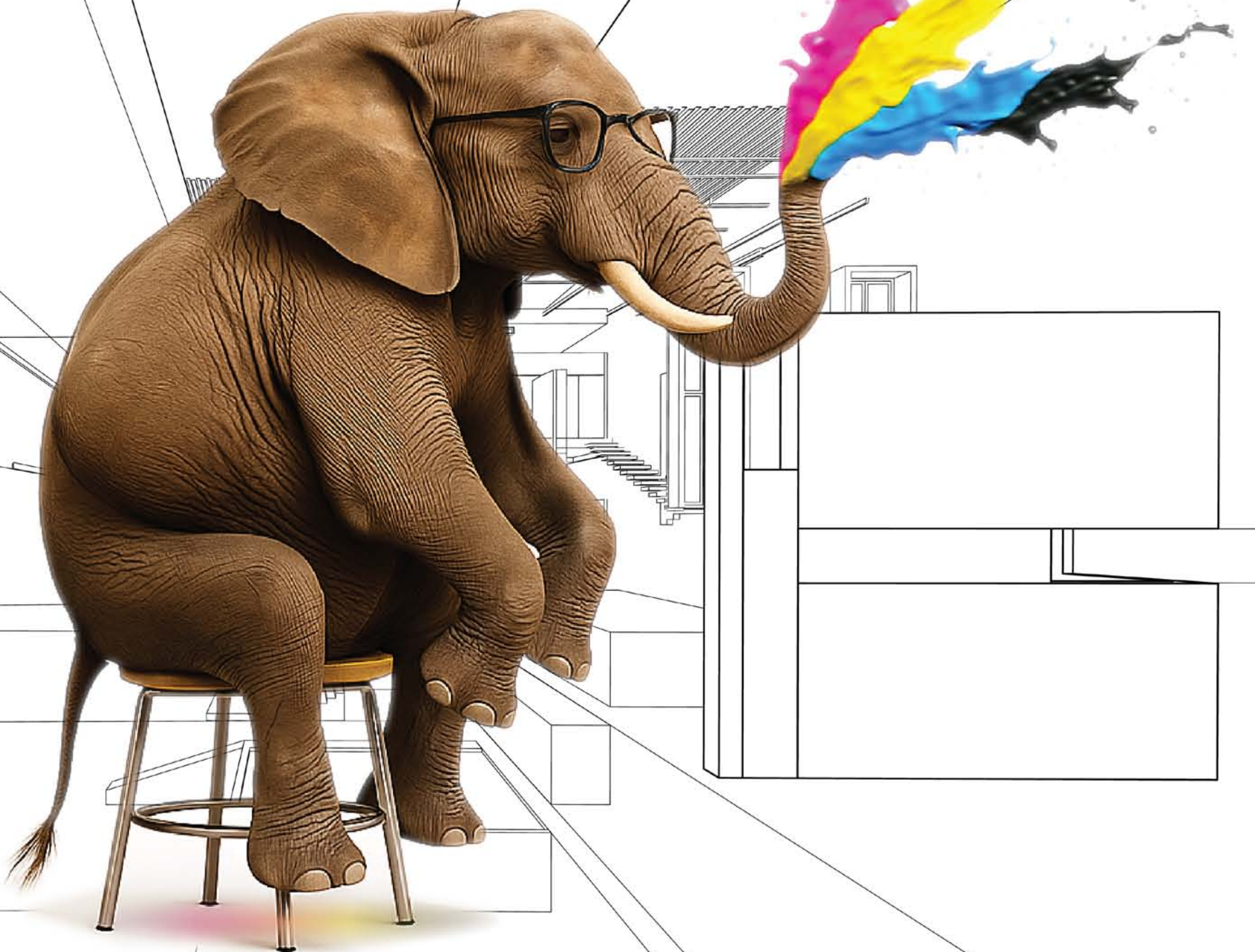


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PRAYER
TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....	12:18pm
Asr.....	3:42pm
Maghrib.....	6:52pm
Isha.....	8:09pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	4:17am

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‘Youth Ambassadors’ project launched

Participants simulate the workings of the UN and its bodies—such as the General Assembly, Security Council, and Economic and Social Council—by assuming the roles of diplomats



ence in regional and international forums, and familiarising them with the foundational principles of the United Nations, its affiliated councils, and their operational mechanisms. This contributes to connecting youth with the global community and international and regional organisations.

Hilal Saif Al Siyabi, Director General of Youth at the Ministry, stated: “The Youth Ambassadors project is one of the initiatives the Ministry is keen to implement annually, given its successes in the 2023 and 2024 editions and the positive engagement we observed from participating youth. This has amplified its impact and highlighted its added value, especially with the growing demand for participation each year. The first edition saw 75 participants, while the second edition increased to 100 participants.”

He noted that this year’s edition targets 120 participants, including 21 seats allocated for Gulf and Arab countries, most of which have given preliminary approval to join the project.

The project encompasses several key themes, most notably

meetings between participating youth and diplomatic leaders, as well as training workshops in collaboration with UNITAR. Additionally, it includes a Model United Nations (MUN) simulation session and opportunities for youth to participate in regional and international engagements.

The Model United Nations for Youth is a simulated session mirroring UN discussions, involving 100 young men and women, alongside representatives from government and private institutions, international organisations, academics, and young entrepreneurs.

Participants simulate the workings of the UN and its principal bodies—such as the General Assembly, Security Council, and Economic and Social Council—by assuming the roles of diplomats and official spokespersons for different countries and organizations. They engage in debates and negotiations on key youth-related issues, ultimately drafting resolutions reflecting the agenda topics addressed.

Participants act as ambassadors for assigned countries (as

delegation members), delivering speeches that fully represent their designated nation’s stance. They then negotiate with allies and opponents on contentious issues, working toward resolutions that serve the international community. Sessions and discussions are conducted according to UN procedural rules.

Through this model, participants research the issues to be addressed by the respective council or committee, gaining insight into how the international community responds to pressing global concerns, including peace and security, human rights, the environment, food and hunger, economic development, and globalisation.

The Ministry has set registration criteria for the project, requiring applicants to be Omani youth (male or female) aged 18–29, with a strong desire and commitment to participate fully in the program and adhere to all related requirements.

Participants must also be in good health, free from chronic illnesses, and cooperative with program organisers, strictly adhering to session schedules. Initial selection and acceptance into the program will be conducted electronically, with priority given to those who have not previously participated in the first edition of the Youth Ambassadors project. Distribution will be proportional across governorates (based on data from the National Centre for Statistics and Information) and balanced between genders within each governorate. Applicants must also complete the registration form, including responses to all required questions. -ONA

Occupancy rate in Al Dhahirah hotels rises during July, August

IBRI: The Wilayat of Ibri in Al Dhahirah Governorate experiences increasing tourist and commercial activity every July and August.

As a transit and rest stop for visitors from GCC countries travelling through land ports to Dhofar Governorate, this contributes to a rise in occupancy rates at the wilayat’s hotel and lodging establishments.

Ali Khamis Al Sidairi, Assistant Director at the Directorate of Heritage and Tourism in Al Dhahirah Governorate, explained that the governorate sees a notable increase in the hospitality sector during the Khareef Dhofar (monsoon) season.

Occupancy rates in a number of establishments range from 85 to 100 percent, reflecting the growing demand during this time of year.

Al Sidairi added that the number of licensed hotels and lodging facilities in Al Dhahirah Governorate has risen to 55 establishments by the end of July 2025, compared

to 48 at the end of 2024, a growth rate of 14.5 percent. He noted that this number is expected to increase further by the end of the current year.

He pointed out that the Rub-el-Khali border crossing in A’Dhahirah Governorate, which connects Oman to Saudi Arabia, undertakes a pivotal role in facilitating overland tourism.

This has created promising investment opportunities on both sides of the road, including fuel stations and quick service centers, as well as a number of hotels and rest stops, thereby enhancing the governorate’s added value.

Markets, commercial centers, restaurants, cafes, and various other commercial projects in the wilayat are experiencing increased activity during this period, along with a noticeable rise in traffic.

This signals promising investment opportunities for young Omanis and provides seasonal and permanent job opportunities in several vital sectors. -ONA

Sohar and Nizwa Forts registered

<FROM A1 The registration of Sohar and Nizwa Forts marks a significant addition. Sohar Fort, located in the North Al Batinah Governorate, is one of the oldest coastal fortresses in Oman and had played a pivotal role as an administrative and political center throughout different historical periods.

Meanwhile, Nizwa Fort in the Al Dakhiliyah Governorate stands as a prominent symbol of Omani defensive architecture. It served as a hub for knowledge and governance in various historical eras and remains one of the most notable cultural and tourist landmarks in the Wilayat of Nizwa today.

Al Shawadhna Mosque in the ancient village of Al Aqr in the Wilayat of Nizwa (Al Dakhiliyah Governorate) is renowned for the beauty of its gypsum mihrab and



the intricate details of its architecture, exemplifying the characteristics of traditional religious architecture in Oman.

Preserving historical heritage is a fundamental pillar of sustainable development and the reinforcement of national identity. This authentic cultural legacy opens doors for cultural tourism and strengthens Oman’s image as a destination that blends authenticity with modernity, enhancing its standing locally, regionally, and globally. -ONA

Traffic Awareness Exhibition opened

<FROM A1 Ghawas also mentioned the inauguration of the seventh edition of the Traffic Awareness Exhibition at Salalah Gardens Mall, an initiative designed to promote traffic safety culture and discipline among the public.

However, Ghawas also highlighted negative behaviours, such

as reckless driving, stunts, driving on green areas, children leaning out of vehicle windows, and using mobile phones while driving.

He emphasised that the department is taking firm action against these violations and will intensify patrols to curb such actions.

He urged visitors to ensure their vehicles are in good condition, get

adequate rest, adhere to speed limits, maintain safe distances, and use heavy gear when descending slopes. The Coast Guard Police is also an integral part of the safety plan. Major Alawi bin Hafiz Al Haddad, Assistant Commander of the Coast Guard Police in Dhofar Governorate, confirmed the deployment of marine rescue

patrols to popular beaches to enhance field presence and ensure a rapid response to incidents.

Despite their ongoing awareness campaigns, which warn of high waves and strong currents, some visitors are observed swimming in dangerous conditions or standing on the edge of rocky cliffs for photos.

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RAO, RAFO music bands win top places in Scotland contest

EDINBURGH: The band of the Royal Army of Oman (RAO) has won first place—overall ranking—in the Infantry and Military Discipline Competition held in Scotland, United Kingdom.

The RAO band also merited the award set for the best band from outside the United Kingdom in the Bridge of Allan Championship in Scotland.

Baton-bearing competition Members of the RAO band won advanced places at the individual level in the baton-bearing competition.

Staff Sergeant Nader Jumaan Bait Jabali won the second-place award, while Warrant Officer Mohammed Khamis Al Amri won the third-place award in the 3rd stage of the competitions, which were held in the Scottish town of Bridge of Allan.

Meanwhile, the band of the Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) maintained its leading record in the bagpipes and drums compe-



tion held in the Bridge of Allan town as part of the activities of the Grade Four category of the World Music Competition.

