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Times OF OMAN

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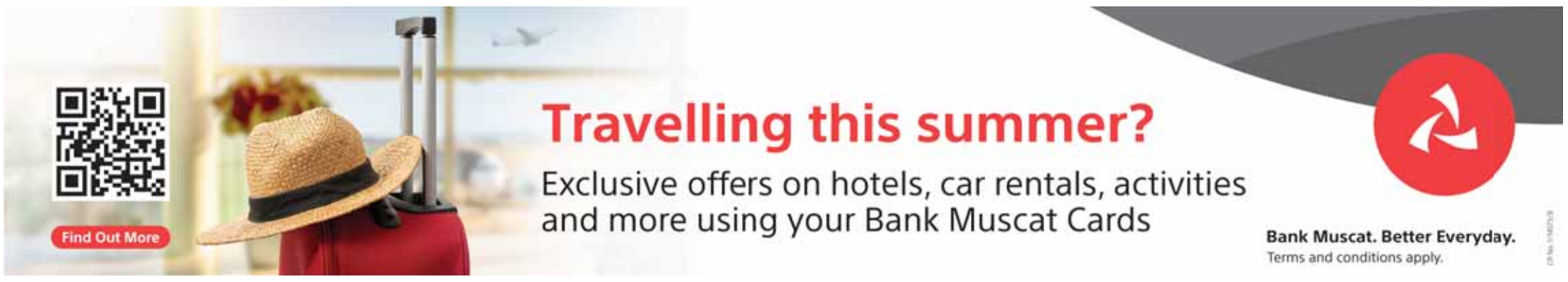


OMAN INTENSIFIES DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO DEFUSE THE CONFLICT

Sayyid Badr holds consultations with his counterparts around the world to contain this dangerous escalation

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman has intensified its diplomatic efforts to contain the dangerous escalation unfolding in the region and to prevent the expansion of tensions resulting from repeated Israeli aggressions.

These efforts are part of Oman's steadfast approach centred on fostering constructive dialogue, upholding international law, and advocating for peaceful solutions as the foundation for achieving regional security and stability.

Oman's active engagement reflects its strategic vision of building trust among international actors and its pivotal role as a credible mediator in regional crises.

In this context, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi Foreign Minister, led the Omani delegation at the 48th Extraordinary Session of the GCC Ministerial Council, held on Monday under the presidency of the State of Kuwait, the current chair of the Council, to discuss the rapidly evolving regional developments.

The meeting concluded with a joint statement strongly condemning the Israeli attacks on the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran, describing them as a blatant violation of national sovereignty and international law.

The statement called for urgent de-escalation and a return to diplomatic negotiations, while commending Oman's prominent role in facilitating dialogue on the Iranian nuclear file, which is an essential pillar for resolving the ongoing conflict and strengthening regional security.

In parallel with these efforts, the Foreign Minister continued intensive telephonic consultations with counterparts in a number of brotherly and friendly countries, as well as key international partners, including Kaja Kallas, High Representative of the European Union (EU) for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission.

Comprehensive negotiation

These discussions focused on aligning international positions, enhancing political and legal pressure to halt Israeli attacks immediately, and pushing toward comprehensive negotiating tracks that would restore stability and avert the dangers of further military escalation in the region. -ONA

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Brussels meeting explores investment

1 The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion yesterday organised the "Advantage Oman-Belgium" business dialogue in the Belgian capital, Brussels. The event highlighted promising investment opportunities in the Sultanate of Oman and means of boosting economic and trade cooperation between the two nations. >A5

WORLD

Iran-Israel missile attacks continue

2 The exchange of attacks between Israel and Iran continued on Tuesday in a dangerous escalation threatening the region, amid regional and international efforts to contain the crisis. Iran's Tasnim News Agency reported that an Israeli drone launched an attack with four missiles on an industrial area in the city of Tabriz, northwestern Iran. >A7

MARKET

Production of regular gasoline increases

3 The statistics revealed that the production of regular gasoline (91) increased by 9.8 percent by the end of April 2025 compared to the same period in 2024, reaching 5,782,100 barrels, up from 5,265,500 barrels by the end of April 2024. Sales also rose by 2.5%, totalling 4,558,600 barrels compared to 4,446,900 barrels by the end of April 2024. >B1

Promotional campaign in GCC cities showcases Khareef Dhofar season A4

IN MUSANDAM

Hazardous materials response team examines emergency preparations

MUSANDAM: The Hazardous Materials Incident Response Team at the Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority (CDAA) held a coordination meeting in Musandam Governorate under the chairmanship of Maj.Gen Sulaiman Ali Al-Husseini, Chairman of the Authority, with participation from representatives of relevant government entities.

The meeting comes within the context of the ongoing national efforts to strengthen emergency preparedness and response capabilities for hazardous materials incidents.

Participants conducted a comprehensive review of existing response protocols and standardised operational procedures while examining ways to enhance interagency coordination for effective emergency response operations. The meeting underscores the CDAA's dedicated efforts to enhance risk management capabilities and strengthen institutional collaboration among relevant stakeholders. -ONA

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Ecotourism investment boosts economy, empowers local communities

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman is working to achieve integrated environmental, economic, and tourism goals by investing in its 30 natural reserves, which span approximately 15,000 square kilometres. These reserves cover 17% of the country's terrestrial area and 10% of its marine territory.

Oman places great emphasis on preserving these natural reserves, promoting ecotourism, and encouraging researchers and students to study these areas.

This enables them to examine ecological systems and natural processes, raising awareness about biodiversity conservation while supporting investment projects and leveraging unique opportunities.

Represented by the Environment Authority and in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, Oman is committed to safeguarding biodiversity and creating investment opportunities within these reserves due to their environmental and tourism significance.

A comprehensive management plan has been developed to ensure biodiversity protection and meet the reserves' needs through partnerships with relevant entities and civil society.

Investment in ecotourism within Oman's natural reserves strengthens the national economy, bolsters local communities, and aligns with the strategic vision for a sustainable green economy.

Additionally, it generates employment opportunities in surrounding areas, thanks to the reserves' natural and geological attractions that draw visitors.

Royal decrees have further prioritised the protection of endangered wildlife and plant species, preserving their ecosystems and diverse terrains. These reserves—both terrestrial and marine—contribute to ecological balance and safeguard natural landmarks.

The Environment Authority is intensifying efforts to protect these reserves by implementing strict environmental regulations to prevent harm to biodiversity and natural resources. It also promotes tourism and economic activities that diversify income sources and support development programs for these protected areas.

In this context, the Authority has signed nine contracts for eco-investment projects across seven natural reserves, with a total value exceeding OMR44 million. These projects aim to enhance sustainable development, protect ecosystems, promote ecotourism and environmental education, increase revenue streams, and ensure the sustainability of natural resources.

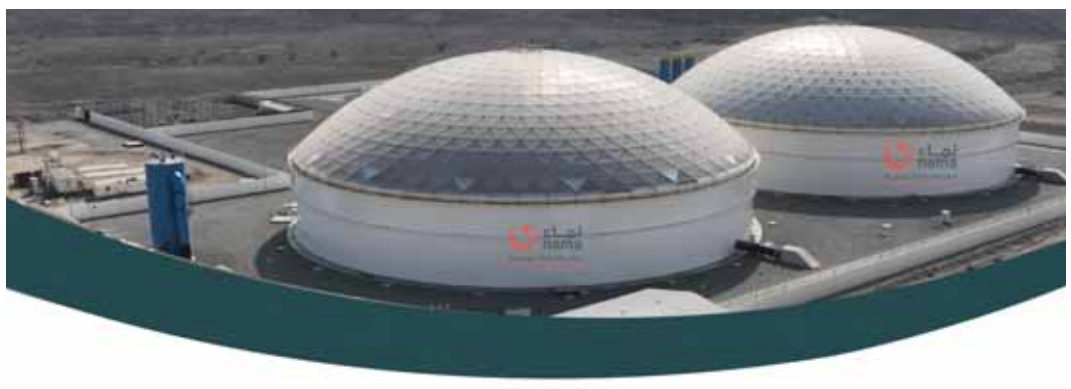
The agreements cover the development, operation, and management of several reserves, including Ras Al Shajar, Turtle Reserve, Arabian Oryx Sanctuary, Wetlands Reserve, and Jabal Samhan's Lejashlyon site, among others. Projects also feature the establishment of an eco-resort and a star-gazing park in the Al Jabal Al Akhdar Starlight Reserve.

In partnership with the private sector, the Environment Authority has invested in nine ecotourism projects across Muscat, South Al Sharqiyah, Al Wusta, Al Dakhiliyah, and Dhofar governorates. >A5

OMAN

PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr	12:13pm
Asr	3:31pm
Maghrib	7:01pm
Isha	8:23pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)	3:53am



TENDER NOTICE

Oman Water & Wastewater Services Company (NAMA WATER SERVICES) hereby announces the following Tenders: -

Tender No.	Description	Eligibility	Tender Fee (RO)	Last Date of Sale Tender Documents	Bid Submission Date
T/2703103/ 2025	Rehabilitation of the Emergency Pond and the facilities at the Al Ansab STP	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned	R.O. 50 (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	01/07/2025	21/7/2025
T/ 2717103/ 2025	Supply of Chemicals for Sewage Treatment Plants at Muscat Governate	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned	R.O 500/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	01/07/2025	21/7/2025
T/ 2717109/ 2025	Renewal of Cyber Security Operation Center (CSOC)	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned	R.O. 50 (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	01/07/2025	21/7/2025
T/2715103/ 2025	Call off Contract for Gate Valve & Air valve & Non-Return Valve& Butterfly Valve PN 40 and above For two years	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned	R.O. 100 (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	01/07/2025	21/7/2025
T/2702107/ 2025	Enhancements to the DMA Data Acquisition Archiving System	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned	R.O. 50 (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	01/07/2025	21/7/2025
T/2718103/ 2025	Support Services for (E-services portal, aura portal and Mobile Apps)	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned	R.O. 100 (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	01/07/2025	21/7/2025

The tender documents can be obtained from the e-tendering page (Supplier Login) from this announcement date. The applicants shall pay the tender fee by logging into their (I-supplier Page).

Applicants who are not registered shall register through the following link: **https://owwsc.nama.om/Business-with-Us/Vendor-Registration** in order to receive the login credentials of the Supplier portal.

All applicants who have paid the tender fee shall have access to the Tender Documents through Nama Water Services e-endering page (Supplier Login **https://nws.nama.om/en-us/Business-with-Us//Supplierlogin**). All participating companies shall submit a Bid Bond of 1% of the bid value in a sealed envelope. Bid Bonds must be obtained from a local Bank registered in the Sultanate of Oman addressed to Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company (Nama Water Services) Chairman of Tender Committee not later than 2:00 pm on the bid submission date.

The bid along with all required documents shall be uploaded through Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company (Nama Water Services) e-tendering page not later than 2:00 pm on the date specified above. For more details refer to Tender Page of our website **www.owwsc.nama.om** & in case of general queries you may contact us through the email ID of **tender@owwsc.nama.om**

نماء nama لخدمات المياه WATER SERVICES

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CABLE

His Majesty the Sultan greets President of Republic of Seychelles

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Wavel Ramkalawan of the Republic of Seychelles on his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Majesty wished Seychelles further progress and prosperity in all levels. His Majesty also wished the cooperation and partnership relations between Oman and Seychelles further growth to meet aspirations of both nations.

— ONA

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LARSEN & TOUBRO

INDIA STANDS RESOLUTE

L&T participates in national resurgence - strengthening security, driving progress and boosting inclusive growth.

Dear Shareholders,

I am addressing you at a time when there is a groundswell of sentiment across the country bolstering the nation's sovereignty, security and strength. As a company that wears its India colours with pride, we now reaffirm our collective resolve to advance our country's interests. Yesterday, today and for all the tomorrows to come, we are here to ensure that the *Tiranga* flies high.

The year under review has been transformative — not just for your Company, but for the global landscape. Geopolitical realignments, rapid strides in emerging technologies, climate challenges and disruptions in global supply chains have all reshaped the way businesses operate.

Amidst this macroeconomic environment, I am pleased to report that your Company has delivered a standout performance. We have accelerated digital adoption across business verticals, strengthened project execution capabilities, and enhanced customer value through smarter, more sustainable solutions. With a robust order book, an evolving pipeline of opportunities, and a purpose-led approach to sustainable infrastructure and development, L&T is well positioned to lead in a fast-changing world.

Address by
Mr. S. N. Subrahmanyan
Chairman & Managing Director

80TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING | JUNE 17, 2025

Growth with a Difference

Your Company is closely monitoring the global economic landscape, especially given that a substantial part of our Group's business originates outside India. We remain optimistic about the Middle East, which continues to invest significantly in both physical and digital infrastructure while monetising its oil and gas assets. This confidence is reinforced by the consistent inflow of orders from the region.

New Age Airport Being Built at Panvel, Navi Mumbai

Domestically, we anticipate that the Government of India will maintain strong budgetary support for infrastructure development, recognising its multiplier effect on economic growth. Encouragingly, we are witnessing increased private capital investment in emerging sectors such as energy transition, data centers, electronics and semiconductors, as well as in traditional industries like healthcare and real estate.

Our record-high order book ensures revenue visibility over multiple quarters. Guided by core values of transparency, integrity, professionalism, governance and accountability, your Company remains committed to inclusive growth.

Group Businesses

Transforming Rail Travel with India's Bullet Train Project

1. Infrastructure

Your Company's capability in delivering large-scale, complex EPC projects remains unmatched.

Milestones:

- Inauguration of Mumbai Metro Line 3 Package 7 and the Riyadh Metro
- A major breakthrough in India's longest railway tunnel under RVNL Package 4, carved through challenging Himalayan terrain
- Successfully commissioned the 1.6 GW AC Sudair Solar PV project in Saudi Arabia
- Achieved completion of the 1.4 GW AC Al Kahfah Solar PV project and 2 GW AC Ar Rass 2 Solar PV Project in Saudi Arabia
- Inauguration of National Cricket Academy, Bengaluru and GMCHs in Jamshedpur and Jajpur
- Over two million people benefitted from the commissioning of 10 water supply projects

2. Energy

Your Company is at the forefront of the global energy transition, with decarbonisation embedded in its strategic roadmap.

