attend the parade.

"I know there were some difficulties with your trip," Putin told Fico during their meeting at the Kremlin.

"But the important thing is that you're here," he said, adding that Russia could meet Slovakia's energy demands.

The parade is taking place as a three-day ceasefire brokered by the US comes into effect, allaying concerns about a Ukrainian attack on the parade. The two sides

also agreed to exchange 1,000 prisoners.

Russia had earlier declared a unilateral two-day ceasefire to coincide with Victory Day. Ukraine also declared its own ceasefire starting two days earlier, but the truces quickly unraveled with both sides accusing each other of continuing attacks.

The US-brokered ceasefire appeared to be holding on Saturday, with no reports of violations from either Moscow or Kyiv.

Trump announces 3-day ceasefire between Ukraine-Russia Meanwhile, the US President Donald Trump on Friday announced a



three-day ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine, noting that the temporary truce coincides with Russia's Victory Day celebrations commemorating the then-Soviet Union's role in World War II. In a post on Truth Social, Trump said the ceasefire would take place from May 9 to 11 and would include a suspension of "all kinetic activity" between the two countries.

"I am pleased to announce that there will be a THREE DAY CEASEFIRE (May 9th, 10th, and 11th) in the War between Russia and Ukraine. The Celebration in Russia is for Victory Day but, likewise, in Ukraine, because they were also a big part and factor of World War II," the post read.

The US President expressed hope that the temporary halt in hostilities could mark "the beginning of the end" of the ongoing war, which entered its fifth year in February 2026, following Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022.

Trump stated that the request for the temporary truce was made directly by him and noted that the agreement will also include a prisoner exchange involving 1,000 prisoners from each side.

"This Ceasefire will include a suspension of all kinetic activity, and also a prison swap of 1,000 prisoners from each Country. This request was made directly by me, and I very much appreciate its agreement by President Vladimir Putin and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Hopefully, it is the be-

ginning of the end of a very long, deadly, and hard-fought war," the post added. The US President further noted that the discussions are currently underway aimed at permanently ending the war, which he described as the "biggest" since World War II.

"Talks are continuing on ending this Major Conflict, the biggest since World War II, and we are getting closer and closer every day. Thank you for your attention to this matter," the US President added.

Victory Day is the most important non-religious holiday in Russia, observed annually on May 9 to mark the then-Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany in World War II, referred to in Russia as the Great Patriotic War (1941-1945).

The day commemorates the millions of Soviet lives lost during the war and is celebrated with full-scale military parades, showcasing Russia's military prowess.

However, this year, the parade, which takes place in Red Square, is scaled back due to the ongoing war.

The Russian Defence Ministry, in a statement on Telegram last month, stated that the Victory Day Parade 2026 in Moscow will feature servicemen from Russia's military academies and aerial displays over Red Square.

However, cadets and military hardware columns will not participate this year due to the current operational situation.

— Agencies

UN CLOSED SESSION

Bahrain and US circulate Security Council resolution on reopening of Strait of Hormuz

UNITED NATIONS: Bahrain and the United States have distributed a draft Security Council resolution calling for Iran to cease attacks in the Strait of Hormuz, according to the ambassadors of the two countries.

The text is supported by Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), whose representatives also took part in the media stakeout. Iran dismisses the draft as "one-sided."

But there were no indications as to when the draft resolution would be brought to a vote.

"The development comes a day after the UN Security Council met in closed session following Monday's missile and drone attacks on the UAE, which the Iranian military categorically denied carrying out.

The Strait of Hormuz is critical not only to the stability and the prosperity of the Gulf region, but also to the global economy, Bahraini Ambassador Jamal Fares Alrowaiei told reporters.

"Recent developments have underscored the importance of keeping this strategic waterway safe, secure and fully open. They have also shown the need for collective action," he said.

He explained that the Bahrain-US text builds on the "historic" Council resolution 2817 (2026). Adopted in March, it condemned in the strongest terms "egregious attacks" by Iran against seven neighbouring countries.

The draft resolution calls for Iran to immediately cease all attacks and threats against merchant and commercial vessels in the Strait of Hormuz. It also addresses the placement of mines and illegal tolling in the critical



maritime channel.

"Allowing such action to become normalized is unacceptable. In addition, the draft addresses participation in the United Nations efforts to establish a humanitarian corridor in the Strait," he added.