The drum’s team deservedly won first place among seven international bands that took part in this category of the international contest. -ONA

UNPRECEDENTED DEMAND FOR AZURA BEACH RESIDENCES SIGNALS STRONG MARKET MOMENTUM



Al Mouj Muscat secured a record-breaking sales of Azura Beach Residences Phase two set to launch as long waitlist builds for Oman’s most sought-after beachfront living experience

“The overwhelming response to the launch of Azura Beach Residences is a clear reflection of the market’s trust in Al Mouj Muscat as Oman’s most compelling and established lifestyle destination. We are proud to see our vision for Azura Beach Residences resonate strongly with our customers from the architectural elegance to its harmony and integration with the natural coastline and the vibrant life of Al Mouj Marina. Azura is more than just a residence it represents the next chapter in oceanfront living in Oman, where its design fosters a genuine sense of belonging and elevates everyday quality of life. It is testament to what’s possible when exceptional design, a stunning setting, and enriching lifestyle experiences come together” **Nasser Al Sheibani, CEO of Al Mouj Muscat**

With 309 residences claimed within two weeks, Al Mouj Muscat is now preparing to launch phase two in response to strong market demand and a growing waitlist. Azura Beach Residences comprising 286 apartments, and 23 beach chalets drew exceptional interest that far surpassed expectations.

Located within the prestigious Marsa District, Azura Beach Residences captured the attention of discerning buyers for its rare dual-frontage offering uninterrupted views of both the beach and the marina and its contemporary design centered around wellness, light, and space.

Due to the significant number of buyers waitlisted, Al Mouj Muscat is now preparing to launch the second phase of Azura Beach Residences. The upcoming release will build on the success of phase one and deliver the same uncompromising design ethos, connectivity, and lifestyle that define this new oceanfront icon.

This milestone reinforces Al Mouj Muscat’s standing as Oman’s most

established oceanfront destination and its continued success in shaping the future of lifestyle-driven destination.

Designed with a flowing connection between indoor and outdoor spaces, residents at Azura Beach Residences will enjoy an elevated resort style living experience, with access to a pristine beach, infinity pool, co-working lounge, and a vibrant marina promenade all within walking distance. With freehold ownership open to all nationalities, the project attracted a healthy mix of Omani and international buyers, underscoring the project’s cross-border appeal.

“We anticipated strong interest, but the depth of demand has surpassed our expectations,” said **Saleh Al Siyabi, VP of Sales.**

“This success affirms the strength of our product and go-to-market strategy and reflects the growing appeal of Al Mouj Muscat as a truly multinational lifestyle destination.”

“Azura was designed with insight into the evolving preferences of buyers,” added **Salma Al Hashmi, VP of Marketing.**

“The result is a product that goes beyond filling a market gap, it fosters a deeply meaningful connection to place, lifestyle, and legacy.”

Tourism & Hospitality

7 Hotels

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Oman’s Child Culture Award boosts national belonging among children

The award encourages creative expression among children and fosters engagement with themes of identity and belonging

MUSCAT: The Child Culture Award stands as one of the pioneering initiatives launched by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth to nurture children's and adolescents' literary and intellectual expression while reinforcing their connection to Oman's national identity and cultural heritage.

The award encourages creative expression among children and fosters engagement with themes of identity and belonging.

Ahmed Nasser Al Rashdi, Head of the Child Culture Department at the Directorate General of Knowledge and Cultural Development, stated that the ministry introduced the Child Culture Award in 2021 through its two categories, "Speak So I Can See You" and "Oman Narrates."

The initiative aims to deepen Omani cultural awareness and instill loyalty and national pride in children while enhancing their expressive and imaginative skills. Each year, the award revolves around three distinct themes.

Al Rashdi explained that the competition targets both children and professionals in child culture. The first category, "Speak So I Can See You," is open to Omani and resident children aged 7 to 12, seeking to identify gifted young speakers who can eloquently represent Oman in media and public forums. The second, "Oman Narrates,"



invites Omani and Arab writers residing in Oman to produce child-friendly literature that highlights the nation's cultural heritage for global audiences.

This year's "Speak So I Can See You" competition saw 523 participants in its preliminary stage—a 133-participant increase from the previous edition—attributed to awareness workshops organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Education's Career Guidance Centre, involving 70 supervisors and teachers nationwide.

Participants submitted videos on themes such as designing a household robot, representing Oman internationally, or proposing a tourism project showcasing

Omani identity.

Meanwhile, "Oman Narrates" attracted 124 entries, up by 84 from last year. Writers crafted stories centered on Omani seasonal traditions—such as Eid, Khareef, rose and pomegranate harvests, and local festivals—to introduce Arab children to Oman's intangible heritage through engaging visual storytelling.

Notably, the 2025 edition marked the first participation of children with disabilities, including 7 visually impaired and 2 physically impaired contestants.

Al-Rashdi emphasised the award's role in uncovering new literary talents, particularly among educators who deeply understand



children's mindsets.

The ministry has published five books on Omani heritage for children, compiling winning entries from past competitions. In the 2025 finals, five children—including two visually impaired participants—advanced after direct interviews held during 6-8 July.

Five winning texts, unranked, will be edited and published in "Oman Narrates - Part 4." Arab writers residing in Oman represented five nationalities: Egypt (5), Yemen (3), Lebanon (1), and Tunisia (1).

All "Speak So I Can See You" submissions this year focused on "Representing Omani Etiquette in International Forums." -ONA

BOOSTING TOURISM

Ministry restores historical landmarks in South Al Batinah



A'RUSTAQ: The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism emphasized that the restoration of forts and castles plays a vital role in preserving Oman's cultural, historical, and architectural heritage, boosting tourism, revitalising local economies, and restoring these landmarks to their original splendor—making them attractive tourist destinations and creating investment opportunities for both public and private sectors.

The Department of Heritage and Tourism in South Al Batinah Governorate is currently undertaking restoration projects at A'Rustaq Fort, Al Khasfah Tower, and Al Uwayd Tower, adhering to the highest technical standards while optimizing costs. Key measures include locally producing "Sarooj" (traditional mortar) at a specialized ministry-supervised facility and sourcing high-quality imported "Kandal" wood to ensure compliance with specifications, enhancing efficiency

and reducing overall restoration costs.

Dr. Al-Mu'tasim Nasser Al Hilali, Director of the Heritage and Tourism Department in South Al Batinah, stated that the ministry's primary objective in restoring historical sites is to safeguard this cultural legacy for future generations, as these landmarks serve as architectural testaments to Oman's rich history, particularly in their respective regions.

He noted that each historical site reflects the architectural style of its era and carries documented and oral narratives, adding that heritage landmarks present investment opportunities to enhance visitor experiences and diversify cultural tourism in line with sector demands.

Al Hilali highlighted that heritage and museum projects align with the ministry's vision to position Oman as a leader in national heritage management and a top sustainable tourism destination offering unique experiences. -ONA



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Oman Air launches digital platform powered by TUI

Oman Air Holidays allows guests from Oman to explore over 20 countries worldwide, while enabling travellers to discover the Sultanate as a unique destination

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Air has officially launched its new digital platform, Oman Air Holidays, powered by TUI, one of the world's leading tourism groups.

The go-live was announced during a press conference in Muscat, marking a major milestone in the airline's efforts to enhance the travel experience and promote inbound tourism to Oman.



Oman Air Holidays allows guests from Oman to explore more than 20 countries worldwide, while also enabling international travellers to discover Oman as a unique and accessible destination.

The new platform complements the airline's wider strategy to support inbound tourism, which includes its stopover programme with Visit Oman, efforts to increase point-to-point traffic, and a growing network with Amsterdam and Rome most recently added.

In June, Oman Air also joined the oneworld Alliance, opening

up access to an extensive global network of over 170 countries and territories via fellow member airlines.

Michael Rutter, Chief Commercial Officer at Oman Air, said, "This platform is a natural extension of the work we've been doing to drive tourism into Oman, bringing together the elements we've been building; greater accessibility, stronger partnerships and more compelling reasons to visit.

"It also marks an important step in our digital journey, as we continue to invest in more connected,

guest-centric experiences. With TUI's global reach and Oman Air's renowned hospitality and service, we're setting a new standard for holiday planning – whether in Oman or beyond."

David Schelp, CEO TUI Markets + Airline, added, "Partnering with Oman Air allows us to bring our holiday expertise to a new market with huge potential. Oman is a remarkable destination and this platform makes it more accessible to international travellers.

"We're proud to support Oman Air to expand their offerings while delivering high-quality experiences TUI is known for."

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Dhofar

CAA launches its 'Partnership' programme

Times News Service

MUSCAT: As part of its ongoing efforts to enhance institutional integration and promote the exchange of expertise among various entities, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has launched the second phase of its "Partnership" programme in Dhofar Governorate.

This initiative builds on the first phase of the programme, which achieved a positive impact in developing national competencies and strengthening collaborative work frameworks.

This step reflects the Authority's commitment to establishing sustainable knowledge partnerships that contribute to improving institutional performance and developing human resources.

The second phase includes a series of lectures and specialised workshops delivered by a distinguished group of national experts from various government, private, civil, military, and security institutions.

The aim is to maximise the utilisation of available capabilities and enhance institutional efficiency through effective collaboration mechanisms.



In this phase, the programme focuses on key themes targeting the development of administrative and technical skills, as well as the exchange of best practices between institutions.

This reflects the Authority's dedication to fostering a culture of institutional partnership and achieving knowledge integration at the level of Dhofar Governorate.

It is worth noting that the "Partnership" programme is one of the CAA's flagship initiatives, designed to span a series of interactive activities aimed at keeping pace with institutional development requirements and achieving a lasting positive impact within the government work environment.