Key Achievements:

- Commissioned the 9.0 MMTPA Crude & Vacuum Distillation Unit of HPCL Visakhapatnam Refinery
- Completion of First Offshore Decommissioning Project in Tapti Gas Fields
- The Company secured its largest ever order from an offshore project in the Middle East

Setting Global Benchmarks: Hasbah-II Offshore Project, KSA

Delivering the Decisive Edge – K-9 Vajra-T Tracked Howitzer

3. Hi-Tech Manufacturing

Heavy Engineering Division continues to be a global leader in engineered-to-order equipment, buoyed by renewed investments in the oil & gas sector and underpinned by advanced Industry 4.0 practices.

The Precision Engineering & Systems Division is capitalising on the Government of India's localisation drive and exploring commercial applications of its core capabilities.

Key Achievements:

- On-time delivery of the world's heaviest EO, Hydrotreating and HP-HX reactors
- Record-breaking order from Saudi Arabia for over 100 Filter Vessels
- Strong contributions to the *Aatmanirbhar Bharat* initiative with:
  - Development of Next Gen Helo Harnessing and Traversing system for 11 naval ships
  - Progress on fleet support ships and a Light Tank prototype co-developed with DRDO

4. Services (IT, Engineering, Digital and Financial)

Your Company's listed services businesses remain focused on long-term value creation.

- **LTIMindtree:** India's 6th largest IT firm, enabling digital transformation and innovation-led growth for enterprises globally
- **L&T Technology Services:** A leader in Engineering R&D, now operating in over 25 countries
- **L&T Finance:** A technology-driven NBFC with a domestic 'AAA' rating and a 97% retailised loan book

5. New-age Businesses

- **L&T-SuFin:** A B2B digital marketplace that streamlines procurement, supply chains, logistics and financing
- **L&T-Cloudfiniti:** 32 MW of existing data center capacity with additional capacity in the pipeline
- **L&T Semiconductor Technologies:** Aiming to be India's first fabless semiconductor firm
- **L&T EduTech:** Bridging industry-academia gaps with digital skilling solutions

5G Centre to Power Tomorrow's Services

Group Performance Review

Shareholder value creation remains a key priority through the strategic divestment of non-core assets, realisation of cost efficiencies, adoption of technology to enhance productivity and focused capital allocation towards energy transition initiatives, as well as emerging businesses and digital platforms.

I am pleased to inform you that the Board of Directors has recommended a final dividend of ₹ 34/- per share for FY 2024–25.

Group Performance Overview
FY 2024-25

Order Inflow	₹ 3,56,631 crore (up 18%)
Order Book	₹ 5,79,137 crore (up 22%)
Revenue	₹ 2,55,734 crore (up 16%)
EBITDA	₹ 26,435 crore (up 13%)
PAT	₹ 15,037 crore (up 15%)

New Age Solutions

(a) Digital and AI Transformation
Your Company has been a frontrunner in adopting and integrating technology, beginning with automation and progressing to Industrial IoT, well ahead of the broader digital transformation trend.

(b) Building Climate Resilience and Advancing the Green Business Agenda
The increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events have elevated the risks of asset damage and service disruptions. Your Company is uniquely positioned to meet the rising demand for disaster-resilient infrastructure, backed by deep expertise in Clean Energy, Clean Mobility, Water and Sanitation, Green Infrastructure, and other sustainability-linked domains.

India's Largest Floating Solar Project, Madhya Pradesh

L&T has taken bold strides into emerging clean energy segments, particularly in Green Hydrogen and its derivatives, as well as the development of Small Modular Reactors. Electrolyser manufacturing is already underway, reinforcing our early-mover advantage in the Green Hydrogen space.

(c) Sustainability: Building 'A Better World'
Your Company's sustainability agenda is firmly anchored in its vision 'For A Better World', encompassing a broad spectrum of initiatives across Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) dimensions. The Company remains steadfast in its commitment to water stewardship, circular economy, green supply chains, biodiversity preservation, employee welfare and community development.

In line with its long-term environmental goals, your Company has pledged to achieve Water Neutrality by 2035 and Carbon Neutrality by 2040.

Key Developments

Ratings Upgrade

Global rating agencies Standard & Poor's and Fitch assigned a 'BBB+' credit rating with a Stable Outlook, positioning the Company two notches above India's sovereign rating.

People Powering Progress

L&T's continued success is driven by its people. By consistently attracting top talent, promoting continuous learning and self-development and nurturing an entrepreneurial mindset, the Company has cultivated a culture of innovation — reflected in the many breakthrough solutions L&T is known for today.

Employees benefit from a rich ecosystem of online learning platforms that supplement conventional classroom training with flexible, self-paced development opportunities. This year, 7.95 lakh learning hours were logged.

A culture of recognition and celebration continues to fuel high performance, foster healthy competition, and reinforce mutual respect among teams. This employee-centric approach has once again earned the Company the prestigious 'Great Place to Work' certification for the second consecutive year, reaffirming L&T's position as an employer of choice.

Creating Safer Workplaces

Safety remains a top priority, driven by the 'Mission Zero Harm' philosophy and the 'L.I.F.E.' (Live Injury-Free Everyday) framework. Safety capabilities have been significantly strengthened through enhanced supervision, regular safety briefings and extensive training, leveraging AR/VR technologies.

Driving Inclusion Through Transformation

With a strong commitment to creating an inclusive work environment, your Company continues to invest in career-enabling initiatives and women-centric infrastructure. These efforts have placed it on track to achieve the 'Lakshya' goal of 10% women representation by 2026. As of March 31, 2025, the number of permanent female employees stood at 4,758, accounting for 9.06% of the total workforce.

In a pioneering industry-first initiative, your Company has introduced one day of paid menstrual leave per month for women employees, effective April 1, 2025. This progressive step reflects the Company's empathetic approach to employee well-being, acknowledging and supporting the unique health needs of women at the workplace.

Giving Back to Society

Your Company remains committed to inclusive growth and building long-term, trust-based relationships with all stakeholders. Through CSR interventions in healthcare, education, skill development and water & sanitation, L&T positively impacted the lives of 1.9 million people during the year.

Since 2014, L&T's *Unnati* watershed development programme has adopted an integrated approach in ecologically sensitive districts of Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. The programme has treated 44,856 hectares of land and benefitted 30,092 households.

Creating Tomorrow's Scientists through STEM Education Programmes

The *Jyoti* STEM Education Programme bridges foundational learning gaps in grades 6–8 across government schools in Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra by equipping classrooms with digital tools, robotics kits, space learning aids and edu-reels. In FY 2024–25, 314 schools and 52,924 students benefitted from the programme.

Governance and Ethics

The Company remains steadfast in its commitment to the highest standards of ethics, transparency and accountability across all its operations.

I express my gratitude to our employees, customers, supply chain partners and the Government for their continued support and contribution to our journey. I am also thankful to my fellow Board members for their guidance and commitment.

A special word of thanks to our shareholders — your enduring trust is our greatest strength. We look forward to your continued support as we strive for higher benchmarks of excellence and sustainable growth.

JAI HIND

This does not purport to be a record of the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting of Larsen & Toubro Limited held on June 17, 2025. (CMD Photo Credit: Narendra Bisht, Fortune India)

For the Chairman's Statement, please visit investors.Larsentoubro.com

CBMC/SSP/2025JUNE17

OMAN

Promotional drive launched in GCC to boost Dhofar tourism

During the monsoon, which begins on 21 June every year, Dhofar Governorate is endowed with moderate weather and adorned with picturesque vegetation

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism is pressing ahead with efforts to boost tourism in Dhofar Governorate, notably by implementing promotional activities in key shopping malls across GCC cities. The campaign takes the theme "Your Summer is Green".

The campaign focuses on Dhofar Khareef (monsoon) season, one of the most prominent tourism attraction periods in the Sultanate of Oman.

During the monsoon, which begins on 21 June every year, Dhofar Governorate is endowed with moderate weather and adorned with picturesque vegetation.

To make optimum use of the monsoon season, the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism provides visitors with full information that enables them to engage in different tourism experiences and activities, including recreational events, nature exploration trips and visits to heritage and archaeological sites.

The information also includes an account of direct flight options to Salalah.

This facilitates access to hotspots in Dhofar Governorate and enhances its appeal as a preferred summer destination. Besides attracting visitors from GCC states, the information boosts Dhofar's presence on the regional tourism map.

The promotional activities provide an opportunity to introduce visitors to Dhofar Governorate's tourism attractions and reflect the Sultanate of Oman's commitment to develop the tourism sector throughout the year.

The campaign focuses on Dhofar Khareef (monsoon) season, one of the most prominent tourism attraction periods in the Sultanate of Oman

The Ministry launched similar promotional campaigns during its participation in the Arabian Travel Market in Dubai in April 2025.

Oman was represented at the event by Dhofar Municipality, which dedicated a special gallery in Oman's pavilion to highlight the features, landmarks and events that will be held during Dhofar Khareef Season 2025.

Last month (May 2025), the Ministry organised two workshops in Riyadh and Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The workshops saw the participation of tourism sector partners from Dhofar Governorate, as well as Flynas and Flyadeal. It is worth noting that direct flights will be operated on a daily basis to Salalah Airport during the Khareef (monsoon) season.

Earlier, the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism implemented similar promotional activities in the State of Kuwait and the Kingdom of Bahrain as part of events aimed at marketing the Dhofar Khareef Season 2025. -ONA

Belgium meeting explores means of boosting investment in Oman

The meeting attracted elite Belgian investors and corporate leaders, with a focus on priority sectors such as renewable energy, pharmaceuticals and life sciences, tourism

BRUSSELS: The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion on Tuesday organised the "Advantage Oman-Belgium" business dialogue in the Belgian capital, Brussels.

The event highlighted promising investment opportunities in the Sultanate of Oman and means of boosting economic and trade cooperation between the two nations.

The meeting attracted elite Belgian investors and corporate leaders, with a focus on priority sectors such as renewable energy, pharmaceuticals and life sciences, and leisure tourism.

Serving as a platform for direct dialogue between both sides, the meeting enhanced opportunities for commercial and investment partnerships while supporting mutual interests.

The session showcased Oman's key competitive advantages for investors, along with major strategic projects and ongoing efforts to streamline procedures and improve the business environment.

Pankaj Khimji, Advisor for Foreign Trade and International Cooperation at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, emphasised Oman's commitment to building strategic partnerships with Belgium.

"Oman has a clear vision to strengthen its position as a regional investment hub," he said, noting that this meeting represents a qualitative step toward expanding cooperation with Belgian companies and highlighting the promising opportunities and competitive advantages Oman offers to support business growth.

In her turn, Ru'aa Issa Al Zadjali, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Kingdom of Belgium affirmed that the meeting aligns with ongoing efforts to enhance economic relations with Belgium.

"This event provides a direct engagement opportunity with the Belgian business community and supports the development of ties between our two friendly countries," she added, noting that Oman offers a competitive investment environment backed by strategic projects and government incentives that enhance the market's attractiveness.

This meeting is part of a series of international promotional initiatives led by Oman to solidify its global standing and build economic cooperation bridges with European markets, particularly Belgium, which serves as a promising partner in several vital sectors. -ONA

ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

Oman marks World Day to combat drought

MUSCAT: Represented by the Environment Authority, the Sultanate of Oman is joining the international community in celebration of the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought. The event falls on 17 June every year.

This year the event is celebrated under the slogan "Restore the Land, Unlock the Opportunities".

As part of its participation in the event, Oman is contributing to global efforts to raise awareness of environmental challenges, encourage communities to adopt environment-friendly practices, promote local and international policies on protecting natural resources and enhance cooperation to combat desertification and land degradation.

The celebration highlights the role of ecosystem restoration in generating jobs, enhancing food and water security, supporting climate efforts and building sustainable economies.

The Environment Authority is implementing initiatives, projects and strategies to expand green cover, protect biodiversity and promote environmental sustainability. These include the "National Initiative to Plant 10 Million Trees".

The initiative, launched on 8 January 2020, seeks to increase green spaces, combat desertification and restore degraded lands.

The Environment Authority is also implementing a project to plant one million mangrove seedlings, in cooperation with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The project aims to enhance marine diversity, absorb carbon dioxide and promote ecotourism. -ONA

ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Omani pavilion in Algiers features over 60 companies

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman is the guest of honour at the 56th edition of the Algiers International Fair, held at the "Safex Expo Centre" in the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria from 23 to 28 June 2025.

This participation underscores the strength of fraternal and economic relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, as well as the fruitful cooperation between the two countries across various fields.

The Omani delegation is headed by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion, with participation from several government and private sector entities.

The Omani pavilion at the international fair features over 60 companies and establishments from diverse industrial, commercial, and service sectors, including specialised firms in pharmaceuticals, transportation, electrical transformers, real estate, fisheries, tourism, food products, handicrafts, and more.

The participation aims to explore opportunities of trade and investment exchange, as well as discussing potential partnerships and export prospects to the Algerian market and regional and international markets.

Ibtisam Ahmed Al Farooji, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion for Investment Promotion, affirmed that Oman's invitation as guest of honour at this event reflects the depth of bilateral and economic relations between the two countries. She noted that Oman views Algeria as a nation with promising opportunities for cooperation in investment, trade, and industry.

She stated that this participation seeks to present Oman as a promising investment hub, highlighting available investment opportunities and showcasing its modern infrastructure, incentives, and facilitations for investors, making it a strategic platform for accessing regional and global markets.

She added that the Omani pavilion offers visitors and investors an enriching interactive experience while providing a platform to enhance communication between Omani and Algerian companies.

The Algiers International Fair, held annually, attracts thousands of visitors and participants from around the world. Oman's participation will bolster its commercial and investment presence on the international stage, opening new horizons for the Omani private sector to build sustainable partnerships that support economic diversification and regional integration efforts. -ONA

INITIATIVES

Ecotourism reinforces commitment to sustainable goals

< FROM A1

These include eco-friendly lodging facilities built to advanced environmental standards, along with the comprehensive development and management of natural reserves.

Adventure tourism

The initiatives feature eco-resorts, star-gazing parks, eco-lodges, sustainable campsites, visitor centres, interactive exhibits, restaurants, observation trails, safari tours, and adventure tourism in protected areas, including an open-sea turtle lagoon.

