



Times
OF OMAN



50
YEARS OF
LEGACY


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BEFORE HM THE SULTAN, OMAN'S AMBASSADOR TO BANGLADESH TAKES OATH OF OFFICE
Before His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, Jameel bin Haji bin Ismail Al Balushi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the People's Republic of Bangladesh, took the oath of office at Al Baraka Palace on Wednesday. The oath-taking ceremony was attended by Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister. — **ONA**

MEETINGS

HM receives ambassadors' credentials
MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik received, separately, at Al Baraka Palace on Wednesday credentials of ambassadors of several countries appointed to the Sultanate of Oman. His Majesty the Sultan received credentials of the following ambassadors:
- Lyu Jian, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Sultanate of Oman.
- Ibrahima Seck, Ambassador of the Republic of Senegal to the Sultanate of Oman.
- Sheikh Mohammed bin Maktoum bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to the Sultanate of Oman.
During their sideline meetings with His Majesty the Sultan, the ambassadors conveyed greetings of their countries' leaders to His Majesty. **>A4**



SAYYID BADR STRESSES THE NEED TO HALT IRAN-ISRAEL WAR

The Foreign Ministry continues its efforts to protect citizens in conflict zones by coordinating evacuation operations

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister continued his discussions with counterparts from Arab and friendly nations to address regional tensions stemming from Israel's preemptive strikes on Iran and Iran's retaliatory response, amid the ongoing escalation of the crisis that erupted last Friday. These talks come as part of Oman's intensified diplomatic

efforts to contain the regional escalation. Sayyid Badr stressed the need to halt this tragic war, which threatens regional security, calling for more diplomatic pressure to revive the political track. Within the same context, the Foreign Ministry continues its efforts to protect Omani citizens in conflict zones by coordinating evacuation operations and ensuring their safe return. The ministry



renewed its call for citizens to avoid areas of tension and to cooperate and communicate with the authorities for necessary support through the announced hotlines at the ministry's operations centre and Oman's embassies in Tehran and neighbouring countries. — **ONA**

Oman condemns violation of Palestinian rights by Israelis

GENEVA: The Sultanate of Oman expressed its condemnation of the systematic practices carried out by Israeli occupation forces in the Palestinian territories, which have extensively targeted civilian infrastructure. This condemnation came during Oman's participation in the 59th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, through the interactive dialogue on the report of the International Commission of Inquiry regarding the occupied Palestinian territories.

Sara Abdullah Al Balushi, First Secretary of the Permanent Delegation of Oman to the United Nations and other international organisations, stated in Oman's address that the Sultanate appreciates the Commission of Inquiry's efforts in preparing the report and acknowledges the significant challenges it faced due to the obstinacy of the Israeli occupation forces and their refusal to permit on-site inspections of the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories. **>A2**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN
Your new best friend is your ultimate betrayer

1 Every foreign-made device in your home isn't just spying — it's a sleeper agent awaiting activation. **>A2**

OMAN
Information Minister meets ROP officials

2 Dr. Abdullah Nasser Al Harrasi, Minister of Information, met with a number of commanders of the Royal Oman Police in Nizwa. **>A3**

WORLD
Iran's centrifuge production sites hit

3 The IAEA has confirmed that two Iranian centrifuge production facilities were hit in recent strikes. **>A6**

YOUNG ACHIEVERS

His Highness Sayyid Faris bin Fatik Al Said to grace 'Sout Al Shabiba – Tamkeen wa Ta'theer' Forum as Chief Guest

MUSCAT: In alignment with Oman Vision 2040 and its strategic focus on youth empowerment & support to SMEs, Al Shabiba, the leading Arabic daily published by Muscat Media Group, is organising, Sout Al Shabiba – Tamkeen wa Ta'theer (Forum on the Voice of the Youth – Empowerment and Impact). The forum will be held on Monday, 23rd June, at Hotel JW Marriott, Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre (OCEC), Muscat. The event will be held under the esteemed patronage of His Highness Sayyid Faris bin Fatik Al Said, whose presence as Chief Guest underscores the national significance of this initiative and reaffirms his dedication to supporting the aspirations of Oman's youth.

This Arabic-language forum is designed as a dynamic and thought-provoking platform that brings together the voices of the next generation. It aims to foster open, impactful discussions that focus on the real challenges and aspirations of young Omanis while encouraging solutions that can lead to sustainable and inclusive growth. The event will bring together inspiring young achievers, next-gen leaders, entrepreneurs, corporate executives, academic experts and senior policymakers for a collective conversation around youth empowerment, supporting entrepreneurship and nation-building. The forum aims to promote meaningful conversations and foster actionable insights to take



concrete steps towards building a brighter, more sustainable future for Omani youth and the nation as a whole. The event is supported by De-



velopment Bank, Changan, Turkish Airlines, Global College of Engineering & Technology and Ahmed Al Muqbali - Advocate and Legal Consultants all of whom are

aligned with the forum's core mission of creating opportunities for young Omanis and unlocking their full potential. **Vision 2040** The key themes that will drive the day's discussions include Omani Youth and Vision 2040; fostering entrepreneurship and innovation; digital-era Omanisation and future skills; the role of SMEs in driving economic growth; In-Country Value (ICV) as a catalyst for developing local talent; and building green economy jobs for the future. Other focus areas include bridging the skills gap between education and industry, financing youth-led ventures, expanding the startup ecosystem, strengthening mentorship and leadership devel-

opment, enhancing public-private partnerships for employment and innovation, enabling youth-led social impact, and building a resilient workforce equipped with soft skills for tomorrow's challenges. The forum will feature engaging panel discussions including "Cultivating Entrepreneurship & Innovation for Omani Youth" and "Policy, Collaboration & Sustainability for Youth Empowerment." Speakers from a wide range of sectors such as telecom, oil & gas, finance, education, banking, fintech, human resources, law, manufacturing and events, etc. will offer insights and share experiences to guide and inspire attendees. For more information, contact: hanaa@mmg.om / +968 9115 5585

OMAN

PRAYER
TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....12:13pm

Asr.....3:31pm

Maghrib.....7:01pm

Isha.....8:23pm

Fajr (Tomorrow).....3:53am

COMMENTARY

Your new best friend is your ultimate betrayer



MOHAMED ISSA AL ZADJALI

In the summer of 1999 — at the dawn of the digital age — world leaders gathered at the Millennium Assembly on IT and Knowledge with a bold vision: Governments must go digital, and wealthy nations would help the rest achieve it.

As a member of Oman's delegation, I watched as the idealism of "global cooperation" overshadowed a darker reality.

"Once we embrace e-government, privacy disappears," I warned our delegation head. "Our data won't belong to us anymore."

He dismissed it as paranoia. Two decades later, that warning has become prophecy — and Israel, with its deep ties to Western tech and intelligence, sits at the heart of this surveillance empire.

The Backdoor Revolution

The post-9/11 era erased any illusions. The U.S. government compelled American tech giants to embed surveillance backdoors in their exports — officially for "national security," but effectively a global license to spy.

Israel, America's closest intelligence-sharing ally, gained indirect access to this data through agreements like ECHELON and joint cyber units.

"Israel doesn't just benefit from U.S. surveillance — it actively shapes it," says Avi Meyer, a former Israeli cybersecurity official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"When the NSA or FBI demand backdoors from Apple or Google, Israel's intelligence agencies are rarely far behind in

accessing the same pipelines."

From Pegasus to Exploding Pagers

Israel's cyber warfare capabilities reached terrifying new heights in September 2024, when dozens of pagers carried by Hezbollah operatives simultaneously exploded across Lebanon.

This unprecedented attack proved that modern surveillance doesn't just monitor — it can physically eliminate targets using their own devices.

The pager explosions demonstrated Israel's ability to:

- Weaponise ordinary electronics by remotely triggering battery explosions
- Compromise supply chains by implanting lethal capabilities during manufacturing
- Escalate cyber warfare into the physical realm with deniable precision strikes

Combined with Israel's Pegasus spyware — used against journalists and activists worldwide — and AI-powered tracking in conflict zones, this marks a complete evolution of warfare.

"First they read your messages through Pegasus. Then they detonate your devices," says Avi Cohen (pseudonym), a former cyber defence official.

"The Hezbollah pager attack was Israel showing the world there are no limits anymore."

Hypocrisy in the Tech Cold War

While Israel and the West weaponise technology, they wage a relentless campaign against Chinese tech firms, branding Huawei a "spying tool" and TikTok a "data pipeline to Beijing."

Yet Western-made operating systems (Windows, iOS, Android) and platforms (Facebook, X, Google, WhatsApp) dominate global infrastructure — with no scrutiny of how Israel exploits them.

The 5G rollout exposed the double standard: 2019: Huawei pioneers affordable 5G. Western media floods with warnings of "radiation risks" and "Chinese brainwashing." The U.S. pressures allies to ban it. 2024: Western firms like Er-

icsson and Nokia deploy 5G. The health warnings vanish.

The Stakes: Digital Colonialism or Sovereignty?

The 1999 dream of e-government has metastasised into a global surveillance grid controlled by a U.S.-Israel tech-intelligence axis. The Hezbollah pager attacks proved that even basic electronics can be turned against their users.

Three steps to reclaim control:

1. Build Sovereign Tech – Develop domestic alternatives to foreign operating systems and hardware.
2. Secure Supply Chains – Create national standards for critical tech components.
3. Assume Compromise – Treat all foreign tech as potentially weaponised until proven otherwise.

The Ultimate Spy — and Assassin

We stand at a crossroads: Continue to depend on hostile technologies, or follow China's lead in building sovereign digital infrastructure. The pager attacks

weren't just a warning—they were a preview of our vulnerable future. But the most dangerous spy isn't a pager.

It's the smartphone in your pocket. Your phone, smartwatch, smart ring, or band knows everything about you:

- Your habits, routines, and movements
- What you eat, when you sleep, and when you wake
- Who you meet and what you discuss (via microphone access)
- Your health data, financial activity, and biometrics

This, I believe, is how Israel assassinated Iran's top officials last week. No human spies — just the targets' phones betraying them.

Every foreign-made device in your home isn't just spying — it's a sleeper agent awaiting activation. The pager explosions were merely the opening scene.

Tomorrow's assassinations won't be delivered by human hands — but through the glowing rectangle that never leaves your side.

Your phone doesn't love you. It's just biding its time.

Oman committed for a mine-free world

Oman is ready for constructive cooperation with the international community to support efforts aimed at protecting civilians and enhancing human security



Twelfth Preparatory Session for the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, held in Geneva, Switzerland, with broad participation from member states, as well as representatives of relevant international and humanitarian organisations.

Ambassador Idris Abdulrahman Al Khanjari, Oman's Permanent Representative to the United Nations and other international organisations in Geneva, delivered Oman's statement during the opening session of the meetings.

He emphasised Oman's firm po-

sition on the convention's foundational principles and announced that the Sultanate of Oman has fulfilled all obligations outlined in Article 5 of the treaty, reflecting its full commitment to implementing the convention's provisions and cooperating with its enforcement mechanisms.

The Ministry of Defence was represented in the meetings by an official delegation that comprised Captain Khalid Abbas Al Balushi and Colonel Mohammed Al-Kaabi.

The delegation followed the

technical sessions and discussions on action plans and ways to enhance international cooperation in mine clearance efforts.

Oman's participation in these meetings underscores its steadfast commitment to humanitarian principles and its continued dedication to the convention's objectives.

It also reflects the country's belief in the importance of collective action toward achieving a mine-free world, in line with the "Siem Reap – Angkor 2025–2029" action plan. -ONA

IN HOUSTON

Omani teams start trip to NASA Space Apps Hackathon



TEXAS: The Omani teams short-listed for the NASA Space Apps Challenge 2024 have commenced their scientific visit to the United States with a tour of NASA's Johnson Space Centre in Houston, Texas. This exchange programme is organised by the U.S. Embassy in Oman in collaboration with the University of Technology and Applied Sciences.

The visit began with the Omani team exploring Space Center Houston, one of the premier scientific destinations in the U.S.

The team toured the Independence Plaza, home to a full-scale replica of the NASA space shuttle mounted atop the historic shuttle carrier aircraft, and examined exhibition halls featuring original spacecraft, including the Apollo 17 command module.

The team gained insights into daily life aboard the International Space Station through interactive exhibits before attending a cinematic screening titled The Moonwalkers, which documents the history of Apollo missions and connects them to the Artemis programme.

The tour also included a visit to the historic Apollo Mission Control Center, where the team en-

tered the restored control room that guided the first human moon landing.

Additionally, the team explored Mars exhibits, engaged in virtual reality experiences, and learned about the evolution of spacesuits.

Dr. Fatima Nasser Al-Harthy, team leader, stated that the visit to Johnson Space Center provided the team with a unique opportunity to engage with NASA's storied history and ambitious future. She emphasized that such experiences not only inspire participants but also foster a culture of scientific innovation among Omani youth.

The team comprises distinguished students from several Omani educational institutions, including the University of Technology and Applied Sciences, the Military Technological College, and the German University of Technology in Oman.

This visit reflects a forward-looking vision to empower Omani youth by exposing them to global experiences in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. It also strengthens Oman's presence in international scientific forums, aligning with the nation's ongoing efforts to build a knowledge- and innovation-driven economy. -ONA



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MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Discussions held on housing plans in Al Dakhiliyah

NIZWA: The Municipal Council of Al Dakhiliyah Governorate on Wednesday discussed several matters related to housing plans, social services, and development projects across the governorate's wilayats.

The meeting addressed multiple requests related to housing and service schemes, including approval of new residential plans and allocation of residential land plots in the wilayats of Bidbid, Adam, and Bahla, pro-

posed service projects such as desalination plants, land reclamation, and the establishment of industrial zones in Al Ghaleel area of Al Jabal Al Akdhar.