 Ph: 24760000 Email: Funoperation@visioncapital.com VISION AL KHAIR GCC FUND			
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – JUNE 2025			
The Vision Al Khair Fund (VAKF) was down by 3.3% for H1 2025. The NAV of the fund was RO 1.213 as on 30 June 2025.			
In the second quarter, the global economy entered a more uneven phase. U.S. growth decelerated sharply from its robust first-quarter pace, as consumer spending weakened under the pressure of rising interest rates and trade-related disruptions. In contrast, Europe outperformed expectations, with strengthening PMI readings and solid retail data. India continued to stand out, underpinned by robust domestic demand, consistent capital expenditure, and stable inflation. Growth projections remained solid, bolstered by strong momentum in services, infrastructure development, and exports—especially to the Middle East and Africa. Meanwhile, China's recovery remained delicate but showed signs of stabilization in May, supported by stronger-than-anticipated retail sales and industrial output.			
GCC equity markets faced persistent pressure and volatility in the first half of 2025, with the S&P GCC Composite Index slipping by 0.3%. This performance mirrored broader global market softness amid rising policy uncertainty. Within the region, Dubai led with a strong gain of 10.6%, while Abu Dhabi and Qatar posted more modest increases of 5.7% and 1.7%, respectively. On the other hand, Saudi Arabia recorded the steepest year-to-date decline at 7.2%, followed by Bahrain and Oman, which registered losses of 2.1% and 1.7%, respectively.			
In the GCC economies, fiscal deficits are anticipated to expand as a result of lower oil prices. Nevertheless, economic growth is likely to stay resilient, driven by encouraging elements such as expansionary non-oil PMI figures that reflect healthy manufacturing and industrial performance, a rebound in oil output, and a rise in foreign direct investment fueled by supportive regulatory changes.			
Uncertainty around trade policies and the potential return of inflation persists, but the core drivers of market growth remain intact. Corporate earnings are still in a positive territory, employment levels are strong, and consumer spending continues, all of which are positive signs. Trade negotiations are expected to continue over the coming months, with fiscal and monetary policy adjustments likely to emerge in the latter half of 2025.			
On behalf of the Board of Directors, we extend our sincere appreciation to our esteemed unit holders for their ongoing support and participation. We also wish to regard His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq for his exemplary leadership and visionary guidance, which ensures Oman's continued journey towards prosperity and development.			
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2025			
	30 June 2025 RO	30 June 2024 RO	31 Dec. 2024 RO
ASSETS			
Investments at fair value through profit or loss	4,544,203	4,738,651	4,749,719
Dividend receivables	9,927	-	-
Due from broker	7,577	70,365	123,250
Other receivables	-	-	-
Cash and cash equivalents	43,164	22,773	14,661
Total Asset	4,604,871	4,831,789	4,887,630
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Dividend payable	42	--	--
Accruals and other payables	69,597	66,458	75,315
Total liabilities	69,639	66,458	75,315
Total net assets attributable to the Unitholders	4,535,232	4,765,331	4,812,315
Net asset value per unit	1.213	1.315	1.316
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
	30 June 2025 RO (6 months)	30 June 2024 RO (6 months)	31 Dec. 2024 RO (12 months)
INCOME			
Dividend income	82,573	79,441	122,871
Profit on call accounts	14	170	211
Net realized gain on investments at FVTPL	(51,850)	133,366	390,059
Fair value changes in investments at FVTPL	(122,691)	241,604	40,835
Foreign exchange gain (net)	6,854	--	(12,923)
Other income	8,085	--	71
Total income	(77,215)	454,581	541,124
Expenses			
Management fees	34,429	37,588	75,409
Fund Management body fee	17,356	17,452	35,080
Custodian service fees	5,164	8,901	16,708
Brokerage expenses	4,780	4,871	8,777
Shariah board fees	3,818	4,986	9,639
General and administration	14,232	13,435	28,055
Performance fee	--	--	--
Foreign exchange loss (net)	--	2,278	--
Total expenses	79,779	89,511	173,668
Net (Loss)/Profit and total comprehensive income for the period / year	(156,994) (0.043)	365,070 0.102	367,456 0.102
Net profit per unit			

 Ph: 24760000 Email: Funoperation@visioncapital.com VISION FOCUSED FUND			
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – JUNE 2025			
The Epicure Vision GCC Growth Fund (EVGF) is down 2.1% on a QTD basis. On a YTD basis, the Fund is up 1.8%. The NAV of the fund closed at RO 1.020 as of 30 June 2025.			
For the second quarter, the MSCI World index grew 11.0%. Earlier in the quarter, markets saw a sharp sell-off as new US tariffs were announced. But once the US paused these tariffs and moved towards a potential trade deal with China, markets rebounded sharply. EM markets too benefitted from a weakening US dollar. Brent crude oil slumped during the period, declining by 9.5%, to USD 67.6/barrel. OPEC+ given unwinding production cuts in April which led to concerns about oil over supply given expectations of slower global economic growth because of US-led trade uncertainties.			
During the period, regional markets also witnessed significant volatility due to the spike in tensions related to the Iran-Israel conflict. S&P GCC Index was down 0.5%, mainly due to Saudi which was down 7.2%. The top performers for the period were Dubai and Abu Dhabi, which were up 12.0% and 6.3% respectively.			
As per latest World Bank's report, GCC's real GDP is expected to grow by 3.2% (2025) and 4.5% (2026). This growth is expected to be driven by the easing of OPEC+ oil production cuts and continued expansion in non-oil sectors. The World Bank also noted that the region has shown resilience in navigating global uncertainties while diversifying its economies.			
Fiscal spending targeting Mega projects continue to serve as a key driver of GCC economic expansion, generating broad-based investment opportunities across materials, real estate, financials, tourism, and consumer sectors. The contract awards are expected to sustain strong momentum for the year. After a brief lull in IPO activity during recent volatility, we have seen appetite return to the market and expect this to growth further as well.			
On behalf of the Board of Directors, we extend our sincere appreciation to our esteemed unit holders for their ongoing support and participation. We also wish to regard His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq for his exemplary leadership and visionary guidance, which ensures Oman's continued journey towards prosperity and development.			
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2025			
	30 June 2025 RO	30 June 2024 RO	
ASSETS			
Investments at fair value through profit or loss	8,097,501	8,045,081	
Cash and cash equivalents	179,742	87,030	
Total Assets	8,277,243	8,132,110	
LIABILITIES			
Current Liability			
Accruals and other payables	16,482	16,130	
Total net assets attributable to the Unitholders	8,260,761	8,115,980	
- Exhibit - C	1,020	1,002	
Net asset value per unit			
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME:			
	30 June 2025 RO	30 June 2024 RO	
INCOME			
Dividend income	250,003	11,747	
Interest income	-	1,763	
Net realized gain on Investment through FVPL	53,437	(3,907)	
Fair value changes in investments at FVPL	(108,674)	68,099	
Foreign exchange loss (net)	5,891	-	
Total income (net)	200,656	77,702	
EXPENSES			
Management fees	22,585	10,191	
General and administration	12,140	12,553	
Brokerage expenses	14,029	15,345	
Custodian service fees	5,121	2,894	
Foreign exchange loss (net)	-	32,955	
Total expenses	55,875	73,938	
Net profit and total comprehensive income for the period	144,781	3,764	
Net profit per unit	0.018	0.001	

 Ph: 24760000 Email: Funoperation@visioncapital.com VISION FOCUSED FUND			
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – MARCH 2025			
The Vision Focused Fund (VFF) was down by 1.2% for H1 2025. The NAV of the fund was RO 1.161 as on 30 June 2025.			
In the second quarter of 2025, markets experienced notable volatility due to uncertainty around tariff policies and conflicts in the Middle East. However, investors' fears did not materialize, and with no substantial deterioration in key economic data, most major asset classes ended the quarter with positive gains. Despite uncertainties around tariffs, trade, and taxes, U.S. economic data has been strong in 2025. Economic growth is above trend, with GDP expected to exceed 3% in Q2 due to solid household spending. The labor market remains resilient, with unemployment at 4.2% and wage growth outpacing inflation. Inflation is contained, with headline CPI at 2.4% and core inflation at 2.8%, and tariffs have not yet significantly affected goods prices.			
GCC equity markets remained under pressure and experienced continued volatility in the first half of 2025, with the S&P GCC Composite Index declining by 0.3%. This performance reflected broader global market weakness amid rising policy uncertainty. Among the GCC markets, Dubai recorded strong double-digit growth of 10.6%, while Abu Dhabi and Qatar posted more moderate increases of 5.7% and 1.7%, respectively. In contrast, Saudi Arabia saw the largest year-to-date decline in the GCC at 7.2%, followed by smaller drops in Bahrain and Oman, which fell by 2.1% and 1.7%, respectively.			
Uncertainty around trade policies and the potential return of inflation persists, but the core drivers of market growth remain intact. Corporate earnings are still on a growth mode, employment levels are strong, and consumer spending continues, all of which are positive signs. Additionally, lower interest rates and proposed tax cuts are expected to support higher asset prices. GCC markets are also likely to continue experiencing volatility due to uncertainties in global trade and shifts in domestic policies. Nevertheless, the region's fundamentals remain strong, with the World Bank projecting solid economic growth—3.2% in 2025 and 4.5% in 2026. This growth is mainly expected to come from the planned easing of OPEC+ oil production cuts and considerable growth in non-oil PMI figures that reflect healthy manufacturing and industrial performance. The upcoming earnings season will play a crucial role in influencing investor sentiment and highlighting key factors driving future economic progress.			
On behalf of the Board of Directors, we extend our sincere appreciation to our esteemed unit holders for their ongoing support and participation. We also wish to regard His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq for his exemplary leadership and visionary guidance, which ensures Oman's continued journey towards prosperity and development.			
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2025			
	30 June 2025 RO	30 June 2024 RO	31 Dec. 2024 RO
ASSETS			
Investments at fair value through profit or loss	2,469,808	2,390,588	2,676,606
Due from broker	21,398	209,469	14,312
Cash and cash equivalents	82,727	216,276	31,527
Other receivables	4,755	0	0
Total Assets	2,578,688	2,816,333	2,722,445
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Dividend payable	2,173	108,959	--
Accruals and other payables	13,000	23,883	19,264
Total liabilities	15,173	132,842	19,264
Total net assets attributable to the Unitholders	2,563,515	2,683,491	2,703,181
Net asset value per unit	1.161	1.224	1.226
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
	30 June 2025 RO (6 months)	30 June 2024 RO (6 months)	31 Dec. 2024 RO (12 months)
INCOME			
Dividend income	47,407	13,851	49,895
Profit on call accounts	78	78	181
Net realized gain on investments at fair value through profit or loss	(1,711)	209,569	375,712
Fair value changes in investments at fair value through profit or loss	(41,173)	(8,441)	(120,317)
Foreign exchange gain (net)	2,904	--	--
Other income	4,608	--	0.544
Total income	12,113	215,057	305,471
Expenses			
Management fees	19,416	11,177	42,905
Fund Management body fee	4,861	1,870	--
Brokerage expenses	11,434	9,591	25,452
Custodian service fees	2,912	2,235	5,732
Foreign exchange loss (net)	--	578	8,409
Performance fees	--	--	--
General and administration	6,677	7,222	36,303
Total net assets attributable to the Unitholders	45,300	32,673	118,800
Net (Loss)/Profit and total comprehensive income for the period / year	(33,187)	182,384	186,671
Net loss per unit	(15.273)	0.082	0.83

ACROSS GAZA

75 Palestinians killed by Israeli attacks

GAZA: At least 75 Palestinians were killed by Israeli gunfire and airstrikes in the Gaza Strip on Sunday, according to the Gaza Civil Defence.

Mahmoud Basal, spokesperson for the Civil Defence, told Xinhua that 28 Palestinians were killed in Khan Younis and the northern Rafah area in southern Gaza. Among them, 23 were killed near U.S.-backed aid distribution centers and three others died when a school sheltering displaced people was shelled.

In northern Gaza, at least 18 others were killed and 198 others were injured by Israeli army fire while waiting for aid near the Zikim crossing, northwest of the town of Beit Lahia, Basal said.

In central Gaza, another seven people were killed, and 27 others were injured when the Israeli army targeted Palestinian gatherings near an aid distribution point at the Netzarim junction, he said.

A Red Crescent Society employee was killed in an Israeli shelling of the society's building



west of Khan Younis, while another person was killed in a strike in the same city, he added.

In a press statement, the Red Crescent Society condemned the Israeli army's bombing of its headquarters in Khan Younis, saying it is "a flagrant violation of the provisions of international humanitarian law, which stipulates that medical facilities and Red Cross and Red Crescent personnel must be protected during conflicts."

The civil defence crews have also recovered the bodies of 22 people killed by Israeli shelling

while trying to return to their homes east of Gaza City, according to Basal.

There was no immediate comment from the Israeli army on these incidents.

Meanwhile, Munir al-Barash, director general of Gaza's health authorities, said in a statement that Gaza's hospitals that are still functioning are overcrowded. Operating rooms and wards are packed, and even corridors have become beds of pain.

Al-Barash said that bed occupancy rates in the hospitals have

reached between 180 and 300 percent. Doctors are lying on the floor, patients are being treated on the tiles, and the pain extends from the room to the sidewalk.

"This is not just a health disaster, but a crime against humanity. Letting Gaza's hospitals collapse means signing a death warrant," Al-Barash said.