These projects will deliver richer tourism experiences that balance environmental conservation with sustainable economic growth, aligning with Oman Vision 2040.

They follow an integrated model for developing tourist destinations that prioritises natural resource preservation and value-added offerings.

Community involvement is a key aspect, with locals participating in development, operation, and management—particularly through direct employment opportunities. Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are also engaged in these initiatives.

This ecotourism investment is part of broader efforts to achieve integrated environmental, economic, social, and tourism objectives. It reinforces Oman's commitment to sustainable tourism by offering eco-conscious travel experiences with cultural relevance, in line with sustainable development goals. -ONA

OMAN/WORLD

313 Omani citizens safely return home from Iran under repatriation effort

The operation was conducted in collaboration with the Oman Embassy in Tehran and other relevant authorities as part of government's commitment to ensure safe return of its citizens'

MUSCAT: In a successful repatriation effort coordinated by the Foreign Ministry, 313 Omani citizens have safely returned from the Islamic Republic of Iran via Bandar Abbas yesterday.

The operation, conducted in collaboration with the Oman Embassy in Tehran and other relevant authorities, forms part of the government's ongoing commitment to ensure citizens' safe return.

More citizens are currently being processed through the Shalamjah border crossing for their journey home. The Ministry extended its sincere appreciation to all parties involved in this phase of repatriation efforts, while reaffirming its round-the-clock work to facilitate the return of all remaining citizens. — ONA

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IN AL DAKHILIYAH GOVERNORATE

Programme begins for gifted students

NIZWA: The activities of the 2025 Summer Programme for Gifted Students in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate began on Tuesday.

The programme, organised by the Directorate General of Education in the governorate, targets more than 80 male and female students from various wilayats of the governorate as part of the national "Tharwa" programme for nurturing gifted students.

Ahmed Marhoon Al Busaidi, a senior gifted student care specialist, stated that the programme offers a rich experience combining creativity and knowledge. It aims to refine students' personalities and enhance their future capabilities, with programmes tailored to their individual interests and talents, opening up diverse horizons in literature, science, technology, and the arts.

This programme serves as a comprehensive training pathway to develop the skills of gifted students and refine their abilities in four key areas: literature, science, technology, and the arts. It includes training programmes and hands-on workshops conducted across several leading educational institutions and centres. — ONA

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION

Over 46mn hectares of agricultural land degraded in Arab region

GENEVA: More than 46 million hectares of agricultural land, particularly in the Arab region, are at risk due to excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides, soil salinisation from irrigation practices, increasing sand and dust storms, rising temperatures, and water scarcity linked to climate change, according to a study by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

The organisation noted that with less than 4% of land in the Arab region allocated for restoration, the area is falling short of global targets. It added that restoring 26 million hectares of degraded agricultural land could reduce the yield gap by up to 50% for oil crops and enable cereals, roots, and tubers to achieve optimal productivity.

FAO emphasised the urgent need for a specialised regional initiative—one that facilitates cross-country cooperation—tailored to local contexts and focused on rehabilitating agricultural land to enhance food security, reduce poverty, and build sustainable, resilient agrifood systems.

Globally, the organisation estimates that up to 1.66 billion hectares have been degraded by human activity, with over 60% of this area comprising agricultural land, including pastures. Given that 95% of global food production depends on land, this widespread degradation poses significant challenges to agrifood systems, prompting calls for integrated solutions to prevent, reduce, and reverse land degradation. — ONA

NORTH AL BATINAH

Seminar discusses major challenges, innovative solutions for local products

SOHAR: A seminar titled "The Local Product as an Added Value: Challenges and Innovative Solutions"* was held yesterday in Sohar.

It was organised by the Omani Consumer Protection Association in cooperation with the Directorate General of Consumer Protection in North Al Batinah Governorate.

The event saw participation from several government and private sector institutions in the governorate.

The seminar comes within the framework of cooperation and coordination between the Consumer Protection Authority and the Omani Consumer Protection Association across various fields, including awareness-raising. It highlighted the local product as an added value through multiple working papers presented during the event.

The symposium aimed to raise comprehensive awareness about the importance of local products in supporting the national economy and achieving sustainable development in the Sultanate of Oman, as they are one of the key pillars of long-term economic growth.

It addressed the challenges facing local products, such as competition from imported goods and high production costs, while proposing effective strategies to enhance competitiveness in local and international markets. Additionally, it discussed the role of media, marketing, and promotion of Omani products through impactful awareness campaigns to elevate consumer consciousness. — ONA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Indian students in Tehran moved out of city, MEA spokesman

NEW DELHI: Amid escalating conflict between Iran and Israel, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Tuesday said that Indian students in Tehran have been moved out of the city for reasons of safety.

It stated that other Indians who can manage to leave the city on their own have been advised to move of the city in view of the developing situation.

In a press release, MEA stated, "Indian students in Tehran have been moved out of the city for reasons of safety, through arrangements made by the Embassy. Other residents who are self sufficient in terms of transport have also been advised to move out of the city in view of the developing situation."

According to the statement, some Indians have been facilitated to leave Iran through the border with Iran and the embassy remains in touch with the community to extend all feasible assistance.

The MEA stated, "The Embassy remains continuously in touch with the community with a view to extending all feasible assistance. Further advisories may be issued given the fluid situation."

The conflict between Israel and Iran entered the fifth day on Tuesday, with both sides trading missile strikes. Civilians in key areas face waves of attacks. At least 224 people have been killed in Iran since the hostilities started while 24 people have been killed in Israel, CNN reported.

Meanwhile, Indian Embassy in Iran has asked all Indian nationals who are in Tehran and not in touch with the embassy to contact the Embassy of India in Tehran immediately and provide their location and contact numbers.

Israeli Ambassador to India, Reuven Azar, said that Tel Aviv is fully coordinated with the Ministry of External Affairs over the evacuation of Indians following the escalating conflict between Iran and Israel.

"We are fully coordinated with MEA, and when it comes to requests for Indians to evacuate, we are starting to organise now through our Ministry of Transport," Azar said. "The diplomats and foreign citizens who want to leave, there are a few options, terrestrial and maritime, and we are coordinating that."

Answering a query, he said Tel Aviv is targeting locations connected to Iran's capabilities while taking efforts to avoid civilian casualties.

"We're only targeting the places that are connected to the regime capabilities, and we are not targeting civilians. We have put in a lot of effort calling on the civilian population in Iran to evacuate from areas that are dangerous. This can take time because we have to continue to degrade their capabilities," Reuven Azar stated.

"We believe that we've been able to hit about 120 launchers out of the 360 that they have. Given the fact that they have already fired about 400 ballistic missiles and even double the number of drones, they still have a stockpile, and we are determined to try to completely degrade it. The question is at what point the Iranians are going to agree to come to the table to accept the terms that are being demanded by the international community," he added.

Azar also spoke on the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) project, highlighting that India has made progress on the eastern part of the project by signing a series of agreements with the UAE.

"IMEC is a project that India has begun to implement in the eastern part of it by signing a series of agreements with the UAE, and it remains to be seen what will happen after the region stabilises, in terms of trying to implement the western part." -ANI

Cross-border attacks continue between Iran, Israel amid diplomatic push for de-escalation

Tasnim News Agency reported on Tuesday that an Israeli drone launched an attack with four missiles on an industrial area in the city of Tabriz, northwestern Iran

TEHRAN: The exchange of attacks between Israel and Iran continued on Tuesday in a dangerous escalation threatening the region, amid regional and international efforts to contain the crisis.

Iran's Tasnim News Agency reported on Tuesday that an Israeli drone launched an attack with four missiles on an industrial area in the city of Tabriz, northwestern Iran. The agency stated, "An Israeli aggression drone targeted an industrial zone in Tabriz with four missiles, resulting in an explosion in the area." It added that Iranian air defences continue to intercept Israeli targets in the city's airspace.

Meanwhile, an Iranian security official announced on Tuesday the downing of an Israeli drone in the Kashan area of Isfahan province, near the Natanz nuclear facility. Akbar Salahi, the security deputy of Isfahan's governor, told reporters that locally made "3 Khordad" air defence systems intercepted an Israeli drone in one of the defensive layers around the Natanz nuclear site, in addition to shooting down several small flying objects in Isfahan.

The fortified Natanz facility had previously been targeted in multiple attacks by Israel last Friday, leading to radioactive and chemical contamination that "did not leak outside the facility," according to Iranian authorities.

In another development, an Israeli strike on the headquarters of Iran's state television in Tehran on Monday killed at least three people, according to a toll broadcast by the station on Tuesday. The channel reported that "three television employees were killed and others were wounded in the Israeli attack," without specifying the number of injuries.

On the other hand, Israeli media reported that Iran launched a missile barrage this morning, hitting several areas in Haifa, Tel Aviv, and Herzliya, causing casualties and material damage. Israeli outlets stated that Herzliya came under intense missile fire, with between 20 and 30 missiles launched from Iran, one of which directly struck an eight-storey residential building, causing significant damage and thick plumes of smoke. Israeli emergency services reported that 10 people were injured while heading to shelters following the missile launches.

Tehran and other Iranian cities have been under widespread attack by Israeli forces since last Friday, with Iran responding with repeated missile strikes on Israeli territory.

Amid the escalating tensions, GCC Secretary-General Jassim Al-Budaiwi discussed the latest developments in the Middle East and de-escalation efforts with United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres. The GCC Secretariat General stated in a statement on Tuesday that the two officials reviewed several regional and international issues of mutual concern, primarily the developments in the war between Israel and Iran and ongoing efforts to achieve calm and enhance security and stability.

Al-Budaiwi affirmed the GCC states' commitment to supporting international and UN efforts, as reflected in the statement issued by the 48th extraordinary ministerial meeting of the GCC held on Monday regarding regional developments. He stressed that the ministerial statement emphasised the necessity of an immediate ceasefire to preserve regional security and stability, urging all parties to work jointly toward de-escalation and adopt diplomacy as an effective means to resolve conflicts while exercising maximum restraint to spare the region and its people the dangers of war.

For his part, Guterres commended the GCC's positive role in supporting de-escalation efforts and promoting regional security, according to the statement. He reiterated the UN's aspiration to strengthen cooperation with the GCC in various priority areas.

Separately, leaders of the Group of Seven (G7) industrial nations called for de-escalation and a "broader cessation of hostilities" in the Middle East. In a statement following a meeting in Canada last night (Monday), the G7 leaders said, "We, the G7 leaders, reaffirm our commitment to peace and stability in the Middle East, as well as the importance of protecting civilians." — ONA

G7 SUMMIT

Trump cuts short Canada visit amid Middle East tensions

KANANASKIS (Alberta): The G7 summit is proceeding without US President Donald Trump, who departed early to address the escalating conflict between Israel and Iran, according to media report.

The leaders gathered for a family photo in Kananaskis before Trump's departure.

Trump left the summit in Kananaskis, Canada, after Monday night's family dinner, citing the need to attend to pressing matters in the Middle East.

Trump expressed satisfaction with the summit's progress.

"I have to be back early. I loved it. I tell you I loved it. And I think we got a lot done," Trump told reporters Monday evening (local time), according to CBC News.

"But we had just a really great relationship with everybody. It was really nice. I wish I could stay for tomorrow, but they understand, this is big stuff," he added.

Trump's departure means he will miss non-G7 leaders attending the summit Tuesday, including Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the report said.

The summit has shifted its focus to address the Middle East crisis, with leaders discussing ways to respond to the escalating conflict between Israel and Iran. The G7 has issued a joint statement reaffirming that "Iran can never have a nuclear weapon" and calling for immediate de-escalation across the Middle East.

Carney and Trump have also committed to reaching a trade deal within 30 days.

Following Trump's departure, Prime Minister Mark Carney, chair of this year's summit in Alberta, said he "fully understands" why Trump made an early exit and is "grateful for the president's presence."

Earlier on Monday, during his bilateral meeting with UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Trump hinted that he might have to leave early when asked about bringing Iran to the table.

"I think Iran basically is at the negotiating table. They want to make a deal," he said. "And as soon as I leave here, we're going to be doing something. But I have to leave here. I have ... this commitment. I have a lot of commitments."

G7 leaders released a joint statement late that same night calling for a "de-escalation" of hostilities in the Middle East.

The joint statement from the group -- made up of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States, along with the European Union -- affirms Israel's right to defend itself and recognises Iran as "the principal source of regional instability and terror" but also calls for some sort of "resolution."

"We urge that the resolution of the Iranian crisis leads to a broader de-escalation of hostilities in the Middle East, including a ceasefire in Gaza," the leaders said in their statement, made public after a working dinner at the summit.

Earlier in the day, President Trump has once again complained about the G7's throwing Russia out of what was once the G8 following its 2014 annexation of Crimea from Ukraine.

"The G7 used to be the G8. Barack Obama and a person named Trudeau didn't want to have Russia in," Trump said, referring to former Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. "And I would say that was a mistake, because I think you wouldn't have a war right now if you had Russia in, and you wouldn't have a war right now if Trump were president four years ago."

The US leader also said he "wouldn't mind" China's joining the G7.

A trade deal reached between the US and the UK last month has been finalised, both US President Donald Trump and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said on Monday on the sidelines of the G7 summit. — Agencies

DIRE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

With all eyes on Israel-Iran conflict, Gazans continue to endure bombardment, blockade

GAZA: As the military confrontation between Israel and Iran escalates, residents of the Gaza Strip watch anxiously, fearing the renewed tensions could further deteriorate their already dire humanitarian situation and push their longstanding plight even further from the global spotlight.

In Gaza City, Ibrahim al-Faryani, a Palestinian Authority employee in his 40s, closely follows reports of cross-border strikes.

"Now, global attention has shifted to Tehran and Tel Aviv, and Gaza has fallen off the media radar," al-Faryani said. "This loss of international focus may allow Israel to escalate violations here without scrutiny or accountability." Since hostilities erupted between Israel and Iran on June 13, residents have reported a sharp drop in humanitarian aid reaching Gaza, citing continued closures of border crossings as a key obstacle.

"The humanitarian situation is deteriorating rapidly," said Mohammed Al-Emawi, a university student from Gaza's Shuja'iyya neighborhood. "No aid is entering. Hospitals are running out of basic supplies, and yet we receive little international coverage."