The Council also reviewed service quality for people with disabilities across the governorate, community requests for sports facilities and playgrounds in Samail and Nizwa, land allocation for mosques, Quran memorisation schools, and Eid prayer grounds. -ONA

SELF-DETERMINATION

‘Widespread destruction in Palestine’

<FROM A1 She noted that the report documents a series of egregious violations by the Israeli occupation in the occupied Palestinian territories, targeting educational, religious, and cultural facilities. She emphasised that the systematic and widespread destruction of the educational sector in the occupied Palestinian territories, along with cultural centres, places of worship, and attempts to erase national identity and heritage, constitutes a full-fledged crime under international

legal definitions. These actions fall within the framework of a war of extermination and an effort to nullify Palestinian identity and eradicate their existence.

Al-Balushi added that Oman, while reiterating its denunciation of these blatant attempts to eliminate the Palestinian presence and displace people from their land, stresses the necessity of enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their inherent rights to self-determination, affirm their existence, and achieve their legitimate demands. -ONA



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MEETING

Information Minister meets ROP commanders, reviews media role



NIZWA: Dr. Abdullah Nasser Al Harrasi, Minister of Information, met on Wednesday with a number of commanders of the Royal Oman Police (ROP) at the Officers' Institute of the Sultan Qaboos Academy for Police Sciences in Nizwa.

The meeting was attended by Lt.Gen Hassan Mohsin Al Shuraiqi, Inspector General of Police and

Customs.

Dr. Abdullah reviewed the foundations, current state, and future prospects of Omani media, emphasising its role in strengthening national security. He highlighted the importance of security media in conveying police messaging and the media's approach to various events and emergency situations.



He also touched upon govern- orates media, foreign media, the Government Communication Center, and the roles of the Directorate General of Publications and Artistic Works. He affirmed that Omani media is rooted in national values and principles, reflecting the nation's commitment to achieving comprehensive devel-

opment goals, building national identity, and fostering social cohesion. The minister said that Oman Vision 2040 opens new horizons for media institutions to adopt modern technologies and enhance digital media content. He lauded the high level of coordination and cooperation between the ROP and various local media outlets. -ONA

BILATERAL RELATIONS

Al Nuamani meets British official



MUSCAT: Gen. Sultan Mohamed Al Nuamani, Minister of the Royal Office, on Wednesday received Vice Admiral Edward Ahlgren, UK Defence Senior Advisor to the Middle East and North Africa.

Gen. Al Nuamani welcomed the guest and reviewed the bilateral relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the UK.

The two sides discussed ways

to enhance cooperation in a manner that strengthens the security of both friendly nations, in addition to reviewing recent developments on regional and international fronts.

In his turn, the guest expressed his deep appreciation for Oman's diplomatic efforts in bridging viewpoints on various issues.

The meeting was attended by the UK Ambassador to Oman. -ONA

Oman to welcome summer solstice and Khareef season on Saturday



In Muscat Governorate, people will experience the longest day of the year, with sunrise at 5:21 am, the sun reaching its highest point at 12:09 pm and sunset at 6:57 pm

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman will witness the summer solstice phenomenon next Saturday as the sun aligns directly over the Tropic of Cancer, marking the official astronomical start of summer in the Northern Hemisphere.

This year's summer season will last approximately 93 days, 15 hours, and 37 minutes, according to astronomical calculations.

Al Mukhtar Saif Al Saeedi, a member of Oman Astronomical Society, explained that this year's summer solstice will occur precisely at 6:42 AM Oman time on

Saturday, 21 June.

In Muscat Governorate, residents will experience the longest day of the year, with sunrise at 5:21 AM, the sun reaching its highest point at 12:09 PM, and sunset at 6:57 PM - resulting in a day length of 13 hours, 35 minutes, and 35 seconds.

Shortest night

This phenomenon creates the longest daylight period and shortest night of the year across most Northern Hemisphere regions, including Europe, Asia, North Amer-



ica, and the Arctic Circle.

The summer solstice represents a significant astronomical event where the Northern Hemisphere experiences its maximum tilt toward the sun, while simultane-

ously marking the winter solstice in the Southern Hemisphere.

The summer solstice coincides with several notable natural phenomena in Oman.

Astronomically, it signals the be-

ginning of Dhofar's Khareef season (monsoon season) along the coastal regions from Dhakut in the west to Mirbat in the east, when monsoon winds carry moisture-laden clouds from the Arabian Sea and

Indian Ocean

He further clarified that these astronomical events do not directly dictate temperature changes, as surface temperatures are influenced more by climatic and atmospheric factors like air currents, heat waves, and wind patterns, which are weather-related rather than strictly seasonal.

Al Saeedi highlighted several phenomena accompanying this astronomical event on Earth, including:

The absence of a noon shadow in areas located directly on the Tropic of Cancer, such as Al Amerat, Fanja, Wadi Al Maawil, Rustaq, and Ibri. On this day, the Sun will rise from its farthest point in the northeast and set at its farthest point in the northwest.

The number of night hours will shorten, and daytime hours will lengthen, subsequently beginning to decrease until the Autumnal Equinox on September 22, when day and night hours will be equal. -ONA

CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE

Forum to boost academic and industrial sectors' integration

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation on Wednesday organised the first annual forum to enhance integration between academic and industrial sectors.

The forum, held in Muscat, seeks to open up vistas for constructive dialogue and cooperation, in addition to exchanging expertise between the two sectors.

The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Dr. Rahma Ibrahim Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation.

The forum saw the signing of 18 agreements to promote community engagement in boosting education—with the prime objective of consolidating partnerships between higher education institutions and society.

The agreements aim to foster a culture of endowment in support of education. They focus on raising awareness among students and members of teaching and administrative departments. They also deal with participation in events and activities organized by educa-



tional institutions.

In addition, the forum included visual presentations made by private higher education institutions, public and private sector institutions and "Siraj Education Endowment Foundation".

The Ministry also gave a presentation about Ejaad platform. The presentation focused on coopera-

tion between academic and industrial sectors.

The Ministry highlighted features of joint initiatives and projects. It explained the impact of the initiatives and projects on achieving comprehensive education, sustainable learning and research that supports the development of a knowledge-based society. -ONA

STRENGTHEN CULTURAL TIES

Oman participates in Beijing International Book Fair 2025

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth and the Ministry of Information, is participating in the Beijing International Book Fair 2025, which runs until 22 June in the Chinese capital, Beijing.

Oman's participation aims to activate its pavilion as a literary and intellectual hub, offering visitors insights into the nation's past, present, and future.

Extensive collection

The pavilion features a diverse and extensive collection of publications across literary, artistic, intellectual, and scientific fields, with a particular focus on titles in English and Chinese.

Additionally, visual presentations highlight Oman's cultural, historical, and civilisational landmarks, alongside digital and visual publications through the "Ayn" platform.

The participation also seeks to strengthen cultural and media cooperation between Oman and China, fostering intellectual



and literary exchange. It aims to promote cultural collaboration in authorship, publishing, and book production, while introducing Omani writers to audiences in Arab, Islamic, and international markets.

The pavilion also promotes Muscat International Book Fair and attracts new publishing

houses to participate, reflecting Oman's commitment to active engagement and positive influence in the global cultural landscape.

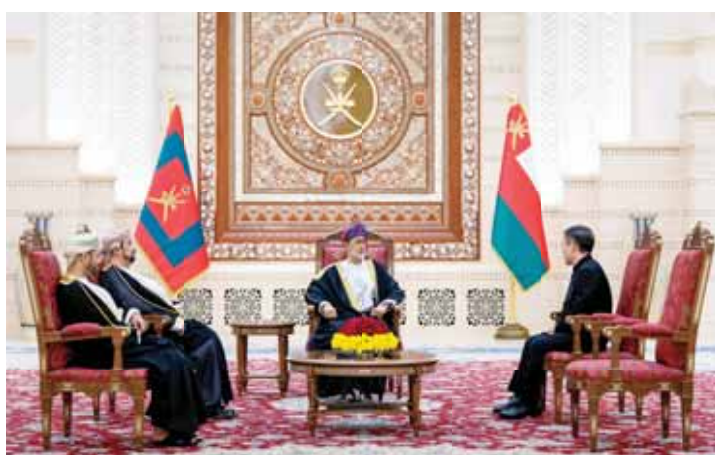
Oman's presence at the fair underscores the significance of cultural and intellectual exchange as a cornerstone of the country's cultural strategy and a key pillar of Oman Vision 2040. -ONA



OMAN

CREDENTIALS

His Majesty welcomes the ambassadors



A1 **<FROM** They also expressed their great honour and delight at presenting their credentials to His Majesty the Sultan, wishing that their mission will be crowned with success in serving the mutual interests of their countries and the Sultanate of Oman.

They underlined their sincere commitment and firm determination to promote relations of cooperation, partnership and investment across all fields, in a manner that serves the joint interests.

His Majesty the Sultan welcomed the ambassadors. He ex-

The credentials presentation ceremony was attended by the Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, the Foreign Minister, the Commander of the Royal Guard of Oman, the Head of the Royal Protocols and the Military Aides to His Majesty the Sultan. -ONA

UNIFIED DATABASE



Social development ministry launches 'Ayadi' volunteer work platform

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Social Development yesterday launched the “Ayadi” or Hands platform for volunteer work, aimed at promoting a culture of volunteering and managing it with high professionalism and efficiency by providing a supportive digital environment.

The platform will establish a unified database and statistics on volunteer work and volunteers in the Sultanate of Oman.

The event was held under the patronage of Sayyid Saud bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Governor of Muscat.

"Ayadi" is the first digital platform dedicated to enhancing and organizing the values of volunteer work in Oman. It aligns with the "Oman 2040" vision under the priority of well-being and social protection, which focuses on creating an enabling environment for social responsibility programs and voluntary contributions.

The platform will provide diverse volunteer opportunities that promote positive participation, a sense of belonging, and community solidarity, thereby supporting national goals of building an empowered society that actively contributes to shaping development pathways.

The launch ceremony witnessed the introduction of the first three initiatives on the platform. Sohar Port and Freezone announced the launch of the



"Our Sea, Our Responsibility" initiative, which aims to enhance community responsibility and environmental awareness to preserve coastal ecosystems and support marine resource sustainability. The initiative targets around 200 volunteers.

The Oman Design Association introduced the “Oman Design Week” initiative to engage Omani youth in organizing an annual event celebrating design and promoting Oman’s cultural identity, with the participation of about 10 volunteers.

Meanwhile, Salalah Volunteer Team's initiative, "Hands of Good," focuses on environmental and community efforts in the rugged mountainous areas of Dhofar.

It aims to open mountain roads and trails, clean water channels, and natural springs, improving the lives of local residents and their living environment.

The initiative targets around 30 volunteers. **-DNA**



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- Omani Youth & Vision 2040 - Shaping tomorrow's leaders
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- Sustainability & the Green Economy - Careers in a greener future
- Bridging the Skills Gap - Aligning education & industry
- Expanding Oman's Startup Ecosystem - Empowering young entrepreneurs

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Azaiba

Oman stresses on transparency in management of humanitarian aid

Oman’s Permanent Representative to the UN and other international organisations in Geneva, expressed Oman’s concern over the declining commitments of some donor entities toward human rights issues

GENEVA: The Sultanate of Oman has stressed that international efforts in the field of human rights must be grounded in firm humanitarian principles, free from politicization or selectivity, and based on respect for human dignity, the promotion of justice, and accountability. It emphasised the need for a unified international stance that places human rights at the heart of collective efforts, as a fundamental pillar for achieving peace, security, and stability for all.

During his address at the 59th session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, Ambassador Idris Abdulrahman Al Khanjari,

Oman’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations and other international organisations in Geneva, expressed Oman’s concern over the declining commitments of some donor entities toward human rights issues.

This, he noted, undermines the ability of international organisations to respond effectively to multiple humanitarian crises.

He underscored the importance of reassessing international funding priorities and directing resources toward initiatives with direct impact, while enhancing transparency and efficiency in the management of humanitarian aid.



He stated that the catastrophic humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip represents one of the worst crises in modern history, resulting from the ongoing Israeli aggression and its accompanying grave violations of international humanitarian law.

He added that this aggression has claimed the lives of thousands of civilians, including a significant number of women and children,

living conditions.

Oman’s Permanent Representative explained that this escalating tragedy demands urgent international action based on international law and principles of justice, aimed at halting violations, holding perpetrators accountable, ensuring civilian protection, and delivering immediate humanitarian assistance—free from double standards.

In a related context, Oman expresses deep concern over the military escalation in the region, particularly Israel’s attacks targeting the Islamic Republic of Iran, which constitute a blatant violation of international law and the UN Charter, directly undermining state sovereignty and regional stability.

Oman believes such actions only fuel further tension and threaten regional and international peace and security.

In this regard, Oman stresses the importance of returning to diplomatic channels and adopting dialogue and understanding as an effective and sustainable approach to resolving disputes and strengthening collective security. — ONA



Al Buraimi Municipal Council holds meeting

AL BURAIMI: Al Buraimi Governorate Municipal Council convened its sixth meeting of 2025 under the chairmanship of Sayyid Dr. Hamad Ahmed Al Busaidi, Governor of Al Buraimi and Chairman of the Council, to discuss several agenda items.

The meeting reviewed the governorate’s key achievements, including the signing of an agreement to develop the integrated

public transport station in the Wilayat of Al Buraimi to enhance transport efficiency.

It also discussed the standards and requirements for the Mariage Support Fund, which will be announced soon and the approval of the Al Buraimi-Mahda dual-carriageway road project.

The council also touched on other relevant topics.