At least 9,350 Palestinians had been killed and 37,547 others injured since Israel renewed its intensive strikes in Gaza on March 18, bringing the total death toll since October 2023 to 60,839, and injuries to 149,588, Gaza's health authorities said on Sunday.

Enforce immediate ceasefire in Gaza

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates called on the UN Security Council to urgently uphold its responsibilities by imposing an immediate ceasefire, halting ongoing acts of genocide, forced displacement, and annexation against the Palestinian people. — Agencies

Over 3,000 Boeing workers on strike

SAN FRANCISCO: Approximately 3,200 Boeing union workers in the US states of Missouri and Illinois went on strike on Monday after contract negotiations with the company broke down.

The strike move was earlier announced after members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) District 837 voted to reject a modified four-year labour agreement with Boeing.

This vote followed members' overwhelming rejection of Boeing's earlier proposal on July 27 as a labor agreement officially expired before midnight.

The workers were based at Boeing's facilities in St. Louis and St. Charles, Missouri, as well as Mascoutah, Illinois.

"We will be there on the picket lines, ensuring Boeing hears the collective power of working people," said IAM International President Brian Bryant in the statement

on Sunday.

"They deserve nothing less than a contract that keeps their families secure and recognises their unmatched expertise," IAM Midwest Territory General Vice President Sam Cicinelli said.

"Solidarity is our strength. This vote shows that when workers stand together, they can push back against corporate greed and fight for a better future for themselves and their families," said IAM Resident General Vice President Jody Bennett.

The IAM union is one of North America's largest and most diverse industrial trade unions, representing approximately 600,000 active and retired members in the aerospace, defense, airlines, railroad, transit, healthcare, automotive, and other industries across the United States and Canada.

Boeing expressed disappointment over the vote. — Xinhua

BILATERAL RELATIONS



Philippine President arrives on 5-day state visit to India

NEW DELHI: Philippine President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr arrived in the national capital on Monday for a five-day state visit to India, aimed at further strengthening the India-Philippines relationship, the Ministry of External Affairs stated.

This is the first visit by the President of the Southeast Asian country to India since he assumed office back in 2022, marking a significant milestone, as his visit aligns with the celebration of the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two nations.

According to a post on X by the MEA, Marcos was welcomed with a warm reception by the Minister of State for External Affairs, Pabitra Margherita.

"Mabuhay, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr! President Bongbong Marcos has arrived in New Delhi on his first State Visit to India. Received by MoS Pabitra Margherita and accorded a warm welcome. India & the Philippines are celebrating 75th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic ties. This visit will lead to further strengthening of India-Philippines relations," the MEA stated on X.

He was accompanied by First Lady Louise Araneta Marcos and a high-level delegation including several Ministers from his Cabinet.

According to a statement by the MEA, during his visit, President Marcos will be holding talks with President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with other officials.

He will also be meeting with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

On August 5, he will lay a wreath at Rajghat, and following

that, he will hold talks with PM Modi at the Hyderabad House.

Exchange of Memoranda of Understanding and Press Statements will take place thereafter.

The Philippine President will then meet Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare JP Nadda and thereafter President Droupadi Murmu.

He will then travel to Bengaluru and meet Karnataka Governor Thawar Chand Ghelot. His visit came following an invitation by PM Modi, an MEA statement stated on Thursday.

Diplomatic relations between India and the Philippines were established in November 1949. Both countries have since developed a strong partnership across a broad spectrum of areas, including trade and investment, defence and security, maritime cooperation, agriculture, healthcare, pharmaceuticals and digital technologies. The two countries also engage closely at the regional level, including through India's Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with ASEAN.

The statement added that India's relations with the Philippines are an integral pillar of our 'Act East' Policy, Vision MAHASAGAR and our vision of the Indo-Pacific.

The visit will act as an opportunity for both leaders to set the path for future bilateral cooperation and to engage on regional and international issues of mutual interest, as per the statement.

India and the Philippines share warm and multifaceted bilateral relations rooted in historical ties and shared democratic values. Cooperation spans various sectors, including defence, trade, investment, and cultural exchange. — ANI

Honouring Social Impact Champions Empowering Communities.

جوائز بسمة
Jawā'iz Basma

17th September 2025
St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort

AWARD CATEGORIES:

- Biodiversity Conservation Initiative
- Environment Protection Initiative
- Environmental Advocacy and Action Initiative
- Clean Energy Initiative
- Community Healthcare Initiative
- Community Education Initiative
- Specially-abled Support Initiative
- Youth Engagement Initiative
- Women Empowerment Initiative
- Financial Inclusion Initiative
- SMEs Development Initiative
- Community Development & Empowerment Initiative
- Public-Private Partnership for Community Development
- Public Engagement Initiative
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiative
- In Country Value (ICV) Initiative
- Outstanding Omanisation Achievement
- Skills Development Initiative
- Social Entrepreneurship Initiative
- Leadership in Sustainable Business Practice
- Leadership in ESG
- Leadership in ICV
- Leadership in CSR
- Social Impact Leader of the Year

The Jawa'iz Basma 2025 is a prestigious awards night dedicated to recognizing and celebrating individuals, organizations and initiatives that have significantly contributed to improving the social, environmental and economic well-being of communities across Oman.

This event will highlight impactful contributions that drive positive social change and sustainable development. It serves as a platform to encourage innovation and inspires both the corporate and social sectors to engage in meaningful community transformation.

To submit your nominations. SCAN THE QR CODE

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

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SPORTS

Al Zubair’s Al-Manar Racing clinch podium and fourth place in France

The BMW M4 GT3 EVO duo initially finished third in race one and were promoted to second after a post-race penalty was applied

MUSCAT: Al-Manar Racing by Team WRT’s Al-Faisal Al-Zubair and Jens Klingmann followed up a superb second place in the Gold Cup category in the first Sprint race with fourth position in race two at the latest round of the GT World Challenge Europe powered by AWS Sprint Series at Magny-Cours in France.

The BMW M4 GT3 EVO duo initially finished third in race one and were promoted to second after a post-race penalty was applied to one of their Gold Cup rivals. The duo started at the rear of the Gold Cup grid for race two but managed to move up two positions to take points for fourth place.

Oman-based Al-Zubair said: “It was a tough weekend. It was difficult. I think we maximised what we had with the BMW. Comparing to some of the other manufacturers it was almost impossible to do any better. Saying that, it’s good points for the championship but, at this rate, we are a little out of hand.

“P2 was good yesterday. I don’t think we could have done any better. We were slower than the other cars. In Sprint we are fourth now in the championship. We were strong in testing here and we get 30kg more (weight penalty) and 30mm more. It depends what we get for the final round.”

The result now means that Emil



Frey Racing’s Chris Lulham and Thierry Vermeulen lead the series on 90 points from Saintéloc Racing (87.5pts) and the Garage 59 Team (80pts). Tresor Attempto Racing (73pts) and Al-Manar Rac-

ing by Team WRT remain fifth with 68.5 points.

Emil Frey Racing topped the times in free practice on Friday morning with a best lap of 1min 37.472sec in a session where Al-

Manar Racing by Team WRT struggled a little down in sixth place with a best lap of 1min 38.559sec.

Pre-qualifying followed on Friday evening and the Barwell Motorsport Lamborghini topping the times with a 1min 44.691sec run. Al-Manar Racing by Team WRT used the session to dial in the BMW and find the optimum setting for first qualifying on Saturday afternoon.

Klingmann took part in the first qualifying session and a best run of 1min 36.921sec gave the German fourth place on the grid behind the pole-winning Chris Lulham of Emil Frey Racing, the Garage 59 McLaren and Saintéloc Racing’s Audi. Tresor Attempto Racing and Barwell Motorsport line duo in fifth and sixth on the grid for the first of the one-hour Sprint races in the evening.

Klingmann took the wheel for the first stint in Sprint race one and made good progress with the car well-placed in third after the

driver changeover with Al-Zubair taking the wheel. Lulham’s start from pole position came to nothing after the Emil Frey Racing driver was the innocent victim of a collision at the Adelaide hairpin on the opening lap of the race.

Al-Zubair went on to put in a superb stint behind the wheel of the BMW under the lights and was rewarded with second place in the final results of the race behind Louis Prette in the Garage 59 McLaren after a post-race penalty had been applied to one of his rivals that lifted the BMW up a place in the rankings. The Tresor Attempto Racing Audi rounded off the podium places. The result also lifted Al-Manar Racing by Team WRT back into title contention.

Al-Zubair carded a best lap of 1min 37.269sec in the second qualifying session for Sprint race two and that put the Al-Manar Racing BMW in sixth place on the starting grid for the Gold Cup runners. Pole position went to the Emil Frey

Racing Ferrari with a time of 1min 36.107sec.

Al-Zubair made a strong start, quickly passed Sebastian Øgaard in the Tresor Attempto Racing Audi to snatch fifth place and set his sights on the Garage 59 McLaren. But the Omani was repassed by the Audi and had to come back from sixth place again.

The driver changeover ran smoothly and Klingmann settled into fifth position with just under half an hour remaining. He managed to pass Bijoy Garg in the Barwell Motorsport Lamborghini and set his sights on third-placed Leonardo Moncini in the Tresor Attempto Racing Audi.

A full course yellow hampered any thoughts of progress towards the end of the race but action did resume with a few minutes remaining on the clock. Klingmann retained fourth place to the chequered flag with the win falling to Saintéloc Racing from the Garage 59 team and Tresor Attempto Racing.

Al-Manar Racing by Team WRT returns to action for the next round of the GT World Challenge Europe Endurance Cup at the Nürburgring in Germany on August 29th-31st.

TEAMS – latest Gold Cup standings

1. Emil Frey Racing 90pts
2. Saintéloc Racing 87.5pts
3. Garage 59 80pts
4. Tresor Attempto Racing 73pts
5. Al-Manar Racing by Team WRT 68.5pts
6. Barwell Motorsport 15pts
7. CSA Racing 9pts

DRIVERS – latest Gold Cup standings

1. Chris Lulham/Thierry Vermeulen 90pts
2. Gilles Magnus/Paul Evrard 87.5pts
3. Louis Prette 80pts
4. Sebastian Øgaard/Leonardo Moncini 73pts
5. Al-Faisal Al-Zubair/Jens Klingmann 68.5pts

INDIA - OMAN
عمان والهند

70 YEARS OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

15th August

Independence Day Art Celebration!

CALLING ALL INDIAN YOUNG ARTISTS!

This Independence Day, let your creativity shine in colours of patriotism!

We invite children to submit their drawings and artwork, inspired by the spirit of India's Independence Day.

Theme: **“Proud to be Indian”**

Submission Deadline: **7th August 2025**

Age Group: **4–14 years**

Medium: **Crayon, watercolour, sketch – any medium**

Selected artworks will be featured in a special Times of Oman Independence Day edition on 17th August

Participants will be awarded with a certificate from Indian Embassy, Muscat

Email your child’s name, age, and artwork to Neha@mmg.om

Sponsors:

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS
The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by September 2025 reaching \$71.16, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by \$2.55 from the price of Friday, which was \$73.71. - **ONA**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER
Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) 30 Index closed at 4,799.87 points, marking a rise of 29.4 points (0.62%) from the previous session's close of 4,770.45 points.