He warned that global preoccupation with the Iran-Israel conflict could overshadow the protracted crisis in Gaza, which has already endured months of conflict and blockade.

Amid widespread anxiety, some see the broader conflict as a potential opening for Gaza to gain international attention -- and possibly inclusion in any future regional agreements.

"Perhaps this war will reshape the region," said Salem Subaih, another Gaza City resident. "If a major international agreement emerges, we hope Gaza will be included."

Adel Samara, a political analyst based in the West Bank, said the Iran-Israel conflict has a dual impact on Gaza.

"On one hand, Gaza suffers from reduced media attention and worsening humanitarian conditions. On the other hand, this war might offer an opportunity to include Gaza in any future regional arrangement, especially if global powers become involved in de-escalation efforts," Samara told Xinhua.

He added that Palestinian factions are watching the situation closely, aware that shifting regional dynamics increasingly shape Gaza's position.

A Hamas official, speaking to Xinhua on condition of anonymity, said the confrontation underscores the interconnected nature of regional security and politics.

"Gaza is not isolated from its surroundings. We are monitoring developments and managing the situation carefully to avoid unnecessary escalation," the official said, adding that "the resistance is taking a rational approach, focused on protecting the Palestinian people."

Regarding ongoing talks on a prisoner exchange with Israel, the official noted that negotiations continue under international mediation but acknowledged that the latest tensions have slowed progress.

"Given the current situation, it is only natural that the pace and level of communication are affected," he said.

Amid these shifting dynamics, many Gazans are simply calling for an end to the violence and improvements to their daily lives.

"It is time for these wars to stop," said Muhannad Abu Rabie, a Gaza City resident. "We want to live in safety. We want electricity, water, medicine -- basic human rights. We are tired of being collateral damage in conflicts we have no control over." - Xinhua

UAE NATIONAL GUARD

UAE rescues 24 from burning oil tanker after ship collision near Strait of Hormuz

ABU DHABI: The crew from an oil tanker was rescued on Tuesday following a collision involving two such vessels near the Strait of Hormuz.

The United Arab Emirates National Guard said the evacuation took place on Tuesday after the crude oil tanker, Adalynn, struck another ship — understood to be the Front Eagle oil tanker — managed by the Anglo Eastern shipping firm which is headquartered in Hong Kong.

The Adalynn was bound for Egypt's Suez Canal at the time of the incident in the Gulf of Oman.

"The ship's crew was evacuated from the incident site, located 24 nautical miles off the country's coast, to the Port of Khor Fakkan using search and rescue boats," the Emirati National Guard said in a post on X.

British maritime security firm Ambrey said the cause of an incident, 22 nautical miles east of Khor Fakkan, was not security-related.

Shipping company Frontline said its oil tanker Front Eagle had been involved in a collision and described the event as a navigational incident that was not related to the ongoing regional conflict between Israel and Iran.

"Following the incident immediate action was taken to extinguish a fire on deck of the Front Eagle. We are aware of reports of a fire onboard the Adalynn following the collision," a Frontline statement said.

The company went on to say that it was "closely monitoring the situation and is cooperating fully with the relevant authorities as emergency response efforts continue."

The strait is a vital maritime entry point to the Persian Gulf, accounting for the passage of around a fifth of the world's oil, according to the US Energy Information Administration.

Since the escalation in hostilities between Israel and Iran, there has been growing concern the waterway could be blocked. — DW

SPORTS

Netherlands defeat Nepal in triple Super Over clash

GLASGOW: In an extraordinary turn of events, Netherlands beat Nepal in a match that made cricketing history — the first ever men's professional game to go into a third Super Over. After both teams ended regular time with identical scores of 152, the contest stretched into unprecedented territory before the Dutch held their nerve to clinch victory.

With 16 needed in the final over of regulation, Nepal's Nandan Yadav struck consecutive boundaries off Kyle Klein to level the match and force the first Super Over.

Left-arm spinner Daniel Doram, who had been brilliant in the main innings, conceded 19 runs under pressure as Kushal Bhurtel smashed him for two sixes and a four. In response, Netherlands' Michael Levitt hit a six off the first ball, and Max O'Dowd finished strong with a six and four off the last two deliveries to tie it again — pushing the match into a second Super Over.

Nepal then handed the ball to Lalit Rajbanshi, who was hit for two sixes early but recovered to limit the Dutch to 17. Nepal responded in style — Rohit Paudel hit a six, and Dipendra Singh Airee added a four. With seven needed off the last ball, Airee launched a dramatic six over cow corner to level the scores yet again.

For the third Super Over, Netherlands turned to off-spinner Zach Lion-Cachet, who delivered under immense pressure. He dismissed both Paudel and debutant Rupesh Singh without conceding a run. With just one needed, Levitt thumped Sandeep Lamichhane over long-on for six — finally sealing a win in one of the most dramatic matches the sport has seen.

Earlier, defending 152, left-arm pacer Ben Fletcher had a dream T20I debut, dismissing Lokesh Bam with a full, wide delivery. Vivian Kingma then removed Anil Sah, reducing Nepal to 9/2 in 2.1 overs. However, Bhurtel and Paudel counterattacked, lifting Nepal to 52/2 in just five overs. Doram broke the momentum by dismissing Bhurtel for 34 and tightened the screws with wickets of Airee and Thagunna, restricting Nepal to 97/5 after 15 overs. With 56 needed off the last five, Rupesh provided brief hope with a four and six before falling.

Batting first, O'Dowd gave the Netherlands a flying start, taking on Nandan and Karan KC. But spin turned the tide— Rajbanshi struck with his first ball to remove O'Dowd, and Lamichhane made an immediate impact, bowling Levitt and later dismissing Edwards and Croes. Despite the collapse, Saqib Zulfiqar's late flourish pushed the Netherlands to 152.

Brief scores: Netherlands 152/7 (Nidamanuru 35, Vikramjit 30; Lamichhane 3-18, Nandan 2-18) tied with Nepal 152/8 (Paudel 48, Bhurtel 34; Doram 3-14). Netherlands won via third Super Over

Bangladesh assert control on day one

Shanto, Mushfiqur hit centuries to stage a comeback after Bangladesh were reduced to 45 for 3 on the first day of the first Test in Galle

GALLE: For the first hour of play on day one of the opening Test in Galle, it looked like Sri Lanka had seized early control on Tuesday. But once the dust settled on the opening session, the day belonged entirely to Bangladesh.

Najmul Hossain Shanto and Mushfiqur Rahim struck sublime centuries and forged an unbroken 247-run partnership to lead a remarkable turnaround after an early collapse.

By stumps, Bangladesh were firmly in the driver's seat at 292 for 3, with Shanto unbeaten on 136 and Mushfiqur cruising alongside him on 105*.

After being reduced to 45 for 3, the visitors showed immense composure and class to dictate terms for the remainder of the day.

Sri Lanka had their moments early on. Winning the toss and choosing to bat, Bangladesh's start was shaky. Anamul Haque fell to a beautiful delivery from Asitha Fernando in just the fifth over, before debutant spinner Tharindu Rathnayake made an immediate impact.

He dismissed opener Shadman Islam and Mominul Haque in quick succession, picking up two wickets in his first 11 balls in Test cricket — a dream start for the ambidextrous spinner.

But from there on, the match took a decisive turn.

Shanto, who had barely faced a handful of deliveries when Mushfiqur joined him at the crease, quickly signalled his intent. He danced down the pitch to loft Tharindu straight over his head for a boundary — a bold statement that set the tone for the rest of the day. That shot was not an isolated show of aggression, but rather a symbol of calculated pressure as the two batters slowly turned the screws.

Tharindu, initially threatening, soon became Bangladesh's release valve. Of Shanto's 15 boundaries — 14 fours and a six — 10 came off the debutant, who struggled to contain the left-hander's confident stroke-play. Though the spinner eventually found his rhythm and pulled back his economy rate, the damage had been done.

Mushfiqur, ever composed and precise, played the perfect foil. Together, the duo kept the scoreboard ticking steadily, the run rate consistently hovering between 3 and 3.5 an over.

Session totals of 90, 92, and 110 underscored Bangladesh's grip on the day, with a particularly fruitful final hour that saw them score at nearly four an over as Sri Lanka's bowlers began to tire.

Sri Lanka may rue a few tactical missteps. Over-bowling Tharindu despite him being targeted, and the delayed reintroduction of lead spinner Prabath Jayasuriya — who bowled only after an hour post-lunch — allowed Bangladesh's experienced pair to settle in.

At times, Milan Rathnayake's disciplined bowling at one end was undone by pressure relief at the other.

The day had begun on a high note for Sri Lanka with a guard of honour and felicitation for Angelo Mathews, who is retiring from Test cricket. The first few overs promised a fitting celebration. But as the shadows grew longer and the runs kept flowing, it became clear this was Bangladesh's day.

Brief scores: Bangladesh 1st innings: 292 for 3 (Najmul Hossain Shanto 136*, Mushfiqur Rahim 105*; Tharindu Rathnayake 2-124) vs Sri Lanka. - Agencies

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by August 2025 reaching $73.72, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 57 cents from the price of Monday, which was $73.15. - ONA

MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,520.41 points, down by 0.33% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.19% at 432.80 points. Global Financial Investments, up 4.81%, was the top gainer while, Bank Dhofar, down 3.57%, was the top loser.

Refinery output sees marginal dip in April

The statistics revealed that the production of regular gasoline (91) increased by 9.8 percent by the end of April 2025 compared to the same period in 2024

MUSCAT: The total output of refineries in the Sultanate of Oman saw a slight decline of 0.1 percent by the end of April 2025, while the production of automotive fuel in April 2025 decreased by 4.6 percent compared to the previous month, according to preliminary statistics released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

The statistics revealed that the production of regular gasoline (91) increased by 9.8 percent by the end of April 2025 compared to the same period in 2024, reaching 5,782,100 barrels, up from 5,265,500 barrels by the end of April 2024. Sales also rose by 2.5 percent, totaling 4,558,600 barrels compared to 4,446,900 barrels by the end of April 2024.

In contrast, the production of premium gasoline (95) declined by 0.3 percent compared to April 2024, reaching 4,108,700 barrels, down from 4,122,800 barrels during the same period last year. Despite this drop in production, sales increased by 1.7 percent, reaching 4,229,400 barrels compared to 4,158,900 barrels by the end of April 2024.

The production of gas oil (diesel) decreased by 0.7 percent, recording 10,326,900 barrels compared to 10,399,200 barrels by the end of April 2024. However, sales rose by 4.9 percent, reaching 4,665,300 barrels compared to 4,446,700 barrels in the same period last year.

Jet fuel production declined by 8.1 percent, totalling 3,378,000 barrels compared to 3,674,300 barrels by the end of April 2024. Sales also fell by 8.7 percent, reaching 1,247,500 barrels compared to 1,366,700 barrels.

As for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), production reached 2,364,000 barrels, marking a 6.7 percent decline from the same period in 2024, when production stood at 2,534,600 barrels. Conversely, sales surged by 20.2 percent, reaching 1,303,800 barrels compared to 1,084,500 barrels by the end of April 2024.

Regarding petrochemicals, the statistics showed an 8.7 percent increase in benzene production, reaching 59,500 metric tonnes compared to 54,800 metric tonnes by the end of April 2024.

Paraxylene production rose by 10.5 percent, reaching 196,700 metric tonnes by the end of April 2025. On the other hand, polypropylene production declined by 6.9 percent, recording 112,400 metric tonnes compared to 120,800 metric tonnes during the same period last year. Despite this drop in production, sales saw a significant surge of 461.9 percent, reaching 10,800 metric tonnes compared to 1,900 metric tonnes in the same period last year.

Oman's exports of regular gasoline (91) increased by 4.7 percent by the end of April 2025, reaching 1,041,100 barrels compared to 994,500 barrels by the end of April 2024. Meanwhile, exports of premium gasoline (95) saw a notable rise of 66.3 percent, reaching 690,700 barrels compared to 415,400 barrels in the same period last year.

In contrast, gas oil (diesel) exports declined by 23.4 percent, recording 4,560,100 barrels compared to 5,956,500 barrels by the end of April 2024. Jet fuel exports also decreased by 7 percent, reaching 2,046,200 barrels compared to 2,199,500 barrels by the end of April 2024. LPG exports witnessed a sharp decline of 69.8 percent, totaling 53,500 barrels compared to 177,000 barrels by the end of April 2024.

Benzene exports by the end of April 2025 reached approximately 58,200 metric tonnes, marking a 3.6 percent increase compared to 56,100 metric tonnes by the end of April 2024. Paraxylene exports rose by 29.2 percent, reaching 228,100 metric tonnes compared to 176,600 metric tonnes in the same period last year. Meanwhile, polypropylene exports reached 79,200 metric tonnes, reflecting a 3.8 percent increase compared to 76,300 metric tonnes by the end of April 2024. -ONA

EXCELLENCE IN MASTER PLANNING

Al Mouj Muscat triumphs with double win at Real Estate Asia Awards

MUSCAT: Al Mouj Muscat has been recognised with two prestigious awards at the Real Estate Asia Awards 2025, securing international acclaim for excellence in master planning and mixed-use development. The ceremony held recently at the Sands Expo & Convention Centre in Singapore, brought together the region's leading developments in a celebration of innovation and urban transformation.

Al Mouj Muscat was recognised as "Masterplan Development of the Year – Oman," highlighting its role as "Oman's First Integrated, Mixed-Use Waterfront Community," and "Mixed-Use Development of the Year – Oman" for its landmark "Quayside" development. As the only Omani development to be honoured across multiple categories, the achievement reinforces Al Mouj Muscat's competitive standing and innovative approach within the Asia-wide real estate industry.

The Real Estate Asia Awards are judged by a distinguished panel of international real estate leaders and industry experts, recognizing outstanding projects and developers that set new benchmarks in urban development.

Nasser Al Sheibani, CEO of Al Mouj Muscat, commented, "We are immensely proud to receive these awards, which endorse our commitment to excellence, innovation, and sustainable urban development. Al Mouj Muscat continues to be an inspiring benchmark of integrated communities, ad these honors further motivate us to elevate our standards, delivering exceptional lifestyle experience for our residents, visitors and broader community."

