

The logo for the 50th anniversary of the Muslim World Group. It features a large, stylized number '50' in a golden-yellow color. Inside the zero is a circular emblem containing a stylized flame or flower-like symbol in white and blue, with the text '50th Anniversary' and 'Muslim World Group' below it. To the right of the '50' are several concentric, curved lines in the same golden-yellow color. Below the '50' is the text 'YEARS OF' in a small, sans-serif font, followed by 'LEGACY' in a large, bold, sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a solid red background.

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Electronic index to monitor student behaviour in schools across Oman

The index aims to raise awareness of the correlation between psychological, health, and social issues and students' academic and personal outcomes

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Education, Research, and Innovation Committee of the Shura Council hosted on Monday the research team responsible for designing and developing



an electronic index to monitor student behaviour in schools across the Sultanate of Oman.

At the beginning of the meeting, the team outlined the project concept, which focuses on creating a digital index and a monitoring system to track student behavioural issues at the school, governorate,

and central ministry levels.

The index covers three key areas: psychological counseling, social counselling, and health awareness.

The team noted that the index will enable the measurement and tracking of the rise or decline in behavioural issues and support

data-driven decision-making in planning and implementing interventions tailored to the specific needs of each governorate.

Regarding the added value of the index, the team emphasised that the tool will provide an open and interactive platform for decision-makers, specialists, researchers, and parents, offering insights into the general status of students' psychological, health, and social challenges.

The system will also deliver quantitative statistical data that will aid specialists in planning guidance and awareness programmes and in allocating human and financial resources based on demand levels across different



governorates and wilayats.

Furthermore, the index aims to raise awareness of the correlation between psychological, health, and social issues and students' academic and personal outcomes.

Committee members praised the importance of the index for monitoring student behaviour and stressed the need to implement it in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and other relevant stakeholders, as it is expected to positively impact the quality of education in the Sultanate.

They also discussed with the research team the key findings related to student behavior and the recommendations proposed to address these challenges.

Separately, the committee met with a group of unemployed female graduates in information technology to listen to the challenges they face in securing employment in the government sector.

During the same meeting, the committee also reviewed a referred proposal regarding maximizing the economic impact of scientific research and innovation in the Sultanate of Oman.

The discussions took place as part of the committee's tenth regular meeting of the second annual session (2024-2025), chaired by His Excellency Jamal Al-Abri, Head of the Committee, and attended by Their Excellencies the committee members.

LEGISLATIVE AND LEGAL COMMITTEE

Govt referred Draft Laws discussed

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Legislative and Legal Committee of the Shura Council held its 16th meeting of the second annual session (2024-2025) of the Tenth Term (2023-2027), chaired by H.E. Dr. Ahmed Ali Al Saadi, head of the Committee, and attended by Their Excellencies the committee members.

During the meeting, the committee reviewed the final reports on a number of Draft Laws referred by the government, which had been studied recently in accordance

with the Law of the Council of Oman. Notable among these were the Draft Real Estate Registration Law and the Draft Law Amending Certain Provisions of the Arbitration Law.

The committee hosted specialists from various entities to gather their insights and feedback on the provisions of the draft laws. The committee also conducted comparative analyses with similar laws in neighbouring countries and examined their alignment with existing legislation in the Sultanate of Oman.

SHURA COUNCIL

Food and Water Security Committee meets

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Food and Water Security Committee of the Shura Council held a meeting with the research team for the project on developing technology for groundwater exploration in the Arabian desert.

The meeting was attended by His Excellency Taher Al Junaibi, Deputy Chairman of the Council, who had raised the request for clarification on this matter.

The team comprises specialists from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Water Resources, along with experts from the Water Research Center at Sultan Qaboos



University.

At the beginning of the meeting, the research team presented the project's objectives, which aim to develop technology for mapping shallow groundwater reservoirs from the air.

This technology utilises radar to determine the amounts of water in these reservoirs, especially in light of the severe water shortage in the region and the chal-

lenges posed by climate change, drought, and desertification.

They emphasised that the use of modern technologies for groundwater exploration would improve water mapping, enhance the understanding of water storage areas, and reduce the costs of water exploration while optimising financial resources for extracting that water.

The research team also dis-

cussed the geographic regions within the Sultanate of Oman where radar imaging technology has been employed. Additionally, they covered airborne geophysical surveys using electromagnetic methods and examined the results of these experiments in various regions of Oman.

For their part, the committee members affirmed the importance of such studies and projects in supporting and enhancing food and water security in the Sultanate of Oman. They also discussed some challenges that might be faced in the future when implementing these projects on the ground.

SEASON FINALE AT THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE MUSCAT



Performances in May crown ROHM's season of excellence

Times News Service

MUSCAT: As the Royal Opera House Muscat (ROHM) draws the curtain on its extraordinary 2024-2025 season, the month of May marks a grand finale – a celebration of excellence in music, culture, and artistic innovation.

The month opened with a powerful rendition of Verdi's La Traviata on May 1 and 3, conducted by the legendary Plácido Domingo.

Directed by Marta Domingo, the production captivated audiences with Juliana Grigoryan as Violetta and Yusif Eyvasov as Alfredo. Ticket holders also enjoyed exclusive pre-performance talks that offered deeper insight into the opera's music, themes, and artistic vision.

Adding to the excitement, May 2 saw a spectacular Gala Symphony Concert in two parts. The first half featured Hamdan Al Shuaili conducting the Royal Oman Symphony Orchestra, while the second half was led by Plácido Domingo himself – a unique moment where regional and international talents shared one stage.

Still to come, ROHM continues its season of brilliance with Memories of Alhambra on May 8 and 9 – a new, original production that beautifully blends Arabic musical heritage with the fiery elegance of flamenco. Performed by the ac-



claimed Compañía Flamenca Antonio Andrade, the show promises an unforgettable cultural fusion under the stars.

Bringing the season to a rousing close, Lebanese superstar Ragheb Alama will take the stage on May 23 and 24, offering fans two nights of timeless hits, iconic style, and the kind of energy only a live concert can deliver.

This final month is more than a culmination – it is a tribute to a season defined by excellence, diversity, and artistic mastery.

As ROHM prepares to embark on a new chapter in October, audiences are encouraged not to miss the last wave of world-class performances this May – where the season ends, but the music lives on.

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ST. REGIS AL MOUJ MUSCAT RESORT

Oman CX Forum 2025 to drive conversation on the future of customer experience strategies

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's growing focus on customer-centric business strategies will take centre stage later this month as the Oman CX Forum 2025 brings together industry leaders, innovators and decision-makers at the St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort on May 28.

Organised by Muscat Media Group in collaboration with Gulf Leaders Circle (GLC) and presented by Infoline, the forum will gather over 200 senior professionals from across sectors to explore how companies in Oman can elevate their customer experience (CX) strategies in an increasingly digital and competitive landscape.

With customer expectations rapidly evolving, the event promises timely and actionable insights from a high-profile lineup of speakers, including CX heads, strategists and solution providers. Attendees will engage with key themes such as the integration of AI and automation in service delivery, personalisation of the customer journey, loyalty-building strategies, and the use of data to drive CX outcomes. Discussions will also focus on embedding a customer-first mindset across organisations, empowering front-

line teams, enhancing emotional connections with consumers, and delivering high-impact service experiences. These conversations will be especially relevant to professionals from banking, insurance, retail, telecom, utilities, FMCG, healthcare, tourism, hospitality, education, and real estate—sectors where customer experience is increasingly seen as a key differentiator.

A highlight of the event will be the Oman CX Awards 2025, where leading brands across 35 product and service categories will be recognised based on nationwide consumer voting. Winners will receive the prestigious Times of Oman Best Brand in Customer Experience Award. The evening will also honour select CX professionals for their role in advancing customer-centric practices in the Sultanate.

Ahmed bin Essa Al Zedjali, CEO of Muscat Media Group, emphasised the strategic relevance of the forum: "Customer experience is no longer a support function—it is now central to brand reputation and long-term success. The Oman CX Forum 2025 will not only celebrate those getting it right but will also serve as a platform for meaningful dialogue on how organisations in Oman can enhance the way they engage, serve and retain their customers."

The event is set to offer a valuable platform for networking, knowledge-sharing and recognising excellence, making it a must-attend for businesses looking to stay ahead in the CX space.

For enquiries on sponsorships, speaking opportunities or delegate registration, contact Sanjeev Rana at sanjeev@mmg.om or +968 97221630.

SEVERAL MOU'S SIGNED

< FROM A1

His Majesty the Sultan, Algerian President grace signing MoUs

Additionally, a cooperation agreement was signed between Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs and Algeria's Ministry of Justice to strengthen collaboration in judicial and legal fields. The two sides will exchange experiences, expertise, and training programmes, as well as share best practices in studying the drafting of international conventions.

In the judicial field, the Supreme Judiciary Council and Algeria's Ministry of Justice signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to boost judicial cooperation, including the exchange of court rulings, joint training programmes for judges and staff, expert visits, collaborative research in legal studies and conducting specialized workshops and seminars.

Agricultural cooperation was also strengthened with the signing of an MoU between the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Water Resources and Algeria's Ministry of Agriculture Rural Development and Fisheries. The agreement focuses on desert farming, modern agricultural technologies, biotechnology for crop resilience, and

food safety standards. An executive programme was activated to implement an existing MoU on plant protection and animal health, enabling the exchange of regulations, technical expertise, and training in phytosanitary measures, seed production, and quarantine procedures.

In fisheries, Oman Marine Science and Fisheries Center and Algeria's National Centre for Research and Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture signed an executive programme to enhance scientific and technical cooperation in marine research, aquaculture, and smart fishing technologies.

An executive programme in education, stemming from a 2006 bilateral agreement, was also signed to facilitate academic exchanges, joint research, and scholarships between higher education institutions in both countries.

Moreover, the Ministry of Labour and Algeria's Ministry of Labour, Employment, and Social Security signed an executive programme to enhance cooperation in labour inspection, including the exchange of best practices, dispute

resolution mechanisms, and joint training initiatives.

The agreements were signed on behalf of the Omani government by Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister; Abdulsalam bin Mohammed Al Murschidi, Chairman of Oman Investment Authority (OIA); Dr. Saud bin Hamod Al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Water Resources; Dr. Hilal bin Ali Al Sabti, Minister of Health; Eng. Mattar Al Badi, CEO of Minerals Development Oman (MDO); and Saif Said Al Hamhami, CEO of Abraj Energy Services.

Representing the Algerian government were Dr. Wassim Kouidri, Minister of Pharmaceutical Industry; Lotfi Boudjemaa, Minister of Justice and Keeper of the Seals; Abdelkrim Bouzred, Minister of Finance; Rachid Hachichi, CEO of Sonatrach; Youcef Cherfa, Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fishing; Dr. Kamel Baddari, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research; and Faysal Bentaleb, Minister of Labour, Employment, and Social Security.

SULTAN QABOOS UNIVERSITY

SQU announces 10 winners of Royal Grant for Strategic Research Projects

MUSCAT: Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) on Monday announced the top 10 winners of the 2025 Royal Grant for Strategic Research Projects.

The announcement was made during a ceremony marking the 25th anniversary of University Day.

The ceremony was held under the auspices of Sultan Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance.

University Day celebration coincided with the convening of the International Research Management Conference themed "Scholarly Research and Sustainability: A Vision for Change."

The conference seeks to explore ways to ensure the sustainability of research at institutional, national and international levels. It lays emphasis on upgrading sustainable funding strategies, strengthening research partnerships (between academic, industrial, and governmental institutions), building research capacities and using modern technology to update research methodologies and effective research dissemination norms.

The ceremony included three documentaries that featured the

Royal Grant for Strategic Research, the University Day and the achievements of the SQU in scholarly research and postgraduate studies.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Al Habsi and attendees toured an exhibition accompanying the University Day.