Oman and Mongolia explore opportunities for investments

The meetings focused on exploring cooperation opportunities in the mining, energy, agriculture, and food industries sectors



ULAANBAATAR: Abdulsalam Mohammed Al Murshidi, Chairman of the Oman Investment Authority (OIA), and his accompanying delegation met with Gombojavyn Zandanshatar, Prime Minister of Mongolia. The meeting took place in Mongolia's capital, Ulaanbaatar. During the meeting, the Mongolian Prime Minister expressed keenness to enhance cooperation with Oman. He emphasised his country's interest in building a practical partnership based on mutual benefit and facilitating investment in priority sectors. For his part, the Chairman of the Oman Investment Authority underscored the importance of developing bilateral cooperation in investment and all other areas of mutual interest.

The Omani delegation also held a series of official meetings with several Mongolian government officials. These included Damdinnyam Gongor, Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources and Batkhuu Idesh, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Economy and Development. The delegation also held meetings with the Advisor and Head of

the Deputy Prime Minister's Office; the Director General of the Investment and Trade Agency; and the Advisor to the Minister of Food, Agriculture, and Light Industry. The meetings focused on exploring cooperation opportunities in the mining, energy, agriculture, and food industries sectors. They also discussed ways to develop joint projects, enhance trade exchange,

and create an attractive environment for long-term investments. Both sides expressed interest in intensifying technical dialogue in the coming phase as a prelude to establishing executive frameworks for bilateral cooperation. The official visit reflected the mutual desire of Oman and Mongolia to build a diverse and sustainable strategic partnership.

The relations between the two countries have great potential for cooperation that can be leveraged in various fields to serve their respective economic and developmental interests. The meetings were attended by Sheikh Abdulaziz Abdullah Al Hinai, Ambassador-at-Large at the Foreign Ministry, and several officials from both sides. - **ONA**

GLOBAL FINANCIAL MESSAGING SYSTEM



OQ joins SWIFT network integration

MUSCAT: OQ has officially joined the SWIFT network, the global financial messaging system operated by the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication. This strategic move enables OQ to receive electronic bank statements directly via its own SWIFT address, without intermediaries. The integration empowers OQ to manage its financial operations with greater transparency, accuracy, and real-time access to banking data from both local and international institutions. This enhances investor confidence and strengthens the Group's global appeal. "This achievement marks a major milestone in OQ's digital transformation journey and reflects our ongoing commitment to

implementing international best practices," said Sabrina Al Bakri, Chief Financial Officer at OQ. "By adopting advanced financial infrastructure and streamlining institutional financing processes, OQ continues to position itself as a future-focused energy leader rooted in operational excellence," she added. Direct integration with SWIFT significantly streamlines bank reconciliation cycles, enhances the accuracy and timeliness of financial reporting, and reinforces the integrity of daily transactional accounting. This advancement supports OQ's broader strategy to modernise its financial architecture and implement digital solutions that drive operational agility and fiscal discipline across the Group. - **ONA**

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN

CBO issues treasury bills worth OMR33mn



MUSCAT: Oman's central bank raised OMR33 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Monday. The value of the allotted treasury bills amounted to OMR 5 million, for a maturity period of 28 days. The average accepted price reached OMR 99.700 for every OMR 100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR 99.700 per OMR 100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 3.91071 per cent and

3.92248%, respectively. Whereas, the value of the allotted treasury bills amounted to OMR 28 million, for a maturity period of 91 days. The average accepted price reached OMR 98.944 for every OMR 100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR 98.940 per OMR 100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 4.23732% and 4.28257%, respectively. Treasury bills are short-term

highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds. The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo). **Interest rate** It may be noted that the interest

rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 5.00 per cent while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 5.50 per cent. Furthermore, treasury bills promote the local money market by creating a benchmark yield curve for short-term interest rates. Additionally, the government may also resort to this instrument whenever felt necessary for financing its recurrent expenditures. - **ONA**

STATISTICS

Oman's electricity production surges 12.6% by May 2025

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman's total electricity production recorded a significant growth of 12.6 percent by the end of May 2025, reaching 18,948.9 gigawatt per hour. This is an increase from 16,829.3 gigawatt-hours during the same period in 2024, according to preliminary data from the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI). A'Dakhiliyah Governorate registered a production increase, reaching 1,760.7 gigawatt-hours by the end of May 2025. Musandam Governorate also saw a production rise of 19.2 percent, totaling 185.8 gigawatt-hours, while production in Muscat Governorate increased by 5.5 percent to 116.7 gigawatt-hours. In North and South A'Sharqiyah Governorates, production reached 3,831.7 gigawatt-hours, marking a 4.1 percent growth. Total production in North and South Al Batinah and A'Dhahirah Governorates was approximately 10,501.6 gigawatt-hours, an in-



crease of 1.3 percent compared to the same period last year. In contrast, Dhofar Governorate recorded a production decrease of 4 percent, amounting to 2,281.5 gigawatt-hours. Production in Al Wusta Governorate also slightly declined by 0.7 percent, reaching 60.4 gigawatt-hours. Statistics showed that Oman's net electricity production—which includes purchases by the Oman Power and Water Procurement Company and the Rural Areas

Electricity Company—increased by 13.1 percent to 18,483.1 gigawatt-hours by the end of May 2025, compared to 16,339.3 gigawatt-hours at the end of the same period last year. On the other hand, the quantity of water produced in Oman saw a slight decrease of 0.9 percent by the end of May 2025, reaching approximately 206.5989 million cubic meters, compared to 208.5631 million cubic meters during the same period in 2024. - **ONA**

IN SALALAH

Forum to discuss market updates and human capital development kicks off

SALALAH: A forum titled "Future of Work" kicked off at the Sultan Qaboos Youth Compound for Culture and Entertainment in Salalah. The two-day event, held as part of the Labour Forum organised by the Directorate General of Labour in Dhofar Governorate, saw a large turnout of experts and specialists from the Sultanate of Oman and GCC states.

The forum seeks to promote cross-sectoral dialogue, exchange expertise and successful practices and devise evidence-based future visions to support employment programmes and human capital development in line with the goals of Oman Vision 2040. It also keeps pace with GCC states' approaches to achieve sustainable economic and social development. The forum's programme included dialogue sessions and workshops focusing on key issues related to labour market developments and future skills. The first session included three working papers on economic de-



velopments, future of work prospects and employment policies in a changing world. The second session dealt with economic developments and future skills in GCC states. It included research papers on the governance of the work leadership's system, forecasting skills needed to achieve development goals, policies of education, and the development of skills in a

manner that supports the sustainability of labour markets. The forum constituted a strategic dialogue platform that contributes to discussing the future of employment and skills development, enhancing the readiness of labour markets in GCC states to address global challenges and supporting efforts to build sustainable and competitive economies. - **ONA**

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Barka Desalination, up 5.93%, was the top gainer while, Liva Group, down 4.41%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,799.87 points, up by 0.62% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.01% at 467.76 points. Barka Desalination, up 5.93%, was the top gainer while, Liva Group, down 4.41%, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded while Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 2566 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 34.56 million, with more than 202.7 million shares changing hands.

Out of 68 traded securities, 25 advanced, 12 declined, and 31 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for RO 1632K while foreign investors were net buyers for RO 1249K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 382K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 8,089.81 points, up 0.04%. Prices of DIDIC, Takaful Oman, Global

Financial Investments, Bank Nizwa, Sohar International Bank were up by 3.94%, 1.89%, 1.54%, 0.97%, 0.71% respectively. Prices of Liva Group, Al Madina Takaful, Al Madina Investments, Oman United Insurance, Ahli Bank were down by 4.41%, 2.35%, 2.27%, 2.04%, 0.67% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 7,074.97 points, up 0.43%. Prices of Jazeera Steel Products, Oman Cables Industry, Gulf Mushroom Products, Muscat Thread Mill, Al Anwar Ceramics were up by 1.90%, 1.78%, 1.74%, 1.16%, 0.55% respectively. Prices of Gulf International Chemicals, Al Maha Ceramics were down by 1.30%, 0.62% respectively.

Services Index was up by 1.31% before closing at 1,822.48 points. Prices of Barka Desalination, Sembcorp Salalah, Al Batinah Power, Al Suwadi Power, Phoenix Power were up by 5.93%, 5.33%, 3.30%, 3.30%, 2.27% respectively. Prices of Ooredoo, Al Jazeera Services, Abraj Energy were down by 2.02%, 1.09%, 0.75% respectively. — **United Securities**

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

OMAN STOCKS

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,807.72	4,758.78	4,799.87	4,770.45	29.42	0.62
FINANCIAL INDEX	8,101.20	8,069.51	8,089.81	8,086.27	3.54	0.04
Industry Index	7,138.48	6,999.98	7,074.97	7,044.89	30.09	0.43
Services Index	1,827.73	1,799.84	1,822.48	1,798.93	23.55	1.31
MSX Shariah Index	470.44	465.45	467.76	467.83	-0.07	-0.01
MSX TR INDEX	7,115.18	7,042.75	7,103.57	7,060.02	43.55	0.62
FINANCIAL TR IDX	9,624.51	9,586.85	9,610.97	9,606.77	4.20	0.04
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	8,772.11	8,601.92	8,694.08	8,657.11	36.97	0.43
SERVICES TR IDX	2,337.66	2,301.99	2,330.95	2,300.83	30.12	1.31
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,204.48	1,204.48	1,204.48	1,204.48	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
202,701,988	34,559,970	2,566	29,169,873,102	25	12	31	68

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, AUGUST 4

SEC. NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PREV. VALUE	MARKET CAP
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REGULAR MARKET

OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	1796.025	168.866	106	0.092	0.097	0.092	0.094	0.091	0.003	3.297	0.097	0.097	0.097	63,439,418
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	2,632.299	245.904	95	0.092	0.096	0.092	0.094	0.091	0.003	3.297	0.094	0.094	0.094	67,154,196
OM0000002176	QJAS STEEL PRODUCTS	47.32	23.299	16	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.000	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.270	6,450,613
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	2,700	6,133	2	2.270	2.280	2.270	2.280	2.250	0.040	1.778	2.280	2.280	2.250	205,413,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	73,183	9,588	2	0.131	0.132	0.131	0.132	0.130	0.002	1.538	0.132	0.132	0.130	26,400,000
OM0000009072	QJ GAS NETWORKS	39,151.856	5,955,109	386	0.151	0.154	0.150	0.153	0.151	0.002	1.325	0.153	0.151	0.158	682,855,460
OM0000004450	BANK NIZWA	252,899	26,078	19	0.104	0.104	0.103	0.104	0.103	0.001	0.971	0.103	0.103	0.103	232,643,115
OM0000003398	SHARIAH INTERNATIONAL BANK	46,708.788	6,557,755	212	0.141	0.142	0.140	0.141	0.140	0.001	0.714	0.141	0.142	0.141	833,051,724
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	45,0742	82,908	35	0.183	0.184	0.183	0.183	0.182	0.001	0.549	0.183	0.183	0.183	40,260,000
OM0000002254	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	92,805	9,956	10	0.082	0.084	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.000	0.355	0.083	0.083	0.083	65,904,000
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	26,734	13,569	17	0.514	0.550	0.487	0.514	0.513	0.001	0.195	0.514	0.514	0.510	81,680,000
OM000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	30,000	9,350	2	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.000	0.000	0.310	0.300	0.310	504,043,370
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO	25,000	2,350	2	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.000	0.000	0.082	0.075	0.084	1,780,000
OM0000002786	BANK MUSCAT	32,556,282	9,670,475	291	0.285	0.288	0.290	0.296	0.296	0.000	0.000	0.296	0.294	0.296	1,000,222,853,530
OM0000003029	OMAN TELECOM	58,038	33,582	17	0.883	0.884	0.882	0.882	0.882	0.000	0.000	0.882	0.882	0.882	681,200,000
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	7,116	5,899	14	0.829	0.829	0.829	0.829	0.829	0.000	0.000	0.829	0.828	0.829	0.100
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	114,253	25,691	24	0.226	0.226	0.224	0.225	0.226	-0.001	-0.442	0.226	0.226	0.226	210,535,109
OM0000008834	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	4,838,331	1,285,376	66	0.267	0.268	0.264	0.265	0.267	-0.002	-0.749	0.265	0.265	0.265	204,103,000
OM0000002236	AL JAZEERA SERVICES	76,377	13,941	15	0.184	0.184	0.181	0.181	0.182	-0.001	-1.063	0.181	0.181	0.183	0.100
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	176,783	43,296	18	0.245	0.246	0.243	0.243	0.248	-0.005	-2.016	0.243	0.243	0.245	158,179,448
OM0000001987	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	122,977	28,515	7	0.242	0.242	0.240	0.240	0.245	-0.005	-2.941	0.240	0.237	0.240	24,000,000
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	884,864	56,746	57	0.085	0.085	0.082	0.083	0.085	-0.002	-2.353	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.100
Total	22	130,301,664	24,277,370	1,412											14,525,000