US Ambassador Mike Waltz underscored that the freedom of navigation for the entire global economy is "what's at stake here - nothing less than a cornerstone of worldwide stability and commerce."

He warned that "those who abuse it, or seek to throw it out, are setting a very, very dangerous precedent - and frankly setting the stage to doom global trade."

Waltz said the draft resolution "requires Iran to do some very simple, straightforward things," however he noted Tehran's announcement earlier this week of the Arabian Gulf Straits Authority which requires international ship captains to pay a toll when transiting the waterway.

"So that doesn't just affect this region. It affects the entire world," he said.

Later, Iran's Ambassador Amir Saeid Iravani told reporters at the stakeout that the draft resolution was "deeply flawed, and one-sided". — AFP

BILATERAL RELATIONS

Pakistan President asks Ambassador-designate to Iran to focus on trade, people-to-people contacts

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari asked Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Iran to work towards further strengthening bilateral relations, with particular focus on trade, people-to-people contacts and facilitation of Pakistani Zaireen visiting Iran.

He was talking to Ambassador-designate, Imran Ahmed Siddiqui who called on him at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Friday, a Presidency's news release said.

The president said Pakistan attaches high importance to its relations with Iran, rooted in shared history, cultural affinities and a long common border.

He emphasised the need to facilitate legitimate cross-border trade and connectivity, remove bottlenecks in bilateral trade and work towards increasing bilateral trade.

He directed the Ambassador-designate to proactively engage with civil society, students and local leaders in Iran and ensure effective consular outreach for the welfare of the Pakistani diaspora, students and businesses.



President Zardari reaffirmed Pakistan's support for Iran's territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence. He said

Pakistan remains committed to working closely with Iran for regional peace and stability.

The president congratulated the Ambassador-designate on his

appointment and expressed confidence that he would contribute meaningfully to further strengthening Pakistan-Iran relations.

— AFP

NEAR STRAIT OF HORMUZ

Indian national dies after dhow catches fire and capsizes

NEW DELHI: A wooden dhow carrying general cargo with 18 Indian crew members capsized near the Strait of Hormuz after catching fire, leaving one Indian national dead and four receiving burn injuries, said a Government source.

The incident occurred on Friday near the strategic waterway, with authorities still working to determine the exact cause of the fire. According to the source, the crew members were rescued by a passing vessel after the dhow caught fire and overturned.

"In this incident, one Indian on the dhow died while four received burn injuries," the source told ANI, adding that the injured crew members are currently receiving treatment in Dubai and are reported to be safe.



Indian consular officials met the rescued nationals shortly after the incident, the source said.

"Our officials from the Indian Consulate met the rescued Indian nationals yesterday night itself. The consulate is also in touch with the Dhow owner and extend-

ing all possible assistance," the source added.

Earlier on Thursday, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) official spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that 11 Indian ships had exited the Strait of Hormuz and 13 ships continue to be in the Arabian Gulf.

Jaiswal, while addressing a press briefing here, was asked about reports that the Iranian ships might be taking routes through Pakistani territorial waters and then Indian territorial waters to avoid the US blockade and whether there was a need to seek special permission from the Indian authorities to do that.

"Regarding the reports that Iranian ships might be taking routes through Indian territorial waters to avoid blockades: if ships of other countries want to ply in international waters, no permission is required. However, for the specific question of entering Indian waters, that is a technical issue that the Ministry of Shipping or the relevant technical authorities would need to answer," Jaiswal said. — ANI

LIFESTYLE



**PRE-WORKOUT
SUPPLEMENTS MAY
CUT SLEEP IN HALF
FOR YOUNG USERS,
STUDY FINDS**

According to the study, individuals aged 16 to 30 who reported using pre-workout supplements within the past year were more than twice as likely to sleep five hours or less per night compared with those who did not use such products

A popular fitness trend among young people may be quietly undermining their sleep. A new study led by University of Toronto researchers found that teenagers and young adults who use pre-workout supplements are significantly more likely to experience extremely short sleep durations.

According to Science Daily, the research, published on March 9, draws on data from the Canadian Study of Adolescent Behaviors and highlights a potential health risk linked to the growing popularity of energy-boosting fitness products.

According to the study, individuals aged 16 to 30 who reported using pre-workout supplements within the past year were more than twice as likely to sleep five hours or less per night compared with those who did not use such products. Health experts generally recommend around eight hours of sleep per night for people in this age group.