"Quayside" has been honoured for its visionary integration of retail, lifestyle, and community amenities. Its thoughtful design creates a vibrant and welcoming environment, leveraging advanced architectural solutions to maintain outdoor comfort year-round, effectively enhancing community engagement and the overall urban experience.

The award for "Masterplan Development of the Year" celebrates Al Mouj Muscat's success in creating a cohesive and sustainable waterfront community. This integrated master plan strategically combines residential, commercial, leisure, and recreational elements, offering residents and visitors a uniquely balanced lifestyle and setting a benchmark for future urban development in Oman and beyond.

These accolades further solidify Al Mouj Muscat's reputation as an industry leader in sustainable and innovative urban living.

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Campaign period: 01st June 2025 to 31st July 2025 Benefits applicable for all purchases except Government Organizations & Ministries. **3 Years / 60,000 Kms Service (whichever is earlier) covering 3 services at 20,000 KMs service interval based on normal operating conditions on ATTO3, SEAL, SEALION and HAN models. **5 Years / 75,000 Kms Service (whichever is earlier) covering 5 services at 15,000 KMs service interval based on normal operating conditions on QIN PLUS, SONG PLUS and SEAL 7 DM-i models. + Battery Charger Free 7 KW Charger for PHEV models including installation on QIN PLUS, SONG PLUS and SEAL 7 DM-i models limited to a cabling length o up to 10 meters. Additional cabling requirements and other works may incur extra charges. *Free 11 KW Charger for EV models including installation on ATTO3, SEAL, SEALION and HAN limited to a cabling length of up to 10 meters. Additional cabling requirements and other works may incur extra charges. Discount in lieu of Battery Charger may be given to all customers on ATTO3, SEAL, SEALION, HAN, QIN PLUS, SONG PLUS and SEAL 7 DM-i models as an additional Special Discount. Customer has to request in writing to avail the benefit. In case customer opts out of battery charger then he/she will not be eligible for battery charger as applicable for a model under the campaign. #Scratch & Win Card: Scratch & Win coupon will be issued to customer who purchases the vehicle during the campaign period. Coupon will be handed over to the customer at the time of delivery. Once the Coupon is issued to the customer, will not be replaced under any circumstances and the prize/gift won will not be changed. The Scratch & Win gifts include Apple iPhone 16 Pro Max 256 GB, Apple Watch Series 10 & Airpods Gen 4. @RAFFLE 3 Grand Raffle – International Holiday Package to Turkey. The Raffle will be applicable for all BYD customers who purchase cars during the campaign period. Campaign will not be applicable for ministry and government deals/ supplies.

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Global Financial Investments, up 4.81%, was the top gainer while, Bank Dhofar, down 3.57%, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,520.41 points, down by 0.33% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.19% at 432.80 points. Global Financial Investments, up 4.81%, was the top gainer while, Bank Dhofar, down 3.57%, was the top loser. Shares of OQBI 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 1682 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 15.03 million, with more than 86.38 million shares changing hands. Out of 51 traded securities, 12 advanced, 13 declined, and 26 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for RO 821K while foreign investors were net buyers for RO 773K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 48K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,862.44 points, down 0.24%. Prices of Global Financial Investments, DIDIC, Al Sharqia Investment, and Ominvest were up by 4.81%, 3.85%, 2.60%, and 0.46% respectively. Prices of Bank Dhofar, United Finance, Bank Muscat, and Taageer Finance were down by 3.57%, 1.64%, 1.09%, and 0.96% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,311.83 points, down 0.21%. Prices of Galfar Engineering was up by 3.13%. Prices of Al Anwar Ceramics, Al Maha Ceramics, Gulf Mushroom Products, and Voltamp Energy were down by 2.24%, 1.36%, 0.91%, and 0.15% respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.11% before closing at 1,586.70 points. Prices of Oman National Engineering, OIFC, OQ Gas Networks, Abraj Energy, and Oman Telecom were up by 2.61%, 1.33%, 0.64%, 0.42%, and 0.12% respectively. Prices of Barka Water & Power Company, Al Jazeera Services, and National Gas were down by 2.50%, 2.22%, and 1.19% respectively.— **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev . Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,533.41	4,498.48	4,520.41	4,535.16	-14.75	-0.33
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,878.37	7,836.07	7,862.44	7,881.49	-19.05	-0.24
Industry Index	6,333.21	6,299.77	6,311.83	6,325.22	-13.38	-0.21
Services Index	1,587.42	1,577.70	1,586.70	1,585.02	1.68	0.11
MSX Shariah Index	433.71	431.53	432.80	433.62	-0.82	-0.19
MSX TR INDEX	6,703.79	6,652.15	6,684.57	6,706.38	-21.82	-0.33
FINANCIAL TR IDX	9,336.85	9,286.72	9,317.98	9,340.55	-22.58	-0.24
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	7,782.56	7,741.47	7,756.30	7,772.74	-16.44	-0.21
SERVICES TR IDX	2,024.34	2,011.95	2,023.42	2,021.29	2.14	0.11
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,166.89	1,166.89	1,166.89	1,166.89	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
86,387,936	15,032,224	1,682	28,241,046,937	12	13	26	51

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 17

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	58,368	6,072	4	0.110	0.110	0.104	0.109	0.104	0.005	4.808	0.109	0.105	0.109	0.100	21,800,000
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO.	18,924	1,504	3	0.080	0.080	0.079	0.079	0.077	0.002	2.597	0.079	0.077	0.080	0.100	7,110,000
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	10,209,035	1,590,587	212	0.156	0.158	0.154	0.158	0.157	0.001	0.637	0.158	0.158	0.158	0.100	684,238,579
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	18,978	4,171	5	0.219	0.220	0.219	0.220	0.219	0.001	0.457	0.220	0.219	0.220	0.100	205,856,551
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	1,661,215	397,743	79	0.239	0.241	0.238	0.240	0.239	0.001	0.418	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.100	184,848,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	19,098	16,125	11	0.846	0.846	0.843	0.845	0.844	0.001	0.118	0.845	0.840	0.845	0.100	633,750,000
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	157	361	2	2.300	2.300	2.300	2.300	2.300	0.000	0.000	2.300	2.225	2.500	0.100	206,310,000
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	3,880	1,432	3	0.369	0.369	0.369	0.369	0.369	0.000	0.000	0.369	0.368	0.370	0.100	44,280,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	24,834	6,879	11	0.277	0.277	0.277	0.277	0.277	0.000	0.000	0.277	0.277	0.277	0.100	65,485,570
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	7,021,326	977,088	110	0.140	0.140	0.138	0.140	0.140	0.000	0.000	0.140	0.138	0.140	0.100	926,414,478
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	91,245	18,232	12	0.200	0.201	0.199	0.200	0.200	0.000	0.000	0.200	0.199	0.200	0.100	130,188,846
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	11,575	1,159	6	0.101	0.101	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.100	0.101	0.100	223,695,303
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	55,184	4,470	7	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.000	0.000	0.081	0.081	0.083	0.100	14,175,000
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	20,000	1,400	2	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.070	0.069	0.070	0.100	47,242,120
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	147,645	10,188	11	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.000	0.000	0.069	0.067	0.075	0.100	49,294,037
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	54,537	35,449	14	0.650	0.651	0.649	0.650	0.651	-0.001	-0.154	0.650	0.650	0.655	0.100	60,848,555
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	20,320,566	5,574,943	106	0.275	0.275	0.270	0.273	0.276	-0.003	-1.087	0.273	0.273	0.273	0.100	2,049,246,398
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	100,000	6,000	6	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.061	-0.001	-1.639	0.060	0.057	0.060	0.100	21,367,638
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	102,000	17,958	10	0.180	0.180	0.176	0.176	0.180	-0.004	-2.222	0.176	0.176	0.180	0.100	7,540,366
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	322,003	56,540	43	0.180	0.180	0.175	0.175	0.179	-0.004	-2.235	0.175	0.176	0.175	0.100	38,500,000
Total	20	40,260,570	8,728,300	657												
Parallel Market																
OM0000001509	DHOFAR INTERNATIONAL DEV. & INV. HO.	5,000	1,350	1	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.260	0.010	3.846	0.270	0.270	0.286	0.100	110,496,505
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INV.	40,880	4,702	10	0.115	0.118	0.115	0.118	0.115	0.003	2.609	0.118	0.115	0.118	0.100	17,700,000
OM0000009908	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	23,387,774	2,873,374	352	0.122	0.125	0.121	0.125	0.122	0.003	2.459	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.040	432,436,356
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	4,105,216	1,328,658	314	0.318	0.325	0.318	0.324	0.319	0.005	1.567	0.324	0.324	0.324	0.010	2,592,000,000
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL INDUSTRIES	30,100	2,227	3	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.000	0.000	0.074	0.070	0.074	0.100	4,625,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	152,000	7,754	9	0.051	0.052	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.000	0.000	0.051	0.050	0.051	0.100	15,664,463
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	539,449	37,216	45	0.069	0.069	0.068	0.069	0.069	0.000	0.000	0.069	0.068	0.069	0.100	8,409,375
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	3,072,040	260,467	88	0.084	0.086	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.000	0.000	0.084	0.084	0.085	0.100	24,113,891
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	42,400	8,654	6	0.206	0.206	0.204	0.204	0.204	0.000	0.000	0.204	0.202	0.204	0.100	40,725,662
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	95,197	9,570	8	0.101	0.101	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.101	0.101	0.108	0.100	95,457,195
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	15,489	1,022	3	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.000	0.000	0.066	0.066	0.070	0.100	96,531,696
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	5,294	347	5	0.065	0.066	0.065	0.066	0.066	0.000	0.000	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.100	10,266,326
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	2,500	140	1	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.000	0.000	0.056	0.056	0.057	0.100	12,445,440
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	39,268	3,181	7	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.000	0.000	0.081	0.080	0.081	0.100	52,535,816
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	10,000	1,160	1	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.000	0.000	0.116	0.115	0.120	0.100	68,606,678
OM0000010120	ASYAD SHIPPING	14,072,744	1,680,051	88	0.120	0.121	0.119	0.121	0.122	-0.001	-0.820	0.121	0.121	0.121	0.000	630,258,058
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	7,104	1,557	4	0.220	0.220	0.218	0.218	0.220	-0.002	-0.909	0.218	0.218	0.220	0.100	9,976,944
OM0000003281	TAAGEER FINANCE	826	85	1	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.104	-0.001	-0.962	0.103	0.103	0.000	0.100	28,759,991
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	187,035	15,541	16	0.085	0.085	0.083	0.083	0.084	-0.001	-1.190	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.100	7,055,000
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	92,020	26,691	21	0.290	0.291	0.290	0.290	0.294	-0.004	-1.361	0.290	0.280	0.292	0.100	15,950,000
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	33,790	6,547	7	0.193	0.200	0.193	0.195	0.200	-0.005	-2.500	0.195	0.193	0.195	0.100	31,200,000
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	83,073	11,225	9	0.136	0.136	0.135	0.135	0.140	-0.005	-3.571	0.135	0.134	0.135	0.100	410,372,802
Total	22	46,019,199	6,281,517	999												

INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY

IEA lowers oil demand growth forecasts for 2025, 2026

PARIS: The International Energy Agency (IEA) reduced its global oil demand growth forecast for this year (2025) to 720,000 barrels per day, down from the previous estimate of 740,000 barrels per day.

In its monthly report issued yesterday, the IEA also lowered its 2026 demand growth forecast to 740,000 barrels per day, compared to the earlier projection of 760,000 barrels per day. The agency attributed these adjustments to anticipated economic challenges in the medium term. Conversely, the IEA raised its global oil supply forecast, expecting an increase of 1.8 million barrels per day this year, up from the previous estimate of 1.6 million barrels per day. -**ONA**

FOURTH EDITION

'Equal National Opportunities' initiative empowers SMEs

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz) and the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) launched the fourth edition of the 'Equal National Opportunities' initiative in the presence of Sheikh Dr Ali bin Masoud Al Sunaidy, Chairman of Opaz. The initiative comes along the lines of ongoing efforts to support Omani projects and products, encourage entrepreneurs and business owners, and enhance a nurturing environment for local industries.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Ayman bin Abdullah Al Fudhaili, CEO of the Industrial Innovation Academy, highlighted Madayn's strategic approach in empowering the SMEs through its enabling arms, particularly the Industrial Innovation Academy."Over recent years, the Academy has played a vital role in delivering technical support, capacity-building programmes, and linking the SMEs to industrial partnerships and investment opportunities, contributing to their sustainability and competitiveness," he said, adding: "The market value of some SMEs that have benefited from the Academy's initiatives over the past years is now estimated in the millions of Rials, reflecting the impact of support on their growth and expansion in both local and international markets."

Al Fudhaili further emphasised the Academy's direct support for the SMEs through a range of initiatives, including:'Makers Oman', which offers diagnostic, guidance, consultancy, and prototyping services to small factories, and 'IntajSuhar', which provides high value R&D and manufacturing services, reverse engineering services, precision components manufacturing, mould manufacturing, and spare parts production for diverse industrial companies.

Another initiative is the 'Business Accelerator', launched by the Rising Omani Startups Programme in cooperation with Madayn, represented by the Industrial Innovation Academy. The programme aims at empowering innovative entrepreneurs, and helps establishing startups and connecting them to business and investment opportunities at local, regional and global levels.

The Academy has also implemented training programmes aimed at equipping national talents with technical and vocational skills in areas such as plastic machinery operation, legal specialisations, traditional ship model crafting, entrepreneurship development, and AI applications.

Moreover, Al Fudhaili highlighted that the Industrial Innovation Academy has identified a range of high-potential investment opportunities for the SMEs within Madayn's industrial cities. These opportunities lie in the provision of essential support services that are in constant demand by existing factories, including maintenance and cleaning, financial and legal services, insurance, public relations, packaging, marketing, and certification.

He noted that the total estimated value of these services exceeds RO 6.7 million, based on the projected needs of 200 factories. This represents a strategic opportunity to further integrate SMEs into industrial supply chains, enhance their contribution to the national economy, and create a more resilient and diversified supply ecosystem across Madayn's network of industrial cities.

The event also featured the signing of several agreements between SMEs and key bodies. Madayn signed two contracts with Mahmood Stationery and Tuful Travel, while Arabian Gate Expo partnered with Al Harthy Modern Business, and Areej Vegetable Oils and Derivatives signed an agreement with Morpho Company. Under these agreements, the SMEs will provide goods and services to their respective partners.