Parallel Market

OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	6,100	819	2	0.130	0.143	0.130	0.143	0.135	0.008	5.926	0.143	0.132	0.142	0.100	10,799,664
OM0000004755	SEMBOCORP SALALAH	174,723	27,021	30	0.161	0.161	0.154	0.158	0.150	0.008	5.333	0.158	0.154	0.165	0.100	150,582,366
OM0000001509	DHOAF INTERNATIONAL DEV & INV.	94,545	18,024	11	0.253	0.250	0.253	0.250	0.279	-0.011	3.943	0.280	0.262	0.306	0.100	1,000,000
OM0000001020	ASVAD SHIPPING	20,337,489	2,338,357	241	0.122	0.127	0.122	0.126	0.122	0.004	3.279	0.126	0.122	0.129	0.000	656,301,371
OM0000002983	PHOENIX POWER	2,574,706	280,225	94	0.088	0.082	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.002	2.273	0.088	0.086	0.096	0.100	1,000,000
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	38,000	2,052	4	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.053	0.001	1.887	0.054	0.051	0.054	0.100	13,500,000
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	30,000	5,249	5	0.175	0.176	0.174	0.174	0.171	0.003	1.754	0.174	0.174	0.185	0.100	1,000,000
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	35,688	9,257	8	0.230	0.234	0.230	0.234	0.230	0.004	1.728	0.234	0.230	0.240	0.100	1,000,000
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	37,300	7,425	12	0.200	0.200	0.197	0.198	0.195	0.003	1.538	0.198	0.194	0.198	0.100	392,774,000
OM0000007407	DHOAF GENERATING	747,816	58,989	49	0.072	0.072	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.000	1.282	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.100	1,000,000
OM0000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	7,000	1,213	4	0.173	0.174	0.173	0.174	0.172	0.002	1.183	0.174	0.172	0.174	0.100	3,006,511
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	4,000	420	1	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.104	0.001	0.352	0.105	0.105	0.111	0.100	1,000,000
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REEF	44,180	5,567	7	0.128	0.126	0.126	0.126	0.125	0.001	0.800	0.128	0.120	0.130	0.100	74,521,044
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	3,130,212	1,047,490	139	0.333	0.336	0.333	0.335	0.333	0.002	0.601	0.335	0.335	0.335	0.002	1,000,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INV.	26,315	1,149	4	0.119	0.120	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.000	0.000	0.119	0.119	0.125	0.100	17,850,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	27,800	3,110	8	0.082	0.083	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.000	0.000	0.082	0.083	0.082	0.100	1,000,000
OM0000001368	OMAN PETROLEUM MATERIAL INDUSTRIES	8,740	613	5	0.072	0.072	0.068	0.070	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.070	0.068	0.073	0.100	4,375,000
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	3,005	1,431	2	0.475	0.479	0.475	0.479	0.479	0.000	0.000	0.479	0.467	0.479	0.100	1,000,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	451,000	24,354	19	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.000	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.100	16,585,900
OM0000001685	DHOAF TOURISM	44	38	1	0.871	0.871	0.871	0.871	0.871	0.000	0.000	0.871	0.000	0.871	1,000	1,000,000
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	59,000	4,021	3	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.069	0.069	0.000	0.000	0.069	0.068	0.069	0.100	8,409,337
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	11,863	5,482	10	0.475	0.475	0.460	0.460	0.460	0.000	0.000	0.460	0.460	0.500	0.100	152,201,440
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	13,511	1,148	3	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.000	0.000	0.085	0.085	0.087	0.100	1,000,000
OM0000001889	SALALAH MILLS	82	25	1	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.000	0.000	0.430	0.390	0.430	0.100	26,859,110
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FINANCIAL SERVICES	6,127	797	1	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.000	0.000	0.130	0.128	0.000	0.100	1,000,000
OM0000002233	SALALAH PORT SERVICES	91	22	1	0.247	0.247	0.247	0.247	0.247	0.000	0.000	0.247	0.248	0.000	0.100	44,419,833
OM0000002549	BANK DHOAF	222,800	28,296	4	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.000	0.000	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.100	1,000,000
OM0000002911	FINANCIAL CORPORATION	2,854	130	1	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.000	0.000	0.045	0.045	0.048	0.100	1,151,134
OM0000003000	AL MAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	865	806	3	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.000	0.000	0.900	0.860	0.900	0.100	1,000,000
OM0000003281	TAGEER FINANCE	12,250	1,421	5	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.000	0.000	0.116	0.110	0.116	0.100	32,389,889
OM0000004669	SUQATYAH DESALINATION	460	62	3	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.000	0.000	0.140	0.130	0.140	0.100	1,000,000
OM0000005280	OMAN ARAB BANK	400	59	2	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.000	0.000	0.148	0.148	0.155	0.100	24,077,628
OM0000009908	QJ BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	41,590,908	5,954,609	345	0.143	0.144	0.142	0.144	0.144	0.000	0.000	0.143	0.138	0.143	0.000	1,000,000
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	3,230	1,039	3	0.322	0.322	0.321	0.321	0.323	-0.002	-0.619	0.321	0.318	0.321	0.100	17,655,000
OM0000002200	ALAHIA BANK	1120,000	165,880	6	0.149	0.149	0.148	0.148	0.149	-0.001	-0.678	0.148	0.149	0.152	0.100	400,606,440
OM0000002200	ALAHIA BANK	1120,000	165,880	6	0.149	0.149	0.148	0.148	0.149	-0.001	-0.678	0.148	0.149	0.152	0.100	400,606,440
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	1,346,238	104,493	76	0.077	0.080	0.076	0.076	0.077	-0.001	-1.295	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.100	1,596,000
OM0000002028	MAJANI INVESTMENT HOLDING	1,346,238	104,493	76	0.077	0.080	0.076	0.076	0.077	-0.001	-1.295	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.100	1,596,000
OM0000007043	LIVA GROUP	72,345	30,387	10	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.272	-0.012	-4.413	0.260	0.245	0.260	0.100	103,577,570



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I **Nuroollah Khan**, (holder of Indian Passport No: V0064087) son of Amanullah Khan, having permanent residence in Vill & post Khalispur, Azamgarh 278138 (complete postal address in India) and presently residing in Flat No. 103/B, Jami Al Akbar Street, Ghala, Muscat, Oman (complete postal address in Oman) intend to change my name from **NUROOLLAH KHAN (old name) to NOOR AZMI (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.

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

Civil Engineer with 10 yrs of experience in Oman.D/L & transferable visa.Contact 94037606 Email Urdijamu299@gmail.com

Mechanical Engineer completed Masters in supply chain management & logistics from UK, seeking job opportunities in mechanical,production,logistics & oil & gas. Having 6 yrs of experience.Contact 91251757 Email : jighilthooprath@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

EDUCATION/TRAINING

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

IT

Indian male Btech in computer science and engineering. Looking for job opportunities in Oman having 3 yrs sales experience in UAE with valid D/L. Contact 94216172. Email: jaijinna@gmail.com

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

LOGISTICS

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

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

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

MEDICAL

Medical coder, insurance coordinator with 4 yrs experience (BDS graduate) Contact: 98903962

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

MANAGER

Indian, production manager 10 yrs GCC experience in aluminium facade industry looking for job, immediate joining. Contact: 78026010

MANAGER

Operations manager, finance, customer support Indian female experienced operations and team management professional with over 18 yrs in fintech, retail, BPO, and training sectors. Immediately available and looking for job in the suitable role. Contact: 93866248.

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

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

SALES/MARKETING

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

Indian male,17 yrs experience in sales marketing in Oman with valid D /L. (FMCG, electrical,sanitaryware)Contact 99508485

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

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

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



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LIFESTYLE

Why climate change causes more dangerous sinkholes

Drought, falling groundwater levels and heavy rains have sped up the formation of huge craters in the ground known as sinkholes

ON THE NORTHEASTERN TIP of the Brazilian Amazon, houses teeter on the edge of huge chasms that have suddenly opened up in the ground. The massive sinkholes put over a thousand people at risk of losing their homes, prompting the state government to declare an emergency.

Such sinkholes have appeared in cities in all around the world, including the US, Turkey and Iran. They can appear suddenly, posing threats to lives and homes.

What are sinkholes exactly?

Sinkholes are depressions in the ground formed when water erodes soil. This can happen naturally when rainfall trickles through the soil, dissolving underlying bedrock. But it can also be the result of leaky underground water pipes, fracking for fossil fuels and mining activity.

Sinkholes are more likely to occur in regions with “karst terrain” — areas made up of soluble bedrock such as limestone, salt beds, or gypsum — that can be dissolved by groundwater, said Hong Yang, environmental science professor with the UK’s University of Reading. Yang has recently published research on

mitigating sinkhole hazards intensified by climate change.

“In the United States, about 20% of the land is susceptible, with Florida, Texas, Alabama, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee and Pennsylvania experiencing the most significant damage,” he told DW. Other hot spots include the UK, specifically areas like Ripon and the Yorkshire Dales in Northern England, Italy’s Lazio region, Mexico’s Yucatan Peninsula, parts of China, Iran and Turkey.

What role does climate change play?

Climate change is increasing the frequency of sinkholes by intensifying extreme weather events, according to research.

“Droughts lower the water table, removing subterranean support for the land above. When followed by intense storms or heavy rain — which are also becoming more common due to climate change — the sudden weight and saturation of water can cause the weakened ground to collapse,” said Yang.

He pointed to Turkey’s breadbasket, the Konya Plain in central Anatolia. It’s a karst terrain where increasing drought means more sinkholes are now opening up in

populated regions.

Before the 2000s, researchers in the area used to register one sinkhole every few years, said Fetullah Arik, a professor at Konya Technical University who heads the university’s sinkhole research centre. In 2024 alone, they documented 42.

Groundwater levels across the Konya Basin have dropped by at least 60 metres (197 feet) compared to 1970.

“In some areas close to the basin edges, groundwater cannot be found, although wells deeper than 300 metres are drilled,” he added.