As per Science Daily, pre-workout supplements, including widely used products such as Bang!, Jack3D, and C4, are commonly marketed to improve exercise performance and increase energy levels. However, researchers say the stimulant-heavy formulas in many of these products could be interfering with sleep patterns.

“Pre-workout supplements, which often contain high levels of caffeine and stimulant-like ingredients, have become increasingly popular among teenagers and young adults seeking to improve exercise performance and boost energy,” said lead author Kyle T Ganson, assistant professor at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work at the University of Toronto.

“However, the study’s findings point to potential risks to the well-being of young people who use these supplements,” Ganson added.

One main concern is the high caffeine content found in many pre-workout formulas. Researchers note that these products can contain anywhere from 90 milligrams to more than 350 milligrams of caffeine per serving.

By comparison, a typical can of cola contains about 35 milligrams of caffeine, while a standard cup of coffee has roughly 100 milligrams.

Health guidelines recommend that adolescents sleep between eight and ten hours per night, while young adults should aim for seven to nine hours. Insufficient sleep during these developmental years can affect mental health, physical growth, and academic performance.

The researchers say stimulant ingredients in pre-workout supplements may worsen existing sleep problems among young people who are already not getting enough rest.

To address the issue, the research team is urging health professionals, including pediatricians, family physicians, and social workers, to discuss supplement use with young patients. They also recommend practical steps such as avoiding pre-workout supplements 12 to 14 hours before bedtime.

The findings also add to calls for stronger oversight of dietary supplements in Canada.

“Young people often view pre-workout supplements as harmless fitness products,” Ganson said, adding, “But these findings underscore the importance of educating them and their families about how these supplements can disrupt sleep and potentially affect overall health.” - **ANI**

SPORTS

CBF CONFIRMATION



Italian Ancelotti set to stay as Brazil coach until FIFA World Cup 2030

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazil coach Carlo Ancelotti is set to be handed a four-year contract extension taking him through to the 2030 World Cup, the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) said on Thursday.

Italian legend Ancelotti took over as Brazil coach last year and oversaw the five-time world champion's successful qualification for

FIFA World Cup 2026 in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

The 66-year-old former Real Madrid, AC Milan and Chelsea coach has been in negotiations with the CBF for months concerning a possible extension to his existing deal.

CBF President Samir Xaud said Thursday he is "certain" Ancelotti's extension will be officially confirmed "before the World Cup."

Xaud, speaking at the FutPro Expo conference in Fortaleza, said the CBF and Ancelotti's legal advisers were working through aspects of the Italian's new contract.

Ancelotti has repeatedly expressed his willingness to continue in his current role after this year's

World Cup. He is due to announce his final squad for the tournament on May 18 in Rio de Janeiro before Brazil gather for a World Cup send-off against Panama at the Maracana Stadium on May 31.

The Brazilians will be based in New Jersey during the World Cup, and face Morocco, Scotland and Haiti in Group C. - Agencies

Lens secure Champions League spot, send Nantes to second tier



The result also kept the Ligue 1 title race alive, with second-placed Lens the only team that can still edge PSG to the trophy

PARIS: Teenage substitute Mezzian Mesloub gave Lens a 1-0 win over Nantes in Ligue 1 on Friday to clinch his side's qualification for next season's Champions

League, while relegating Nantes to the second tier.

The result also keeps the Ligue 1 title race alive, with second-placed Lens the only team that can still pip Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) to the trophy.

The 16-year-old substitute Mesloub picked up a loose ball in the box with his first touch in the 79th minute and fired home with his second to break the deadlock on his Ligue 1 debut.

Lens are now guaranteed a top-three finish in Ligue 1 after moving nine points clear of fourth-placed Lille, with both teams having two matches remaining.

The top three teams in Ligue 1 qualify automatically for the Champions League league phase, while the fourth-placed side heads into the qualifying rounds.

Lens, whose budget is not even a 10th of Champions League finalist PSG, still have to play the Parisians, who lead the side by three points and have a game in hand.

Following the win, the sell-out 38,000 crowd at Lens' Stade Bollaert stayed behind for extravagant celebrations, with the players heralded one at a time on a spotlit centre circle with fireworks flaming.

Stopping PSG remains an outside chance, but Lens are also eyeing silverware in the French Cup, with the final against Nice on May 22.