— ONA

Creation of new job opportunities for citizens in tourism sector discussed

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Media, Tourism, and Culture Committee of the Shura Council held its seventh meeting of the second annual session (2024–2025) of the tenth term on, chaired by Abdullah Hamad Al-Harthy.

The session hosted Azzan Qasim Al Busaidi, Undersecretary for Tourism at the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, along with ministry officials, to discuss strategies for enhancing job localisation in the tourism sector and the establishment of integrated tourism cities and service stations for mobile homes.

Al-Harthy welcomed the ministry representatives, highlighting



the value of direct engagement with government bodies to exchange ideas and advance the tourism sector—one of Oman’s key pillars for economic diversification under Vision 2040.

The Undersecretary gave a detailed presentation on the tourism sector’s latest performance indicators, including its contribution to GDP, growth in local and foreign

investments, and the expansion of hospitality infrastructure.

He also outlined future development plans, ongoing inter-agency coordination efforts, and challenges facing the sector.

He emphasised the link between expanding tourism projects and creating new job opportunities for Omanis.

The members raised questions regarding the ministry’s job creation efforts, particularly in replacing expatriates in supervisory and managerial roles.

They stressed the need for phased Omanisation targets in the hospitality sector that preserve service quality.

Discussions also touched on establishing integrated service

stations for mobile homes to support adventure and desert tourism, ensuring high standards of safety and accessibility. The concept of fully integrated tourism cities—with hotels, entertainment, retail, and services—was also explored as a means of attracting domestic and foreign investment.

The committee praised the ministry’s efforts in promoting tourism and local employment. It underscored the importance of cross-sector coordination, leveraging global best practices, and maximising Oman’s unique cultural, natural, and heritage assets to strengthen the country’s regional and international tourism competitiveness.

Firms’ transition into MSX-listed companies highlighted in Dhofar

SALALAH: Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) and the National Programme for Fiscal Sustainability and Financial Sector Development (Estidama) on Wednesday organised an orientation session about a promotional campaign titled “Incentive Programme and Promising Companies Market”.

The orientation session was held in Salalah in cooperation with Dhofar Governorate’s branch of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI).

The session included an introduction to the objectives of the incentive programme and the startups’ market, highlighted key incentives allocated to closed-door firms and family-owned companies and elaborated on related regulatory and technical requirements.

The session also introduced the programme’s components that are intended to be supported to help the firms’ transition into MSX-listed companies.

The session focused on three



main tracks of the programme: The first is the track of transition into public joint-stock companies. This target targets private and family companies with a market value exceeding OMR10 million to encourage them to enter the public market.

The second is the track of launching the Promising Companies Market. This refers to establishing a sub-market within the MSX, specifically designed to accommodate small, medium and startups whose market value exceeds half a million Omani rials.

The third is the track of transition into closed joint-stock com-

panies. This encourages limited liability companies (whose value exceeds half a million Omani rials and employ more than 20 Omani employees) to engage in transition into the closed joint-stock company format.

The orientation session also sought to raise investment awareness among startup entrepreneurs, achieve integration between financial institutions and activate the participation of small and medium enterprises in the capital markets, in addition to encouraging companies to adopt modern management and financing models. — ONA



Royal Oman Police

ANNOUNCEMENT

PUBLIC ONLINE AUCTION TO SELL USED ROP VEHICLES

The Royal Oman Police - Directorate of Public Relations and Security Information – announces a public online auction through the ROP Auctions Platform to sell used ROP vehicles via the website (www.rop.mzadcom.om), starting from **Sunday, 29 June 2025** for one day.

The vehicles displayed for sale may be inspected during the period from **23 to 25 June 2025 from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm** at the Vehicle Detention Yard at the Directorate General of Transport at the Airport Heights.

Bidders must abide by the following terms and conditions:

- To register on the website www.rop.mzadcom.om
- To pay an insurance amount of RO 500/- (five hundred Omani Riyals) via the website, which is non-refundable in case of failure to pay the value of the purchased vehicle or carry out the procedures for its registration and transfer within the specified period.
- To pay the auctioneer fees at 2% of the value of the vehicle plus 5% VAT.
- To pay the value of the vehicle by electronic transfer within 24 working hours.
- To register and transfer the vehicle within 3 days after paying its value to avoid a fine of RO 5/- (five Omani Riyals) for each day of delay after the end of the specified period, without the Royal Oman Police bearing any responsibility in the event of its loss or damage.
- The Royal Oman Police and the Auction Website shall not bear any responsibility if the image or description of any vehicle displayed does not match the reality and do not guarantee its validity or technical integrity.
- For more details, please visit the website (www.rop.mzadcom.om) or call 98886154.

UTAS Musandam branch emerges as a key driver of social, economic progress

The university forms part of the comprehensive development and urban strategy to advance the governorate, aligning with the “Oman Vision 2040”

KHASAB: The establishment of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences (UTAS) in Musandam Governorate is a strategic project with economic, scientific, tourism, and social dimensions. It forms part of the comprehensive development and urban strategy to advance the governorate, aligning with the “Oman Vision 2040”.

The project is expected to contribute to balanced development across Oman’s governorates, attract investment in projects and services, and enhance the governorate’s economic system, including marine eco-tourism, the fisheries sector, logistics transport services, and renewable energy investments.

Dr. Said Hamad Al Rubaee, Vice Chancellor of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences, emphasised that the Musandam branch will strengthen human development factors, increase job opportunities for the local community, and supply the labour market with graduates who meet the requirements of the comprehensive development plan. This will be achieved through high-quality educational and training programmes that reinforce national identity and social values while equipping graduates with modern knowledge and skills for life and work.

In a statement to Oman News



Agency (ONA), he said that the establishment of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences branch in Musandam Governorate marks the first higher education institution in the governorate, aimed at developing Omani human resources and serving as a key driver of social and economic progress.

The current admission plan anticipates around 750 students across various specialisations upon the graduation of the first cohort with bachelor’s degrees. The number of enrolled and admitted students is expected to grow annually after the completion of the branch’s permanent building.

He noted that in the 2024/2025 academic year, the university’s total student number reached 46,875, including 22,503 male students (48%) and 24,372 female students (52%), in addition to 147 postgraduate students. During the same academic year, the Musandam branch enrolled 328 students.

The university offers diverse specialisations across its six colleges: Creative Industries, Education, Applied Sciences and Pharmacy, Economics and Administrative Sciences, Computing and Information Sciences, and Engineering and Technology. These programs are available at diploma, advanced diploma, and bachelor’s



levels.

At the Musandam branch during the 2024/2025 academic year, several unique and in-demand programmes were introduced, aligned with the Fourth Industrial Revolution, including cloud computing, financial technology, digital business and analytics, and education.

The university also plans to introduce scientific specialisations in the second phase, covering marine navigation, marine systems design, and marine product processing technology. These programmes are expected to attract students from across Oman and beyond.

He explained that, till the completion of the permanent branch building, a temporary facility has been leased to accommodate students and staff. The interim building includes classrooms, academic and administrative offices, computer and science labs, a library, meeting halls, and other service facilities.

As for the final designs for the main branch buildings in Khasab, he affirmed that pre-qualification for the project has been completed, and bids from companies are currently being analysed by the university’s consultancy office and specialists. The permanent building will be designed in the shape of Oman’s five-petaled desert rose, featuring administrative and academic buildings, engineering workshops, a theater, a library, restaurants, student and staff housing complexes, and green spaces.

Dr. Said added that future plans for the Musandam branch include establishing a marine sciences department in a prime location in Bukha. The design will resemble the “sextant,” a navigation tool historically used by Omani sailors, and will feature a control tower for boat competitions, a racing circuit, workshops, offices, labs, and classrooms—all meeting global standards for higher education institutions. — ONA



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Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zedjali
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Chief Executive Officer: Ahmed Essa Al Zedjali

EDITORIAL: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24813153, E-mail: editor@timesofoman.com
ADVERTISING: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24812624, E-mail: advertising@timesofoman.com
CIRCULATION: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24818270, E-mail: circulation@timesofoman.com

DISCUSSION



Musandam Governorate holds meeting to boost exports, imports and logistics

KHASAB: Sayyid Ibrahim Said Al Busaidi, Governor of Musandam chaired a meeting on Wednesday with government officials, private sector representatives, specialists, and members of the municipal council to discuss ways to enhance export and import activities through the governorate’s official ports, particularly Khasab Port, which serves as a vital hub for economic development in the region.

The meeting comes as part of broader efforts to maximise the benefits of Musandam’s strategic location and logistical potential, supporting economic growth and contributing to the national ob-

jectives outlined in Oman Vision 2040.

Discussions focused on streamlining the movement of goods, developing infrastructure to strengthen the logistics sector, and exploring mechanisms to boost cross-border trade while increasing local value-added through export promotion and import diversification.

The attendees also emphasised the importance of generating direct and indirect employment opportunities for the locals of Musandam through these activities, reinforcing sustainable development in the governorate.

— ONA

TWO FACILITIES

Iran’s centrifuge production sites hit by Israeli strikes: IAEA

TEHRAN: The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has confirmed that two Iranian centrifuge production facilities, TESA Karaj workshop and Tehran Research Centre, were hit in recent strikes. “The IAEA has information that two centrifuge production facilities in Iran, the TESA Karaj workshop and the Tehran Research Centre, were hit. Both sites were previously under IAEA monitoring and verification as part of the JCPOA,” IAEA wrote on X.

“At the Tehran site, one building was hit where advanced centrifuge rotors were manufactured and tested. At Karaj, two buildings were destroyed where different centrifuge components were manufactured,” IAEA added on X.

The Embassy of Iran in India on Wednesday shared a statement made by the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), where he said that they (IAEA) did not have any proof that Iran is going to make nuclear weapons. “Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Rafael Grossi, admits that Iran was not going to make a nuclear weapon. “What we reported was that we did not have any proof of a systematic effort (by Iran) to move toward a nuclear weapon. “ In the interview, Director General Grossi answering the question on nuclear weapons in Iran said, “What we informed and what we reported was that we did not have, as in coincidence with some of the sources you mentioned there, that we did not have any proof of a systematic effort to move into a nuclear weapon.” — ANI

DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECTS

Tender Board awards tenders worth over OMR100mn

MUSCAT: The Tender Board, chaired by Dr. Said bin Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy, on Wednesday awarded several tenders and supplementary works for developmental projects across multiple sectors during its second meeting this year (2025), with a total value of OMR100.915 million.

- The approved tenders include:
- 1- A four-year government agreement for Oracle software licenses valued at OMR33,180,391.
 - 2- A road paving project for Seih Jreen, Al-Aqeedah, Al-Saleel, and Al-Bateen roads in the Wilayat of Al Qabil, North A’Sharqiyah Governorate, worth OMR12,423,487.
 - 3- An asphalt road construction project in the Wilayat of Dhank, A’Dhahirah Governorate, valued at OMR8,199,986.
 - 4- Dual-carriageway project in the Wilayat of Diba, Musandam Governorate, worth OMR4,885,739.
 - 5- Asphalt road maintenance in Al Buraimi Governorate, valued at OMR3,970,186.
 - 6- Provision of technicians for operating and maintaining medical equipment at Nizwa Hospital and other health institutions in A’Dakhiliyah Governorate, worth OMR3,304,444.
 - 7- Beautification works for the Hayy Souq Al Mal area (CBD) in Muscat Governorate, valued at OMR3,288,137.
 - 8- Improvement works for the Al Shuwaymiyah mountain pass in Dhofar Governorate, worth OMR3,204,899.
 - 9- A five-year internet service contract for the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion and its affiliated directorates, valued at OMR1,012,210.
 - 10- Periodic maintenance for radiology equipment at The Royal Hospital, worth OMR787,750.



- 11- Periodic maintenance for ventilators across various health institutions, valued at OMR783,094.
- 12- Renewal of the lease for the Specialized Institute for Vocational Training for Teachers, worth OMR394,470.
- 13- Renewal of the contract for blood gas analyzers at The Royal Hospital, valued at OMR236,019.
- 14- Renewal of the lease for the Omani Hajj Mission building in Makkah, worth OMR235,704.
- 15- A contract for educational services for students with autism spectrum disorder, valued at OMR230,200.
- 16- A media partnership agreement with a global network for the Oman International Investment Forum 2025, worth OMR211,750.
- 17- Reservation of exhibition space at the Arabian Travel Market in the UAE, valued at OMR187,045.
- 18- Provision of periodic maintenance for X-ray and CT scan machines in various health institutions at a value of OMR154,339.
- 19- Licenses renewal and supporting network devices in the data center at the Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development at a value of OMR153,066.
- 20- Provision of periodic main-

- tenance for polymerase chain reaction machines in various health institutions at a value of OMR148,292.
- 21- Renewal of the advanced contract to support the human resources management system at a value of OMR147,861.
 - 22- Provision of periodic maintenance for the emulsification system in various health institutions at a value of OMR96,073.
 - 23- Additional works for the restoration of the southern runway and taxiways at Muscat International Airport, worth OMR4,826,163.
 - 24- Supplementary engineering consultancy services for the Oman Botanic Garden project, valued at OMR3,792,073.
 - 25- Additional works for annual asphalt road maintenance in A’Dakhiliyah Governorate, worth OMR3,716,328.
 - 26- Supplementary works for annual asphalt road maintenance in Dhofar Governorate, valued at OMR2,624,262.
 - 27- Additional works for maintenance of mountain dust roads in Dhofar Governorate, worth OMR1,913,617.
 - 28- Supplementary works for maintenance of desert dust roads in Dhofar Governorate, valued at OMR1,723,363.