The exhibition showcased two platforms: one on the "Research Management System" and the other on the "Publishing and Journals Management System". It also included stands on innovation and technology transfer, postgraduate studies and sustainability in research. — ONA

MINISTRY OF LABOUR

Fair distribution of opportunities sought

< FROM A1 The decision aims to realign the labour market, curb hidden trade, ensure fair distribution of opportunities, and promote competitiveness based on sustainable and equitable principles.

As part of efforts to empower national talent and boost job localisation, the ministry has launched an employment package tailored to market needs. This includes: Training-linked employment programmes; On-the-job training initiatives; Wage support

schemes; Flexible alternatives to meet Omanisation quotas, such as counting self-employed individuals and part-time workers toward the required ratios.

The ministry has adopted a flexible enforcement mechanism, accounting for the economic realities of businesses of varying sizes, capacities, and sectors. Firms that have operated for one year without hiring Omanis must submit an employment plan within one month of notification. Companies with 10+ employees must

comply within 3 months. Smaller firms are granted a 6-month grace period. Sole proprietors managing their businesses are exempt for one year from the decision's effective date.

To ensure fair implementation and address sector-specific concerns, the ministry has formed a committee to review appeals, assess exceptional cases affected by the decision, monitor its impact, and submit observations and recommendations based on practical outcomes. — ONA



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HM, Algerian President hold bilateral meeting

The meeting reviewed areas of bilateral cooperation and means of promoting them to serve interests of the two countries

ALGIERS: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and President Abdelamdjid Tebboune of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria held a bilateral meeting at the Presidency of the Republic in the capital Algiers on Monday.

The meeting reviewed areas of bilateral cooperation and means of promoting them to serve interests of the two countries. The two leaders also exchanged views on a set of regional and international developments.

After that, an official session of talks was held under that chair of His Majesty the Sultan and the Algerian President.

The session explored opportunities for economic and investment cooperation between the two countries in various sectors, particularly renewable energy, pharmaceutical industries, agriculture, marine resources, food security, and financial and logistical investment.

The two sides also exchanged views on a set of matters of interest to the two countries.

The session was attended from the Omani side by HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy



Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nuamani, Minister of the Royal Office, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Min-

ister, Dr. Hamad bin Said Al Aufi, Head of the Private Office, Abdusalam bin Mohammed Al Murshidi, Chairman of Oman Investment Authority, Dr. Saud bin Hamoud Al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources,

Dr. Hilal bin Ali Al Sabti, Minister of Health and Saif bin Nassir Al Badaai, Ambassador of Oman to Algeria.

Meanwhile, it was attended from the Algerian side by some senior officials. — ONA

DEPARTURE

HM the Sultan concludes two-day visit of Algeria



ALGIERS: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik left Algiers this evening after a two-day state visit to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

President Abdelamdjid Tebboune of Algeria led the farewell party for His Majesty the Sultan at Houari Boumediene International Airport.

Upon the arrival to the yard of the airport, His Majesty the Sultan and the Algerian President ascended the dais as the Royal anthem of Oman and the national anthem of Algeria were played.

Then, His Majesty shook hands with members of the farewell party from the Algerian side and personnel of the Omani Embassy in Algeria.

On his turn, the Algerian President shook hands with members of the Omani official delegation.

Upon his departure, His Majesty the Sultan sent a cable of thanks to the Algerian President.

In the cable, His Majesty expressed his sincere appreciation for the warm welcome and hospitality.

His Majesty lauded the outcomes of his meeting with the Algerian President, as it was an opportunity to enhance areas of cooperation and promote the distinguished relations in various spheres in a manner that serves interests of the two peoples.

His Majesty the Sultan wished President Tebboune success, and the Algerian people further progress and prosperity. — ONA

EL MOURADIA PRESIDENTIAL PALACE

HM accorded official reception protocols



ALGIERS: An official reception ceremony was held for His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik at El Mouradia Presidential Palace in the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria on Monday, on the occasion of His Majesty's visit to Algeria.

President Abdelamdjid Tebboune of Algeria led the welcoming party for His Majesty the Sultan.

Upon His Majesty's arrival to the Palace, he passed by the

guard of honour, saluted the flag and inspected the guard of honour, while military bands played ceremonial music in honour of the esteemed guest.

Following this, the two leaders posed for a commemorative photo. His Majesty then shook hands with senior Algerian officials, while the Algerian President greeted the official delegation accompanying His Majesty the Sultan. — ONA

AT PEOPLE'S PALACE

Algerian President hosts dinner in honour of HM



ALGIERS: In honour of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, President Abdelamdjid Tebboune of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria hosted an official dinner at the People's Palace in the capital Algiers on Sunday.

The dinner was attended by members of the official delegation accompanying His Majesty the Sultan. It was also attended by some senior officials from the Algerian side and several ambassadors accredited to Algeria. — ONA

ALGIERS

HM visits Memorial of the Martyr, National Museum of Moudjahid

ALGIERS: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on Monday visited the Memorial of the Martyr, or Maqam E'chahid, and the National Museum of Moudjahid in the Algerian capital, Algiers.

This took place within the context of His Majesty's current visit to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

Upon His Majesty's arrival at the site on Al-Ham Plateau, he inspected the guard of honour who saluted His Majesty, accom-

panied by some Algerian officials. His Majesty then placed a wreath of flowers at the Memorial of the Martyr.

Afterward, from atop the plateau, His Majesty listened to a briefing on the old city, the port and the surrounding areas.

His Majesty the Sultan then visited the National Museum of Moudjahid. He took note of its halls while receiving a detailed explanation of its history, collections, and mission.

At the conclusion of his tour, His Majesty the Sultan inscribed a message in the VIP guestbook, expressing his delight at visiting this historical landmark that documents an important era for the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

Historical institution

His Majesty also extended his gratitude to the museum's administrators for their warm welcome and wished them continued success.

During the visit, His Majesty the Sultan was accompanied by members of the official delegation.

It is worth noting that the National Museum of Moudjahid was established in 1972 as a historical and cultural institution dedicated to preserving and documenting the memory of the Algerian Revolution.

It also houses a scientific library containing thousands of references across various disciplines. — ONA



BILATERAL RELATIONS

HM the Sultan and Algerian President applaud establishment of Algerian-Omani Investment Fund

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and President Abdelmadjid Tebboune of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, commended the establishment of the "Algerian-Omani Investment Fund" as a mechanism to finance joint investments between the two nations, enhance their volume, and ensure diversification and expansion across all sectors.

This was stated in the joint communiqué issued yesterday on the occasion of the state visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria on 4-5 May 2025.

It reads as follows:
"At the invitation of President Abdelmadjid Tebboune of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, Sultan of Oman, paid a state visit to Algeria on 4-5 May, accompanied by a high-ranking delegation.

At the outset of the visit, President Tebboune welcomed His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, praising this renewed meeting that reflect the fraternal relations, co-operation, and solidarity binding the Algerian and Omani peoples.

On his turn, His Majesty expressed his pleasure at visiting Algeria and extended his gratitude



for the warm reception accorded to him and his accompanying delegation. He highlighted the distinguished ties between the two nations, rooted in historical, cultural, and solidarity-based bonds, as well as a shared destiny.

In an atmosphere of mutual understanding, the two leaders held in-depth and constructive discussions on bilateral relations and ways to strengthen them across various fields. They also exchanged views on regional and international issues of common interest and chaired an expanded meeting between the two delegations.

Both sides praised the progress

in bilateral relations in recent years, particularly following President Tebboune's state visit to Muscat during 28-30 October 2024, and the eighth session of the Joint Committee held in Algeria on 11-12 June 2024. They also commended the steps taken to implement the outcomes of these meetings.

The two leaders affirmed their commitment to further enhancing cooperation and partnership, leveraging the vast potential of both countries.

The two sides encouraged joint public and private sector investment projects, building on the successful partnership in fertilizer,

ammonia, and urea production in the Arzew industrial zone—a \$2.4 billion project. They also welcomed ongoing discussions for projects in automotive manufacturing, energy, pharmaceuticals, and other sectors, urging their swift implementation and the exploration of new areas for mutual benefit.

They lauded the establishment of the "Algerian-Omani Investment Fund" as a tool to finance joint ventures, increase their scope, and ensure diversification across all fields.

Regarding trade, the two leaders directed intensified efforts to boost trade volume, develop economic exchanges, and utilize the commercial and economic capacities of both nations.

They also highlighted the outcomes of the business forum held in Algeria on 11 June 2024, attended by entrepreneurs and companies from both countries. Additionally, they noted Oman's selection as the guest of honor at the 56th Algiers International Fair (23-28 June 2025) and Algeria's participation as the guest of honor at the seventh Oman AgroFood exhibition (1-3 December 2025).

The two sides welcomed the signing of memoranda of under-

standing and executive programs in justice, legal affairs, investment, agriculture, fisheries, pharmaceuticals, energy, mining, labour, and employment.

The leaders praised the deep historical and cultural ties between the two peoples, as well as the significant role played by the Algerian community in Oman in strengthening bilateral relations.

On regional and international matters, the two leaders exchanged views on current developments, emphasizing their commitment to coordinating their positions in line with their foreign policy principles and the interests of the Arab and Islamic nations. They stressed the importance of enhancing regional and global security and stability.

Regarding the Arab world, they underscored the need for continued coordination with Arab brothers—bilaterally and within the Arab League—to strengthen joint Arab action and address multifaceted threats and challenges.

The two leaders addressed the tragic situation in Palestine, strongly condemning Israel's genocidal war and scorched-earth policy in Gaza, which has caused unprecedented humanitarian disasters and the destruction of vital infrastructure, including hospi-

tals, schools, and places of worship. They called on the international community, particularly the UN Security Council, to fulfill its responsibilities by demanding an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and working toward a comprehensive and just resolution to the Palestinian issue based on relevant international resolutions and the two-state solution—ensuring the Palestinian people's right to an independent state along the 1967 borders with Jerusalem as its capital.

The Omani side commended Algeria's relentless efforts in defending the Palestinian cause at the UN Security Council as the Arab representative.

The Algerian side praised Oman's constructive role in mediating between the US and Iran, applauding Omani diplomacy's approach to resolving disputes through peaceful dialogue and wisdom.

At the end of the visit, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik expressed his gratitude for the warm hospitality extended to him and his delegation. He wished his President Tebboune good health and well-being, and Algeria further progress and prosperity."

— ONA

MEETING

NDC commandant receives Pakistani military delegation

MUSCAT: Rear Admiral Ali Abdullah Al Shidi, Commandant of the National Defence College (NDC) received in his office at Bait Al Falaj Camp on Monday a delegation from the National Defence University of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed several military topics of mutual interest.

The visiting delegation listened to a briefing about the college, its facilities and equipment. They also toured the NDC's various departments.

The meeting was attended by members of the academic faculty in the NDC and the Military Attaché of Pakistan's embassy in Muscat.

In the same context, members of the visiting delegation also visited the Joint Command and Staff College at the Academy for Strategic and Defence Studies.

Upon their arrival to the college, the guests were greeted by Brigadier Saif Hamad Al Yousefi,



Commandant of the Joint Command and Staff College.

The delegation viewed a presentation about the Joint Com-

mand and Staff College, its curricula and training programmes. They also toured the college's facilities and departments. -ONA

WILAYAT OF MANAH

Oman Across Ages Museum to organise three-day conference

MANAH: The international conference "Museums and Their Role in Tourism Development" will take place from May 18 to 20 at Oman Across Ages Museum in the Wilayat of Manah, the Governorate of Al Dakhiliyah.

Organised in collaboration with the National Records and Archives Authority and the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, the event will feature over 42 researchers, academics, and experts from 21 countries, along with heritage and tourism professionals from within and outside the Sultanate of Oman.

The three-day conference will present 42 diverse research papers by museum specialists, academics, and researchers, addressing multiple themes.

These include the role of museums and heritage institutions in tourism development and cultural preservation, museum tourism and the cultural economy, related investment opportunities, as well as the educational and knowledge-based functions of museums through academic partnerships.

The conference will also explore the use of modern digital technologies, such as artificial intelligence and virtual reality to enhance visitor experiences.