Lens, the 1998 French champion, were the surprise package earlier in the season as they reached the winter break at the top of the table.

Lens had three goals ruled out for offside or handball on Friday as Nantes held them at bay largely thanks to goalkeeper Anthony Lopes.

Nantes are now guaranteed to finish in the bottom two and will be relegated from Ligue 1.

Club great Vahid Halilhodzic took over as the third coach of its season in March but could not save the Canaries.

PSG play Brest at home on Sunday, but the Lens win has prevented the side from mathematically wrapping up a fifth straight title this weekend.

However, their far superior goal difference means victory would all but wrap up top spot.

Luis Enrique's men will face Arsenal in the Champions League final on May 30 after beating Bayern Munich 6-5 on aggregate in the semi-finals. - Agencies

ITALIAN SERIE A

Torino triumph, Frosinone win to gain promotion

TURIN: Torino scored two headers in four minutes to come from behind and beat Sassuolo 2-1 in a mid-table clash in Serie A on Friday.

Sassuolo took the lead through Norwegian midfielder Kristian Thorstvedt in the 51st minute but Giovanni Simeone equalised for Torino with a header midway through the second half and then another Norwegian, Marcus Pedersen, scored against his old team to give them the lead four minutes later.

The result got Torino back to winning ways after last week's defeat at Udinese and mean that loss is the only one in their last six matches. The win took them into 12th place, five points behind Sassuolo in 10th.

Frosinone promoted to Serie A

Frosinone will play next season in Serie A after they beat Mantova



5-0 to guarantee second place and automatic promotion to the top tier along with Serie B champion Venezia, who secured their place last week. Monza, Palermo, Catanzaro, Modena, Juve Stabia, and Avellino will compete for the final promotion spot, while Reggiana, Pescara and Spezia were relegated to Serie C. - Agencies

Ronaldo scores his 100th Saudi Pro League goal

RIYADH: Cristiano Ronaldo scored his 100th Saudi Pro League goal on Thursday as Al Nassr beat Al Shabab 4-2 to move five points clear at the top of the table. The 41-year-old forward converted a Sadio Mané cross at the near post with 15 minutes remaining to record the 971st goal of his career. It was also his 26th league goal of the season.

"Ronaldo is always dangerous going forward and we saw that again today," Al Nassr coach Jorge Jesus said.

João Félix, signed from Chelsea in July, scored three goals for the league leaders.

The win took Al Nassr to 82 points from 32 games, five ahead of Al Hilal, who have three matches, one more than



Nassr, left to play. Al Hilal next meets Al-Kholood and face Nassr on Tuesday in what could be a title decider against their Riyadh rival.

"Now we have a derby match against our rival, which is a difficult encounter," Jesus said. "We are fully aware of its importance, and we are dealing with it with complete focus as we know that small details could decide the result." Ronaldo, a five-time Ballon d'Or winner, has yet to secure a major trophy in Saudi Arabia since signing with Al Nassr in December 2022.

REAL MADRID PLAYERS FINED

Arbeloa asks to 'turn the page' after Valverde-Tchouaméni fight

BARCELONA: Real Madrid coach Álvaro Arbeloa has defended players Federico Valverde and Aurélien Tchouaméni, saying their apologies for having scuffled were enough to settle the incident that led the club to fine both of them a whopping 500,000 euros (\$590,000).

"My players recognised their mistake, expressed their remorse and asked for forgiveness," Arbeloa told reporters in Madrid on Saturday in his first public appearance since the fight.

"That is enough for me," he said. "What I am not going to do is burn them on a pyre in a town square, because they don't deserve that. It is time to turn the page."

The tussle by the two midfielders when Madrid practiced on Thursday ended with Valverde at the hospital to treat a head wound. Valverde said he had hit his head on a table, calling the incident "a meaningless fight."

Madrid said both players apologised to one another the next day when they met with club officials investigating the incident. They also apologised to their teammates, coaching staff and fans.

The 15-time European champions, however, found the spat a serious enough breach of team discipline to slap the players with fines that bite even the bank account of a top football player.

Arbeloa said he was satisfied



with how the club had handled the situation, while also adding that he had seen worse behaviour in his playing career as a defender, which



included Madrid, Liverpool, West Ham and Spain's national team.

"I had a team-mate that hit another with a golf club," he said, without giving any more detail.