Drought linked to climate change is lowering groundwater levels because rainfall is not replenishing water sources. But because people still need access to water, they are pumping lots of it, which in turn, exacerbates the risk of sinkholes. In populated areas, that also means buildings are more vulnerable to collapse.

“If you pull water out of a juice box too fast, the sides cave in,” said Antonios E. Marsellos, associate professor of geology, environment, and sustainability at Hofstra University in the state of New York. “That’s like pumping too much groundwater, so

the support of the underground weakens and may collapse just like the juice box that bent.”

Marsellos, who published research on climate change effects on sinkhole formations, said it’s made worse in big cities with air pollution where water gets more acidic and breaks down rock faster.

Marsellos and his team looked at freeze-thaw cycles in Long Island, New York, over a period of close to 80 years and found that increased temperatures due to climate change has weakened the stability of the soil and has a direct impact on sinkhole formations.

Can we prevent sinkholes?

Experts rely on technologies such as satellite remote sensing and ground-penetrating radar to detect subtle ground subsidence and underground voids to spot sinkholes before they collapse, said Yang. Other detection methods include monitoring groundwater levels and conducting geotechnical surveys before building in the area.

If an empty void is found underground, experts then act like a dentist, said Marsellos.

“It’s exactly the same thing that we do — we check if there is any cavity, basically any empty space under the ground that eventually will not be able to hold that empty space.”

Depending on local conditions such as the makeup of the rock and tectonic activity, the cavity could then be filled, with cement, for instance, he said.

In Turkey’s Konya Basin region, where over 80% of the water consumed is used by agriculture, Akir said the most important factor is to regulate excessive groundwater use so the soil has that natural stabilizer underneath. Farmers have now switched to more efficient irrigation techniques.

The region has also tried out a number of water transfer projects, such as the Blue Tunnel project, which takes water from Goksu River to help fill the Konya Plain.

Other prevention strategies include controlling drainage and fixing leaks and enforcing strict building codes, Yang said. “Engineering solutions can stabilize the ground by injecting grout to fill voids, compacting loose soil, or using geogrid technology to reinforce the land.” -nw

SPORTS

Brilliant spells from Siraj, Krishna help India draw England series

With this win, the Shubman Gill-led Team India has started the new era with immense promise, drawing the series 2-2

LONDON : In an absolute hum-dinger of a contest, inspirational spells from Mohammed Siraj and Prasidh Krishna helped India draw the five-match series against England, denying the hosts a series win, beating them by six runs while defending 374 runs, in an absolute thriller at The Oval on Monday.

With this win, the Shubman Gill-led Team India has started the new era with immense promise, drawing the series 2-2. After England opted to bowl first, India was skittled out for 224, with a Karun Nair fifty being a standout. Zak Crawley and Harry Brook fifties took England to 247, giving them a slender 23-run lead with four-fer each from



Siraj and Krishna. A much better batting display, with a standout century from Yashasvi Jaiswal took India to 396, giving them a 373 runs lead. At one point on day four, England was 317/4 thanks to centuries from Root and Brook, but a late surge by pacers Siraj, Krishna and Akash Deep gave India one of their finest Test wins, with Siraj taking a five-wicket haul to cap off a memorable series.

The first session of day five started with England at 339/6, with Jamie Overton (0*) and Jamie Smith (2*) unbeaten. The day could not have started on a much worse note for India, as Prasidh Krishna conceded two boundaries in two successive balls to start off.

However, the Indians got a major lift, with Jamie nicking one to Dhruv Jurel, falling to Mohammed

Siraj for just two runs in 20 balls. England was 347/7 and Siraj got his third wicket.

However, England crossed the 350-run mark in 78.4 overs.

Siraj produced another breakthrough, removing Overton for nine off 17 balls, trapping him leg-before-wicket. England was eight down at 354, with the pacer getting his fourth scalp.

Josh Tongue survived a close

lbw call on a Prasidh delivery as the ball missed the leg stump. However, he ended up becoming Prasidh's fourth victim after all, cleaning up for a 12-ball duck, courtesy of a superb yorker that left his stumps in a mess. England was 357/9, and a slinged-up, injured Chris Woakes came out to bat.

Gus Atkinson released the pressure, with a massive six, with Akash Deep missing out on a catch. England needed 11 runs to win. The deficit came down to eight runs, with Atkinson taking a couple. Another single reduced the target to seven and most importantly, kept an injured Woakes off strike.

Siraj took the fifth and final wicket, pulling off a miraculous win for India.

Siraj (5/104) and Krishna (4/126) toil paid off, as the series was levelled.

At the end of day four's play, England was 339/6, with Jamie Overton (0*) and Jamie Smith (2*) unbeaten. England still needed 35 runs to win, with uncertainty over Chris Woakes coming to bat or not after a shoulder injury. Wickets from Akash Deep and Prasidh towards the end and a relentless spell from Siraj towards the end of the session give India fans some hope that India will make the Three Lions toil really hard for

these remaining runs.

England kick-started the second session at 164/3, with Joe Root (23*) and Harry Brook (38*) unbeaten. Brook started the session positively, getting two boundaries against Prasidh Krishna in the first over itself. Brook reached his 14th Test fifty in 39 balls, with six fours and two sixes.

England's attacking intent continued to pay dividends as they reached the 200-run mark in 44 overs, bringing down the target to 174 runs.

Both Yorkshire lads continued batting at a good tick, reaching their 100-run stand in just 108 balls.

Frustration continued for India as Brook-Root continued to milk singles comfortably and Root reached his 67th Test fifty in 81 balls, with six fours.

Brook was scoring runs at a fine strike rate, taking England to 239/3 at drinks, with England 135 runs away from a win.

England brought up their 250-run mark in 53.5 overs as the assault continued on India. Eventually, the target got under 100 runs. Brook continued his fine Test run, racing to his 10th Test ton in 91 balls, with 12 fours and two sixes. With two crunchy boundaries on two successive balls against Akash in the 63rd over, Brook helped England to their 300-run mark. **ANI**

INJURY



Fakhar Zaman ruled out of West Indies series

FLORIDA : Following a left hamstring strain, Pakistan batter Fakhar Zaman has been ruled out of the third T20I and the next three-game ODI series against West Indies.

He suffered the injury during the second T20I against the Caribbean in Lauderhill.

Khushdil Shah replaced him in the playing XI for the third T20I. While chasing a ball in the outfield during the 19th over of the West Indies' innings, Fakhar sustained the injury.

The medical assessment conducted a follow-up medical evaluation, which revealed a minor strain to his left hamstring.

After the decisive final T20I on Monday, Fakhar will now return to Pakistan on August 4, as confirmed by the PCB. The PCB medical staff at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Lahore will continue to oversee his recovery. A replacement player for the ODI team has not yet been

confirmed by the PCB.

Fakhar got starts in each of the first two games, but found himself unable to kick on in either, getting scored of 28 and 20.

Zaman has being ruled out of an tournament/series for the second time this year earlier, he was ruled out of the remainder of the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 due a muscular strain while fielding in the opening over against New Zealand at Karachi's National Bank Stadium on February 19.

The injury occurred when New Zealand opener Will Young drove a delivery from Shaheen Afridi through the covers, evading the infield. Zaman sprinted to intercept the ball and managed to palm it back to Babar Azam for the return throw.

At the time, he was himself a part of the squad to replace Saim Ayub, who, too, was injured chasing after a ball to the boundary earlier in South Africa, and spent three months on the sidelines. **ANI**

THREE-MATCH SERIES

Farhan, Ayub shine as Pakistan clinch T20 series against Windies

FLORIDA : Fifties from Sahibzada Farhan and Saim Ayub cruise Pakistan to win the third and final T20 against West Indies by 13 runs to clinch the three-match series 2-1 at Florida, on Monday.

Pakistan skipper Salman Agha won the toss and opted to bat. Pakistan's opening pair of Saim Ayub and Sahibzada Farhan gave Pakistan a flying start, adding 47 runs without any loss in the powerplay.

They continued to build on the momentum and extended Pakistan's dominance by taking the team's total to 82 without loss at mid-way through the innings as Farhan completed his third T20I half-century.

Ayub joined his partner and completed his second T20I fifty, bringing up the 100-run opening stand for Pakistan. The duo added 138 runs for the opening wicket before Shamar Joseph removed Farhan for 74 in the 17th over.

Hasan Nawaz played a couple of big shots before losing his



wicket to Roston Chase, followed by Haris getting himself run out as West Indies made a comeback in the match. Khushdil Shah and Faheem Ashraf slammed 19 runs in the final over as Pakistan finished their innings at 189/4.

In reply, while chasing 190 runs, West Indies openers Alick Athanaze and Jerlani Andrew also gave their team a flying start, add-

ing 44 runs for the opening wicket before Haris Rauf dismissed Andrew for 24 in the 5th over. Skipper Shai Hope's run drought with the bat continued as he was dismissed for seven by Nawaz in the 9th over.

Athanaze brought up his maiden T20I fifty in the 11th over, he added 10 more runs to his total before Ayub removed him for 60 in the following over. Roston Chase

made 15 but failed to get going and retired with 41 runs left to win in 18 balls for West Indies.

Sherfane Rutherford made a vital fifty off 35 runs and tried to get his side over the line, but the home side eventually fell 13 runs short of the target. Farhan was named Player of the Match for his brilliant fifty, while Nawaz was awarded Player of the Series. **ANI**

DEFEAT AGAINST PAKISTAN

We need to be a little more consistent: Shai Hope

FLORIDA [US]: West Indies skipper Shai Hope praised his bowlers for their effort that they put in for the entire T20 series against Pakistan. Hope emphasised the need for consistent execution with the ball, while acknowledging the team's progress.

Fifties from Sahibzada Farhan and Saim Ayub helped Pakistan to win the third and final T20 against West Indies by 13 runs to clinch the three-match series 2-1 at Florida, on Monday.

"Firstly, I must commend the bowlers for the effort they put in for the entire series. It was a little



more conducive for stroke play today. Still felt 190 would have been enough for us to chase. We speak about execution with the ball a lot, we've seen progression, we just need to be a little more consistent," Shai Hope said.

Power-hitting

Hope also believed West Indies batters have to deal with middle overs better and usual power-hitting at the back end. He also felt that consistency is key to being the best team in the world.

"With the batting, we need to deal with those middle overs bet-

ter and our usual power-hitting at the back end, just try to have that complete cricket game, three areas, something that we need to look at. We spoke about intent (with the bat) yesterday. Alick came out and showed his class, same with Jewel in his first series. They showed they're very capable playing at this level. Consistency is key if you want to be the best team in the world, something which we haven't done. Always tough (captaincy), the games come quickly and fast, there's not much time to talk and discuss things. You have to find ways to get better," he added. **ANI**

ALEJANDRO GARNACHO

It is clear he wants different leadership: ManU boss Amorim

ATLANTA : Manchester United head coach Ruben Amorim classified young winger Alejandro Garnacho as a "really talented" player but admitted that things haven't worked out for him at Old Trafford.

The United boss feels the dynamic winger wants different things and leadership, which is natural in the world of football.

According to recent reports, Garnacho is among the players who are on the cusp of leaving the club in the ongoing summer transfer window. Last season, he made 25 appearances with Amorim at the helm but was axed after the

Europa League semi-final. The uncertainty over Garnacho's future began after he was benched during Manchester United's Europa League final defeat against Tottenham.