Alongside the conference,

three specialised workshops and an exhibition will be held, featuring participation from government and private institutions, as well as researchers and academics, to highlight the cultural, economic, and social impact of museums.

Yaqdhan Abdullah Al Harthy, Director General of Oman Across Ages Museum and General Supervisor of the conference, stated that the event serves as an international platform for exchanging expertise and best practices in the museum sector.

He emphasised that Omani museums are expected to become beacons of knowledge, contributing to national economic diversification through cultural tourism.

In his turn, Dr. Mohammed Al Balushi, Head of the Conference's Scientific Committee, noted that the committee received over 300 research abstracts from 21 countries, with 42 papers selected based on quality and diversity criteria.

He added that the conference will also feature scientific posters displayed alongside the sessions, providing a broader space for knowledge exchange and showcasing innovative research projects in museums and tourism. -ONA

TENDER NOTICE

The Ministry of Agricultural, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources Announces the following Tenders: -

Tender no.	Tender title	Tender Document Sales Start Date	Tender Document Sales end Date	Bid Submission Closing	Companies that are eligible to participate	Tender Document fee (R.O)
1	273/2025/MAFWR /HQ-30	Sunday 27/4/2025	Sunday 18/5/2025	Sunday 08/6/2025	Specialized companies registered with Excellent, First Second, Third, fourth grades	(25/-) Omani riyals for local companies (10/-) Omani riyals for SMEs
2	274/2025/MAFWR /HQ-31	Sunday 27/4/2025	Sunday 18/5/2025	Thursday 12/6/2025	Specialized companies registered with Excellent, First Second, Third, fourth grades	(28/400) Omani riyals for local companies (10/-) Omani riyals for SMEs
3	285/2025/MAFWR /HQ-33	Sunday 4/5/2025	Sunday 25/5/2025	Sunday 15/6/2025	Specialized companies registered with Excellent, First Second, Third, fourth grades	(25/-) Omani riyals for local companies (10/-) Omani riyals for SMEs

- above mentioned Grade) may obtain Tender documents from the E-Tendering website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>.
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TENDERS COMMITTEE
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources



Sultanate of Oman
Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries
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SOCIETAL AWARENESS

Government Communication Centre holds meeting



MUSCAT: The Government Communication Centre (GCC) held its 28th meeting with the participation of directors and representatives of communication and media departments across government entities. The meeting was held under the patronage of Dr. Khamis Saif Al Jabri, Chairman of Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-up Unit. The event aligns with the Cen-

tre's efforts to strengthen national media discourse and embed the Vision's presence in communication activities. Ibrahim Salim Al Salmi, Director General of the GCC, emphasised that media is not merely a tool for disseminating information but also a means to build societal awareness and deepen public understanding of national directives. He stressed the Centre's com-

mitment to ensuring Oman Vision 2040 is reflected across all platforms and media formats—from official news to creative content on social media. Al Salmi added that the meeting serves as an opportunity to exchange insights, develop communication initiatives that bring the Vision closer to the public, and align outreach methods with societal aspirations, particularly among youth. —**ONA**



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شركة بركاء للمياه والطاقة ش.م.ع.ع

BARKA WATER AND POWER COMPANY S.A.O.G

P.O. Box: 572, P.C.320, Barka. Tel.: 26896499, Fax: 26894387

MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS REPORT (Q1 2025)

Overview

We are pleased to present Barka Water and Power Company SAOG (BWPC) operational performance and the un-audited financial statements for the period ended 31 March 2025. The principal activities of Barka Water and Power Company SAOG (the 'Company') are to develop, finance, design, construct, operate, maintain, insure, and own power generating station and water desalination plants and other related infrastructure. The Company's business is regulated by project agreements with various government entities and financing agreements with project lenders. These project agreements provide an assurance both over revenue and cost elements of the business. The Company has entered into Power and Water Purchase Agreement (PWPA) with Nama Power and Water Procurement Company (PWP) which includes Power plant for 8 years and 9 months and multi-stage flash evaporator (MSFE) water plant for 3 years term with extension option at PWP's discretion for a further term of 3 years and another term of 2 years & 9 months (total 8 years and 9 months term). BWPC's Water Purchase Agreements for both RO-1 and RO-2 facilities completed their contractual terms on 29 September 2024 inclusive of force majeure extended period due to abnormal seawater conditions.

The financial results of the period are summarized as under:

Figures in Thousands Riyal Omani	
	Period Ended 31 March 2025
Gross Revenues	7,637
Gross Profit	139
Loss after tax	(629)

HSE

Safety continued to be the highest priority for the Company. No safety incident was reported during the period while utilizing the scheduled outage time available to perform various maintenance activities. The team continued to demonstrate vigilance and implementation of international best practices related to safety. Similarly, the focus on environment resulted in no exceedances during the period. There have been zero environmental exceedances during the period and regulatory permits were maintained.

Operations

From an operational perspective, the reliability of the Power and MSFE Plants remained the focus

Power Generation

Power plant had achieved a reliability factor of 97.5% and a load factor of 35.2% for the reporting period.

Period 31 March	Electricity Delivered (MMWH)	Export Factor (%)	Reliability Factor (%)
2025	0.3	35.2	97.5

Water production

MSFE plant had achieved a reliability factor of 76.8% and a load factor of 42.2% for the reporting period.

Period 31 March	Water delivered (Mm3)	Export Factor (%)	Reliability Factor (%)
2025	1.5	42.2%	76.8%

Maintenance

The team believes in a risk-based approach towards maintenance to create a viable balance between predictive, proactive and scheduled maintenance. Accordingly, all required predictive, proactive, scheduled, and corrective maintenance activities were implemented in well manner to assure the operations and availability of power plant and MSFE.

Below are the maintenance activities undertaken by the Operator to ensure reliable operations of the plants during the period.

Power Block:

- Gas Turbine # 1 Evaporative Cooler System media filters were replaced.
- Steam Turbine GCB inspection and testing were carried out by third party.
- Steam Turbine Step Up Transformer Y phase surge arrester was replaced.
- Steam Turbine Generator stator and rotor borescope inspection was carried out.
- HRSG#1 & 2 passing valves were inspected, repaired and replaced.
- HRSG#1 & 2 internal and external systems were inspected.
- Steam Turbine Condenser inspection and cleaning were carried out.
- Annual Performance Test was completed successfully.

- MSFE unit# 11, 12 and 13, Heat Rejection, Heat Recovery and Water Box were inspected, and welding activities carried out.
- Bar and Band screening system overhauling and repair activities were conducted.
- PM was done for chemical dosing systems.
- Water analyzer system was calibrated by the third party.
- Annual Performance Test was completed successfully.

RO-1 plant:

- RO racks membrane inspection was conducted.
- Self-cleaning filter routine inspection was carried out.
- Dosing Pumps PM was performed.

RO-2 plant:

- Auto strainers routine inspection was carried out.
- RO trains membrane inspection was conducted.
- Chemical dosing system was inspected.

Performance Tests

The Company successfully achieved the annual performance test for Power plant and the MSFE on 27 March 2025 as per the requirements of PWPA.

Omanisation

The Company and its Operator take Omanisation as a responsibility rather than a contractual obligation. The Company and its Operator continued to remain in compliance with their contractual obligations. The Operator continued the practice of recruiting newly qualified graduates and developing them through numerous in-house and external training programs. This policy of the Company and its Operator has resulted in the recruitment of experienced local talent at senior leadership positions.

Social responsibility

The Company firmly believes in the importance of social responsibility and has focused its effort in educational training programs by providing internship opportunities to young Omani talent and provision of site technical tours to university students.

Financial Highlights

Figures in RO '000		
Income Statement	Period Ended	Period Ended
	31-Mar-25	31-Mar-24
Total revenues	7,637	3,138
Operating costs	(7,498)	(2,547)
Gross profit	139	591
Other costs / Other Income	(806)	(510)
Taxation	38	32
Net profit after tax	(629)	113
Earnings per share	(0.004)	0.001

Revenue

The increase in revenue is due to commissioning of power plant & MSFE (no operations in prior period), marginally setoff with no RO plants revenue due to expiry of WPAs on 29 September 2024.

Gross Profit

The gross profit decreased mainly due to commissioning of power plant operations and MSFE operations partially offset with no RO plants operations due to expiry of WPAs on 29 September 2024.

Other Costs / Other Income

Other costs (net of other income) for the current period are higher due to higher finance cost resulted from refinancing.

Cash Flow Statement '000	Period Ended	Period Ended
	31-Mar-25	31-Mar-24
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	1,085	3,428
Balance Sheet '000	As at	As at
	31-Mar-25	31-Dec-24
Total assets	76,240	77,027
Net shareholder's equity	31,598	32,227
Paid up capital	16,000	16,000
Current ratio	1.40:1	1.25:1
Gearing ratio	47:53	45:55
Net assets per share – Riyal Omani	0.197	0.201

Outlook

The Company is striving to maintain its safety record in future without safety or environmental incident and to remain in compliance of local regulations. The Company will continue its proactive and scheduled maintenance activities to assure uninterrupted operations and availability of Power plant and MSFE. For RO plants, the Company is exploring available business opportunities, and the possibility of asset sale in the event of no firm RO's capacity utilization. The Company will make efforts to maintain adequate cash reserves to settle outstanding tax liabilities. These liabilities relate to open tax years which are under the assessment process by the Tax Authorities.

BARKA WATER AND POWER COMPANY SAOG

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

(Expressed in Omani Rial)

	31 March 2025 (Audited)	31 December 2024 (Audited)
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	58,953,866	60,132,145
Right-of-use assets	230,656	234,675
Total non-current assets	59,184,522	60,366,820
Current assets		
Inventories	4,829,054	4,495,535
Trade and other receivables	11,144,405	11,801,106
Cash and cash equivalents	1,082,397	363,454
Total current assets	17,055,856	16,660,095
Total assets	76,240,378	77,026,915
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Equity		
Share capital	16,000,000	16,000,000
Legal reserve	5,333,333	5,333,333
Special reserve	85,555	85,555
Retained earnings	10,178,863	10,807,704
Total equity	31,597,751	32,226,592
Non-current liabilities		
Long-term loan - non current portion	21,606,309	20,574,524
Deferred tax liability	5,401,057	5,495,627
Provision for site restoration	4,671,994	4,602,678
Employee benefit liabilities	14,747	13,580
Lease liabilities	809,048	815,431
Total non-current liabilities	32,503,155	31,501,840
Current liabilities		
Long-term loan - current portion	5,059,927	5,059,927
Trade and other payables	5,312,495	6,544,809
Lease liabilities - current portion	27,640	11,267
Taxation	1,739,410	1,682,480
Total current liabilities	12,139,472	13,298,483
Total liabilities	44,642,627	44,800,323
Total equity and liabilities	76,240,378	77,026,915
Net assets per share	0.197	0.201

These financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on 24 April 2025

BARKA WATER AND POWER COMPANY SAOG

“STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME” FOR THE THREE MONTHS PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

(Expressed in Omani Rial)

	3 months ended 31 March 2024 (Audited)	3 months ended 31 March (Unaudited)
Revenue	7,636,565	3,138,131
Direct costs	(7,497,555)	(2,547,055)
Gross profit	139,010	591,076
Other income	13,510	-
General and administrative expenses	(306,609)	(204,047)
(Loss) / profit from operations	(154,089)	387,029
Finance costs	(512,392)	(305,356)
(Loss) / profit before tax	(666,481)	81,673
Income tax	37,640	31,619
Net (loss) / profit after tax and total comprehensive income for the period	(628,841)	113,292
Basic and diluted (loss) / earnings per share (RO)	(0.004)	0.001

Ministers meet Algerian officials

Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said met with General Said Chengriha, Chief of Staff of the People's National Army, Minister Delegate to the Minister of National Defence

ALGIERS: Within the framework of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik's visit to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, several ministers met with Algerian officials in Algiers on Monday.

HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs met with General

Said Chengriha, Chief of Staff of the People's National Army, Minister Delegate to the Minister of National Defence.

Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of Diwan of Royal Court met with Boualem Boualem, Director of Cabinet at the Presidency of the People's Democratic

Republic of Algeria.

General Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office met with Nadir Larbaoui, Prime Minister.

Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister met with Ahmed Attaf, Minister of Foreign Affairs, National Community Abroad and African Affairs.

Dr. Saud Hamoud Al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, met with Youcef Cherfa, Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries.

During the meetings, areas of bilateral cooperation were explored. The meetings touched on means of boosting bilateral partnerships to serve mutual benefits. They also reviewed matters of common concern to both countries. — OMA



INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Omani-Russian Business Forum seeks bilateral investments

MUSCAT: As part of the visit of Abdulmuslim Abdulmuslimov, Prime Minister of the Republic of Dagestan, to the Sultanate of Oman, Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) yesterday organised an Omani-Russian Business Forum.

The forum was aimed to develop commercial relations between the two countries.

It discussed ways to consolidate economic and investment cooperation and open up new vistas for investment and partnership in various vital sectors.

It also elaborated on enhancing commercial exchange and exploring promising investment opportunities, notably in the sectors of agriculture, tourism, trade, fisheries, livestock and construction.

The forum targeted investors, producers, exporters, importers, wholesale companies and government departments.

During the forum, Abdulmuslim Abdulmuslimov stressed that the Republic of Dagestan attaches great importance to strength-



ening cooperation with the Sultanate of Oman in various fields and such forums represent milestones in developing future partnerships between the two sides.

OCCI Chairman Faisal Abdullah Al Rowas, said that the Omani-Russian Forum embodies the Chamber's vision for upgrading cooperation between Oman and Dagestan as part of the OCCI's

strategy to develop commercial and economic ties with different countries of the world.

Al Rowas pointed out that the forum constitutes a starting point for further fruitful cooperation, motivates businesses and companies and enhances the Chamber's role in supporting entrepreneurship and achieving national economic goals.

During the forum, a memoran-

dum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of Dagestan. The MoU seeks to expand cooperation between the two parties in several vital economic sectors.

The forum also featured a visual presentation titled "Explore the Omani Market".



It was presented by Shurooq Hamad Al Farsi, Head of the Committees Department at the OCCI. Shurooq spoke about the investment opportunities available in the Sultanate of Oman, as well as the current economic trends in action.

The Dagestani side presented a promotional video featuring investment opportunities in Dagestan, the region's competi-

tive advantages and its economic and commercial importance as a promising investment hub.

The forum concluded with bilateral meetings between business owners from both Oman and Russia. The meetings explored avenues for future cooperation and exchanged views about trade and investment opportunities that could benefit all participating parties. — OMA

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Victory under veil of grey: Gold Cup glory for Al Zubair



The Al Manar Racing by Team WRT driver along with Jens Klingmann claimed the top honours in the second of the one-hour races at the opening round of the 2025 GT World Challenge Europe Sprint Series at Brands Hatch circuit in Kent, England, on Sunday

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Flying the Omani flag high on one of motorsport's most technical circuits, Al Faisal Al Zubair produced a stunning performance to claim Gold Cup victory alongside teammate Jens Klingmann in Race 2 of the opening round of the 2025 GT World Challenge Europe Powered by AWS Sprint Series at Brands Hatch circuit in Kent, England, on Sunday.

Driving the Al Manar Racing by Team WRT BMW M4 GT3

EVO, the pair bounced back from a modest fifth-place finish in Race 1 to deliver a textbook strategy and clinical execution that handed them top honours in the Gold Cup category and sixth overall in a tightly contested second race under dense and overcast Kent skies.

Speaking after the win, Al Zubair said the challenges leading up to the race made the result all the more meaningful.

"We came into the weekend with very little time on the track — maybe just 20 laps before qualifying



due to red flags and limited practice," said the 26-year-old Omani.

"Brands Hatch is a tough circuit with no margin for error, and starting off like that in a new Sprint series was a big ask. But to go from that to a class win shows the strength of the team and our strategy."

"We didn't get qualifying right and started on the back foot, but winning Race 2 — especially by

jumping so many positions in the pit window — is something to be really proud of and we are happy about it. It gives us great momentum heading into the rest of the season."

Al Zubair started Race 1 from sixth on the Gold Cup grid. With few overtaking opportunities on the narrow, undulating circuit, he maintained position in the opening laps. After the driver ch

ange at the halfway mark, Klingmann managed to gain a place, eventually crossing the line fifth in class after 42 laps. Victory went to the Emil Frey Racing Ferrari 296 GT3, with Chris Luhman and Thierry Vermeulen leading a dominant drive.

Perfect pit stop switch

Cool and cloudy conditions greeted the grid once more for the second one-hour sprint. Klingmann took the wheel for the opening stint, holding fourth in class behind the Emil Frey Ferrari, Saintéloc Audi, and Tresor Attempto Audi despite multiple full-course yellow flags.

The turning point came at the pit window.

Thanks to a flawless driver change, lightning-fast execution, and well-timed entry, Al Zubair rejoined the race in the class lead — a position he defended superbly to the end.

Even as another full-course yellow threatened to bunch up the pack late in the race, Al Zubair kept his cool and crossed the finish line nearly three seconds clear of Luhman and Vermeulen's Ferrari,

securing his and Oman's first Gold Cup win of the 2025 season.

Building towards Zandvoort

The Omani-BMW duo had a rocky start in the weekend's build-up, with limited time in Saturday's practice session and modest results in qualifying. Their best free practice lap — 1min 24.186sec — was fifth fastest in Gold Cup, while pre-qualifying yielded a 1min 24.720sec.

In qualifying, Al Zubair managed sixth in Q1 with a time of 1min 24.626sec, while Klingmann improved slightly to fifth in Q2 (1min 24.012sec), behind the pole-setting Emil Frey Ferrari.

Yet, it was their Race 2 recovery that stole the spotlight — turning early struggles into a celebration of grit, precision, and teamwork.

Al Zubair's breakthrough in the Sprint Series puts him firmly on the radar as one to watch this season. The GT World Challenge Europe Powered by AWS Sprint Series resumes May 16-18 at Zandvoort in the Netherlands, where Al Faisal and Team WRT will look to carry the momentum forward.

SERIES VS UAE AND PAKISTAN

Bangladesh appoint Litton Das as new T20I captain

DHAKA: Wicketkeeper-batter Litton Das has been formally announced as Bangladesh's T20I captain, while off-spinner Mahedi Hasan has been named his deputy for the seven away T20Is against UAE and Pakistan in May-June.

Litton replaces Najmul Hossain Shanto in the role after the 26-year-old quit as Bangladesh's T20I captain earlier this year. Litton had also led Bangladesh in a three-match T20I series in the West Indies last December, with Shanto unavailable due to a hamstring injury. Bangladesh had clean-swept the hosts 3-0.

Litton has led Bangladesh in one Test, seven ODIs and four T20Is, but this is the first time that he has been named full-time captain in any format. The 30-year-old was recently ruled out of PSL 2025, where he was part of Karachi Kings, after he sustained a finger injury during training. He has since recovered.

Shanto, meanwhile, is one of five players who have returned to Bangladesh's T20I squad. Apart from him, the national selectors have also included Towhid Hridoy, Tanvir Islam, Mustafizur Rahman and Shoriful Islam in the 16-member squad.



There was, however, no place for Afif Hossain, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Ripon Mondol and Taskin Ahmed.

Bangladesh will first play two T20Is against UAE in Sharjah on May 17 and 19. They will then leave for Pakistan to play a five-match T20I series, which begins on May 25. The series will conclude on June 3.

Squad: Litton Das (capt), Tanzid Hasan, Parvez Hossain, Soumya Sarkar, Najmul Hossain Shanto, Towhid Hridoy, Shamim Hossain, Jaker Ali, Rishad Hossain, Mahedi Hasan (vice-capt), Tanvir Islam, Mustafizur Rahman, Hasan Mahmud, Tanzim Hasan Sakib, Nahid Rana and Shoriful Islam. - Agencies

FAILED DOPING TEST

SA pacer Rabada cleared to play again after serving suspension

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa fast bowler Kagiso Rabada has served a one-month ban, commuted from three months, for drug use during the SA20 earlier this year.

A statement issued by the South African Institute for Drug Free Sports (SAIDS) confirmed Rabada had failed a doping test on January 21, after the match between MI Cape Town and Durban Super Giants, and he was notified of the result on April 1 when he was in In-

dia for IPL 2025. On April 3, his IPL franchise Gujarat Titans (GT) said Rabada had returned to South Africa for personal reasons after playing only two matches this season.

According to SAIDS, Rabada has since participated in an education and awareness programme to prevent further substance abuse. He can resume playing immediately and could return to action as soon as Wednesday, when GT play Mumbai Indians (MI). - Agencies

IPL 2025

Arshdeep's swing masterclass powers PBKS closer to playoffs

DHARAMSALA: In a high-octane clash on Sunday at the scenic Dharamsala in the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh, Arshdeep Singh produced a sensational spell of swing bowling that shattered Lucknow Super Giants' top order and all but sealed Punjab Kings' path to the IPL 2025 playoffs.

With three wickets in three overs of new-ball magic, Arshdeep turned what looked like a batter's paradise into a pacer's playground, paving the way for a 37-run win that propelled Punjab Kings (PBKS) to No. 2 on the points table.

Until Arshdeep stepped in, the game had all the makings of a T20 run-fest. PBKS had unleashed a batting onslaught to post a daunting 236 for 5, smashing 16 sixes — their joint second-highest in an innings this season. Prabhsimran Singh led the charge with a blistering 91 off 48 balls, continuing a rich vein of form with his third consecutive fifty.

Shreyas Iyer (45 off 25), Josh Inglis (30 off 14), and Shashank Singh (33* off 15) chipped in with explosive cameos, ensuring Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) bowlers had no respite.

But the story of the night was written with the ball — or rather, with how Arshdeep made it dance. Coming on to bowl with the new ball under the cool Dharamsala night skies, Arshdeep operated like a surgeon with a swinging scalpel.

His very first over set the tone, hustling Mitchell Marsh and Aiden Markram with searing inswingers and devilish away movement.

Marsh, who had also fallen to Arshdeep for a first-ball duck in the reverse fixture, was undone again — this time by a vicious outswinger that forced a miscue to point. Markram followed three



balls later, chopping onto his stumps while trying to counter the late movement.

"I think his first over tonight really set the tone," said PBKS head coach Ricky Ponting. "The ball bounced, it swung, and Arshdeep just made it look easy. He's a star, and we're lucky to have him."

Recognising the match-shaping momentum, captain Shreyas Iyer handed Arshdeep a rare third over in the powerplay — a decision that paid off immediately.

Nicholas Pooran had just creamed an outswinger through cover for four. Arshdeep responded by tightening the length, this time curling the ball back in to have Pooran leg before.

It was his 14th delivery of the night — and with LSG reeling at 27 for 3, the contest was effectively over.

"It was a smart call by the skipper," Ponting added. "Pooran was the big wicket. Once Arshdeep got him, the game tilted heavily in our favour."

While Ayush Badoni's late 74 off 40 deliveries added some respectability to LSG's chase, the damage was already done.

Their top three, who had scored nearly two-thirds of the team's runs this season, were gone inside the powerplay. Arshdeep finished with 3 for 10 in his three-over burst, cementing his place among the league's elite and finished the match with 3 for 16.

His powerplay economy rate of 7.00 trails only Sandeep Sharma's 6.83 this season, and he now shares the joint-second most powerplay wickets (eight) alongside Mohammed Siraj.

With three matches left — two

of them again in Dharamsala's swing-friendly air — PBKS are peaking at the right time.

Arshdeep's rhythm, Prabhsimran's aggression, and a middle-order that fires on cue make them one of the most balanced sides heading into the business end of the tournament.