"Situations like this have always happened, but I am not justifying them."

During Arbeloa's playing days at Liverpool, team-mates Craig Bellamy and John Arne Riise were involved in an incident in which Bellamy hit Riise with a golf club prior to a Champions League game at Barcelona in 2007.

Arbeloa's harshest words were not for Valverde and Tchouaméni, but rather for whoever it was who told the media about the fight. It was first reported by Spanish sports daily Marca.

"That what happens in the changing room ends up being filtered (to the media) for me is a betrayal of Real Madrid," he said.

"These things must stay in the changing room." - Agencies

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE

Oman captain Jatinder nominated for ICC Men’s Player of the Month

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman captain Jatinder Singh has been shortlisted for the coveted ICC Men’s Player of the Month award for April following a string of outstanding performances in the ICC Men’s Cricket World Cup League 2.

The experienced opener enjoyed one of the best ODI months of his career, scoring 266 runs in five matches at an average of 53.20 and a strike rate of more than 115.

Jatinder’s biggest highlight came against Nepal in Kirtipur where he blasted a sensational

130 off just 96 balls — the highest individual ODI score by an Oman batter.

The innings, filled with aggressive strokeplay and controlled hitting, guided Oman to a crucial victory and strengthened their League 2 campaign.

He also struck a fluent 51 against Scotland in Windhoek, Namibia, underlining his consistency at the top of the order as Oman continued to compete strongly on the international stage.

One of Oman cricket’s most experienced players, Jatinder has been a key figure in the national

team’s rise in world cricket over the last decade.

The right-handed batter has represented Oman in multiple ICC events, including the T20 World Cup, and captained during the 2026 ICC Men’s T20 World Cup campaign in Sri Lanka and India.

Jatinder is now just nine runs short of another milestone (2,000 ODI runs) and has scored so far 1,991 ODI runs in 68 matches, the highest for Oman. He also has hit 1,635 T20I runs in 76 games, also the highest run-getter in T20Is, making him the country’s leading run-scorer in both formats.

Joining Jatinder on the shortlist are Bangladesh fast bowler Nahid Rana and UAE pacer Ajay Kumar.

Rana earned his nomination after taking eight wickets in three ODIs against New Zealand, including a match-winning 5-32 in Mirpur as Bangladesh sealed a 2-1 series victory. Ajay Kumar, meanwhile, impressed in the early stages of his international career by taking nine wickets in his first two ODIs for the UAE, including a six-wicket haul against Oman.

Fans can vote for the ICC Men’s Player of the Month through the ICC’s official website.



Debutant Awais leads Pakistan’s strong reply after Abbas five-for

Mushfiqur’s 71 propelled Bangladesh to 413, before Awais unbeaten half-century guided Pakistan to 179/1 at stumps on the second day of the first Test

MIRPUR: Bangladesh commanded proceedings on the first day, but Pakistan changed that around dramatically on the second, led by the youngest member of the team. Azan Awais, making his debut, steered Pakistan into a position of relative comfort in a century partnership alongside Imam-ul-Haq, and then another solid stand with fellow debutant Abdullah Fazal.

By the end of the day on Saturday, Awais had taken his side to 179 for the loss of just Imam’s wicket. Awais had contributed an unbeat-



en 85, nearing a debut hundred on the third morning.

The confidence and poise he demonstrated across the last session was not immediately obvious when thrown in for an awkward ten overs before tea. The first ball Nahid Rana bowled to him was a wicked short delivery that reared up and hit him square on the badge of the helmet. With Awais visibly dazed, the physio was called

and a concussion test began, one he looked in real danger of failing. Batting on, Awais briefly called for the physio again shortly after, but was allowed to stay on.

And once he did, there was no looking back. While Imam remained fidgety, Awais began to demonstrate why he has been the most prolific domestic run-scorer in Pakistan across the last two seasons.

A delicious cover drive off Nahid



showed his refusal to back down under the stern test. Awais’ ability to force Bangladesh to spread the field kept the hosts unsettled as he found boundaries through the covers, either side of the wicket, and straight down the ground.

Imam’s dismissal, an arm ball from Mehidy Hasan Miraz, appeared to have little impact on Awais’ own confidence. In the final hour during Nitish’s last burst, he

pitched the first two balls short, with Awais dispatching them for boundaries either side. When Nahid went full at 147.1kph off the following delivery, Awais merely flicked him to fine leg to make it three in a row. It was the last time Nahid would bowl on the day.