During Manchester United's ongoing preseason tour, Garnacho was left out of the travelling squad, further fuelling his exit rumours. The rumour mill has suggested that Chelsea remain interested in bringing the young Argentinian to the team.

As the 21-year-old remains exiled from the squad, Amorim explained what has gone wrong with Garnacho and said, as quoted from



Sky Sports, "You can understand and you can see he's a really talented boy and sometimes things don't work out. You cannot explain specifically what it is. But I have the feeling, I think it's clear that Garnacho wants a different thing with a different leadership, and I can understand that."

"So I think it's not a problem. Sometimes you adapt to one guy, you have the connection. Other times, you want a new challenge so we try to make everything okay to all the parts. To the club, to the coach and to the players. It's a natural thing in football," he added.

Amorim also emphasised

that selling players in the existing squad this summer remains a priority, considering he wants a smaller squad this season. The reason behind a reduced squad stems from United not being a part of any European competition and only competing on three fronts.

"I'm really happy with the team. Without European competitions, I want a small squad so everyone feels really important. If you have a lot of players, you have one week to prepare, and a lot of players are going to be out, and then in training, they will be frustrated, and then the quality of the training will drop," he said. **ANI**

Cultural Street at Ittin Square enriches literary scene during Khareef Dhofar season



The Cultural Street features a range of accompanying activities, including musical performances, storytelling, plastic arts, poetry evenings, and a “postman” event

SALALAH: The Cultural and Literary Street, established this year by Dhofar Municipality as part of the Ittin Square events in the Wilayat of Salalah, is a highlight of the Khareef Dhofar (monsoon) season 2025.

It aims to showcase the governorate's diverse cultural scene through interactive events that attract visitors of all ages.

The Cultural Street features a range of accompanying activities, including musical performances, storytelling, plastic arts, poetry evenings, and a “postman” event.

It also hosts a wide participation from publishing houses and libraries, which are displaying Omani and Arab literary and cultural publications that cater to the interests of various community segments.

In this context, Salim Mohammed Al Yafai, Director of the Cultural and Literary Street and Chairman of the Khareef Dhofar Book Fair 2025, explained that the fair is an annual event during the Khareef season. Ittin Square was chosen as its location this year to be part of the Cultural and Literary Street, given its notable presence among the season's activities.

He noted that the fair includes 27 publishing houses and libraries from various Gulf and Arab countries.

He added that Dhofar Municipality has prepared a cultural programme with diverse stops to enrich visitors' cultural experiences, expressing his hope that the fair will boost local and international attendance.

Awadh Salim Al Shukaili, owner of “Bain Al Suttoor” (Between the Lines) publishing house, said his company is participating in the fair for the fourth consecutive year.

He highlighted that the publishing house is a key supporter of Omani writers, having contributed to the printing and publishing of works by several Omani authors, in addition to its participation in Gulf and Arab fairs.

He added that the idea of establishing the library was to empower Omani writers to have a presence on regional and international stages.

The publishing house issues various books in self-development, novels, short stories, law, and Omani heritage.

Adel Metwally, a representative from Egypt's “Boursat Al Kotob” (Book Exchange) publishing house, confirmed their continuous participation in the Khareef Dhofar Book Fair since 2015.

He explained that this year's participation focuses on displaying Omani books, particularly those on history, as well as supporting young Omani writers and providing children's and scientific books. Metwally praised the Cultural and Literary Street experience, calling it “exceptional,” especially with the aesthetic appeal of its location at Ittin Square.

He noted that “Boursat Al Kotob” has more than 100 publications by Omani writers from various governorates of Oman, covering multiple fields including poetry, novels, short stories, memoirs, and human development. -ONA



ROUND-UP

NBO introduces Shell Fuel vouchers for Infinite credit card customers

Under this feature, cardholders who spend OMR1,500 or more in a calendar month on point-of-sale and e-commerce transactions will receive a Shell V-Power e-voucher worth OMR10



MUSCAT: The National Bank of Oman (NBO) has launched an exclusive reward for Infinite Credit Card holders, further enhancing the appeal of its premium offering. Under this feature, cardholders who spend OMR 1,500 or more in a calendar month on point-of-sale and e-commerce transactions will receive a Shell V-Power e-voucher

worth OMR 10. Customers can redeem the voucher through the Shell Asia App and enjoy complimentary V-Power fuel at Shell stations across Oman. Valid for three months from the date of issuance, the vouchers are designed to offer flexibility and convenience. Faisal Al Wahaibi, General Manager & Chief Retail & Digital

Banking Officer, said, “At NBO, our approach to innovation is driven by a deep understanding of our customers’ evolving lifestyles. With the Infinite Credit Card, we aim to offer more than financial utility; we create everyday moments of convenience, recognition and ease. This collaboration with Shell is part of our broader strategy to transform banking into a

more personalised, experience-led journey. By aligning with trusted partners, we continue to deliver meaningful enhancements that resonate with the needs of our most valued clients.” Suresh Nair, General Manager, Mobility & Convenience at Shell Oman added, “Shell Oman is committed to building and growing meaningful partnerships that en-

sure the best for our customers. This initiative with NBO enables us to directly engage with cardholders through a platform they already trust and continue rewarding them in ways that are relevant and impactful with the best fuel we have to offer. “We believe innovation is not only about technology but about creating shared value that add val-

ue to people’s lives. This collaboration reflects that mindset.” This partnership with Shell Oman strengthens NBO’s portfolio of lifestyle-led features tailored to premium cardholders. As part of its ongoing digital strategy, the bank continues to enhance everyday banking by embedding practical, high-impact experiences through well-matched partnerships.

EXPANSION INTO ELECTRICAL RETAIL MARKET

Inter Gulf Trading Oman opens flagship electrical showroom in Ghubra

MUSCAT: Inter Gulf Trading Co (IGT) Oman), with nearly five decades of strong heritage in Oman’s trading sector, recently opened its first electrical showroom in Ghubra, Muscat. This important milestone marks IGT’s expansion into the electrical retail market, aiming to serve the growing needs of customers looking for trusted, high-quality and affordable electrical solutions. The new showroom is designed to support homeowners, contractors and commercial buyers, offering a carefully selected range of products known for their simplicity, reliability and value for money. IGT Oman has signed strategic partnerships with leading international brands to bring exclusive electrical products to Oman. These include Siemens, offering its SINOVA range of low-voltage (LV) switchgear; IndoAsian (a Legrand brand), providing home distribution products; and Zia Electric, covering wiring accessories, pumps, LED lighting and switches & sockets. With these partnerships, IGT is well-positioned to provide a complete range of solutions for both residential and commercial needs. Speaking at the launch, Hassan Al Matwani Al Lawati, Managing Director of IGT Oman, said: “This showroom reflects our commitment to support the Omani community with the best electrical products from around the world. Our goal is to make these solutions accessible, safe and practical for all. We see this as the first step in building a strong network of outlets across Oman to serve both individual customers and large projects.” Founded in 1976, Inter Gulf Trading Co (IGT Oman) is a diversified trading company with a long-standing reputation for quality and service excellence in the Sultanate of Oman. With deep market knowledge and strong international partnerships, IGT continues to support Oman’s economic growth and development across various sectors. IGT’s entry into the electrical



retail sector addresses the rising demand for safe, energy-efficient and cost-effective electrical products across homes and businesses.

GLOBAL COOL AUTOMOTIVE BRAND

iCAUR debuts 2 global models featuring world’s leading range-extended system

MUSCAT: Global cool automotive brand iCAUR recently hosted its grand Brand Night in Dubai, UAE, marking the Global debut of two heavyweight new models – the rugged mid-to-large SUV iCAUR V27 REEV and the smart boxy SUV iCAUR 03T REEV.

The event represented a key milestone in iCAUR’s deepening global market presence and boldly declared its unique identity and innovation strength as the “global cool player” with segment-leading golden range-extender technology and ground-breaking cool store design. The launch instantly ignited excitement among users worldwide, with the cool store design establishing the brand as a new offline hotspot for the young and young at heart. As a key pillar of Chery’s global NEV strategy, the iCAUR brand leverages the Group’s worldwide resources to build a fully digitalised system covering both R&D and manufacturing. Entering the market as a cool player for the young and young at heart, iCAUR is bringing fresh energy to the global NEV landscape. iCAUR is brought to Oman by New World Autos, a Saud Bahwan Group company. Introduced as a deliberate response to evolving customer expectations, this partnership reflects New World Autos and Saud Bahwan Group’s passion for customer satisfaction and their ongoing commitment to delivering the finest ownership experiences. More than just a new name on the road, iCAUR represents a clear shift towards thoughtful, purpose-driven mobility in Oman. As iCAUR’s first rugged mid-to-large SUV, the V27 REEV represents a significant step forward in the brand’s commitment to category innovation. Rooted in the J-style design philosophy, the V27 blends retro aesthetics with modern technology, creating a striking visual identity defined by rugged character. The vehicle’s bold body lines, wide horizontal front grille, pronounced bumper and squared wheel arches convey a firm stance. Meanwhile, the



round daytime running lights add a retro charm, making the V27 REEV stand out from conventional SUVs. With its bold proportions, the V27 REEV delivers a striking visual presence that far exceeds expectations in its segment, measuring over 5 meters in length and nearly 2 meters in both width and height. Whether it is family camping with full gear, comfortable journeys for multiple passengers, or carrying essential equipment for off-road adventures, the V27 is built to meet diverse mobility needs with ease. It fully embodies the growing demand for practical space, positioning itself as a true all-scenario leader set to redefine the value benchmark in the mid-to-large SUV segment. The V27 also offers exceptional range performance, eliminating anxiety on long journeys. Its golden REEV powertrain ensures stable, consistent power delivery, even in complex terrain conditions. From effortless daily commutes to long-distance explorations, the V27 REEV adapts seamlessly, making every drive smooth, confident and worry-free. The iCAUR 03T REEV is a smart boxy SUV designed for young and young-at-heart drivers. Equipped with a class-leading i-AWD system, it continuously monitors road conditions. It dynamically adjusts power distribution for optimum traction and stability. Whether navigating rain-slicked city streets or gravel-covered mountain trails, the 03T REEV delivers confident control across all terrains. As a cool player for every journey, it empowers users to explore freely and drive

with confidence. The 03T REEV features a pioneering all-aluminium multi-cavity cage body that significantly reduces overall weight while enhancing structural integrity. Its honeycomb-style embedded high-strength aluminium beams create a robust safety shell. In the event of a collision, the body efficiently absorbs and dissipates impact energy, safeguarding the survival-safe cabin. A comprehensive passive safety suite includes six airbags to form a 360-degree protection shield. At the same time, 540° panoramic imaging eliminates blind spots and an ultra-HD driving recorder captures real-time road data. Complemented by 11 active safety features, the 03T REEV offers a full-chain safety solution, from risk prevention to collision protection, ensuring a worry-free drive where enjoyment takes the front seat. A key highlight of the event was the unveiling of the “Dream Garage” built around the iCAUR V23. As a vivid embodiment of iCAUR’s open ecosystem, the Dream Garage showcases multiple variants of the V23, including pickup, convertible and space-themed editions, alongside a wide array of customisation options. From quick-release fenders and interchangeable bumpers to LEGO-style high-mounted brake lights, the system leverages standardised interfaces and nearly a hundred aftermarket accessories. Powered by one platform, shaped by a thousand possibilities, this approach brings personalised mobility into reality. Media and users on-site actively explored and praised the hands-on modification experience.

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