- 29- Additional works for slope stabilization along the Argut/Sarfeet road in Dhofar Governorate, worth OMR1,071,522.
- 30- Supplementary works for hygiene and pest control services at Sultan Qaboos University Hospital, valued at OMR672,216.
- 31- Design and construction of a link road for the parade ground in the Wilaya of Sohar, North Al Batinah Governorate, worth OMR485,965.
- 32- Additional works for the management of Oman’s high-speed government network, valued at OMR366,485.
- 33- Supplementary works for the design and paving of internal roads in the Wilayat of Shinas, worth OMR316,162.
- 34- Additional consultancy services for the Bidbid-Sur dual-carriageway project (Phase 1), valued at OMR301,377.
- 35- Supplementary works for the design and paving of internal roads in Wadi Al-Hareem in the Wilayat of Yanqul, ADhahirah Governorate, worth OMR277,680.
- 36- Completion works for boys’ school in the Wilayat of Al Awabi, South Al Batinah Governorate, valued at OMR269,900.
- 37- Infrastructure works for carriages sites in Dhofar Governorate, worth OMR227,317.

- 38- Consultancy services for the Shinas-Mahdah dual-carriageway project in North Al Batinah and Al Buraimi Governorates, valued at OMR220,653.
- 39- Additional consultancy services for the Muscat International Airport runway renovation project, worth OMR207,400.
- 40- Development works for Al-Husn area in the Wilayat of Al Khabourah, valued at OMR164,178.
- 41- General lighting maintenance for fishing ports across various governorates, worth OMR125,720.
- 42- Supplementary works under the framework agreement for the Wusool project, valued at OMR100,000.
- 43- Construction of eight classrooms and two teachers’ rooms at Suhail bin Amr Basic Education School in the Wilayat of Shinas, worth OMR79,000.
- 44- Development of traditional irrigation systems for Falaj Al Buraimi in Al Buraimi Governorate, valued at OMR39,998.
- 45- Development of traditional irrigation systems for Falaj Sa’ara in Al Buraimi Governorate, worth OMR39,393.
- 46- Consultancy works for establishing scientific research centers, valued at OMR38,071.
- 47- Development and hosting support for the e-health portal, worth OMR26,145.
- 48- Engineering consultancy services for the design and supervision of Al Namaa Hospital in North A’Sharqiyah Governorate, valued at OMR24,882.
- 49- Consultancy services for schools in South Al Batinah Governorate, worth OMR23,276.
- 50- Consultancy services for schools in Al Dakhiliyah and Al Dhahirah Governorates, valued at OMR7,395.

— ONA

At least 34 killed, dozens injured in Gaza Strip by Israeli shelling

Since October 7, 2023, the Israeli occupation forces have launched an assault on the Gaza Strip, resulting in the killing of 55,493 citizens, the majority of whom were children and women, and the injury of 129,320 others

GAZA: At least 34 citizens were killed and dozens wounded on Wednesday morning by Israeli occupation forces' fire and shelling of several areas in the Gaza Strip. Wafa correspondent reported that 11 citizens were killed and dozens of aid-seekers were wounded by Israeli fire and shell-



ing near Wadi Gaza in the central Gaza Strip. He added that the occupation forces also committed a massacre in the Maghazi refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip after bombing a home belonging to the al-Ghamri family. Ten citizens were killed, including the father, mother, and their children. Eight citizens were also killed and others were wounded when the occupation forces bombed a house near the Ali Mosque in the al-Zeitoun neighbourhood in Gaza City. Five other citizens were killed, including the father, mother, and their two children from the Rasras family. Others were wounded when Israeli aircraft bombed the tents of displaced people in the al-Attar area of Khan Yunis. Wafa correspondent noted that the occupation forces carried out massive bombing operations against civilian homes east of Gaza City and Jabalia in northern Gaza. The total number of slain people since the implementation of the aid distribution point mechanism on May 27, 2005, has exceeded 300, with dozens more injured. The aid distribution centres of the Israeli-American Gaza Humanitarian Relief Foundation, a UN-rejected organisation, have

become traps for mass killings. This has not only deliberately violated the dignity of citizens, but has also forced them to flee amid catastrophic humanitarian conditions. Since October 7, 2023, the Israeli occupation forces have launched an assault on the Gaza Strip, resulting in the killing of 55,493 citizens, the majority of whom were children and women, and the injury of 129,320 others. This is a preliminary toll, as a number of victims remain under the rubble and on the streets, unable to be reached by ambulances and rescue crews.

UN's Guterres says killing Gazans seeking food is 'unacceptable' UN Secretary-General António Guterres said, "The killing and wounding of civilians in the southern Gaza Strip while seeking food is unacceptable," and called for an "immediate and independent" investigation. This was stated by Farhan Haq, Deputy Spokesperson for the Secretary-General, during his daily press briefing in Geneva, according to the UN News website. On Tuesday morning, the Israeli occupation army committed a horrific massacre against people waiting for aid at the Tahlia Roundabout in Khan Yunis Governorate in the southern Gaza Strip, killing 51 Palestinians and wounding more than 200, including 20 in critical condition. Commenting on the new Israeli massacre against the starving people in the Gaza Strip, Haq conveyed Guterres' condemnation of "the loss of life and injuries among civilians in Gaza, who are once again being shot while seeking food." The UN Secretary-General affirmed that targeting people waiting for food under the blockade is "unacceptable." Haq explained that Guterres "continues to call for an immediate and independent investigation

and accountability" into reports of civilians being targeted in aid distribution centres in Gaza. The UN official emphasised that the basic needs of the Palestinian population in Gaza are "enormous and remain unmet." He emphasised the need to restore "immediate, widespread, and unhindered" humanitarian access to the Gaza Strip" and the "need to allow the United Nations and all humanitarian actors to operate safely and in full respect of humanitarian principles." **Israeli forces detain 60 Palestinians from the West Bank** From Tuesday evening until Wednesday morning, Israeli occupation forces launched an detention campaign targeting at least 60 citizens from the West Bank, including a woman, children, and former prisoners. The Commission of Prisoners' Affairs and the Palestinian Prisoner's Society (PPS) stated that the detention and field investigations were distributed across most of the West Bank governorates. Meanwhile, the occupation continues to raid several towns in several governorates, converting homes into military barracks and field investigation centres. — Wafa

NEW MEXICO

Wildfires force thousands of residents to evacuate

WASHINGTON: Authorities in the US state of New Mexico on Wednesday announced that widespread wildfires have consumed more than 80,000 acres, prompting evacuation orders for about 2,000 homes and the declaration of a state of emergency. According to the New Mexico Fire Information Service, the Buck Fire was sparked by lightning on 11 June 2025 in Catron County and has spread to more than 57,000 acres, while the Trout Fire broke out the next day south of the Gila National Forest, consuming approximately 25,000 acres and has yet to be contained. The US Forest Service said in a statement that severe drought conditions, along with high temperatures and dry winds, contributed to the fire's spread over the weekend. — ONA

GUJARAT HOME MINISTER

Air India plane crash: 184 DNA matches confirmed

GANDHINAGAR: Gujarat Home Minister Harsh Sanghavi on Wednesday announced that 184 DNA samples have been matched so far after the tragic London-bound Air India plane crash. In a post on the social media platform X, Sanghavi wrote, "Air India crash update: As of 8 am, 184 DNA have been matched." DNA testing is being conducted by forensic teams from the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) and the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU). Earlier on Tuesday, Ahmedabad Civil Hospital Superintendent Rakesh Joshi reported that a total of 163 DNA samples have been matched. During a press conference, Joshi provided a detailed account of the count, noting that out of the remaining 39 of the 163 matched victims, mortal remains of 21 deceased will be handed over to their families by Wednesday morning and remains of two deceased are in the process of being handed



over. He stated that more than 12 families were waiting for the results, and the handing over of four dead bodies is on hold due to some legal issues. "Till 5.45 pm today, 163 DNA samples have matched. Following which, the mortal remains of 124 deceased have been handed over to their families... Out of the remaining 39, the mortal remains

of 21 deceased will be handed over to their families by morning. Mortal remains of two deceased are in the process of being handed over. 12 families are waiting for the results... Handing over of four dead bodies is on hold due to some legal issues," Joshi stated. He further stated that on the day of the crash, 71 injured individuals were admitted to the Civil Hospital, with 42 subsequently

discharged and currently, nine patients remain admitted. At the same time, two succumbed to their injuries after admission." On the day of the crash, 71 injured people were admitted to the Civil Hospital. Out of them, 42 have been discharged. As of now, nine patients are admitted. Two people had passed away after they were admitted," he added. The crash occurred on June 12,

when a London-bound Air India Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner crashed into a hostel complex of BJ Medical College in the Meghani Nagar area of Gujarat's Ahmedabad shortly after takeoff from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport. The tragedy claimed 241 lives out of 242 onboard, including former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani. Meanwhile in New Delhi, a total of 83 flights in Air India's wide-body operations were cancelled, out of which 66 were Boeing 787 flights between June 12 and 17, said Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). DGCA held a highlevel meeting with senior officials of Air India Ltd. and Air India Express, who are currently operating over 1,000 flights daily across domestic and international sectors. "Between June 12 and June 17, 2025 (till 1800 hrs), a total of 83 flights in Air India's wide-body operations were cancelled, out of which 66 were Boeing 787 flights," DGCA said in a press release. — ANI

PRIVATE ASTRONAUT MISSION



Launch of Axiom Mission 4 to ISS rescheduled to June 22

NEW DELHI: The launch of Axiom Mission 4, the fourth private astronaut mission to the International Space Station, has been rescheduled to no earlier than Sunday, June 22. The change in the targeted launch date allows NASA to continue evaluating space station operations after recent repair work in the aft segment of the Station's Zvezda service module. In a post on X, Axiom Space informed that the Ax-4 crew, comprising Peggy Whitson, former NASA astronaut and director of human spaceflight at Axiom Space, as commander, ISRO astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla as pilot, and mission specialists are ESA (European Space Agency)

project Slawosz Uznanski-Wisniewski of Poland and Tibor Kapu of Hungary, remains in quarantine in Florida, to maintain all medical and safety protocols. "The #Ax4 crew remains in quarantine in Florida to maintain all medical and safety protocols. The crew is in good health and high spirits and looks forward to launch!" Axiom posted. The Ax-4 mission will lift off aboard the SpaceX Dragon spacecraft on Falcon 9 from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Centre in Florida. Despite the delay, the Axiom-4 mission remains significant. The Ax-4 crew includes members from India, Poland, and Hungary, marking each nation's first mis-

sion to the space station in history and the second government-sponsored human spaceflight mission in over 40 years, according to Axiom Space. Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla will be India's second national astronaut to go to space since 1984. Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla is part of Axiom Space's fourth private astronaut mission (Ax-4), marking a historic moment for India's space collaboration with NASA. According to Axiom Space, the Ax-4 mission will "realise the return" to human spaceflight for India, Poland, and Hungary, marking each nation's first government-sponsored flight in more than 40 years. — ANI

SALE OF USED VEHICLES

Offers are invited for the purchase of the above individual vehicles, with preference given to the highest bidder. RFQs available at the Khimji Ramdas Automotive Workshop, Ghala.

*Images are representative

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SPORTS

SA's Markram, Ngidi among big gainers in ICC Test rankings



DUBAI: South Africa's heroes from their recent maiden ICC World Test Championship (WTC) triumph deservedly were the big gainers in the latest ICC Test rankings, released on Wednesday.

The centurion, Aiden Markram, who played one of the innings in an ICC final for the ages, scoring 136, secured a seven-spot jump to No.11.

Markram, who scored a duck in the first innings, played one of the best knocks, especially when you provide the context of a final, the best bowling attack for the opposition and chasing a stiff target of 282.

Markram found himself one spot above Travis Head, who lost four places in the rankings. Another Australian batter who suffered because of poor outing in the final was Usman Khawaja, who moved down by six places.

Among South African batters, captain Temba Bavuma stayed in sixth spot, while David Bedingham, who stayed unbeaten at the end and took the Proteas over the line, found himself in the 40th spot after a colossal jump of 17 spots.

In the top 10, the likes of Rishabh Pant, Saud Shakeel and Daryl Mitchell jumped up a spot or two after the

spots vacated by Khawaja and Head.

For Australia, Beau Webster, who scored a quality 72 in the first innings with the bat, found himself in 70th spot with a jump of 13 places. Mitchell Starc, however, was the biggest gainer for the losing finalists after his contribution with both bat and ball. Starc was in the 10th spot in the bowling rankings, alongside Ravindra Jadeja, while also making the top 10 on the all-rounders leaderboard.

Kagiso Rabada, who took nine wickets for the match and the Australian captain Pat Cummins, despite taking nine and seven wickets each in the match, respectively, held their No. 2 and 3 spots intact with Jasprit Bumrah leading the way.

Lungi Ngidi rose up by seven places to joint-37 after triggering a mini-collapse for Australia in the second innings.

In the ODI Player Rankings, key performers from the Men's Cricket World Cup League 2 action have boasted impressive climbs.

Netherlands' top-order batter Michael Levitt, who was also handy with the ball, has soared 22 places in the Batting Rankings to go with a climb of 21 among the bowlers and another 27 in the all-rounders charts. - Agencies

Mushfiquir, Litton lead Bangladesh to big total



Sri Lanka rallied late as the visitors were 484/9 at stumps on day two of the first Test in Galle



GALLE: Mushfiquir Rahim and Litton Das' 149-run partnership ensured Bangladesh has a firm grip on proceedings after day two of the first Test against Sri Lanka in Galle on Wednesday.

Despite both batters falling in the space of an over at the same score of 458, the Bangladesh lower order withstood a spirited late burst led by Milan Rathnayake to close the day on 484 for nine, after once looking set for 550 or more.

Sri Lanka took five wickets for just 26 runs in the final session following a rain break that brought new life to the surface.