It is worthwhile to mention that the National Equal Opportunities Initiative reflects Oman's forward-looking vision to empower entrepreneurs by creating an enabling ecosystem for the SMEs, and hence support the local industries as a cornerstone of the national economy and contribute to Oman Vision 2040.

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Indian male Bachelor degree in Commerce (CA) looking for a suitable job with 1 yr experience in accounts,finance Currently in Oman with family visa & Omani D/L. Can join immediately. Contact: +96876469134 Email: shemantk32@gmail.com

Pakistani male with experience of 12 yrs (5 yrs in Oman) in finance,accounts seeks job. Have Oman D/L also. Contact: 78363317 Email: bilalattariacca@gmail.com

Indian male Bachelor degree in Commerce (CA) looking for a suitable job with 1 yr experience in accounts,finance Currently in Oman with family visa & Omani D/L.Can join immediately Contact:+96876469134 Email:shemantk32@gmail.com

Pakistani male with experience of 12 yrs (5 yrs in Oman) in finance,accounts seeks job. Have Oman D/L also. Contact 78363317 E-mail bilalattariacca@gmail.com

Senior accountant, Accounts manager ACCA, CA Inter, MS finance. 12 yrs gulf experience. Ready to join immediately. NOC & D/L available. Contact: 77258382.

Indian male, Chief Accountant, Commerce graduate with 14 years of experience in Oman. Currently working in a reputed company in Oman. Seeking suitable position. Contact: 96242858

Accounts, finance, a well experienced Indian male [MBA Fin] having more than 19 yrs of experience in Oman, looking for suitable placement. Contact: 92076716

Indian male, accountant, M.Com (finance) 12 years experience in Oman. Handling accounts up to finalization and business development. NOC & D/L available Contact: 99859141

Indian male, Accountant, 9 yrs experience of accounts & finance, looking for job. Contact: 94713034. Email: rajithv999@gmail.com

Indian, MBA dual specialization (finance and business analytics) and SAP FICO in Oman looking for immediate openings. Contact: +968 7859 6850. Email: rahulgnair31@gmail.com

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Indian (M), 24yrs, B.Com graduate (+SAP FICO&SAP B-ONE) with 01 yr of experience in accounting. Currently in Oman and looking for a suitable position. Contact: 76422467. Email: mohdthanseeb@gmail.com.

ADMINISTRATION

HR Manager 15 yrs experience in the Gulf looking for a suitable position. NOC available, valid D/L. Qualification: MBA in HR & finance & HR certifications. Available to join immediately. 95323264, Email: deep.vg9@gmail.com

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

Indian (M), excellent English, Oman experience in corporate communications, project administration, CEO office, operations. Contact: 99283938

Indian Male have 10 yrs experience in Oman as supervisor, have valid D/L and NOC. Contact: 90789282.

Secretary with 20 yrs of experience in India and Oman looking for a job. NOC available. Contact: 97932277.

ARCHITECT

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

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

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

DRIVER

Looking at driving job. Contact: 78514001

Looking for driving job. Contact: 99667817

Looking light driving job. Contact 96091045

Looking for driving job. Contact: 95215679

DRIVER

Looking for driving job with 8 yrs experience. Contact: 79453897

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

Looking for driving job have car. Contact: 98586920

Looking for driving job. Contact: +968 99532361

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

DOMESTIC HELP

Available Chennai housemaid for Indian family in Muscat from 8 to 3. Good with children, cooking and cleaning. Contact: 94889265.

DESIGNER/ AUTOCAD D/MAN

20 yrs. exp Sr. draughtsman sewer buildings & roads looking for job. Contact: 76283837

Interior designer (3D Rendering, shop drawings, site supervision & marketing) with 15+yrs of experience in a reputed furnishing company in Oman. D/L. 95060377

Draughtsman Indian, consultancy & construction experience (Arch, civil, infra) . Looking job. Contact: 98724049, 78137495

ENGINEER

Senior Civil engineer B.Tech with 32 yrs experience (24 yrs in Oman), specialized in project execution, quantity surveying, contract management, tendering, variations, claims settlement, and final account preparation. Available for immediate joining. Muscat-based roles preferred. Contact: 95809622

Site Engineer (civil) Indian 5 yrs experience GCC, can join immediately. Contact: 78462634

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

Indian Engineer, +Nebosh IGC and IT knowledge with D/L. 2 yrs experience in Oman looking for job and currently in Oman. Contact : 79860144

MEP estimation engineer, quantity surveyor,11 yrs Oman experience,Indian male. Contact 99462978.Email anwar.anwar1986@gmail.com

Indian male, automobile engineer, 10 yrs experience in dealership workshop operations and supervision, seeking job opportunity. Contact +968 78406449.

ENGINEER

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

MEP, Electrical Engineer 20+ yrs of exp. in Oman and GCC, expert in design, supervision & execution in consultant, contractor, Oil & gas, industrial, building with Oman D/L. Contact: 99148940. Email: jobluk.om@gmail.com.

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

Civil Engineer with D/L,10 yrs experience in Oman. Contact: 97993078

Electronics and Communication Engineer with AutoCAD experience Contact: 76622441. Email: fatinkisho10@gmail.com

Indian male (Mechanical Engineer) with Oman experience in Oil & Gas, BDM, procurement, logistic, inventory management & operations. Ready to join immediately. NOC & D/L available. Contact: 99189094. Email: ben.sdbmct@gmail.com

EDUCATION/TRAINING

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

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

TOUR/TRAVELS

Looking for a job as a air ticketing, reservation agent and office administration. Contact: 99080348. Email: reemadanthy830@gmail.com

IT

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

MEDICAL

Dentist, insurance coordinator Muscat, BDS, 4 yrs experience,viva & prometric cleared. Seeking full-time role as Dentist or insurance coordinator. +968-77275222 | Available immediately

MEDICAL

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

MANAGER

Indian male Project Manager, construction manager having 25 yrs experience(19 yr Oman&1.5yr Dubai & 4.5yr India) looking for the good suitable placement. WA: 79113859. Contact: 919600665286

Experienced food processing officer with over 2 yrs of proven expertise looking for suitable roles. Quality control, hygiene officer. Contact:79150220, Email: jagath.sivanandan@gmail.com

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

SALES/MARKETING

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

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

MBA HR & Marketing, Indian female, knowledge of MS office, Looking for suitable job, Currently in Oman. Contact: 72851131, Email: teenavalen01@gmail.com

Male 25+ yrs experience in sales (industrial) , looking for a suitable position with valid D/L. Available for immediate joining. 78569329

Looking for jobs in Sales and marketing, customer care and relevant field. 10+yrs of experience in SriLanka and Canada. Contact: +968 7646 3371.

Indian male with vast experience in sales marketing and business development,currently residing in Muscat looking for a favourable placement. Contact: 97220369 Email: kazinaved77@gmail.com

Indian male (29 yrs) 2 yrs experience as Sales consultant, 4 yrs and 10 mts as Sr. Trainer in retail. Looking for suitable placement and currently in Oman. Contact: 94559796.

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Send email to classifieds@timesofoman.com

LIFESTYLE

TEA, BERRIES, DARK CHOCOLATE, APPLES CAN LEAD TO A LONGER LIFESPAN:

The findings reveal that increasing the diversity of flavonoids within your diet could help prevent the development of health conditions such as type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease (CVD), cancer and neurological disease

New research has found that those who consume a diverse range of foods rich in flavonoids, such as tea, berries, dark chocolate, and apples, could lower their risk of developing serious health conditions and have the potential to live longer.

The study was led by a team of researchers from Queen's University Belfast, Edith Cowan University Perth (ECU), and the Medical University of Vienna and Universitat Wien.

The findings reveal that increasing the diversity of flavonoids within your diet could help prevent the development of health conditions such as type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease (CVD), cancer and neurological disease.

Flavonoids are found in plant foods like tea, blueberries, strawberries, oranges, apples, grapes, and even red wine and dark chocolate.

Published in Nature Food, the study tracked over 120,000 participants aging from 40 to 70 years old for over a decade.

It is the first study of its kind to suggest that there is a benefit to consuming a wide range of flavonoids beyond that of simply consuming a high quantity.

ECU Research Fellow, first author and co-lead of the study Dr Benjamin Parmenter, made the initial discovery that a flavonoid-diverse diet is good for health.

"Flavonoid intakes of around 500 mg a day was associated with a 16% lower risk of all-cause mortality, as well as a ~10% lower risk of CVD, type 2 diabetes, and respiratory disease. That's roughly the amount of flavonoids that you would consume in two cups of tea," said Dr Parmenter.

Dr Parmenter added, however, that those who consumed the widest diversity of flavonoids, had an even lower risk of these diseases, even when consuming the same total amount.

For example, instead of just drinking tea, it's better to eat a range of flavonoid-rich foods to make up your intake, because different flavonoids come from different foods.

"We have known for some time that higher intakes of dietary flavonoids, powerful bioactives naturally present in many foods and drinks, can reduce the risk of developing heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and neurological conditions like Parkinson's," study co-lead Professor Aedin Cassidy from the Co-Centre for Sustainable Food Systems and Institute for Global Food Security at Queen's said.

"We also know from lab data and clinical studies that different flavonoids work in different ways, some improve blood pressure, others help with cholesterol levels and decrease inflammation. This study is significant as the results indicate that consuming a higher quantity and wider diversity has the potential to lead to a greater reduction in ill health than just a single source," added Cassidy. - ANI

SPORTS

Chelsea, Flamengo win; Boca held

Benfica rallied from two goals down to hold Boca Juniors at the FIFA Club World Cup in another game

MIAMI: The game of the 2025 FIFA Club World Cup so far unfolded in Miami on Monday. Miguel Merentiel and Rodrigo Battaglia had Boca Juniors on the verge of a sizeable shock, only for Angel Di Maria and Nicolas Otamendi to snatch Benfica a point with a 2-2 draw.

A gorgeous goal from Pedro Neto and another Enzo Fernandez helped Chelsea overpower Los Angeles 2-0 in Atlanta, while Luiz Auaujo's beauty sealed Flamengo's 2-0 victory over Espérance Tunis.

At the Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, the Black and Gold weren't intimidated by the Blues, but they were outclassed in a Group D match. Pedro Neto's slickly-taken opener put them in command and, after Robert Sanchez made a smart save from Denis Bouanga, Fernandez sealed victory following a cross from debutant Liam Delap.

After initial attempts on goal from Nicolas Jackson and Cole Palmer, the Blues finally picked the Los Angeles lock with Jackson playing a perfectly weighted ball into Neto, who cut to his left and finished with aplomb past Hugo Lloris for the opener.

As the second half wore on, though, Chelsea's class proved too much for the Major League Soccer side. Timothy Tillman cleared a Jackson header off the line to keep the deficit at one, but nothing could be done to prevent Enzo Fernandez from doubling the lead. The Argentinian met a cross from Chelsea debutante Liam Delap and steered home to polish off the victory.

At the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami, ten-man Benfica somehow snatched a point. They were 2-0 down after 27 minutes and, though Angel Di Maria halved the deficit from the spot, a man down with 20 to go. A Nicolas Otamendi header nevertheless denied Boca victory.

Chelsea head coach Enzo Maresca said: "Very good result. At this stage of the season, it's normal you have to manage these kinds of things. Overall, the performance was good, and we won the game."

Boca Juniors and Benfica kicked off their FIFA Club World Cup 2025 campaigns by producing one of the most thrilling matches of the tournament so far.

After 20 minutes of domination by the Portuguese, it was Boca who opened the scoring. Midfielder Carlos Palacios won a long goal kick, leaving left-back Lautaro Blanco in space against an out-of-position Florentino. Blanco nutmegged the Benfica midfielder before whipping in a low left-foot cross to the near post, where Miguel Merential deftly flicked home.

Just six minutes later, and with the noisy traveling brigade of Boca fans in full voice, Boca doubled their advantage from a corner kick.

Centre-back Ayrton Costa won the initial header, heading the ball back across goal from the far post. Midfielder Rodrigo Battaglia then out-jumped his marker to head in at the near post.

The game continued pace with plenty of chances and fouls. As the half came to a close, a VAR review determined that Nicolas Otamendi had been fouled in the box by Palacios. Angel Di Maria sent the goalkeeper the wrong way, halving Boca's lead in the Argentinian veteran's final tournament with Benfica.

After the break, Benfica turned to veteran striker Andrea Belotti for inspiration. Those hopes looked initially to have been dashed when Belotti was sent off for a high boot to the back of Ayrton Costa's head. However, Benfica captain Nicolas Otamendi came to the rescue, sneaking in unmarked to bullet home a header from a corner kick to draw the match level.

Boca defender Nicolas Figal was shown a red card as the final seconds of the 90 ticked down and, with neither side able to find a winner, both will go into their next matches with hopes delicately poised. - Agencies

PORTUGAL SUPERSTAR

Al Hilal CEO: Ronaldo loan move would have been 'counter-intuitive'

LONDON: The chief executive of Saudi Pro League club Al Hilal said that a loan move for Cristiano Ronaldo before the FIFA Club World Cup would have been "completely counter-intuitive" because he played for their "biggest opponent" Al Nassr.

Al Hilal were linked with a possible deal for the 40-year-old Portugal forward after FIFA introduced an additional transfer window earlier this month because of the revamped tournament. Both rival Riyadh clubs are controlled by the country's Public Investment Fund (PIF), and Ronaldo is out of contract at Al Nassr at the end of June.

But when asked if they came close to a move for the forward, the CEO Esteve Calzada told *BBC Sport*: "We normally don't comment on players' situations, particularly because our name is always put out there, when a player or an agent wants to negotiate a better deal with his club, or is trying to move out. "It's been a very weird transfer window, it's a very short period of time.

"You don't want to make a decision thinking about this tournament that you have to carry on with for the next two or three years. "As much as I respect Ronaldo as a huge player, as we all recognise he is, it's certainly completely counter-intuitive that you bring the biggest player of your biggest opponent to play with you.

"Even more when it's only for three to four weeks.