As for LSG, their playoff hopes are hanging by a thread. Their bowling was wayward — Mayank Yadav's 4-0-60 being the joint-most expensive spell for the team — and their famed top order looked ill-equipped to handle high-quality swing.

Brief scores: Punjab Kings 236 for 5 (Prabhsimran 91, Iyer 45, Shashank 33*, Inglis 30; Akash Singh 2-30, Digvesh Rathi 2-46) beat Lucknow Super Giants 199 for 7 (Badoni 74, Abdul Samad 45; Arshdeep 3-16). - Agencies

OMAN OIL PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by July 2025 reaching \$59.62, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by \$2.48. -ONA

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,339.18 points, down by 0.07% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.23% at 406.78 points. Asyad Shipping, up 3.81%, was the top gainer while, Barka Water & Power Company, down 9.80%, was the top loser.



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Sayyid Asa’ad opens Energy Regulators Regional Association conference

The two-day conference will elaborate on global transformations and mechanisms for investing in clean energy



MUSCAT: HH Sayyid Asa’ad bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs, Special Representative of His Majesty the Sultan, presided over the opening of the conference of the ‘Energy

Regulators Regional Association’ (ERRA), held at Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Specialised sessions

The two-day conference will elaborate on global transformations

and mechanisms for investing in clean energy. The conference programme includes the discussion of 15 working papers during specialised sessions.

The first day included four sessions. The first session dealt with

norms of energy transition in GCC states and the second session discussed the integration of electricity networks.

The third session reviewed mechanisms for developing regional energy trade, market in-

tegration and cross-border legislation, while the fourth session focused on the structure of the energy market transition and ways to accelerate its growth.

On the sidelines of the conference, technical and bilateral meet-

ings were held by representatives of regulatory bodies, international organizations and private sector establishments.

The meetings discussed various aspects of developing institutional frameworks, enhancing technical cooperation, exchanging databases and regulations and exploring green financing models and regional partnerships in new energy projects.

The conference is being attended by about 280 experts representing 50 regulatory bodies, policymakers, private sector establishments and academics.

The event reflects the Sultanate of Oman’s position on the global energy map and underscores the growing international confidence in Oman’s regulatory and legislative capabilities and the country’s pioneering role in leading dialogues on sustainable energy use and energy transition. -ONA

IN DHOFAR



Awasr launches its expansion strategy

MUSCAT: Under the presence of Dr. Ahmed Mohsen Al Ghasani, President of Dhofar Municipality, Awasr officially launched its new expansion strategy in Dhofar Governorate during a formal ceremony held on Wednesday, April 30 at Millennium Resort Salalah, in the presence of a number of officials from both the public and private sectors.

The launch of this strategy comes as part of Awasr’s commitment to expanding its service coverage and strengthening the digital infrastructure across various governorates of Oman contributing to the comprehensive developmental renaissance taking place in Oman, particularly in the fields of technology and digital transformation.

During the ceremony, Eng. Adnan bin Mohammed Al Alawi, Chief Executive Officer of Awasr, emphasised the importance of this milestone, stating: “The launch of our expansion strategy in Dhofar Governorate marks a new chapter in Awasr’s journey towards realising our vision of delivering high-quality digital services that meet the aspirations of individuals and businesses across the Sultanate. We believe that technology today is a key driver of development, and with this belief, we are committed to providing high-speed and reliable internet and communication solutions to our customers in Dhofar, in alignment with the national digital transformation goals.”

Al Alawi also added that the patronage of Dr. Ahmed Al Ghasani of this event stands as a testament to the significance of public-private partnerships in achieving sustainable development goals and enhancing the digital economy.

Additionally, Eugen Co-

The launch of this strategy comes as part of Awasr’s commitment to expanding its service coverage and strengthening the digital infrastructure across various governorates of Oman

mentand, Chief Commercial Officer of Awasr, stated: “At Awasr, we aim to deliver an exceptional connectivity experience built on speed, reliability, and top-quality customer service.

“Our expansion into Dhofar Governorate represents a strategic move to strengthen our presence across the Sultanate and meet the growing demand for smart communication solutions. We are committed to providing services that address local market needs and contribute to enabling the digital growth of businesses and the community.”

The ceremony also included a presentation of the key highlights of the new expansion plan, along with a showcase of the technological initiatives that Awasr intends to implement to support the Dhofar community through advanced infrastructure and innovative services that meet future needs.

LEADING WITH IMPACT

Abraj highlights energy excellence at OPES

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Abraj Energy Services, Oman’s leading oil and gas services provider, will participate as an Official Sponsor in the 13th edition of the Oman Petroleum and Energy Show (OPES), which will take place from 12 to 14 May at the Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre. The company will spotlight its operational excellence, cutting-edge oil and gas technologies, and ongoing commitment to sustainability and workforce development.

Throughout OPES 2025, Abraj will showcase its competitive solutions and services, latest technologies and projects, success stories, and future business opportunities. The company’s participation aims to strengthen its positioning as a technical leader in drilling and well services, foster new partnerships, and expand its contribution to the industry’s sustainable growth and innovation.

This year, Abraj will host a mini-conference featuring a series of specialized sessions focused on the emerging trends, challenges, and opportunities shaping the future of the oil and energy industry.



The program will cover key topics such as occupational health and safety, operational excellence in drilling and well services, innovation and sustainability in the energy sector, and the latest industry insights and developments. Delivered over two days, the sessions will include expert keynotes, dynamic panel discussions, and insightful presentations.

“Abraj’s participation in OPES 2025 underscores our ambition to

lead as a technical authority and knowledge hub in drilling and well services,” said Eng. Saif Al Hamhami, CEO of Abraj Energy Services.

“Through this platform, we showcase our expertise, drive innovation, and foster partnerships that fuel Oman’s energy future. Collaboration, insight, and excellence are the pillars of our journey – and OPES is where we shape the next chapter of sustainable, high-performance energy solutions.”

Abraj will also showcase its growing investment in training and upskilling initiatives and contributions to corporate social investment. Its focus is on empowering Omani talent and supporting community-driven programs. These efforts build on the company’s strong 2024 performance, highlighted by record drilling efficiencies, enhanced HSE achievements, and strategic growth milestones.

JETOUR INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL BUSINESS CONFERENCE

MHD ACERE CEO Mohsin Hani Al Bahrani wins prestigious innovation award at Jetour Conference in Shanghai

MUSCAT: MHD ACERE announced that its Chief Executive Officer, Mohsin Hani Al Bahrani, has been honoured with the Best Innovation Individual Award at the Jetour International Annual Business Conference 2025, held in Shanghai, China.

This prestigious accolade is a testament to Al Bahrani’s visionary leadership, relentless drive for innovation, and his role in steering Jetour’s rapid growth in Oman. Under his guidance, Jetour Oman has introduced pioneering strategies, cutting-edge customer experiences, and market-first initiatives that have redefined automotive retail in the region.

Jetour, derived from the words “Jet” and “Tour,” symbolizes convenience and travel in Mandarin. It reflects the brand’s core philosophy of delivering seamless jour-



neys through innovation, spacious design, and modern technology. Jetour’s latest lineup in Oman—including the bold Jetour T2, stylish X50, and eco-conscious PHEV from the Jetour Plus Series—epit-

omizes its commitment to blending intelligence, safety, comfort, and accessible luxury. The brand continues to captivate both drivers and onlookers alike with vehicles tailored for exploration,

digital connectivity, and family versatility.

“We extend our warmest congratulations to Mohsin Hani Al Bahrani on this well-deserved recognition,” said a spokesperson for MHD ACERE. “This award not only reflects his personal excellence but also acknowledges the trust and loyalty our customers and partners have placed in Jetour Oman.”

As one of the youngest and most dynamic CEOs in the region, Al Bahrani continues to play a pivotal role in transforming the automotive landscape in Oman—anchored in innovation, digital transformation, and customer-centricity.

This international recognition further cements MHD ACERE’s commitment to excellence and reaffirms its position as a key player in shaping the future of mobility in the Middle East.

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Asyad Shipping , up 3.81%, was the top gainer while, Barka Water & Power Company, down 9.80%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,339.18 points, down by 0.07% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.23% at 406.78 points. Asyad Shipping , up 3.81%, was the top gainer while, Barka Water & Power Company, down 9.80%, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 1398 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 4.92 million, with more than 31.35 million shares changing hands. Out of 69 traded securities, 20 advanced, 24 declined, and 25 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net buyers for RO 147K while domestic investors were net sellers for RO 104K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 43K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,695.92 points, down 0%. Prices of Bank Nizwa, United Finance, Al Sharqia Investment were up by 2.04%, 1.79%, 1.37% respec-

tively. Prices of Oman & Emirates Investment, Dhofar Insurance, Muscat Finance, Ominvest, Sohar International Bank were down by 2.99%, 2.50%, 2.08%, 1.36%, 0.75% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,937.25 points, down 1.05%, 5,937.25 points, down 1.05%. Prices of Jazeera Steel Products, Gulf International Chemicals, Oman Flour Mills, Muscat Thread Mill were up by 2.86%, 2.78%, 1.10%, 0.69% respectively. Prices of Galfar Engineering, Oman Fisheries, Al Anwar Ceramics, Oman Packaging, Voltamp Energy were down by 8.82%, 3.45%, 3.37%, 3.23%, 2.93% respectively.

Services Index was down by 0% before closing at 1,541.75 points. Prices of Sembcorp Salalah, SMN Power Holding, Al Suwadi Power, Muscat Gases, Abraj Energy were up by 3.06%, 2.38%, 1.49%, 1.19%, 0.86% respectively. Prices of Barka Water & Power Company, Al Jazeera Services, Dhofar Generating, Oman National Engineering, Phoenix Power were down by 9.80%, 3.41%, 1.89%, 1.72%, 1.64% respectively. — United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

OMAN STOCKS									
INDICES									
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%			
MSX 30 INDEX	4,341.77	4,320.42	4,339.18	4,342.43	-3.25	-0.07			
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,700.79	7,682.09	7,695.92	7,696.17	-0.25	0.00			
Industry Index	6,002.71	5,895.89	5,937.25	5,999.95	-62.70	-1.05			
Services Index	1,541.75	1,526.96	1,541.75	1,541.79	-0.03	0.00			
MSX Shariah Index	407.71	405.81	406.78	407.71	-0.93	-0.23			
MSX TR INDEX	6,417.78	6,386.23	6,413.96	6,418.76	-4.81	-0.07			
FINANCIAL TR IDX	9,126.40	9,104.24	9,120.63	9,120.93	-0.30	0.00			
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	7,376.42	7,245.16	7,295.99	7,374.04	-77.05	-1.05			
SERVICES TR IDX	1,960.39	1,941.58	1,960.39	1,960.43	-0.04	0.00			
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,166.89	1,166.89	1,166.89	1,166.89	0.00	0.00			

Trading Summary									
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded		
31,351,121	4,922,682	1,398	27,213,489,587	20	24	25	69		