Earlier, Bangladesh's dominance was built on the back of two monumental stands — a 264-

run partnership between Najmul Hossain Shanto and Mushfiquir, followed by a 149-run alliance between Mushfiquir and Litton.

The trio accounted for 401 runs, and at one point seemed poised to bat Sri Lanka out of the contest.

Shanto played a composed knock of 148 off 279 balls, with 15 boundaries and a six, while Mushfiquir crafted a classy 163 off 350, also striking 9 fours. Litton Das added a breezy 90 off 123, laced with 11 boundaries and a maximum, playing particularly fluently after the rain delay.

The only moments of discomfort

came from a few missed opportunities — a pair of run-out chances around the morning drinks break went begging for Sri Lanka, while Litton and Mushfiquir offered half-chances that were not taken.

It took Asitha Fernando (3 for 80) to break the big stands. First, he removed Shanto in the morning with a delivery that was chipped to mid-off. Later, he returned to trap Mushfiquir leg-before with one that angled back in — upheld on umpire's call.

But it was after a near two-hour rain delay that the match's momentum dramatically shifted.

With some moisture seeping into the pitch, Milan Rathnayake (3 for 38) found reverse swing and seam movement to run through the lower middle-order.

He bowled Jaker Ali with a sharp inswinger, had Nayeem Hasan edging behind with one that moved away, and then castled Taijul Islam with a delivery that tailed in late. His 22.4 overs were a testament to persistence, having earlier left the field with what appeared to be a muscle strain.

Debutant Tharindu Rathnayake (3-196) also chipped in, frustrating Litton with persistent leg-stump lines before inducing an ill-judged reverse sweep that ballooned up for Kusal Mendis to complete the dismissal. While Bangladesh enjoyed long periods of control, the scoring rate mostly hovered around three runs per over. They did accelerate at times — notably the ten overs before lunch that went at five an over — but perhaps missed a chance to fully exploit the benign surface before the rain.

Brief scores: Bangladesh 1st innings: 484 for 9 (Mushfiquir Rahim 163, Najmul Hossain Shanto 148, Litton Das 90; Milan Rathnayake 3/38, Asitha Fernando 3/80) vs Sri Lanka - Agencies

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This summer, Kia welcomes you to their family with an exciting bouquet of Welcome Benefits. Visit Kia showrooms to know more. Scheme Period: 18th May 2025 to 16th July 2025
Reliable International Automotive LLC. C.R. No. 1707183, Wattayah: 24579846/47; Al Mawelah: 93204360; Barka: 93201347; Nizwa: 99874368; Sohar: 92837722; Sur: 25546190/98235042; Rustaq: 92869449; Salalah: 23211460/99884217. Saturday Showroom Timing: Muscat, Al Mawelah, Barka, Sohar & Salalah from 9.00 AM to 1.00 PM

* Welcome Bonus amount can be adjusted in the deal as a part of down payment. This Welcome Bonus is in addition to the normal Cash Gift offer applicable on the models. Welcome Bonus of RO. 500/- is applicable on all models & a Welcome Bonus of RO. 3000/- is applicable only on EV Models. ** Total applicable Service benefit will be from 5 Years/50,000Kms to 10 years/100,000Kms whichever is earlier. 50,000Kms/ 5 years' Service. On K3, K8 stocks of (25MY), Picanto, Pegas, K3, K5 PE, Sorent, Seltos, Sportage RVC, Telluride, Carens, Carnival stocks of (25MY), K4, K5 PE, Seltos, Carnival stocks of (26MY) & 100,000Kms/ 10 years' Service on Sportage 1.6T SMX & all 1.1, Tierra (23MY). The Service Benefit applicable on EV vehicles is 105000 kms / 7 years whichever is earlier. #1 year insurance & 1 year registration (as applicable) would be given on all models except Picanto, Pegas, Sportage RVC (25MY) & Carnival (26MY). For models where insurance is offered as a benefit, additional cash gift can be offered to customer in lieu of insurance, if opted. *** iPhone 15 256GB - 5 Nos. Winnings are through Raffle coupons on all models. Raffle coupons to customers will be provided only after the finalization & approval of their standard deal by their FC companies/Banks. Raffle Date : 05/06/25 at the end of campaign. Subject to full payment of purchased car. The handover of the Raffle prize will be done after 10th Aug 2025 upon completion of all legal & financial documents towards purchase of new vehicle such as formal delivery note & invoice and new vehicle ROP Registration. All the above benefits are not applicable on Ministry, Bulk fleet, Corporate & RAC deals. Scheme Period: 18/05/2025 to 16/07/2025 Vehicles may also include some Dealer Installed Accessories. Pictures & Colors are indicative. For further details, please visit your nearest Kia showroom.

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES
The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by August 2025 reaching \$75.71, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by \$1.99 from the price of Tuesday, which was \$73.72. - **ONA**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER
Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) 30 index closed at 4,520.45 points, edging up by 0.05 points or (0.001%) compared to the previous trading session's close of 4,520.41 points. Trading value reached RO 17.28 million, marking a 15% increase from the last session's RO 15.03 million.

Oman takes part in forum focused on sustainable economic transition



Annual Forum of OPEC Fund for International Development discusses means of financing future projects to achieve sustainable development, realising sustainable transition in developing countries' economies

VIENNA: The Sultanate of Oman is taking part in the Annual Forum of OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), being held in Vienna under the theme of "A Transition that Empowers Our Tomorrow".

The Sultanate of Oman's delegation is headed by Abdullah Salim Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance. The forum discusses means of financing future projects to achieve sustainable development, realising

sustainable transition in developing countries' economies, enhancing resilience in the face of climate change and introducing digital enablers for building robust economies. On the sidelines of the forum, Al Harthy also held meetings with officials from the OFID and representatives of regional and international financial institutions. Two agreements were signed between the Government of the Sultanate of Oman and the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID). They were inked by Al Harthy and Dr. Abdul Hamid Al Khalifa, OPEC Fund Director General. The first agreement provides for financing the implementation of Khasab-Diba-Lima Road Project (Sultan Faisal bin Turki Road), while the second agreement deals with means of enhancing cooperation between Oman and OFID for a period of five years. Another agreement was signed for financing the implementation of the first phase of a surface water drainage project in the Al Rawdha Economic Zone in Al Buraimi Governorate. The agreement will contribute to measures for protecting tourism, industrial and agricultural facilities, establishing an integrated network of open canals and water barriers and constructing water harvesting ponds. It was inked by Al Harthy and Badr Mohammed Al Saad, Director General and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development. - **ONA**

HEALTH INSURANCE

FSA prepares for second phase of Dhamani platform

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In preparation for launching the second phase of the national health insurance platform Dhamani scheme, the Financial Services Authority organised a preparatory meeting with insurance companies and representatives of private healthcare institutions to arrange for implementing the second phase of the "Dhamani" electronic platform. The second phase includes readying the "Dhamani" electronic platform to exchange medical documents such as x-rays, prescriptions and medical referrals between private healthcare institutions and insurance companies on the one hand and between all hospitals, complexes, clinics and specialized health centres on the other hand. The two-day meeting was organized within the framework of the community participation adopted by the FSA while developing regulatory schemes. The meeting reviewed the nature of the components of the phase with the relevant parties to find out mechanisms for dealing with them, in addition to discussing the key challenges expected in the implementation and how to address them. This phase is considered important within the framework of

launching the "Dhamani" electronic platform as it progresses the platform towards broader services such as building a unified medical record for the insured that allow access to all the details of visits to any health institution linked to the platform. The national health insurance platform "Dhamani" also adds value in organizing health insurance transactions in the Sultanate of Oman by linking operational and financial transactions between insurance companies, private healthcare institutions; health insurance claims administrators and regulators including government entities supervising the insurance market and private healthcare institutions. The platform proved its efficiency and digital effectiveness during the operational period, as the number of health insurance transactions concluded through the platform reached more than 4 million transactions until the end of May 2025. All insurance institutions were linked to this platform in addition to the connection of all private hospitals licensed by the Ministry of Health, which are 33 hospitals. While the number of health complexes linked to the platform has reached 37 private health complexes so far, 20 clinics and 44 health centres.

SUCCESSFUL OVERSUBSCRIPTION

ahlibank leads OMR15 million bond issuance for United Finance Company

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Reinforcing its position as a leading player in the Sultanate of Oman's debt capital markets (DCM), ahlibank has successfully acted as Issue Manager for the OMR 15 million senior bond issuance by United Finance Company (UFC), comprising a base issue of OMR 10 million and a fully exercised greenshoe option of OMR 5 million. The transaction had a novel structure of being the first senior bond issuance by a Finance and Leasing Company (FLC) in recent years. This structure enabled the three-year issuance to price competitively at a coupon of 7.00% pa. Commenting on the success, Hanaa Al Kharusi, Senior General Manager, Wholesale Banking at ahlibank said, "We continue to remain the #1 issue manager for fixed income issuance for private issuers on the Muscat Stock Exchange. At ahlibank, we remain committed to empowering Omani corporates through bespoke capital-raising strategies that are both efficient and market-responsive. The successful execution of this bond issuance underscores our advisory strength, our distribution expertise, and our ability to navigate market dynamics with precision, positioning ahlibank as a trusted partner in accelerating corporate growth



through capital market access." The issuance garnered robust investor interest with total demand of OMR 17.2 million, reflecting a 1.7x oversubscription underscoring ahlibank's capability in structuring and delivering high-impact capital market transactions. The private placement received over 60 applications, representing the highest level of investor participation for any comparable corporate bond issuance in recent years. This issuance was ahlibank's fourth bonds issuance in the FLC sector with all four issuances achieving oversubscription. The strong momentum surrounding the offering illustrates growing market confidence—not only in the issuer, but also in ahli-

bank's execution expertise and market-readiness. Notably, the transaction drew a well-diversified investor base, with participation from high net worth individuals, banks, government entities, corporates and asset managers. The diversity of this participation is a direct reflection of ahlibank's ability to deliver well-structured investment opportunities that resonate across stakeholder segments. Meanwhile, the depth of engagement reaffirms the bank's standing as a trusted financial intermediary within Oman's evolving capital markets landscape. The successful closure of this issuance further solidifies ahlibank's position in the invest-

ment banking space, reinforcing its long-term strategic objective of diversifying revenue streams and deepening its leadership in Oman's capital markets. Beyond its institutional significance, the transaction also serves as a market catalyst, demonstrating the viability of capital market instruments as an effective financing avenue for corporates, particularly those within the non-bank financial sector. As ahlibank continues to strengthen its investment banking capabilities, the bank remains committed to fostering a resilient, innovation-led capital market ecosystem that contributes meaningfully to Oman's long-term economic diversification agenda.

IN 2024

KOM attracts OMR28 million in investments through 27 new projects

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Knowledge Oasis Muscat (KOM), the technology arm of the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates "Madayn", has localised 27 new projects in 2024, attracting over OMR28 million in investments across a combined area of 48,000 sqm. This achievement supports KOM's ongoing efforts to position the Sultanate of Oman as a dynamic and knowledge-based economy driven by diversity, growth and sustainability. Eng. Jaafar Al Ajmi, Director General of KOM, noted that the cumulative investment volume at KOM rose to OMR 312,520,205 by the end of 2024. The number of projects has surpassed 200, employing 2,621 individuals and occupying a total area of 759,566 sqm. Al Ajmi further outlined Madayn's upcoming development plans for KOM, which include the construction of a multi-storey parking facility and the establishment of a solar PV power plant with a capacity of 1.4 MW. He added that Madayn has completed service works linked to the Ring Road project, the launch of a smart mobility service via e-scooters within KOM, the development of KOM pedestrian walkway (Boule-



vard Zone), in addition to the installation of a new security fence around KOM. In support of Madayn's broader smart city plans and its ongoing commitment to enhancing the Sultanate's business ecosystem, Al Ajmi pointed out that KOM has recently carried out a successful field test of the RTK GNSS L700H tablet, which is an advanced GIS device used for surveying and locating facilities and infrastructure. "Additionally, KOM has partnered with Drone First Company to pilot the use of drones in building cleaning operations, aiming at conserving water, adopting eco-friendly materials, and advancing sustain-



ability in facility management. This will ultimately enhance safety by reducing the need for human intervention in high-risk environments and align with global trends through smart and efficient solutions," he elaborated. Through Knowledge Oasis Muscat, Madayn continues to attract international and regional companies looking to expand or relocate their operations in the Sultanate. KOM also plays a key role in supporting startups and SMEs focused on technology and innovation by providing world-class facilities and support services. Moreover, KOM works to strengthen collaboration between academic institutions and knowledge-driven enterprises, and hence build a thriving ecosystem that boosts innovation and knowledge exchange in line with Oman Vision 2040.