It helped, perhaps, that Fazal showed he was comfortable at the crease during a crucial phase in the game. It was an attritional in-

nings, but crucially, one that has not come to an end.

It may easily have ended in the final ten minutes, though, when Bangladesh put down a chance off Taskin at third slip - the second such reprieve for a Pakistan batter after a nick from Imam was grassed earlier.

But the position these young batters found themselves in would not have been possible without an old hand. Mohammad Abbas had said Pakistan had been slightly unlucky on the first day, and then played an instrumental part turning that luck around on the second morning.

Four wickets to add to Friday’s one gave the fast bowler a five-wicket haul that undid some of the damage Bangladesh inflicted on Pakistan on day one, thus bowling them out for 413 with Mushfiqur Rahim slamming a solid 71.

It was still the highest first-innings score Bangladesh have ever managed against Pakistan, though it fell short of what they may have hoped when they looked solid at 338 for 4, before losing 5 for 46.

Brief scores: Pakistan 179/1 (Awais 85*, Imam 45, Mehidy 1-37) trail Bangladesh 413 (Shanto 101, Mominul 91, Mushfiqur 71, Abbas 5-92) by 234 runs. - Agencies

TABLE TENNIS TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP



ISC-Rockers emerge champions

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Indian Social Club (ISC) Oman’s annual Table Tennis Team Championship concluded with ISC-Rockers emerging champions after defeating Team ISC 2-1 in an entertaining final played before an enthusiastic crowd at the club premises recently.

The tournament attracted strong participation from club members, with teams competing

in a format featuring six players divided into three doubles pairs. After the league phase and knock-out rounds, Bohra Wing, Deccani Wing, Team ISC and ISC-Rockers advanced to the semi-finals.

In the last-four matches, ISC-Rockers overcame Deccani Wing while Team ISC defeated Bohra Wing to book their places in the final.

The title clash produced several closely fought encounters.

Chintan Gohel and Sathisha Gunduramaiah gave ISC-Rockers the perfect start with a 2-0 victory over Gopalkrishnan and James Lorence. Team ISC bounced back as Suhail Khan and Dr. Vinay defeated Preetam Shete and Urav Gohel 2-0.

The decisive match saw Vaibhav Lingarkar and Abhishek Lingarkar beat Hemachandra Ail and Shanawaz KK to seal the championship for ISC-Rockers.

IPL

Allen’s 47-ball ton powers KKR to huge win over DC

DELHI: Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) picked up their fourth win on the trot in IPL 2026, their spin bowlers (12-0-76-3) capturing Delhi Capitals in a vice-like grip and never letting go on Friday.

Finn Allen made sure that wouldn’t repeat in the second innings. He pulverised DC’s spinners (9-0-102-1) to score his first IPL century (100*) even though he only had 143 to chase.

Pathum Nissanka scored a good half-century. He made 50 of DC’s first 85 runs at a strike rate of 172. The other end could only contribute 33 at a strike rate of 103.

Anukul Roy, Sunil Narine and Varun Chakravarthy dictated proceedings. At one point, DC scored just 11 runs in 30 balls. With DC at 89/5, Axar Patel in wretched form (his 44 runs, with only three boundaries, are the fewest by any



batter this season having faced at least 50 balls) and the conditions not helping run-scoring, all Narine and Varun had to do was what they do so well. Narine finished with 4-0-17-1. Varun, badly limping when he bowled his final over

which cost 16 runs, finished with 4-0-28-0.

Ashutosh Sharma cameo - 39 off 28 balls - carried KKR to 142/8.

For the first time in his IPL career, Allen played through the powerplay. He might have felt bad for running out his captain Ajinkya Rahane when his straight drive flicked Mitchell Starc’s outstretched finger and deflected onto the stumps but he quickly got over it. DC played a part in that a well with Kuldeep Yadav and Vipraj Nigam bowling balls right in the slot. From 20 off 17, he launched 10 sixes, the last of them when KKR needed two to win and he needed six to bring up 100.

Brief scores: Kolkata Knight Riders 147/2 (Allen 100*, Axar 1-27) beat Delhi Capitals 142/8 (Nissanka 50, Ashutosh 39, Tyagi 2-25, Roy 2-31) by eight wickets.