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, MAY 6

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PRE VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM0000004735 SEMBCORP SALALAH	564,035	56,476	30	0.085	0.101	0.085	0.101	0.098	0.003	3.061	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.100	96,411,767
OM0000002176 JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	10,030	3,511	3	0.350	0.360	0.350	0.360	0.350	0.010	2.857	0.360	0.345	0.372	0.100	44,963,266
OM0000002374 UNITED FINANCE	45,000	2,565	2	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.056	0.001	1.786	0.057	0.056	0.056	0.057	0.100	20,289,256
OM0000004833 AL SUWADI POWER	924,923	62,893	29	0.068	0.068	0.067	0.068	0.067	0.001	1.493	0.068	0.068	0.073	0.100	48,579,631
OM0000002440 AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO.	600,000	44,387	40	0.073	0.074	0.073	0.074	0.074	0.001	1.370	0.074	0.071	0.074	0.100	17,873,060
OM0000008834 ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	978,000	228,120	46	0.233	0.235	0.232	0.235	0.233	0.002	0.858	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.100	180,997,000
OM0000003968 OOREDOO	71,545	12,163	15	0.170	0.170	0.170	0.170	0.169	0.001	0.582	0.170	0.167	0.170	0.100	110,660,519
OM0000003026 OMAN TELECOM	12,902	10,523	13	0.815	0.817	0.814	0.817	0.816	0.001	0.123	0.817	0.816	0.823	0.100	612,760,000
OM0000001087 OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	1,200	258	1	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.100	21,500,000
OM0000001749 OMAN CEMENT	180,870	69,319	11	0.385	0.385	0.383	0.385	0.385	0.000	0.000	0.385	0.386	0.385	0.100	127,385,963
OM0000002275 SHELL OMAN MARKETING	8,025	4,546	3	0.570	0.570	0.530	0.570	0.570	0.000	0.000	0.570	0.550	0.570	0.100	54,150,000
OM0000002786 BANK MUSCAT	2,856,575	747,616	19	0.262	0.262	0.261	0.262	0.262	0.000	0.000	0.262	0.262	0.262	0.100	1,966,676,030
OM0000003125 GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	272,044	22,037	7	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.000	0.000	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.100	16,200,000
OM0000003224 RENAISSANCE SERVICES	125,000	35,975	6	0.287	0.288	0.287	0.288	0.288	0.000	0.000	0.288	0.285	0.288	0.100	68,086,080
OM0000004788 MADINA TAKAFUL	78,435	5,677	9	0.077	0.077	0.076	0.077	0.077	0.000	0.000	0.077	0.075	0.077	0.100	13,475,000
OM0000009072 QO GAS NETWORKS	1,912,563	250,581	64	0.131	0.132	0.130	0.132	0.132	0.000	0.000	0.132	0.130	0.132	0.100	571,642,357
OM0000002804 ASAFFA FOODS	740	288	2	0.372	0.399	0.372	0.399	0.400	-0.001	-0.250	0.399	0.375	0.399	0.100	47,880,000
OM0000007811 MUSANDAM POWER	4,672	1,180	5	0.255	0.255	0.254	0.254	0.255	-0.001	-0.395	0.254	0.242	0.254	0.100	17,873,060
OM0000003388 SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	780,636	1,025,656	66	0.132	0.132	0.131	0.132	0.133	-0.001	-0.752	0.132	0.132	0.132	0.100	873,476,508
OM0000001533 OMINVEST	88,555	14,942	18	0.215	0.220	0.215	0.218	0.221	-0.003	-1.537	0.218	0.215	0.218	0.100	203,985,128
OM0000004925 ALBATHNAH POWER	532,380	36,202	16	0.068	0.069	0.068	0.069	0.069	-0.001	-1.449	0.068	0.068	0.073	0.100	45,892,245
OM0000001152 OMAN NATIONAL ENG & INVESTMENT	609	69	1	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.116	-0.002	-1.724	0.114	0.114	0.118	0.100	17,100,000
OM0000001681 OMAN EMIRATES HO.	43,200	2,808	5	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.067	-0.002	-2.985	0.065	0.065	0.066	0.100	7,921,575
OM0000002168 AL ANWAR CERAMIC	1,765,035	311,379	66	0.180	0.180	0.172	0.172	0.178	-0.006	-3.371	0.172	0.172	0.195	0.100	37,840,000
Total	54	18,863,994	2,949,583	477											

Parallel Market

OM0000001020	ASYAD SHIPPING	1,877,267	234,691	127	0.105	0.109	0.104	0.109	0.105	0.004	3.810	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.000	567,753,127
OM0000003028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	118,997	8,971	23	0.071	0.075	0.071	0.074	0.072	0.002	2.778	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.100	1,554,000
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	3,000	630	4	0.210	0.215	0.210	0.215	0.210	0.005	2.381	0.210	0.210	0.215	0.100	42,921,654
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	1,003,450	100,232	15	0.088	0.090	0.088	0.100	0.088	0.002	2.941	0.100	0.098	0.100	0.100	223,695,303
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	400	34	1	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.084	0.001	1.190	0.085	0.081	0.085	0.100	2,550,000	
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	55,830	25,190	12	0.450	0.459	0.450	0.459	0.454	0.005	1.101	0.459	0.445	0.475	0.100	75,907,125
OM0000008866	THE PEARL REEF	2,880	355	5	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.118	0.001	0.847	0.119	0.119	0.121	0.100	70,380,989
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	1,180	153	2	0.133	0.133	0.128	0.133	0.132	0.001	0.758	0.128	0.128	0.133	0.100	100,444,426
OM0000004669	SHARQIAH DESALINATION	208,170	27,832	12	0.130	0.135	0.130	0.135	0.134	0.001	0.746	0.135	0.130	0.135	0.100	13,203,292
OM0000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	5,248	771	2	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.146	0.001	0.685	0.147	0.140	0.147	0.100	2,590,678
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	91,500	6,497	11	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.000	0.000	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.100	4,035,000
OM0000001707	OMAN CARBS INDUSTRY	172,285	354,924	14	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.000	0.000	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.100	184,785,990
OM0000001772	ALANWAD INVESTMENT	2,062,989	175,073	61	0.084	0.084	0.082	0.083	0.083	0.000	0.000	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.100	23,826,820
OM0000002333	SALAHIAH PORT SERVICES	4,900	624	2	0.122	0.125	0.122	0.125	0.125	0.000	0.000	0.125	0.122	0.125	0.100	42,291,789
OM0000002580	OMAN EDUCATION & TRAINING INVTS	23,373	24,815	7	1.060	1.120	1.060	1.060	1.060	0.000	0.000	1.060	1.060	1.120	0.100	74,200,000
OM0000002948	NATIONAL FINANCE	3,600	810	1	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.000	0.000	0.122	0.121	0.122	0.100	74,191,438
OM0000003285	NATIONAL DETERGENT	1,250	906	1	0.725	0.725	0.725	0.725	0.725	0.000	0.000	0.725	0.000	0.725	0.100	14,500,000
OM0000003280	OMAN ARAB BANK	25,429	3,789	2	0.149	0.149	0.149	0.149	0.149	0.000	0.000	0.149	0.135	0.149	0.100	248,742,090
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	2,000	138	2	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.000	0.000	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.100	10,732,978
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	14,175	1,106	4	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.000	0.000	0.078	0.075	0.078	0.100	39,673,241
OM0000005908	QO BASE INDUSTRIES (SIFZ)	805,502	83,883	98	0.104	0.105	0.104	0.105	0.105	0.000	0.000	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.000	363,246,539
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	4,950	990	2	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.202	-0.002	-0.990	0.200	0.182	0.220	0.100	11,000,000
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	18,300	12,290	5	0.685	0.688	0.688	0.688	0.685	-0.007	-1.007	0.688	0.688	0.688	0.100	42,157,200
OM0000006759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	2,312,026	589,096	220	0.259	0.261	0.257	0.258	0.261	-0.003	-1.148	0.258	0.258	0.258	0.100	602,064,000,000
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	22,113	1,327	6	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.061	-0.001	-1.639	0.060	0.059	0.060	0.100	87,756,088
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	18,675	969	3	0.053	0.053	0.052	0.052	0.053	-0.001	-1.887	0.052	0.052	0.058	0.100	11,554,480
OM0000005968	MUSCAT FINANCE	15,118	705	13	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.048	-0.001	-2.063	0.047	0.044	0.047	0.100	14,535,877
OM0000005968	BOSON INVESTANCE	326	170	3	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.000	0.000	0.105	0.100	0.105	0.100	1,982,150
OM0000003681	VOLTAMP ENERGY	1704	1079	5	0.630	0.630	0.610	0.630	0.649	-0.019	-3.228	0.630	0.615	0.630	0.100	58,876,292
OM0000001068	OMAN PACKAGING	296	131	2	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.155	-0.005	-2.228	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.100	4,985,378
OM0000002254	ALMAHA SERVICES	572,166	98,414	48	0.179	0.179	0.179	0.179	0.179	0.000	0.000	0.179	0.179	0.179	0.100	4,408,000
OM0000000351	GULFAR ENERGY & CONTRACTING	2,371,589	150,575	174	0.067	0.067	0.062	0.062	0.065	-0.008	-8.824	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.100	12,585,160
OM0000002254	BARKA WATER AND POWER	12,304	688	12,304	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.280	-0.005	-0.280	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.100	38,800,000



QUICK TRAVEL GUIDE:
MILAN WITH OMAN AIR

• Flight Schedule (Muscat–Milan):

Operated by Oman Air on Sunday,
Monday, Wednesday & Friday
Departure (MCT): 14:55
Arrival (MXP): 19:50
Return (MXP): 21:50
Arrival (MCT): 06:10 (next day)

• Aircraft:

Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner
30 Business Class seats
258 Economy Class seats
Excellent inflight meals & entertainment

• Top Things to Do in Milan

Duomo di Milano: Marvel at one of the world's largest Gothic cathedrals. Don't miss the rooftop views!
Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II: Luxury shopping, historic cafés, and stunning architecture.
Il Cenacolo: See Leonardo da Vinci's The Last Supper (book tickets in advance).
Piazza del Duomo: The heartbeat of Milan, perfect for people-watching and local eats.
Van Gogh: The Immersive Experience: A modern digital exhibit for art lovers.
Gelaterias: Treat yourself to Italy's famous gelato — a daily ritual here!

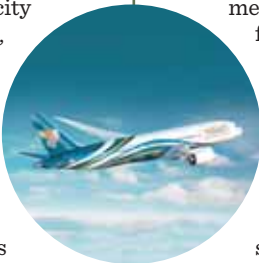


Majestic Milan

Immerse in the city's saga of history, fashion, and food all blending uniquely to offer its visitors an unforgettable experience.

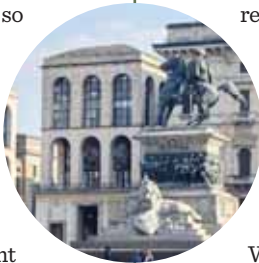
RAHUL DAS
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Planning my next getaway, I found myself torn between cities and continents — until I spotted something that made the decision easy. Oman Air was offering direct flights from Muscat to Milan, and suddenly, everything fell into place. A city of fashion, food, art, and history, all just a smooth flight away? I booked immediately. Flying with Oman Air has always been a pleasure with its affordable fares. This time on boarding their Boeing B787-9 Dreamliner felt exceptional. The flight departed Muscat at 14:55 and was perfectly timed to land me in Milan by evening. With



four weekly departures (Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday), the flexibility suited my travel style perfectly. As soon as I stepped onboard, I was greeted with warmth and efficiency. I flew economy, but it never once felt like a compromise. The cabin was quiet and airy — ideal for relaxing after a day long hectic work schedule. The seats were spacious, the service was attentive, and the two hearty meals served during the flight were delicious. I chose a lamb dish for my main course, and it was tender, flavourful, and far beyond what you'd expect at 35,000 feet. When I couldn't sleep, I browsed the inflight entertainment system — a surprisingly deep collection of the latest Arabic and international films, TV shows, music, and games. The hours quite literally flew by.

Touchdown in Milan
Arriving at Milan Malpensa just before 8pm, I still had time to enjoy a gentle evening stroll at the city centre. Milan instantly captivates the soul but at its own pace. My first stop was the iconic Duomo di Milano, a cathedral so grand it defies words. The Gothic spires transported me to the 13th century and I time travelled the entire history of 72 years if not more for a couple of hours to capture its present grandeur. There was no hurry so my feet ambled through its streets and took me to stop and admire the Romanesque splendour - Duomo di Milano. The piazza was alive with energy — tourists snapping photos, locals sipping espresso, and couples taking in the sunset. I joined them, cappuccino and a cornetto in hand, absorbing



the beauty around me. Inside the Duomo, towering marble columns and dramatic stained-glass windows created a space that felt sacred and monumental all at once. In glass caskets around the nave, elaborately dressed saints seemed to rest in eternal reverence. Just few steps from the cathedral is Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II, the oldest active shopping mall in Italy — and arguably the most beautiful. With its soaring iron-and-glass dome, mosaic floors, and ornate facades, it felt more like a palace than a mall. I wandered past window displays of Prada, Gucci, and Louis Vuitton — even if I was not buying brands, yet the experience of window shopping and the luxurious vibrancy that sprinkled itself on the crowd made me feel in tune with the surroundings.