FUND PURCHASE OF ELECTRONIC DONATION DEVICES

Sohar Aluminium and Siraj Education Endowment Foundation sign agreement

MUSCAT: Sohar Aluminium and Siraj Education Endowment Foundation signed a cooperation agreement to fund the purchase of electronic donation devices for the foundation. The agreement was signed on the sidelines of the Academia-Industry Forum organised by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation. This agreement reflects both parties' commitment to supporting sustainable educational initiatives and promoting a culture of charitable endowments that are directed towards supporting the higher education sector in Oman. The agreement was signed in the presence of Prof. Rahma bint Ibrahim Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation. The agreement was signed by Jameel Mohammed Shakeel, Corporate Communications and Social Responsibility Manager at Sohar Aluminium and Eng. Mahmood bin Khalfan Al Hadidi, CEO of Siraj Education Endowment Foundation. Based on this agreement, Sohar Aluminium will fund the purchase of electronic donation devices that will facilitate fundraising efforts to support students in higher education institutions who are financially disadvantaged or come from low-income



families, enabling them to continue their academic studies. The support will be administered through a structured mechanism that ensures transparency and optimal use of financial resources. Siraj, for its part, will be responsible for the operation, management, and regular maintenance of the electronic donation devices. Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Kharusi, General Manager of Human Resources and Corporate Affairs at Sohar Aluminium, stated that the agreement is part of the company's broader efforts to strengthen its partnerships and support the initiatives of various government institutions. He noted that supporting Siraj reflects the company's belief in the importance of charitable endowments as enablers for growth towards

building a knowledge-based society. "Through this agreement, we aim to support the purchase of smart endowment donation devices that make it easier for individuals to contribute to the education sector, which in turn helps prevent financially disadvantaged students from missing the opportunity to complete their university education," he added. Eng. Mahmood bin Khalfan Al Hadidi, CEO of Siraj, commented, "We highly value this exceptional initiative by Sohar Aluminium, which reflects its commitment to supporting education and developing endowment assets in the Sultanate. This partnership represents a meaningful step towards achieving financial sustainability through innovative solutions for educational initiatives by leveraging modern technologies."

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Oman Fisheries, up 7.14%, was the top gainer while Muscat Finance, down 3.92%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,520.45 points, up by 0.69%, and 0.37% respectively. Prices of Muscat Finance, Global Financial Investments, Al Madina Takaful, and Ominvest were down by 3.92%, 3.67%, 1.24%, and 0.46% respectively. Industrial Index closed at 6,277.27 points, down 0.55%. Prices of Oman Fisheries, and Jazeera Steel Products were up by 7.14%, and 6.07% respectively. Prices of Oman Cement, Al Anwar Ceramics, Oman Cables Industry, Al Maha Ceramics, and A'Saffa Foods were down by 3.88%, 2.86%, 2.17%, 0.69%, and 0.27% respectively.

Services Index was up by 1.15% before closing at 1,604.95 points. Prices of Abraj Energy, Muscat Desalination, Dhofar Generating, Phoenix Power, and Al Suwadi Power were up by 5.00%, 4.55%, 3.57%, 3.03%, and 2.90% respectively. Prices of Salalah Port Services, OQ Gas Networks, Ooredoo, Renaissance Services, and Oman Telecom were down by 0.79%, 0.63%, 0.50%, 0.36%, and 0.12% respectively. – United Securities

Financial Index closed at 7,844.00 points, down 0.23%. Prices of Al Madina Investments, Oman & Emirates Investment, Oman Arab Bank, and Bank

Muscat were up by 6.67%, 1.45%, 0.69%, and 0.37% respectively. Prices of Muscat Finance, Global Financial Investments, Al Madina Takaful, and Ominvest were down by 3.92%, 3.67%, 1.24%, and 0.46% respectively. Industrial Index closed at 6,277.27 points, down 0.55%. Prices of Oman Fisheries, and Jazeera Steel Products were up by 7.14%, and 6.07% respectively. Prices of Oman Cement, Al Anwar Ceramics, Oman Cables Industry, Al Maha Ceramics, and A'Saffa Foods were down by 3.88%, 2.86%, 2.17%, 0.69%, and 0.27% respectively.

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OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,528.11	4,508.18	4,520.45	4,520.41	0.05	0.00
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,882.33	7,837.48	7,844.00	7,862.44	-18.44	-0.23
Industry Index	6,338.81	6,266.83	6,277.27	6,311.83	-34.57	-0.55
Services Index	1,607.50	1,584.93	1,604.95	1,586.70	18.25	1.15
MSX Shariah Index	433.13	430.50	431.60	432.80	-1.19	-0.28
MSX TR INDEX	6,695.95	6,666.48	6,684.57	6,684.57	0.00	0.00
FINANCIAL TR IDX	9,341.54	9,288.40	9,296.13	9,317.98	-21.85	-0.23
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	7,789.44	7,701.00	7,713.82	7,756.30	-42.48	-0.55
SERVICES TR IDX	2,049.95	2,021.17	2,046.70	2,023.42	23.28	1.15
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,204.48	1,204.48	1,204.48	1,166.89	37.60	3.22

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
112,566,320	17,284,826	1,775	28,257,237,945	22	15	19	56

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18

REGULAR MARKET

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PREV. VALUE	MARKET CAP	
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	21114	7749	6	0.367	0.367	0.367	0.346	0.021	6.069	0.367	0.359	0.367	0.100	45,837,551	
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	11,128,331	2,727,272	192	0.240	0.253	0.240	0.252	0.240	0.012	5.000	0.252	0.252	0.100	194,090,400	
OM0000004833	AL SUWADI POWER	1,604,569	112,573	34	0.070	0.071	0.070	0.071	0.069	0.002	2.899	0.071	0.070	0.071	0.100	50,722,850
OM0000004825	ALBATINAH POWER	60,292	4,283	12	0.070	0.071	0.070	0.071	0.070	0.001	1.429	0.071	0.071	0.072	0.100	47,917,008
OM0000002236	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	10,070	1,769	4	0.175	0.177	0.174	0.177	0.176	0.001	0.968	0.177	0.175	0.177	0.100	7,883,209
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	4,019,920	1,096,816	51	0.274	0.274	0.271	0.274	0.273	0.001	0.366	0.274	0.268	0.274	0.100	2,058,752,795
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	4,833,709	675,861	59	0.140	0.140	0.139	0.140	0.140	0.000	0.000	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.100	926,414,478
OM0000003681	VOLTAP ENERGY	547	356	1	0.650	0.650	0.650	0.650	0.650	0.000	0.000	0.650	0.651	0.100	69,846,555	
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	200	20	1	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.099	0.100	0.100	223,695,303
OM0000003026	OMAN TELCOM	5,728	4,834	3	0.844	0.844	0.844	0.844	0.845	-0.001	-0.118	0.844	0.843	0.844	0.100	633,000,000
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	6,695	2,465	7	0.369	0.369	0.368	0.368	0.369	-0.001	-0.271	0.368	0.367	0.405	0.100	44,160,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	32,338	8,941	8	0.277	0.277	0.276	0.276	0.277	-0.001	-0.361	0.276	0.275	0.277	0.100	65,249,160
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	148,752	32,588	17	0.220	0.220	0.219	0.219	0.220	-0.001	-0.455	0.219	0.219	0.220	0.100	204,920,840
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	5,570	1,111	5	0.200	0.200	0.199	0.199	0.200	-0.001	-0.500	0.200	0.199	0.200	0.100	129,537,902
OM0000000672	OQ GAS NETWORKS	27,071,751	4,225,301	345	0.156	0.158	0.155	0.157	0.158	-0.001	-0.633	0.157	0.156	0.157	0.100	679,907,955
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	133,282	10,751	16	0.082	0.082	0.080	0.080	0.081	-0.001	-1.235	0.080	0.075	0.081	0.100	14,000,000
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	850	1,913	1	2.250	2.250	2.250	2.250	2.300	-0.050	-2.174	2.250	2.250	2.450	0.100	201,825,000
OM0000002168	ALANWAR CERAMIC	1,609,047	276,588	79	0.176	0.176	0.167	0.170	0.175	-0.005	-2.857	0.170	0.170	0.170	0.100	37,400,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	78,217	8,214	11	0.111	0.114	0.105	0.105	0.109	-0.004	-3.670	0.105	0.105	0.108	0.100	21,000,000
Total	19	507,70,982	9,199,472	852												

Parallel Market

OM0000001162	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	97,734	4,673	13	0.045	0.049	0.045	0.048	0.045	0.003	6.667	0.048	0.047	0.049	0.100	4,080,000
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	3,000	207	1	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.066	0.003	4.545	0.069	0.064	0.072	0.100	10,732,978
OM0000007407	DHOFAH GENERATING	4,800	279	1	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.056	0.002	3.571	0.058	0.056	0.058	0.100	12,889,920
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	755,095	51,398	28	0.067	0.069	0.067	0.068	0.066	0.002	3.030	0.068	0.062	0.072	0.100	99,456,899
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	100	20	1	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.195	0.005	2.564	0.200	0.193	0.200	0.100	32,000,000
OM0000004735	SEMBOCHP SALALAH	69,178	7,013	4	0.101	0.103	0.101	0.102	0.100	0.002	2.000	0.102	0.102	0.103	0.100	97,368,339
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	1,000	307	1	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.000	0.000	0.074	0.100	0.110	0.100	9,930,000
OM00000010120	ASTAD SHIPPING	12,392,550	1,517,428	104	0.120	0.124	0.120	0.123	0.121	0.002	1.653	0.123	0.123	0.123	0.000	640,675,546
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	29,870	2,074	6	0.070	0.070	0.069	0.070	0.069	0.001	1.449	0.070	0.066	0.070	0.100	8,531,250
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	147,659	12,336	19	0.085	0.085	0.082	0.084	0.083	0.001	1.205	0.084	0.085	0.084	0.100	7,140,000
OM0000006908	CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL INDUSTRIES	41,582,722	5,119,897	424	0.124	0.126	0.121	0.126	0.125	0.001	0.800	0.126	0.126	0.126	0.000	435,895,847
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	82,000	12,046	3	0.146	0.147	0.146	0.147	0.146	0.001	0.685	0.147	0.146	0.146	0.100	245,403,270
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	45,000	9,225	9	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.204	0.001	0.490	0.205	0.205	0.220	0.100	40,925,298
OM0000003000	AL MAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	2,850	2,571	2	0.902	0.902	0.902	0.902	0.900	0.002	0.222	0.902	0.902	0.948	0.100	62,238,000
OM0000001386	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	100	7	1	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
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	2,500	1,150	1	0.460	0.460	0.460	0.460	0.460	0.000	0.000	0.460	0.460	0.474	0.100	76,072,500
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	2,492,218	209,384	26	0.084	0.085	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.000	0.000	0.084	0.084	0.085	0.100	24,113,881
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	90,000	5,610	9	0.070	0.071	0.070	0.071	0.071	0.000	0.000	0.071	0.064	0.078	0.100	1,491,000
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	6,015	1,507	4	0.218	0.218	0.218	0.218	0.218	0.000	0.000	0.218	0.217	0.220	0.100	3,976,944
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAH	670	90	1	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.000	0.000	0.135	0.133	0.135	0.100	410,372,802
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	8,038	5,225	4	0.650	0.650	0.650	0.650	0.650	0.000	0.000	0.650	0.650	0.650	0.100	39,829,750
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	59,402	2,683	7	0.045	0.046	0.045	0.046	0.046	0.000	0.000	0.046	0.045	0.047	0.100	11,500,000
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	16,456	1,333	4	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.000	0.000	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.100	32,535,816
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	5,000	580	1	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.000	0.000	0.116	0.115	0.118	0.100	68,606,678
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	3,324,778	1,075,958	188	0.324	0.325	0.323	0.323	0.324	-0.001	-0.309	0.323	0.323	0.325	0.010	2,584,000,000
ALMAHA CERAMICS	1,235	37	1	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.000	0.000	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.100	1,235,000
OM0000002333	SALALAH PORT SERVICES	120	30	1	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.252	-0.002	-0.794	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.100	44,959,350
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	733	347	2	0.480	0.480	0.471	0.471	0.480	-0.019	-3.878	0.471	0.450	0.480	0.100	155,841,046
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	91,800	4,596	14	0.050	0.051	0.049	0.049	0.051	-0.002	-3.922	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.100	15,050,170
Total	29	61,303,594	8,046,147	881												



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FROM CLIFFS TO COASTLINE:

A favourite among local families, Al Waha at Shangri-La Barr Al Jissah is more than just a summer getaway — it's a cool, carefree escape where lazy river rides, seaside meals, and sun-drenched memories come together in perfect harmony



Times News Service

In the relentless summer heat of Oman, where the sun hangs heavy and the landscape bakes in shades of ochre, discovering comfort — let alone joy — can feel like wishful thinking. And yet, tucked between Muscat's rugged cliffs and the calm, shimmering waters of the Gulf of Oman, there lies a place that delivers exactly that: Al Waha Hotel, the family-friendly heart of Shangri-La Barr Al Jissah Resort & Spa.

Having heard glowing tales from local families who make it their go-to weekend retreat, I finally found myself there on a particularly sweltering June weekend. What I discovered was not just a hotel stay — it was a cool, immersive experience that softened the summer and wrapped me in a kind of barefoot luxury I hadn't realised I needed.

The arrival: Where the mountains meet the sea

The drive into the resort is dramatic in itself — winding along the rugged coastline and the stark desert cliffs. One of the most striking moments comes just before you reach Al Waha: an architectural marvel in the form of a tunnel carved directly through the mountain. This one-of-its-kind passageway, seamlessly blending natural rock with modern engineering, frames your entrance like a hidden gateway to an oasis. Emerging from the tunnel, the resort reveals itself in full splendor — its warm sand-coloured buildings.

Stepping into the lobby, I was greeted with that faint, comforting scent of frankincense in the air — a subtle but unmistakable reminder that this was still Oman, even as the resort transported you elsewhere.

I was booked for an all-inclusive stay that is the latest offering from Al Waha (OMR110++ per room per night). The gold package had my breakfast, lunch & dinner taken care of — along with unlimited house beverages.

The hotel manager informed me that the package could be upgraded to premium (OMR 20 net per person) or jubilee package — in



celebration of the hotel's 20th year anniversary at OMR 30 net per person.

A family paradise in motion

Al Waha has an unmistakable energy. It is, unabashedly, a family hotel — and proud of it. Everywhere you look, children are at play, whether darting between poolside loungers or lazily floating in colourful tubes down the Lazy River, the gentle stream that links Al Waha to its sister property, Al Bandar.

The three swimming pools are perpetually lively — one dedicated to toddlers, another perfect for family games, and a quieter one for more peaceful lounging.