"We've been trying to see if we can reinforce the team. But some players were with a mindset of 'holidays already', some players were sometimes just asking for too much money, and we're aware that our team is extremely competitive. "We'll go into the traditional transfer window after the tournament still with the biggest ambitions to see if we can reinforce the team even more."

REAL MADRID STAR

Fans found guilty of hate crimes against Vinicius

MADRID: Four people have been handed suspended jail sentences after being found guilty of committing hate crimes against Real Madrid forward Vinicius Jr.

The quartet were found guilty of hanging an inflatable effigy of Vinicius Jr over a bridge near Real Madrid's training ground in January 2023, shortly before Atletico Madrid's Copa Del Rey match at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

A banner above the effigy read: "Madrid hates Real".

Three of the group were sentenced to 14 months in prison, while one was given a 22-month sentence for distributing images of the act online.

However, the sentences have been suspended after all four signed a letter of apology to the Brazil international, Madrid, La Liga and the Spanish football federation (RFEF).

The sentence included a restraining order preventing the quartet from coming within 1km of Vinicius, his home or Real Madrid's training ground, as well as a blanket ban on attending La Liga or Spain national team matches.

According to Real Madrid, 14 people have now been convicted of racist attacks against the club's players. "This criminal conviction comes in addition to the several already handed down in recent months for racist insults received by Real Madrid players at the stadiums in Valladolid, Valencia, Palma de Mallorca and Madrid," the club said in a statement.

"Real Madrid have joined its player in prosecuting this case, and in many others currently underway, and will continue to work to protect the values of our club and to eradicate any racist behaviour in the world of football and sport."

Vinicius Jr has regularly been the victim of racial abuse since joining Real Madrid in 2018 from Flamengo.

The Brazilian, who has made 316 appearances for the club, was subject to racist chanting by Atletico fans during a La Liga match in September 2022.

The 24-year-old was targeted again later that month during a match against Real Valladolid, with five people later being handed suspended prison sentences.

In December 2022 - one month before the effigy was put up - Vinicius urged La Liga to act on banning those found guilty of racist chanting from attending matches. - Agencies

Antonio returns to action for Jamaica following serious car crash

CALIFORNIA: Michail Antonio came on as a substitute for Jamaica in the Gold Cup on Monday in his first appearance since a serious car crash in December.

The forward has not yet returned for club West Ham but came on in the 85th minute in Jamaica's 1-0 group stage defeat by Guatemala in California.

Antonio, 35, skidded off the road in his Ferrari and struck a tree in Epping Forest just over six months ago.

He suffered a badly broken leg, the crash shattering his "femur bone in four different places", and required surgery and a three-week stay in hospital.

Antonio's contract with the Hammers ran out on 30 June but the club have yet to make a decision on his future there.

West Ham have said his "unique situation" means no formal decision will be made until the time is "right and appropriate", as supporting Antonio through his recovery period was their "absolute priority".

Antonio joined the Hammers from Nottingham Forest in 2015 and is the club's all-time leading Premier League scorer with 68 goals from 268 games.

FORMULA ONE

Canada secures F1 until 2035, Thailand greenlights race bid

MONTREAL: Canada has secured its future on the Formula 1 calendar until at least 2035 on the same day as a grand prix in Thailand moved a step closer.

F1 has signed a four-year extension to its deal with the governments of Quebec and Canada for a race in Montreal on the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve, which first hosted F1 in 1978.

Meanwhile, Thailand's cabinet has approved a bid to host a street race in Bangkok.

The approval of the funding for the race was a necessary step before Thailand could move forward with talks on a contract with Formula 1.

Thai government spokesman Jirayu Houngsub told a news conference that the bid for a race from 2028-32 is worth 40bn Thai baht (£907m). The plan is to build a 3.54-mile circuit on a route around the Chatuchak Park area north east of the city centre.

The Thai government hopes the F1 race will help promote tourism, which is a key driver of the country's economy. "In the next two-three years, Thailand will have world-class competition, which we never thought would happen in Thailand," Jirayu said.

Canada's event had been in some doubt after complaints about the organisation and logistics of the event last year led to a stern warning from F1 president Stefano Domenicali.

But a new plan for this year's race ensured traffic flowed much more smoothly, and the deal that was due to run until 2031 has now been extended by four years.

A statement from F1 said: "In recent years, the promoter, Octane Racing Group, has made significant investments in the event, modernising infrastructure to meet the growing demands of F1 as the sport continues to expand globally.

"This investment will continue and be vital in continuing to enhance the event in the years ahead."

From next year, Canadian organisers have also acquiesced to Formula One's long-held desire to move the race to late May so it can be twinned with the Miami Grand Prix, to help the sport's attempt to reduce carbon emissions by eliminating the need for teams to fly across the Atlantic on two separate occasions. - Agencies

ROUND-UP

Lexus brings incredible summer benefits for customers in Oman

The offer is valid on Lexus' luxury range, which includes the executive sedans IS, ES, and LC, as well as the high-performance SUVs RX, LX, NX, and UX

MUSCAT: Get an unbeatable summer offer on the purchase of a brand-new Lexus this summer!

Buy your dream Lexus and get incredible benefits of 10 years/100,000 km of free service and 1st year free registration. Check out the dynamic lineup at Lexus Oman showrooms and explore luxury, performance, and state-of-the-art technology that crafts each Lexus vehicle. The campaign that began on 1 June will last until 31 July. Conditions apply. Please visit Lexus showroom for details.

For the SUV lovers, built to tackle rough terrains, Lexus' new addition to the flagship LX SUV series—the all-new LX 700h—features an advanced hybrid system. As powerful as ever, the LX comes equipped with a twin-turbocharged 3.5L V6 engine, producing 341 horsepower and 790 Nm of torque, paired with a 10-speed automatic transmission. The new hybrid system increases fuel efficiency to 10.6 km/l and reduces carbon emissions to 213 g/km. Also, it intelligently manages the transition between engine-only and motor-only modes, optimizing performance based on driving conditions. The new Lexus LX 700h prioritizes reliability and durability, ensuring excellent performance both on-road and off-road.

The pioneer of Lexus' SUV range, the Lexus RX, is a stunner beyond just aesthetics. The sleek style and dynamic performance make it a popular choice of vehicle. The RX is equipped with an inline 4-cylinder, 2.4-liter turbocharged engine that produces 275 hp and 430 Nm of torque, paired with a new 8-speed Direct-Shift automatic transmission (8AT). Meanwhile, the hybrid-electric system combines a 2.5-liter petrol engine and electric motor to produce a total of 247 hp, which is paired with an electronically controlled continuously variable transmission (E-CVT) to provide a fuel consumption value of 20.7 km/l. Similarly, a more eco-friendly trim—the hybrid-electric system pairing a 2.4-liter turbocharged engine with an electric motor—is also available, delivering a combined power of 366 hp, mated to a 6-speed automatic transmission.

Experience the ES, one of the top-selling sedans in the Lexus lineup. The ES is the perfect everyday companion, offering luxurious interiors and an exhilarating city-life experience. Indulge in sublime comfort, spaciousness, and advanced intelligent safety technologies. Available with two powertrain options: the ES 350 is powered by a 3.5-liter, 24-valve V6 engine that produces 298 HP and 36.3 kgm of torque, while the ES 250 is powered by a high-efficiency 2.5-liter, 16-valve DOHC engine that produces 204 HP and 24.8 kgm of torque.

The LC 500 is a world-class luxury coupe crafted for a new era of uncompromising performance and design. Powered by a high-performance 5.0L V8 engine paired with a 10-speed automatic transmission, the LC 500 showcases decades of Takumi craftsmanship blending modern technologies with decades old art.

The offer is valid on Lexus' luxury range, which includes the executive sedans IS, ES, and LC, as well as the high-performance SUVs RX, LX, NX, and UX.

COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE

Digital Private School achieves IB continuum status with diploma programme approval

MUSCAT: Digital Private School is proud to announce that it has officially become an IB Continuum School, authorized to offer the Primary Years Programme (PYP), Middle Years Programme (MYP), and with the recent approval, the Diploma Programme (DP). This achievement places Digital Private School among the prestigious global network of IB World Schools, committed to providing students with a world-class, inquiry-based education designed to foster critical thinking, creativity, and international -mindedness.

By offering all three IB programmes, Digital Private School is now a fully authorized IB Continuum School, providing a seamless, high-quality educational experience for students from early childhood through to pre-university education. This marks a significant milestone in the school's mission to nurture well-rounded, internationally minded individuals who are prepared to make a positive contribution to a rapidly changing global society.

"We are delighted to become an IB Continuum School, offering the full spectrum of the IB programmes to our students. This recognition underscores our commitment to academic excellence, student-centred learning, and the development of compassionate, responsible global citizens. The integration of the PYP, MYP, and DP ensures that our students are well-equipped with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to thrive in the future," said Elisabeth Craig, Principal of the Digital Private School.

The IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) for children aged 3 - 12 nurtures and develops young students as caring, active participants in a lifelong journey of learning. The International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme (MYP) is for students aged 11-16. The MYP is a challenging framework that encourages students to make practical connections between their studies and the real world. The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme (DP) is for students aged 16-19. The programme aims to develop students who have excellent breadth and depth of knowledge students who flourish physically, intellectually, emotionally, and ethically.

The DP programme(DP) is scheduled to commence in the upcoming school year, starting in September 2025, and will offer students an enriched academic experience that provides a global perspective.

Dr Muneer Al Maskari, Chief Executive Officer of Digital Private School, added: "This is a proud moment for our entire school community. From the outset, we set out to build a school that prepares students not only for a world-class education, but also for life."

RAFFLE DRAW

Suzuki picks grand prize winners of Ramadan campaign

MUSCAT: Suzuki Oman, represented by Moosa Abdul Rahman Hassan & Co. announced the winners of its much-anticipated Ramadancampaign Raffle Draw, which concluded with an overwhelming response from customers across the Sultanate.

In a celebratory moment that captured the spirit of Ramadan and Suzuki's commitment to rewarding its customers, the first prize – a brand-new Suzuki Swift – was awarded to the lucky winner RafeequMalayil Moidu while the second prize – a trip to Turkey for two – went to Amur Salim Khalfan Al Shehimi offering them an unforgettable travel experience.

The campaign, which ran throughout Ramadan and was extended until May 2025, offered customers not only exceptional benefits such as free registration, insurance, and service but also the chance to win life-changing prizes through a grand raffle draw.

Commenting on the success of the campaign and the announcement of the winners, Muhammad Faisal Nawaz, Marketing Manager at Suzuki Oman, said: "We are thrilled to announce the winners of this exciting campaign. At Suzuki Oman, we believe in creating not just customers but happy memories. The opportunity to gift someone a brand-new car and a dream vacation is a reflection of our brand's commitment to rewarding trust and loyalty. We thank everyone who made this campaign a resounding success."

Suzuki Oman continues to offer a dynamic range of vehicles catering to every lifestyle—from the sporty Swift and practical Dzire to the bold Jimny and versatile Grand Vitara. Customers are encouraged to visit their nearest showroom and discover the perfect Suzuki for their needs.

PREMIUM BENEFITS

GMC picks grand raffle draw winners

MUSCAT: In a thrilling conclusion to one of the most exciting seasonal campaigns in the automotive market, GMC Oman, represented by Moosa Abdul Rahman Hassan & Co., has officially announced the winners of its grand raffle draw. The campaign, launched earlier this year under the theme "The Rewards Continue with GMC Oman," offered customers premium benefits with every purchase and the chance to win incredible prizes.

The first prize, a brand-new GMC Terrain, was awarded to Hisham Abdul Aziz Mohammed Al Balushi, while the second prize, a dream trip to Paris for two, was claimed by Hilal Salim Saif Al Qarwashi. Both winners were selected in a live raffle draw event.

Throughout the campaign period, GMC Oman offered 9 compelling reasons to drive home a GMC, including an Apple iPad with every purchase, a 6-year unlimited-kilometre warranty, a3-year/60,000 KM service package, first-year insurance and registration, VAT-inclusive pricing, and more. The campaign generated massive customer engagement and showroom footfall, reflecting the growing trust and loyalty towards the GMC brand in Oman.

Commenting on the success of the campaign, Muhammad Faisal Nawaz, Marketing Manager at GMC Oman, stated:"We are delighted to announce the winners of this season's raffle and thank all our valued customers for their overwhelming response. At GMC Oman, we aim to offer more than just a vehicle — we offer a premium experience that reflects the spirit of professionalism and trust. This campaign was designed to reward our customers and make every purchase memorable. Whether it's driving home in a powerful GMC Terrain or heading to Paris for a well-deserved vacation, these moments are what we strive to create."

GMC, a brand long associated with strength, refinement, and advanced engineering, continues to deliver on its promise of "Professional Grade" with every model — from the rugged Sierra and spacious Yukon to the versatile Acadia, dynamic Canyon, and compact Terrain.

EMPOWERING OMANI WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

Sohar International and Sharakah celebrate graduation of SME development programme participants

MUSCAT: Reinforcing its commitment to sustainable empowerment and inclusive growth, Sohar International, in collaboration with Sharakah, concluded the "Sohar International Women SMEs Development Program" with a graduation ceremony held recently at Crowne Plaza Muscat OCEC.

The event was held under the patronage of Eng. Ahmed Hassan Alawi Al Dheeb, Vice Chairman of the General Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones. Sohar International was represented at the event by Eng. Aisha Al Saifi, Chief Transformation Officer, Mazin Mahmood Al Raisi, Chief Marketing Officer and Abdul Qadir Al Sumali, Chief Retail and Premier Banking Officer of Sohar International.

The ceremony marked the culmination of a six-month transformative journey undertaken by ten Omani women entrepreneurs from across the Sultanate. Designed to strengthen core business competencies and unlock future growth opportunities, the program focused on equipping participants with practical skills in financial planning, digital enablement, and strategic marketing.

The event commenced with a welcome speech delivered by Fares Al Harthy, Assistant Manager of SME Development at the Fund for Development of Youth Projects, in which he emphasized the importance of empowering women entrepreneurs in supporting the national economy and promoting economic diversification. This was followed by a speech from the bank delivered by Mazin Mahmood Al Raisi, Chief Marketing Officer at Sohar International, who highlighted the bank's role in supporting Omani women and enhancing their entrepreneurial capabilities.