I treated myself to an espresso at Café Biffi, a Milan institution since 1867, and imagined the generations who had sat in the same spot, watching the city evolve. **When in Milan: Eat gelato** You can't be in Milan and not indulge in gelato — and I made it a ritual during my stay. One scoop turned into two (and sometimes three), and I quickly learned that “just going out for ice cream” in Italy is an event in itself. Each neighbourhood had its own charm, and I let my appetite guide me. I also visited Il Cenacolo to see Da Vinci's The Last Supper — a moment that felt almost spiritual. Later, I explored immersive art exhibitions like Van Gogh: The Experience, strolled through elegant piazzas, and dined at



trattorias where the food tasted like it was made by someone's grandmother. What made the trip seamless wasn't just the city's beauty — it was how easily I got there. Oman Air's direct service meant no layovers, no stress, and a flying experience that left me refreshed and ready to explore. Whether you're travelling for art, shopping, culture, or simply to soak up la dolce vita, Milan checks every box. As I boarded my return flight at 21:50, content and a little sun-kissed, I was already planning my next visit. By 6:10 the next morning, I was back in Muscat — full of stories, flavours, and memories. If you're planning a summer escape: let Milan be your destination and Oman Air be your carrier. From sky to street, the experience is unforgettable.

Piastri seals win in Miami



McLarens dominate with a one-two finish as Norris comes second and Mercedes' Russell third

MIAMI: Oscar Piastri delivered a masterclass in racecraft to secure victory at the Miami Grand Prix, leading a McLaren one-two finish ahead of teammate Lando Norris and extending his lead in the Formula 1 world championship on Sunday. The Australian's fourth win in six races solidifies his status as this season's breakout star, while McLaren celebrate their first hat-trick of wins by a driver since Mika Hakkinen's golden run in 1997-98. The 23-year-old, starting fourth on the grid, executed a flawless race strategy to first dispatch Mercedes' Kimi Antonelli and then engage in a thrilling battle with early leader Max Verstappen. After probing the Red Bull lap after lap, Piastri made the decisive move on lap 14, capitalising

on a rare mistake by Verstappen into Turn One. It was a textbook cutback, with Piastri exiting the corner cleanly ahead and never looking back. Behind him, Norris recovered from a scrappy start - where he was forced wide by Verstappen and dropped to sixth - to claw his way through the field. His persistence paid off as he passed Verstappen on lap 18, this time with minimal resistance from the Dutchman, who appeared resigned to a McLaren-dominated race. While Norris gradually reeled in his teammate in the latter stages, Piastri had more in reserve and responded with a burst of pace, maintaining a comfortable four-second cushion to the chequered flag. "I knew Lando was closing, but I felt in control," said a composed Piastri post-race. "This win means a lot. We're building something special at McLaren." George Russell rounded out the podium for Mercedes, thanks in part to a timely virtual safety car (VSC) that allowed him to pit and rejoin ahead of Verstappen. The Dutchman's day unravelled rapidly after losing the lead, and despite efforts to regain lost ground, he couldn't get within striking distance of Russell to finish fourth. A post-race protest by Red Bull alleging a VSC infringement

by Russell was dismissed by the stewards. The race wasn't short on intra-team drama either. Ferrari's strategy calls again came under scrutiny as Lewis Hamilton, racing on a different tyre strategy to teammate Charles Leclerc, was initially denied - and then belatedly granted - permission to pass. Hamilton expressed his frustration over the radio, quipping sarcastically: "Have a tea break while you're at it." Despite being let through, Hamilton couldn't make significant inroads into Antonelli's advantage. In the closing laps, Ferrari ordered him to relinquish the position back to Leclerc. Hamilton delayed compliance, prompting Leclerc to tell the team not to bother—but the Briton eventually yielded, finishing eighth behind Leclerc in seventh. Carlos Sainz had to settle for ninth after a late charge, while Yuki Tsunoda snatched the final point for Red Bull despite a five-second penalty. Williams' Alex Albon also impressed, briefly running in the top five and outshining teammate Sainz before consolidating a strong mid-field finish, signaling a possible resurgence for the team. With this result, Piastri extends his championship lead over Norris to 16 points, with Verstappen a further 16 behind. - Agencies

Formula One and Le Mans winner Mass dies aged 78

MADRID: Jochen Mass, who won the 1975 Spanish Grand Prix for McLaren, has died at the age of 78. The German passed away on Sunday because of complications following a stroke he suffered in February, his family announced. Mass, who competed in 114 Formula 1 grands prix and secured eight podium finishes, also won the Le Mans 24 Hours with Switzerland-based Sauber in 1989. "Today we mourn the loss of a husband, father, grandfather and a racing legend," his family said in a statement. "Beyond mourning his death, we also celebrate his incredible life. A life that he loved sharing with all of you. A life that he lived to the absolute fullest. "He is racing with all his friends again." Mass was the other driver in Gilles Villeneuve's fatal



accident during qualifying for the 1982 Belgian Grand Prix at Zolder. Ferrari's Villeneuve came across Mass' March going slowly and a misunderstanding led to a collision. Mass was a mentor and driver coach on the Mercedes young driver programme during his final three years at Sauber, and helped Michael

Schumacher before the future seven-time world champion entered F1. Mass finished his career with 32 world championship victories in sportscar racing with Alfa Romeo, Porsche and Sauber-Mercedes. From 1993 to 1997, Mass was a co-commentator on F1 for the German broadcaster RTL. - Agencies

SPANISH LA LIGA

Mbappe hits brace as Real Madrid defeat Celta

MADRID: Kylian Mbappe scored twice as Real Madrid held off a spirited Celta Vigo fightback, winning 3-2, to move back to within four points of La Liga leaders Barcelona on Sunday before El Clasico next weekend. Carlo Ancelotti's side took the lead in the 33rd minute when a short corner was worked to Arda Guler, whose curling shot found the top corner. Mbappe doubled the advantage six minutes later with a thumping finish high past Celta goalkeeper Vicente Guaita. The France striker got his second three minutes into the second half as he ran on to Guler's through ball to slot home. But the visitors kept going and Javi Rodriguez pulled one back with a little over 20 minutes remaining with a close-range finish. Then Celta legend Iago Aspas' set-up fellow substitute Williot Swedberg to make it 3-2. Victory means defending champions Madrid head to Barcelona next Sunday knowing a fifth straight league win would leave them just a point behind their fierce rivals with three games remaining. Meanwhile, Celta stay seventh as they continue to fight for a European place. **Other results:** Athletic 0 Real Sociedad 0. - Agencies



PREMIER LEAGUE

Chelsea's Champions League qualification get a boost with 3-1 victory over Liverpool



LONDON: Chelsea strengthened their bid for a place in next season's Champions League with a 3-1 victory against newly crowned Premier League champions Liverpool at Stamford Bridge on Sunday. Liverpool head coach Arne Slot made six changes from the side that beat Tottenham Hotspur to clinch the title at Anfield, resulting in a display lacking some of their traditional intensity until it was too late. After giving Liverpool the traditional champions' guard of honour before kick-off, Chelsea went on to secure a crucial win that moves Enzo Maresca's side level on points with fourth-placed Newcastle United - who they now trail in the table on goals scored going into their meeting at St James' Park next Sunday. Enzo Fernandez put Chelsea on the road to victory after only three minutes, the Argentine arriving in the box with perfect timing to steer in Pedro Neto's cross.

Chelsea extended their advance after 56 minutes when Cole Palmer's run created confusion in the Liverpool box, resulting in Virgil van Dijk blasting an attempted clearance against Jarell Quansah and into his own net. Liverpool had opportunities to play on Chelsea's nerves, but substitute Darwin Nunez and Mohamed Salah both missed good chances in front of the travelling support, who spent the game celebrating the club's 20th title triumph. Palmer then hit the post late on, before Van Dijk headed Liverpool back into contention with a header five minutes from time. It was Palmer who wrapped up Chelsea's win by ending a sequence of 18 games without a goal from the penalty spot seconds from the end after Quansah fouled Moises Caicedo. Elsewhere, Brentford upset Manchester United 4-3 at the Gtech Community Stadium to keep their hopes of European

qualification alive. Mason Mount gave the visitors the lead with just his second goal for the club, finishing off a fine cross from winger Alejandro Garnacho. Brentford equalised when captain Mikkel Damsgaard saw his cross deflect in off defender Luke Shaw, who was captaining a much-changed United side. The Bees took the lead six minutes later in controversial fashion, when Kevin Schade towered over United defender Tyler Fredricson to power in his 10th goal of the season with a superb header. However, United were furious when play wasn't stopped after defender Matthijs de Ligt went down with an injury earlier in the move. Schade wrapped up the three points 20 minutes from time, heading in his second of the day from close range from a Bryan Mbeumo cross. But Brentford were not done

Alexander-Arnold to leave Liverpool at end of season

LONDON: England right-back Trent Alexander-Arnold confirmed on Monday that he will leave Premier League champions Liverpool at the end of the season. The 26-year-old, who has been at the club since he was six, is out of contract on 30 June and is expected to join Real Madrid. "After 20 years at Liverpool Football Club, now is the time for me to confirm that I will be leaving at the end of the season," Alexander-Arnold announced on social media. "This is easily the hardest decision I've ever made in my life." Alexander-Arnold is one of three high-profile players whose deals at Anfield run out this summer, but while Mohamed Salah and Virgil van Dijk have signed fresh contracts in recent weeks, Alexander-Arnold will leave when his expires. The Liverpool-born defender has made 352 appearances, scored 23 goals and provided 86 assists for



the club since making his debut in 2016. He has helped them win this season's top-flight title under Arne Slot and also won the Premier League under the Reds' former manager Jurgen Klopp in 2019-20. His other trophies with Liverpool include the Champions League in 2018-19, the 2022 FA Cup and two League Cups. "This club has been my whole life - my whole world - for 20 years," added Alexander-Arnold. - Agencies

there, with the Bees cutting through United's defence to allow Michael Kayode to slip in Yoane Wissa for a fourth of the afternoon. Argentina international Garnacho scored a stunning long-range effort eight minutes from time to give United a sliver of hope. United then ensured it was a nervy finish for Brentford when second half substitute Amad Di-

allo scored five minutes into seven added minutes of injury time, but the Bees saw out the win. The defeat leaves United in 15th, on 39 points from 35 matches, while Brentford move into ninth, one point behind eighth-placed Bournemouth. **Other results:** Brighton & Hove Albion 1 Newcastle United 1, West Ham United 1 Tottenham Hotspur 1. - Agencies

Bank Muscat reaffirms commitment to financial inclusion banking

In coincidence with the Arab Deaf Week, celebrated annually in the last week of April, Bank Muscat reiterates its commitment to financial inclusion by enhancing access to banking services for all societal segments

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial service provider in Oman, is dedicated to fostering an inclusive banking environment that caters to all community segments. As one of the earliest banking institutions to embrace this



mission, the bank actively works towards meeting the diverse needs of its customers, particularly those with disabilities. In coincidence with the Arab Deaf Week, celebrated annually in the last week of April, Bank Muscat reiterates its commitment to financial inclusion by enhancing access to banking services for all societal segments. The bank is implementing a comprehensive strategy that prioritizes accessibility by utilizing modern technologies and interactive devices. The Bank has trained 180 employees in sign language

and another 99 in disability service skills, ensuring that staff across various branches can effectively assist customers with diverse needs. The Bank also offers the “Maliyat” programme, an electronic platform that provides free financial literacy courses tailored for all community members, including those with disabilities. This programme incorporates digital tools and sign language to enhance learning opportunities and promote informed financial decision-making. Moreover, Bank Muscat pre-

pares media and marketing communications in sign language to effectively convey information about its services and community initiatives. With a focus on enhancing the banking experience for individuals with disabilities, Bank Muscat ensures that its 60 branches are equipped with accessible features, such as well-designed corridors, appropriate reception areas, dedicated parking, waiting areas, stairs and elevators, and specially designed entrances to facilitate seamless service. To further promote community

integration and support the objectives of Oman Vision 2040, Bank Muscat is launching several initiatives highlighting the importance of people with hearing, visual, and physical disabilities. This includes the introduction of a groundbreaking direct debit card specifically designed for the blind, featuring a unique Braille account number for easier use in retail, online shopping, and other transactions. The card can be availed at any of the Bank's branches across the governorates, reflecting Bank Muscat's ongoing efforts to broaden access to financial services and maintain

exceptional service standards for all customers. To enhance the experiences of customers with disabilities, Bank Muscat actively collaborates with various institutions, and associations. Recent contributions include providing wheelchairs through partnerships with the Omani Association for the Disabled and the Association for Children with Disabilities, Braille computers with Sohar University, and hearing devices for the Oman Association for People with Hearing Disabilities. The Bank also supported Al Wafa Social Center in Izki with a number of air conditioners and supported the play yards in Al Wafa Centers in Bidbid, Bahla and Al Mudhaibi, as well as the play yard in Al Aman Rehabilitation Center in Al Khoudh with artificial turf. Last year, the Bank organized the “Himam Marathon,” a pioneering sports event in Oman aimed at empowering individuals with physical, visual, and hearing disabilities, as well as those with autism spectrum and Down syndrome, thus promoting social integration in alignment with Oman Vision 2040.