TO COMPETE IN 11 SPORTS

Strong Oman contingent departs for Doha for fourth GCC Games

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman’s national teams began arriving in Doha on Sunday ahead of the fourth GCC Games, with the Sultanate set to compete in 11 sports during the regional event running from May 11 to 22 in Qatar.

The first batch of Omani teams to reach Doha included aquatics, taekwondo, table tennis, women’s 3x3 basketball and bowling, while the official delegation of the Oman Olympic Committee (OOC) will arrive on the opening day.

More than 1,074 athletes from GCC countries will compete in 17 sports at the Games, one of the region’s biggest multi-sport events.

Oman will field teams in aquatics, taekwondo, table tennis, fencing, karate, shooting, athletics, 3x3 basketball, snooker, volleyball and bowling as it looks to improve on its 32-medal haul



achieved at the previous edition in Kuwait in 2022.

The OOC has completed all administrative and technical preparations in coordination with the national sports federations to ensure

the teams are fully prepared for the competition. Oman’s aquatics team includes Mishal Al Kalbani, Mohammed Al Wahaibi and Humaid Al Hassani, while the taekwondo squad features Nibras Al Touqi,

Shabib Al Wahaibi, Omar Al Sinani, Mohammed Al Hajri, Omaima Al Himai and Fida Al Barwani.

The table tennis team comprises Ahmed Al Riyami, Bilal Al Rashdi and Muhanad Al Balushi. The

women’s 3x3 basketball squad includes Shams Al Khonji, Fatima Al Numani, Rubi Al Kalbani and Reem Al Shirawi, while Hassan Al Kharousi and Juma Al Habsi will represent Oman in bowling.



Competitions begin on May 12 with swimming, taekwondo, table tennis, bowling and 3x3 basketball among the opening events. Athletics will start on May 14, volleyball on May 16, and karate on May 21.

ROUND-UP

Bank Muscat, Oman Sail continue to empower students through the ‘Youth Uplifting Programme’

The first semester, ending this May, has benefitted around 100 students from grades 9 to 11 in public schools across Muscat Governorate, including integrated classes that bring together students with disabilities in a shared learning environment



MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, in collaboration with Oman Sail, continues to drive meaningful impact through the “Youth Uplifting Programme”, equipping students with leadership and teamwork skills in an inclusive learning environment.

The first semester, ending this May, has benefitted around 100 students from grades 9 to 11 in public schools across Muscat Governorate, including integrated classes that bring together students with disabilities in a shared learning environment.

It began in November 2025 and ran for six months, during which 13 training sessions were conducted, focusing on developing leadership and teamwork skills, promoting environmental responsibility, and encouraging students to adopt a healthy and active lifestyle.

The second semester will commence with a new cohort of students from September to December 2026. Each training session will span two days and will include sailing activities supervised by specialized trainers, alongside personal development sessions and financial literacy workshops. This integrated approach aims to equip students with well-rounded skills that support both their academic journey and personal growth.

This initiative is designed to develop the capabilities of Omani youth and enhance their skills through a comprehensive educational experience that combines sailing, personal development, and financial literacy. The programme also focuses on strengthening leadership and life skills through self-development activities, positively impacting students’ academic and professional paths, as well as their role in society.



ety. It stands out for its inclusive approach, involving youth with disabilities to ensure equal opportunities for them to harness their potential and actively participate in sailing activities. Bank Muscat remains committed to reinforcing its leadership role in corporate social responsibility by launching and implementing various initiatives and programs targeting different segments of society, particularly youth, across areas such as education, entrepreneurship, sustain-

The initiative has achieved outstanding results over the past two years, benefiting more than 100,000 students from approximately 800 schools across various wilayats and governorates of the Sultanate

ability, and financial inclusion. These efforts are carried out in collaboration with government and private entities, in line with sustainable development goals and to strengthen community partnerships. Among the programmes specifically targeting students is the “Maliyat Academy” financial literacy initiative, implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. The initiative has achieved outstanding results over the past two years, benefiting

more than 100,000 students from approximately 800 schools across various wilayats and governorates of the Sultanate. Bank Muscat continues to strengthen its position as a leading national institution in supporting community initiatives. Over the past years, the bank has received numerous prestigious awards and recognitions in the field of corporate social responsibility, in appreciation of its impactful contributions and sustainable initiatives that cre-

ate tangible positive impact on society. These include the “CSR Bank” award at the Gazet International Annual Awards, and the “Outstanding Community Initiatives in Banking” at the World Business Outlook Awards 2025. In addition, the bank has received “the Leadership Award in Corporate Social Responsibility and Community Service” from Muscat Media Group, as well as recognition as “the CSR Leader of the Year” Award from United Media Services.