Participants in the program were then given the opportunity to share their experiences and how they benefited from the initiative. The event concluded with the distribution of graduation certificates to the participants in recognition of their efforts and dedication throughout the program.

Highlighting in his speech, Mazin Mahmood Al Raisi, Chief Marketing Officer of Sohar International, said:"At Sohar International, we view empowerment as a long-term investment in national progress. This initiative reflects our commitment to shaping a resilient and inclusive economy by equipping Omani women entrepreneurs with the tools to lead, innovate, and grow. By fostering capability and confidence, we are not only supporting individual success but also contributing to Oman's strategic vision for sustainable and diversified economic development. We are proud to be part of a journey that nurtures entrepreneurial potential while aligning with Oman Vision 2040's priorities around human capital development, private sector competitiveness, and inclusive growth. This is not just a program—it is a platform for real, measurable change. And we remain committed to expanding such opportunities across the nation."

Launched in October 2024, the initiative stems from a strategic partnership between Sohar International and Sharakah. Through a structured mix of interactive workshops and one-on-one coaching sessions, participants gained valuable insights into cash flow management, customer engagement, and the use of artificial intelligence to boost business performance. The training was delivered in a peer-driven format, ensuring real-time application of concepts and collaborative learning.

Commenting on the milestone, Ali Ahmed Muqaibal, CEO of Sharakah, said, "We are proud to collaborate with Sohar International on this transformative program. Participating women have demonstrated incredible commitment, and through this program, we have ensured they are equipped with the tools and knowledge to thrive in the digital economy. This is the beginning of a new chapter for these entrepreneurs."

The program also included business diagnostics and tailored mentoring designed to help participants refine their value propositions and expand their market reach—laying the groundwork for long-term resilience and scalability.As the event drew to a close, the graduates received their certificates of completion—symbolizing not just the end of the program, but the beginning of a new chapter as empowered entrepreneurs capable of driving value in a dynamic business environment.

Through initiatives such as these, Sohar International continues to play a strategic role in enabling Omani talent, nurturing innovation, and building capacity across key segments of society—particularly among youth and women. By aligning its efforts with national priorities, the bank contributes meaningfully to shaping a more inclusive, digitally empowered, and entrepreneurially driven economy, reinforcing its position as a catalyst for long-term socio-economic progress.

ROUND-UP

ENHANCING SKILLS

Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion signs agreements to develop national capabilities in industrial sector

MUSCAT: In a significant step to enhance partnerships with both the public and private sectors and empower national talent in the industrial sector, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MoCIIP) signed a series of agreements on, Monday, June 16, with several public and private institutions.

The signing ceremony was attended by. Qais bin Mohammed Al-Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion; Dr. Said bin Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy;. Dr. Saleh bin Saeed Masan, Undersecretary for Commerce and Industry; Mohammed bin Suleiman Al Kindi, Governor of North Al Batinah; and a number of senior executives and representatives from the signing entities.

Dr. Saleh bin Saeed Masan emphasized in his address that these agreements mark a major milestone in the journey to strengthen national industrial capabilities. He reaffirmed the Ministry's firm belief that investing in human capital and enhancing its skills is the foundation of building a strong and sustainable economy. These initiatives, he explained, are part of the broader implementation of the Industrial Strategy 2040, which focuses on developing a diversified, knowledge-based, and technology-driven industrial sector.

He noted that the Ministry is translating the strategic directions of the industrial sector into tangible projects and initiatives that aim to increase added value, diversify industrial activities, boost industrial exports, attract quality investments, and strengthen investor confidence in the industrial business environment.

As part of the event, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry, the Office of the Governor of North Al Batinah, and Jindal Steel (Oman) for the establishment of an industrial training center in the governorate. The center aims to qualify national talent and enhance their readiness for the labor market.

Additionally, a financing agreement was signed with Daleel Petroleum to support the development of the "Tasneea" platform – a specialized digital platform connecting procurement and contracting processes in the industrial sector with local products. This initiative aims to improve supply chain efficiency and increase in-country value.

Waleed Al Maawali, Senior Manager of Supply & Logistics at Daleel Petroleum, commented: "The 'Tasneea' platform is the outcome of joint efforts between the Ministry and Daleel Petroleum. It represents a strategic step forward in promoting local content. The platform will serve to connect and integrate industrial and consumer sectors, driving productivity in the industrial sector."

The ceremony also featured the launch of training programs by Oman Cables Industry, presented as a successful model for industrial training and qualification. This further confirms the Ministry's commitment to empowering national talent and strengthening partnerships with local manufacturers.

Eng. Khalid bin Saleem Al Qasabi, Director General of Industry at MoCIIP, stated that signing the national capabilities development agreements is a pivotal step toward achieving industrial empowerment objectives. These initiatives place national talent at the core of the industrial process by equipping them with advanced technical and vocational skills and specialized knowledge.

He added that the programs are implemented in collaboration with specialized institutions to align educational outcomes with the needs of the industrial market, ensuring compatibility with the requirements of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and fast-paced economic transformations. This will contribute to building a qualified national workforce capable of leading industrial establishments, enhancing their productivity, and boosting their competitiveness locally and globally.

On her part, Nasra bint Saif Al Habsi, Director General of Commerce at MoCIIP, explained that a cooperation program was signed with Al Alamiya Retail Company. The program includes the provision of 300 training, qualification, and employment opportunities for Omani jobseekers—100 of which are direct employment opportunities coupled with training, and 200 are training programs linked to employment. This will enhance the presence of national talent in the job market and contribute to their economic empowerment.

Harssha Shetty, CEO of Jindal Steel (Oman), stated: "The Jindal Youth Skills Training Centre underlines our commitment to Oman Vision 2040. Social sustainability through sports and youth is at the core of our philosophy. Oman is blessed with a youth population that represents almost 47% of the total population, an enthusiastic, energetic, and eager generation that is the true resource of the nation.

The Jindal Skills Training Institute will assess the skills needed among Omani youth and impart tailored industrial skill training courses to bridge the gap required for job readiness and to power Oman's bright future.

Born out of the collective vision of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MoCIIP), the North Al Batinah Governorate (NABG), and Chairman, Naveen Jindal, the Centre will serve as a shining beacon for youth development and local employment creation.

We thank the MoCIIP and the Governor's Office of North Al Batinah for choosing us. We are honoured to support the creation of a skilled, competitive workforce aligned with the aspirations of Oman Vision 2040."

Through its various initiatives and programs, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion seeks to support and enhance the industrial sector, which is considered a key pillar of the economic diversification strategy. The Ministry is implementing the Industrial Strategy, which aims to develop an integrated industrial infrastructure, stimulate local and foreign investments, enhance industrial performance, and strengthen the competitiveness of Omani products in regional and global markets.

Furthermore, the Ministry is working to create a conducive legislative and regulatory environment for industrial growth, provide incentives and facilitation to the private sector, develop specialized industrial zones, and focus on transitioning to smart manufacturing and high-value-added industries. These efforts contribute to sustainable economic development and the creation of quality employment opportunities for citizens.

Bank Nizwa launches exclusive retail bundle

Bank Nizwa launched exclusive offers for professionals across education and healthcare sectors

MUSCAT: Driven by its commitment to providing banking services that meet the diverse and evolving needs of its customers, Bank Nizwa, the leading and most trusted Islamic bank in Oman, has announced the launch of a profession-based retail product bundle designed exclusively for individuals working in the education and healthcare sectors.

This new offering not only acknowledges their invaluable contributions to society but also provides a comprehensive, convenient, and value-driven banking experience. This profession-focused bundle is a testament to Bank Nizwa's dedication to delivering Sharia-compliant, customer-centric solutions that cater to lifestyle, career needs, and long-term aspirations.

At the heart of the bundle is the Salary Account, offering a suite of exclusive benefits such as savings plans, recurring saving deposits, and Mudaraba-based investment options; empowering customers to plan and manage their finances with confidence and purpose. Additionally, eligible professionals can access preferential profit rates on financing products, enabling greater financial flexibility to achieve their aspirations.

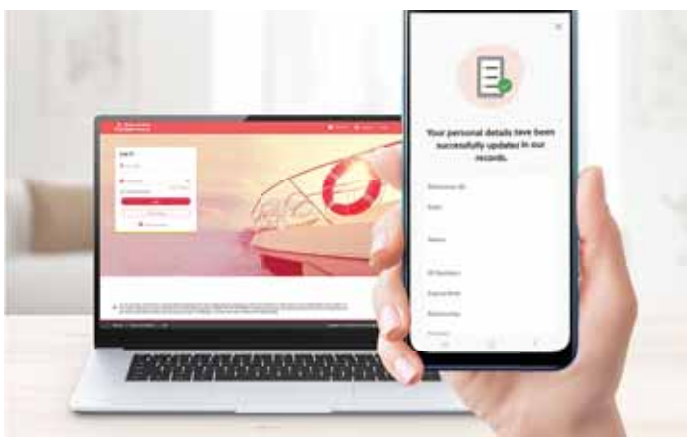
As part of the offering, customers will also receive a Gold Credit Card with a first-year waiver on the annual fee. The card unlocks a range of benefits, including discounts and promotional offers from Bank Nizwa's partner merchants. Furthermore, to provide added value and peace of mind, the bundle includes Takaful coverage for domestic helpers, offering support and protection for household employment needs.

Commenting on the offering, Mohamed Al Ghassani, Chief Retail Banking Officer at Bank Nizwa, stated: "As the nation's preferred Islamic financial services provider, we remain dedicated to consistently innovating unique and enhanced offerings to our valued customers, with the aim to meet their evolving needs, and ease their financial management necessities.

"At Bank Nizwa, we recognize the essential role those working in the healthcare and education sectors play in building a better Oman. This bundle is a gesture of appreciation and a meaningful way to support their lifestyles, professional demands, and long-term aspirations. Ouraim is to be their trusted partner, offering solutions that align with their values and career aspirations."

Reflecting Bank Nizwa's unwavering commitment to customer-centricity, this occupation-specific bundle stands as a testament to the bank's dedication to understanding the unique needs of professionals in education and healthcare sectors. The bundle empowers customers to take confident, well-informed financial decisions while laying the groundwork for a stable and prosperous future. By offering holistic and Sharia-compliant financial solutions under one offering, Bank Nizwa continues to empower its customers to make confident financial choices and build a secure future.

SIMPLIFIED PROCESS



Update your personal details easily through Bank Muscat's mobile and internet banking

MUSCAT: As part of its ongoing digital transformation and commitment to improving customer experience, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, has introduced an enhanced KYC process, which is called now "Update Personal Details," through Internet Banking and Mobile Banking. The new process is fully automated and introduces a straight through processing (STP) system, which makes updating personal details seamless, instant and more efficient.

Customers can now enjoy a fully digital, hassle-free experience with fewer steps, fewer clicks and no ID scanning required, significantly reducing processing time; instant reminders when personal details are due for update within 30 days or have already expired; and instant notifications via SMS and email once the update is successfully processed.

To update the personal data on Mobile Banking, customers can log in their mBanking App > go to Requests > Update my information > Personal Details, then follow the on-screen instructions. The details to update include declaration, personal details, address details, and employment details. Then after verifying the details and entering the OTP sent through the registered mobile number, the customers personal details will be successfully updated in the Bank's records. This addition is a key part of the Bank's mBanking services, aimed at streamlining the customer experience. It highlights Bank Muscat's commitment to updating Mobile Banking in line with the latest developments in the sector. The Bank remains dedicated to continuously enhancing its digital services to elevate customer satisfaction.

Update Personal Details is an important process that enables the Bank to verify and maintain customers' identity, information and documents at all times to serve them better, enhance their banking experience and avoid any delays in their transactions. Bank Muscat is committed to provide innovative services that are in-line with the latest technological developments and customers' current and future needs.

Bank Muscat offers a wide range of online services, including Soft Token App for the approval of Internet Banking transactions, instant opening of savings bank account for adults and children, application and renewal of debit cards, tokenization of debit, credit and pre-paid cards, online generation of debit, credit, prepaid card PIN, apply for Mutual Funds, Themaar and Fixed deposit account opening, application for Credit card and Shukran prepaid card, guardians are able to view and perform transactions in minors account and open a Themaar Savings plan on children's account, retrieve stamped account statements, delivery request to collect cards by courier, stop cheque requests, ROP fine payment, and update mobile numbers or email IDs.

Customers can also utilize the app for accessing bill payment facilities across a variety of utility services such as electricity, water, telecom, mobile top ups, instant credit card bill payments, and school fees payments. Bank Muscat's Mobile Payments option offers an easy mechanism to transfer money within Oman. Customers can also initiate mobile payment via QR code through Mobile Shake. The Bank's Mobile Banking services also include speed transfers to a number of countries including India, Philippines, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Egypt and Bangladesh, as well as international transfers to more than 70 countries. Recently, the bank launched the Eidiya Pay option for children to receive Eidiya with the sender scanning of QR code.

INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP

NBO and Injaz Oman celebrate completion of financial literacy programme for school students

MUSCAT: The National Bank of Oman (NBO) hosted a closing event at its Head Office in Muscat to mark the successful conclusion of the current school semester's cycle of the More Than Money Programme, delivered in collaboration with INJAZ Oman.

The event featured an interactive student workshop, alongside inspiring remarks from NBO and INJAZ Oman representatives. This milestone marked the conclusion of a semester-long initiative that positively impacted 1,568 students across Muscat and Al Dakhiliyah governorates.

Delivered in alignment with the Ministry of Education's academic guidelines, the programme supports the nationwide efforts to prepare the youth for a better future by equipping school students with essential financial literacy and entrepreneurial skills—empowering them to make the best financial decisions and contribute productively to Oman's growing economy.

Moreover, the programme complements NBO's broader support with INJAZ Oman, which involved supporting two of the latter's flagship programmes; the More than Money Programme and the Company's Programme and Competition. Through these initiatives, NBO contributes to nurturing the next generation's financial acumen and entrepreneurial capabilities.

By supporting these programmes, NBO invests in youth empowerment and helps bridge the gap between academic education and real worldskills. The partnership advances NBO's broader strategy to promote financial inclusion and support national capacity-building through impactful community initiatives.

The Company Programme and Competition engage older students in hands-on entrepreneurship, from developing business plans to running student-led ventures, complementing the financial literacy foundation that The More Than Money provides to younger students.

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