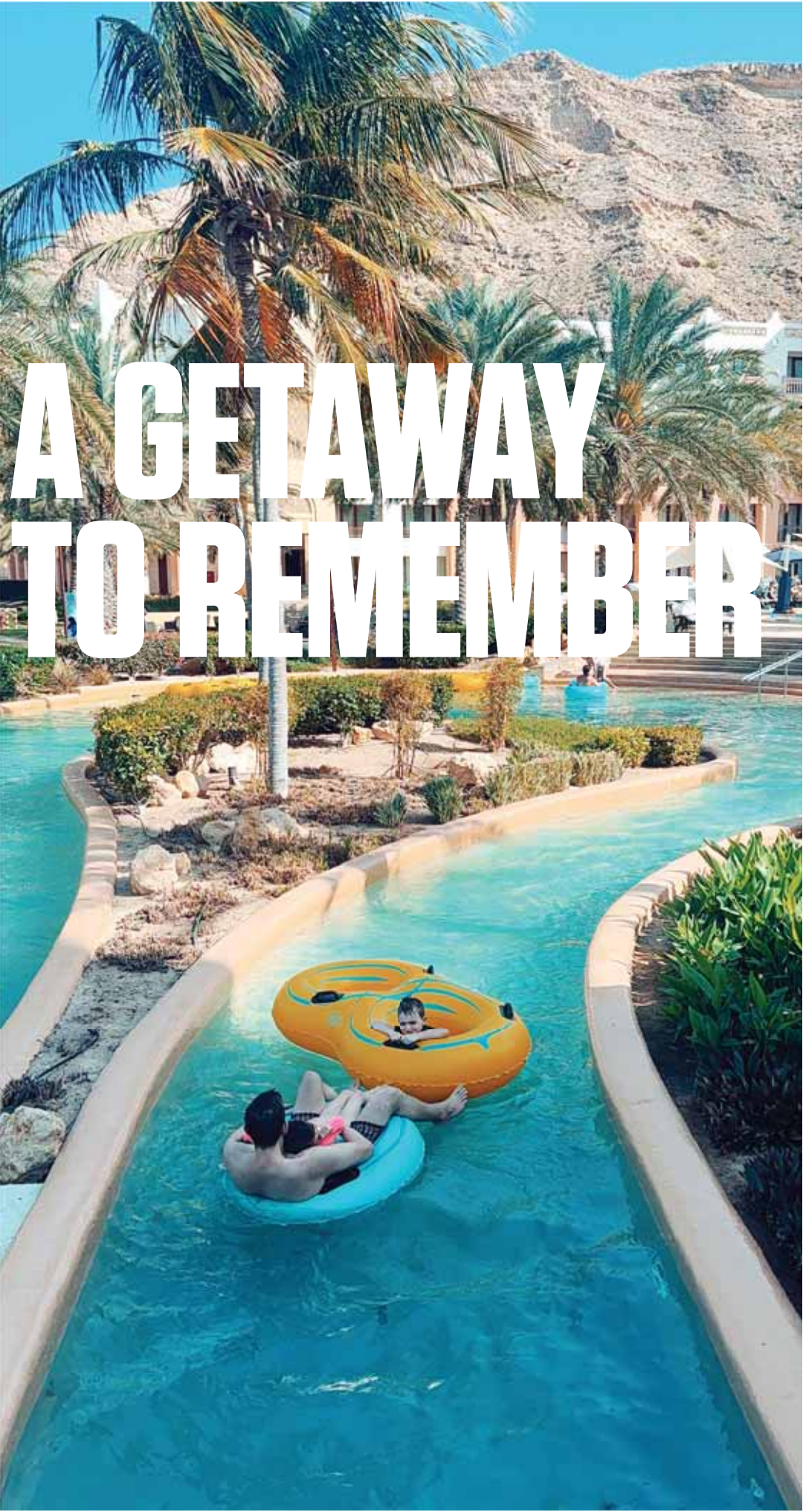
Yet, even amid the splashes and squeals of delighted kids, there's a sense of order, care, and calm.

Lifeguards are ever-present and cheerful. And parents — blissfully relieved of planning and policing — lounge with books, iced drinks, and wide smiles.

One afternoon, floating down the Lazy River with the sun dappling through palms overhead, I struck up a chat with a local couple who've made Al Waha their family's second home.

"We've been coming here since our eldest was in diapers," the mother told me. "Now he's diving into the deep end on his own. It's more than a hotel — it's where our memories are."

That sentiment echoed throughout my stay. This wasn't just a resort. It was a summer rhythm — full of laughter, ease, and the kind of light-hearted living we often forget in the rush of everyday life.



SUPPLIED PICTURES

Food at three restaurants for every craving

A place like this knows how to feed its guests — not just with variety, but with soul.

At Samba, the resort's all-day dining restaurant, breakfast quickly became a ritual. I would wander slowly past stations offering everything from fluffy pancakes to spiced Middle Eastern stews to Indian Dosas. Chef Ravinder Singh and Moorthy went the extra way to

accommodate my dietary requests in close coordination with restaurant manager Dev Khatwani.

One morning, I paused at the live egg station and watched as the chef gently cracked eggs and mixed vegetables for my masala omelette. The croissants were golden, buttery, and — crucially — never stale. I'd promise myself I wouldn't touch the sweets, then surrender at the sight of date-filled pastries, paired perfectly

with strong Arabic coffee and Umm Ali during my dinner.

For something breezier, Surf Café became my midday haunt. With sand still clinging to my feet, I'd sink into a beach-facing chair and order a mango smoothie or a club sandwich. Families streamed in post-swim, teens debated milkshake flavours, and the whole place had the relaxed vibe of a surfer shack with five-star service.

At Assira, the poolside restaurant, just as the day turned golden, I enjoyed a lime-and-mint cooler in hand and enjoyed the view of the sea sitting beneath a canopy of stars, while the last echoes of the day's energy faded into the evening breeze.

Small luxuries, lasting impressions

What sets Al Waha apart isn't just its location or amenities — it's the unspoken ease of the experience. There's thoughtfulness in every detail: towels always available, shaded walkways to protect from the sun, smiling staff who remembered my name — and even how I liked my coffee by the second morning. Checking out of Al Waha was, surprisingly, the hardest part of the trip. I hadn't expected to feel such a deep sense of rejuvenation — not just physically, but emotionally. In two days, the chaos of deadlines, heat, and city life had melted away, replaced by the sound of kids' laughter, the feel of cool water, and the lingering taste of mint and citrus on my tongue.

Al Waha doesn't try to be everything. It simply knows what it is — a sanctuary for families, a haven for summer, and a place where joy feels easy again. In a country known for its landscapes and warmth, this resort offers something rarer: a sense of belonging, wrapped in comfort and sunshine.

SPORTS

Joy for Sundowns and River as Inter and Fluminense held

Rayners netted the winner for the African club against the Koreans at the FIFA Club World Cup in Orlando

LOS ANGELES: Iqraam Rayners found the net three times, but only one counted as Mamelodi Sundowns secured the first victory for the African continent at the FIFA Club World Cup 2025 on Tuesday. Captains Sergio Ramos and Lautaro Martinez netted in the late game to make sure Inter Milan and Monterrey left Los Angeles with a point, while three powerful headers saw CA River Plate ease past Urawa Red Diamonds.

Ulsan 0 Mamelodi Sundowns 1
In a Group F game at Inter & Co Stadium in Orlando, it was the Iqraam Rayners show as Sundowns overcame an hour-plus weather delay and Korean opposition to take home Africa's first victory at the tournament. His slick outside of the boot finish after a through-ball from Lucas Ribeiro put Sundowns top of Group F. Sundowns' over Ulsan HD was watched by just 3,412 fans - the lowest attendance of the tournament so far. Kick-off was delayed by more than an hour because of a weather



warning, with referee Clement Turpin ordering players off the pitch just before the scheduled 6pm local time start.

Monterrey 1 Inter Milan 1
Elsewhere in a Group E game at Rose Bowl Stadium, Los Angeles, Rayados were unafraid of going toe-to-toe with UEFA Champions League finalists Inter, and their stoutheartedness almost led them to victory. Sergio Ramos helped the Mexicans to a shock lead, heading home from an outswinging Oliver Torres corner kick. Lautaro Martinez leveled for Inter after a slick freekick from Kristjan Asllani freed up Carlos Augusto in the penalty area. Monterrey came closest to finding a winner as Sergio Canales hit



the post with a drive from outside the box. Ramos joined Monterrey in February after his contract expired at Sevilla at the end of the 2023-24 season



Over half the seats at the 89,702-capacity Rose Bowl Stadium were left empty, with 40,311 spectators in attendance.

Fluminense 0 Borussia Dortmund 0
At MetLife Stadium, New York, Fluminense and Dortmund battled to a scoreless draw in a Group F game, but it was the Brazilians who came away thinking they could have taken all three points. A brilliant Gregor Kobel thwarted chance after chance from attacking trio Jhon Arias, Agustin Canobbio and Everaldo, while at the other end Dortmund failed to create clear goal-scoring opportunities. Jobe Bellingham came off the substitutes' bench to make his debut for Dortmund.

The England Under-21s midfielder, 19, followed in the footsteps of older brother Jude, whose last appearance during a three-year spell with Dortmund was in May 2023. Fluminense, runners-up to Manchester City in the 2023 edition, included 44-year-old goalkeeper Fabio in their starting line-up.

River Plate 3 Urawa Red Diamonds 1
In a Group E game at Lumen Field, Seattle, three headed goals saw Los Millonarios over the line against Red Diamonds. Facundo Colidio netted the first before half-time. After the break Sebastian Driussi and Maximiliano Meza added two more to end Japanese hopes of a comeback. - Agencies

US OPEN MIXED DOUBLES

Alcaraz teams up with Raducanu



LONDON: British No.1 Emma Raducanu and Wimbledon champion Carlos Alcaraz are one of several eye-catching pairings planning to play the new-look US Open mixed doubles event. Fellow Briton Jack Draper is set to feature alongside Chinese world number four Zheng Qinwen, with a host of big names - including Novak Djokovic, Jannik Sinner and Naomi Osaka - also on the entry list. The US Open mixed doubles will be held as a standalone event on 19-20 August before the hard-court Grand Slam begins on 24 August. Bringing the mixed doubles forward is a bold and revolutionary move by the United States Tennis Association, which said it hoped would attract more high-profile singles players.

Spanish five-time major champion Alcaraz says he approached Raducanu about teaming up through their agents, adding the 22-year-old Briton needed "time to think a little bit" before agreeing. "I'm super excited about it. I think it's going to be great. It was an amazing idea for the tournament," Alcaraz said after his opening win at Queen's. "We will try to win. But obviously it's going to be really, really fun." The 16 pairings announced by the USTA on Tuesday are not guaranteed to play in the event, although it is an indication the players involved are keen on participating. The entry deadline, by which players must confirm if they will play, is 28 July. - Agencies

ITALIAN FOOTBALL

Filippo Inzaghi joins Palermo from Pisa



MILAN: Filippo Inzaghi has been appointed manager of Serie B side Palermo weeks after winning promotion to the Italian top flight with Pisa. Inzaghi - older brother of former Inter Milan boss Simone - left Pisa by mutual consent on Friday despite securing promotion to Serie A in his only season in charge. On Tuesday, Palermo, who finished eighth last season and lost in the first round of the promotion play-offs, confirmed the appointment of the former Italy striker on a "multi-year contract". The 51-year-old spent much of his playing career at Juventus and AC Milan, winning two Serie A titles and two Champions League crowns at the latter, and was part of the Azzurri squad that won the 2006 World Cup. Inzaghi is now tasked with returning Palermo - part of the same City Football Group ownership group as Manchester City - to the top flight for the first time since 2017. - Agencies

PREMIER LEAGUE

Short-notice changes likely as EPL fixtures released

LONDON: Fans have been warned by the English Premier League (EPL) that fixtures could be moved at "relatively short notice" next season because of the number of teams playing in Europe. A record nine top-flight clubs have qualified for UEFA competitions in the 2025-26 campaign. The Premier League said there is an "increased likelihood" that games will be rescheduled if English teams reach the latter stages, and it suggested fans take this into consideration when planning their attendance at games. Liverpool, Arsenal, Manchester City, Chelsea, Newcastle and Tottenham will be playing in the Champions League next season. Aston Villa and Crystal Palace have qualified for the Europa League, while Nottingham Forest will be playing in the Conference League. The warning comes after the Premier League announced the fixture list for the 2025-26 season on Wednesday. Champions Liverpool will host Bournemouth in the Friday night curtain-raiser, while Manchester United will play Arsenal in the opening weekend's standout fixture at Old Trafford. Newly promoted Sunderland, back in the top flight for the first time since 2016-17, start their campaign at home against West



Ham the following day. Championship winners Leeds welcome Everton to Elland Road for the Monday night game, while Burnley - promoted back to the top flight at the first time of asking - travel to Europa League holders Tottenham, who will be led by Thomas Frank in a league match for the first time. Everton fans will have to wait until the second round of fixtures for their first league game at the Hill Dickinson Stadium, when they will face Brighton. Pep Guardiola's Manchester City will hope to bounce back from a rare trophyless season with a strong start against

Wolverhampton Wanderers at Molineux. The season, which consists of 380 games over 33 weekends and five midweek rounds, will conclude on Sunday, 24 May. The Premier League has said the start date of 15 August - 82 days on from the end of the 2024-25 season - "allows for the maximum player rest time available". During the festive period, clubs will not be asked to play twice in less than 48 hours. While there are currently no games listed for 26 December, some may be moved to Boxing Day - depending on the live broadcast selection. - Agencies

FORMULA ONE

Red Bull's protest at Canadian GP 'petty' and 'embarrassing', says Wolff

MONTREAL: Mercedes team principal Toto Wolff said on Tuesday that Red Bull's protest was "petty" and "embarrassing" as George Russell finished first ahead of four-time world champion Max Verstappen at Sunday's Canadian Grand Prix. Russell claimed Mercedes' first win of the season as the race finished under the safety car, with Lando Norris having hit McLaren team-mate Oscar Piastri's car on the pit straight with four laps to go. Red Bull lodged a protest, claiming Russell drove "erratically" behind the safety car and displayed "unsportsmanlike behaviour", but it was rejected by the stewards.