DATA-DRIVEN APPROACH TO FLEET RISK

Douglas OHI earns RoSPA Fleet Safety Gold Award, underscoring precision in managing road risk

MUSCAT: Douglas OHI LLC has been awarded the RoSPA Fleet Safety Gold Award for its performance in managing occupational road risk across its operations in 2025. The recognition forms part of the 2026 RoSPA Health and Safety Awards, marking 70 years of global leadership in safety excellence. The award specifically recognises Douglas OHI’s structured and data-driven approach to fleet risk, an area that remains one of the most dynamic and high-exposure aspects of project delivery. With vehicles, people and logistics constantly in motion, the company has prioritised building a system that does not rely on reactive controls, but instead anticipates, monitors and mitigates risk in real time. Now in its 45th year of operations, Douglas OHI continues to

evolve its approach to safety, with a clear focus on managing high-exposure risks such as fleet operations. This approach integrates driver behaviour, journey planning, vehicle condition and live oversight into a single operational framework, ensuring that safety is actively managed rather than passively measured. Commenting on the achievement, Mr. Aaron Hennessy, Group Managing Director of Douglas OHI, said: “Fleet safety is one of the most complex risks we manage as a business. It sits at the intersection of people, environment and operational pressure. This recognition reflects our ability to bring structure, visibility and control to that complexity. It is about ensuring that safety holds firm, regardless of scale, pace or location.” Peter Baker, Regional HSSE

Manager at Douglas OHI, added: “This award reflects a deliberate shift towards precision in how we manage road risk. We have focused on strengthening the fundamentals, improving visibility and reinforcing behaviours that reduce exposure. It is not a single initiative, but a system that is consistently applied and continuously improved across our operations.” The RoSPA Awards are widely regarded as a benchmark for organisations that demonstrate measurable impact in health and safety performance. Achieving recognition in the programme’s 70th anniversary year highlights the relevance of robust, modern safety systems in an evolving risk landscape. For Douglas OHI, the focus remains clear: to maintain control in high-risk environments and

ensure that safety performance is predictable, repeatable and embedded in everyday delivery. Douglas OHI is a leading construction and engineering Group with a strong regional presence across Oman, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia. With over 45 years of experience, we deliver complex projects across oil and gas, industrial, infrastructure, and hospital- ity sectors. Combining technical excellence, operational efficiency, and rigorous safety, quality, and environmental standards, we drive innovation and sustainable practices. Douglas OHI is committed to providing end-to-end solutions that create long-term value and strengthen our footprint across the GCC. For further information, go to www.douglasohi.com.



Fleet Safety Gold Award Winner!

#rospawinner2026

Elevate your driving experience with the UNI Series.

Choose your favourite UNI series model and avail low monthly installments.



UNI-K 4WD Royal

2.0L Turbo Engine, 233 hp,
8-Speed AT, 4WD

EMI
OMR185*
for 6 years



UNI-S 4WD Royal

1.5L Turbo Engine, 185 hp,
7-Speed DCT, 4WD



EMI
OMR140*
for 6 years



UNI-V 2.0T

2.0L Turbo Engine, 232 hp,
8-Speed AT

EMI
OMR142*
for 6 years



Terms and conditions apply. *Easy Monthly Installment is calculated based on 20% down payment for 6 years loan tenure, Subject to credit approvals from Banks only. Applicable on vehicles purchased for personal use. Images shown are for illustrative purpose only. Specification may vary as per the model variant. To generate an inquiry, customers are required to visit the CHANGAN showroom to test drive their preferred model and to obtain full details regarding vehicle pricing and applicable offers.

**Arabian Gulf Automobiles
and Equipment LLC**

Showrooms:
Qurum 94641010, Mawaleh 97888180, Nizwa 96628940
Sohar 95351200, Salalah 96629050, Ibri 96628930,
Barka 96629010, Sur 96628920

 **800 50800**
 **9662 8909**
 **changanoman**
 www.changanoman.com