"First of all, it took team Red Bull Racing two hours before they launched the protest, so that was in their doing," Wolff told Sky

Sports at the New York premiere of F1, starring Brad Pitt. "It's so petty and so small. They come up with some weird clauses,



what they call clauses. I guess the FIA needs to look at that because it's so far-fetched it was rejected.

"You know, you race, you win and you lose on track. That was a fair victory for us, like so many they had in the past. And

it's just embarrassing." Red Bull boss Christian Horner, also in attendance at the movie launch, suggested he had no regrets lodging a complaint. "No, absolutely not. I mean, it's a team's right to do so. We saw something we didn't think was quite right. "You have the ability to put it in front of the stewards and so that's what we chose to do. Absolutely no regrets in that." Sunday's discord was not the first time Red Bull and Mercedes have clashed this season. At the Spanish Grand Prix, Red Bull's Max Verstappen said "frustration" led to his collision with George Russell. - Agencies

IN PICTURES



5th Asia Culture Festival held in Geneva, Switzerland
Performers from China present traditional Chinese fan dance during the fifth Asia Culture Festival at the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. *Xinhua*



10 killed in bus-truck collision in South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal Province
This picture shows the damaged bus at the scene of a head-on collision in the KwaZulu-Natal Province of South Africa. A bus and a truck collided head-on on the R34 near Vryheid, South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal Province, resulting in the death of 10 people, said a KwaZulu-Natal provincial government official. *Xinhua*



People attend "Solidarity March" in Phnom Penh, Cambodia
An aerial drone picture shows people attending a "Solidarity March" in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Tens of thousands of Cambodians joined the march as border tensions with Thailand mounted. *Xinhua*



FIFA Club World Cup 2025 Fluminense FC vs Borussia Dortmund
Niklas Suele (down) of Borussia Dortmund vies with Kevin Serna of Fluminense FC the Group F match between Fluminense FC of Brazil and Borussia Dortmund of Germany at the FIFA Club World Cup 2025 in New Jersey, the United States. *Xinhua*



Highlight of IJF Judo World Championships 2025
Tanaka Shiho (down) of Japan competes with Lara Cvjetko of Croatia during the women's 70 kg final at the IJF Judo World Championships 2025 in Budapest, Hungary. *Xinhua*

Mt. Lewotobi Laki-Laki erupts, triggers top-level aviation alert in Indonesia
This picture provided by Indonesia's Centre for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation (PVMBG) shows volcanic materials spewing from Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki in East Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia. Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki in Indonesia's East Nusa Tenggara Province erupted on Tuesday, spewing a column of ash up to 10 km into the sky and triggering the highest aviation alert, the Volcanology and Geological Disaster Mitigation Centre reported. *Xinhua*



Utkarsh Singh, Monalisa Bhosle during the promotion of their music album 'Saadgi'
Singer Utkarsh Singh and Mahakumbh Mela viral girl Monalisa Bhosle during the promotion of their music album 'Saadgi', in Bhopal. *ANI Photo*



Drone light show in China's Chongqing aims to set new Guinness world record
A drone light show is staged in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality. This event, with 11,787 drones forming luminous patterns across the night sky, was held here aiming to set a new Guinness world record of its kind. *Xinhua*

ROUND-UP

ahlibank rolls out child focused banking app

ahlinext represents a transformative step in raising financial awareness from an early age, empowering children to develop smart money habits



kind, end-to-end child banking application in Oman. Crafted to resonate with the aspirations of a younger generation, ahlinext represents a transformative step in raising financial awareness from an early age, empowering children to develop smart money habits while equipping parents with meaningful tools to nurture responsible financial behaviour. With a youthful and

engaging interface tailored to capture young minds, the app delivers substantive educational value in a format that aligns with modern family dynamics. In doing so, it reinforces ahlibank's broader vision to contribute to the social and economic priorities of Oman Vision 2040 through technology-led, future-focused initiatives. As a dynamic and intuitive platform, ahlinext seamlessly blends interactive learning with purposeful functionality. Children can complete assigned chores and earn rewards, request money that parents can review and approve within the app, and manage their allowances through structured transfers and card wallets; all within a secure, parent-controlled environment. With customizable settings for each child, parents gain full visibility and flexibility, enabling instant updates and tailored controls that

adapt to individual needs. The app also offers statement tracking to help children visualize their spending habits and develop a sense of accountability. The ahlinext app is designed to be very agile and progressive in nature – in the upcoming planned updates there will be a heavy emphasis on enhancing financial literacy for kids, as well as providing them with the necessary tools to be in control of their finances and money management. Through ahlinext, ahlibank reaffirms its role as a catalyst for innovation with social relevance, bridging the gap between today's banking and tomorrow's needs. As the financial landscape evolves, the bank continues to invest in solutions that prepare the next generation for a future where knowledge, responsibility, and confidence form the cornerstones of financial well-being.

THREE-MONTH PROGRAMME

Sidrah 4.0 opens applications calling for Oman's next generation of women leaders

MUSCAT: Sidrah 4.0, the celebrated youth leadership initiative designed to inspire and equip young Omani women, has officially opened applications. Since its inception in June 2022, Sidrah has supported over 169 graduates from 11 governorates, who have gone on to launch projects, step into management roles, and contribute meaningfully in multiple ways. Co-designed and co-delivered by Lahunna Oman in collaboration with Outward Bound Oman, Sidrah 4.0 seeks Omani women aged 20-33 from across the Sultanate of Oman. This three-month programme offers a blend of immersive outdoor experiences, engaging workshops, mentorship, online courses, and professional coach-



ing, closely aligning with Oman's Vision 2040 priorities. "Sidrah offers Omani women the tools, confidence, and inspiration to shape their futures and drive positive change in their communities," said Shatha Al Maskiry, Founder of Lahunna Oman. "We're excited to welcome a new group of ambitious young women ready to embrace this transformative journey."

Mohammed Al-Zadjali, Acting Executive Director of Outward Bound Oman, added: "We look forward to hosting a new group of young Omani women in our Jabal Akhdar training centre where they will embark on an immersive and inspiring educational and training journey through the Sidrah programme. We hope that the program will build on its success in its fourth edition and contribute to supporting female leadership in the Sultanate of Oman." Sidrah 4.0 is proudly sponsored by Oman Shell and OQ, highlighting a shared commitment to fostering inclusive growth and leadership excellence. Interested candidates are encouraged to apply through <https://bit.ly/sidrahoman> and follow @sidrahoman on Instagram.

GRAND RAFFLE TRIPS TO ISTANBUL



Toyota Prado summer offer: Free service, insurance, prizes and holiday packages

MUSCAT: Own a Toyota Prado and get exclusive benefits. Enjoy free service from 3 years / 30,000 kms up to 10 years / 100,000 kms (whichever is earlier), 1 year insurance and Scratch & Win prizes. In addition, they gain entry into a Raffle Draw to win one of 16 iPhone 16 Pro Max and a chance to win one of five international holiday packages to Istanbul for two adults (4 nights, 5 days) in the Grand Raffle Draw. (Terms & Conditions apply. Benefits vary by model, variant, model year

and manufacturing year. Customers are encouraged to visit any Saud Bahwan Automotive showroom for full details.) The campaign that began on 1 June will last until 31 July. For decades, the Prado has been the trusted companion of off-road adventurers and city drivers alike. Now, in its latest generation, it raises the bar even higher with enhanced capability, superior comfort and a bold, retro-inspired presence that commands attention on every road.

GROWING PRESENCE ON OMANI ROADS

Changan UNI Series presents futuristic design, intelligent mobility across four distinct models

MUSCAT: With a growing presence on Omani roads, the Changan UNI Series continues to impress drivers who value bold design, advanced technology, and versatile performance. Comprising four distinctive models – the UNI-K, UNI-T, UNI-V, and UNI-S – the series offers a unique expression of modern mobility for every lifestyle. From sleek sedans to dynamic SUVs, each model delivers a tailored blend of comfort, innovation, and efficiency, backed by Changan's commitment to intelligent engineering and design excellence. As the flagship SUV of the UNI Series, the Changan UNI-K presents an impressive fusion of futuristic design and cutting-edge technology. Its athletic profile is complemented by a frameless grille, quad exhaust outlets, and a panoramic sunroof, while a powerful 2.0 litre turbocharged engine paired with an 8-speed automatic transmission delivers 233 hp for refined yet confident performance. Inside, the cabin is a showcase of modern luxury. Nappa leather seating, a triple-screen intelligent cockpit, and voice control create a premium, tech-forward driving experience. Advanced safety features such as



Intelligent Adaptive Cruise Control (IACC), Forward Collision Warning, Automatic Emergency Braking, a 360-degree panoramic camera system, and driver fatigue monitoring ensure that safety is as intelligent as the drive itself. Ideal for those who expect excellence in every detail, the UNI-K is available starting from just OMR 173 per month. Expressive in design and rich in innovation, the Changan UNI-T is a tech-driven crossover tailored for urban lifestyles. With its distinctive borderless grille, hidden door handles, quad exhausts, and 20-inch alloy wheels, the UNI-T makes a bold statement. Powered by a 1.5-litre turbocharged engine generating 175 hp and 300 Nm of torque, it is matched with a 7-speed dual-clutch transmission providing a smooth yet powerful drive. Inside, the cabin feels both futuristic and functional. Drivers enjoy a 10.3-inch LCD instrument display and a matching infotainment screen with voice control, navigation,

and wireless charging. Eco-leather ventilated seats, a panoramic glass roof, and a cold box in the centre armrest add comfort and convenience, while advanced safety technologies like Adaptive Cruise Control, 360-degree camera, Automatic Emergency Braking, and Blind Spot Monitoring come standard. The UNI-T Sport variant builds further on this dynamic formula with a gloss black exterior kit, contrast interior accents, and a sporty rear spoiler. Whether navigating city streets or taking longer drives, the UNI-T delivers a connected and confident drive. EMI pricing starts from just OMR 127 per month. Sporty yet refined, the Changan UNI-V redefines expectations for a modern sedan. Its low-slung fastback silhouette, 18-inch alloy wheels, hidden door handles, and fixed panoramic sunroof create a sleek and futuristic profile. Beneath the bonnet, a 1.5-litre turbocharged engine produces 188 hp and 300 Nm of torque, paired with

a 7-speed dual-clutch transmission and an efficient 2WD system for a dynamic and athletic driving experience. The interior combines sophistication with driver-centric design. Ventilated leather seats, six-way electric adjustment for the driver and four-way for the front passenger, and rear AC vents ensure a comfortable cabin. Technology features include a 10-inch instrument cluster, 10.25-inch infotainment display, wireless charging, eight speakers, and integrated voice control with navigation and Apple CarPlay. With bold design and intelligent features inside and out, the Changan UNI-V is available from just OMR 130 per month. The all-new Changan UNI-S delivers futuristic design and practicality in a sleek two-wheel-drive SUV. With sharp lines, 19-inch alloy wheels, LED lighting, and a panoramic sunroof, it blends modern aesthetics with day-to-day usability. From the flagship UNI-K to the bold UNI-T, the sleek UNI-V and the versatile UNI-S, the Changan UNI Series gives drivers the freedom to choose a vehicle that reflects their individual style without compromising on technology, performance, or safety.

FOR KIDS



Grand Millennium Muscat launches 'Turtle Hospitality Summer Camp'

MUSCAT: This summer, something truly unique is happening at Grand Millennium Muscat – and it is exclusively for kids. The hotel is introducing the "Turtle Hospitality Summer Camp", a fun-filled, educational adventure designed for children aged 5 to 10. Running from June 29 to August 21, the camp offers a one-of-a-kind opportunity where kids don't just play, they explore, discover, and even 'graduate' from hospitality. With the scorching summer heat pushing activities indoors, the Grand Millennium Muscat is transforming into a vibrant learning playground where young minds can dive into the exciting world of hotels and hospitality. The hotel has conceptualised the camp as an immersive journey, crafted to transform summer holidays into an exceptional blend of fun and learning. It promises to create cherished memories and spark a lifelong curiosity. From pizza and pasta making, to bed-making challenges, creative colouring, and daily movie screenings, every day promises something new and exciting. Children will also get a rare behind-the-scenes look into the world of hospitality through introductory sessions on hotel security, basic engineering, and even first aid – all presented in a

fun and age-appropriate way. Additional highlights include daily kids' movie screenings and napkin folding workshops, ensuring that each day is packed with laughter and learning. Beyond refreshing swims and comfortable stays, children will be immersed in a diverse range of activities aimed at sparking curiosity and imparting valuable life skills in a playful environment. What is more, children who enrol for an entire week will proudly receive certificates of participation, recognising their engagement and new learnings. Glenn Nobbs, General Manager at The Grand Millennium Muscat, stated: "This is something we have never done before. We wanted to create more than just a summer camp; we wanted to give kids a truly memorable and enriching experience. At the Turtle Hospitality Summer Camp, children will laugh, learn, and leave with new skills and confidence. The Camp is an extension of our core hospitality values, offering kids a summer they will never forget and giving parents peace of mind knowing their children are learning, growing, and having fun in a safe and stimulating environment. It's the perfect complement to our comprehensive summer packages."

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