SECOND TIME

National Level Open Yoga Championship returns to Oman

MUSCAT: The much-awaited National Level Open Yoga Championship is set to make its exciting return to Oman for the second time, promising an even grander celebration of yoga and wellness. The event will take place on 9th May at The Champ Sports and Arts, Al Khuwair, Muscat. Organized by Anamsa Yoga The Champ in association with Yog Sports Foundation- India to promote physical fitness, mental well-being, and cultural harmony, the championship will feature 10 different categories, offering a wide platform for participants of all age groups and skill levels. Adding to the excitement, all participants will receive a Gift Voucher worth 10 OMR, along with a certificate and refreshments. In each category, winners will be rewarded as follows: 1st Place: Gift Voucher of 50 OMR, Trophy, Medal, and Certificate 2nd Place: Gift Voucher of 30 OMR, Medal, and Certificate

3rd Place: Gift Voucher of 20 OMR, Medal, and Certificate Moreover, the first and second place winners from each category will get a special opportunity to compete for the prestigious “Champion of Champions” trophy, with the overall winners receiving a trophy and a Gift Voucher worth 100 OMR. Following the success of its inaugural event, this second edition is expected to draw a large number of yoga enthusiasts and spectators, further strengthening the spirit of unity and healthy living within the community. The event is open to the public, and organizers have invited everyone to witness and celebrate the dedication, grace, and power of yoga. Date: 9 May, Venue: The Champ Sports and Arts, Al Khuwair, Muscat For registrations and further information, interested participants can contact the event organiser Neha Deshmukh- 71261234.

DIGITAL PARTNERSHIP AWARDS



NBO celebrates digital innovation and collaboration

MUSCAT: The National Bank of Oman (NBO) hosted its inaugural Digital Partnership Awards Ceremony at its Head Office in Muscat, an exclusive event celebrating innovation, collaboration, and the outstanding contributions of public and private sector partners. The ceremony recognised strategic partnerships that are driving Oman's digital transformation and accelerating NBO's vision of delivering seamless, customer-centric digital banking experiences. By leveraging these alliances, NBO continues to enhance its platforms, simplify customer journeys, and adopt innovative technologies that promote financial inclusion, aligned with the

ambitions of Oman Vision 2040. Key themes of the event included the importance of cross-sector collaboration, the power of digital innovation in improving customer experiences, and the collective role in shaping a future-ready digital ecosystem. Award categories included Best Digital Payment Acquirer Excellence and Best Digital Payment Processor, among others, honoring impactful efforts that have elevated Oman's digital infrastructure. This initiative reaffirms NBO's commitment to partnering with government and industry leaders to build a smart, connected, and digitally empowered national economy.

SIGNIFICANT STEP

Taageer Finance and MELC partner to enhance access to advanced eye-care

MUSCAT: In a significant step toward enhancing access to quality healthcare, Taageer Finance Company has announced a strategic partnership with Muscat Eye Laser Centre - Oman's leading provider of advanced ophthalmology services. The collaboration will enable patients to benefit from flexible and accessible financing options for a wide range of vision correction and eye care treatments offered by MELC. This customer-focused initiative aims to make specialized medical treatments -including laser vision correction, cataract surgery, and comprehensive ophthalmic procedures - more financially attainable to a broader segment of the population. By offering easy finance and EMI (Equated Monthly Installment) options, the partnership is set to redefine how patients access world-class healthcare solutions without compromising on quality. Fahad Khamis Al Bulushi, Acting Chief Executive Officer of Taageer Finance Company SAOG, said: “At Taageer, we remain com-



mitted to delivering innovative financing solutions that empower communities and improve quality of life. Our collaboration with Muscat Eye Laser Centre marks a milestone in extending our value proposition beyond traditional sectors into healthcare - underscoring our role as a trusted partner in Oman's evolving service landscape.” The tie-up reflects both organi-

zations' shared vision of enhancing wellbeing through innovation, accessibility, and customer empowerment. For Taageer, it represents a growing commitment to supporting the Sultanate's healthcare sector. For MELC, it opens up new opportunities to provide patients with world-renowned eye care services while ensuring financial flexibility. Sameer Alawam, CEO and Co-

founder, Muscat Eye Laser Centre, commented: “At Muscat Eye Laser Cente, we've spent the past 23 years not just shaping the future of eye care in Oman, but building something far deeper, trust. “For us, every person who walks through our doors is not a number or a case, but a human being with hopes, fears, and dreams. Our partnership with Tageer ensures that financial limitations never stand in the way of life-changing treatments such as SmartSight lenticule extraction, a revolutionary premium procedure. Because at MELC, trust isn't something we ask for, it's something we strive to earn, every single day.” Through this collaboration, customers can now undergo essential or elective eye treatments with peace of mind, knowing that tailored finance options are available to support their journey to better vision. The initiative serves as a catalyst for broader healthcare accessibility while reinforcing both organizations' roles in contributing to Oman's socio-economic growth.

COMPREHENSIVE CARE

Badr Al Samaa Royal Hospital inaugurates state-of-the-art physiotherapy and rehabilitation centre

MUSCAT: Badr Al Samaa Royal Hospital, the flagship premium venture of Badr Al Samaa Group of Hospitals announced the inauguration of its new Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Centre, a modern facility dedicated to providing comprehensive care for patients recovering from surgery, managing chronic pain, and overcoming sports-related injuries. The centre was inaugurated by Godavarthi Venkata Srinivas, ambassador of India to Oman. The event was attended by Managing Directors of Badr Al Samaa Group, Dr. P A Mohamed and Abdul Latheef, who is also the board member of Oman Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Executive Director, Moiden Bilal, Senior Management of Badr Al Samaa Group of Hospitals and various dignitaries from public and private sector. In his welcome note Abdul Latheef said that the new centre is equipped with cutting-edge technology and a multidisciplinary team of five physiotherapists, rehabilitation experts, and pain management specialists whose focus is on restoring mobility, faster recovery after surgery and enhancing quality of life through personalized treatment programs. Dr. P A Mohamed, speaking on the occasion said that Badr Al Samaa Royal Hospital was established with the vision of ensuring majority of advanced treatments



are available here in Oman. He said, “We got the most advanced technology, medical experts and well experienced team for the ultimate benefit of patients”. Godavarthi Venkata Srinivas appreciated and acknowledged the long journey of Badr Al Samaa Group of Hospitals and its untiring desire of improving and advancing the standards in private healthcare. He said such additions in services and facilities reflect the long-term vision of the group. He appreciated the infrastructure, clinical expertise and technology of Badr Al Samaa Royal Hospital. Dr. Rajagopal T Naganathan, Specialist Orthopaedic Surgeon gave the overview of the Physiotherapy & rehabilitation Centre and explained briefly about all the

modalities available in the department. Physiotherapists Jesikala and Shine Thoma sshared the information upcoming modalities in centre like Repetitive Peripheral Magnetic Nerve Stimulation (rPMS), Extracorporeal Shockwave Therapy (ESWT) and Low-Level Laser Therapy (LLLT), which will be first of its kind modality in private healthcare sector in Oman. In his thank you note, Moiden Bilal said that Badr Al Samaa Group of Hospitals strives to add newer facilities, services, expertise to ensure the availability of the best in the class medical services. He said that there will be further expansion of the physiotherapy and rehabilitation centre and the group aims at adding more modalities. Firasath Hassan, Executive Di-

rector said that the centre is an important step in our mission to offer holistic recovery services. He said some of the modalities in the centre are very unique which has potential to ensure faster recoveries especially in post-surgical and sports injury patients. With the rise in musculoskeletal disorders and post-surgical recovery needs, Badr Al Samaa Royal Hospital aims to set a benchmark in rehabilitative care by combining clinical excellence with the advanced physiotherapy and rehabilitation modalities like Shockwave Therapy, Ultrasound, Repetitive Peripheral Magnetic Nerve Stimulation (rPMS), Extracorporeal Shockwave Therapy (ESWT), Low-Level Laser Therapy (LLLT) and advanced training techniques.

ROUND-UP

Exclusive open days at Mercedes-Benz Oman: Enjoy limited time offers on GLE and GLS SUVs

Whether you're conquering the city or escaping the ordinary, the GLE 450 and GLS 450 promise a driving experience defined by refinement, power, and space

MUSCAT: Mercedes-Benz Oman is excited to announce a series of exclusive open day events offering limited-time offers on two of the brand's luxurious performance SUVs – Mercedes-Benz GLE 450 and Mercedes-Benz GLS 450. These exclusive open days will take place from 28 to 30 April, from 12 to 14 May, and from 2 to 4 of June at the Mercedes-Benz showroom in Muscat. During the open day events,

customers will have the rare opportunity to purchase the Mercedes-Benz GLE 450 starting from OMR 39,995* and the Mercedes-Benz GLS 450 starting from OMR 45,995* – both prices inclusive of VAT. These offers are available only on the specific open day dates, making it a unique opportunity to experience world-class engineering and luxury at exclusive prices. Whether you're conquering the city or escaping the ordinary, the

GLE 450 and GLS 450 promise a driving experience defined by refinement, power, and space. Designed for families, adventurers, and leaders alike – these SUVs redefine what it means to move in style. The Mercedes-Benz GLE 450 and Mercedes-Benz GLS 450 are hallmarks of innovation and modern luxury, combining cutting-edge MBUX infotainment, and interiors tailored for comfort and sophistication. These features promise a bold road presence, deliver an elevated driving experience for every journey. Both models will be available for test drives, giving customers the chance to experience their dynamic performance, cutting-edge technology, and refined design firsthand. Visit the Mercedes-Benz Oman showroom in Muscat and take the first step toward elevating your driving experience.



MODERN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND SCIENCE



MCBS and Al Manahil Foundation partner to enhance access to quality higher education in Oman

MUSCAT: The Modern College of Business and Science (MCBS) announced the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation with Al Manahil Foundation, reaffirming both institutions' shared commitment to promoting equal opportunity and expanding access to quality education across Oman. This partnership is designed to foster collaboration in various areas, including academic and community development initiatives. Aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 4: Quality Education, the agreement will see MCBS offering partial scholarships to students supported by Al Manahil Foundation, empowering individuals from diverse backgrounds to pursue higher education. Moreover, it goes beyond financial aid by focusing on fostering comprehensive involvement in a range of initiatives aimed at academic and personal growth. In addition to providing scholarships, it emphasizes the importance of active participation in academic excellence programs that encourage high standards of learning and achievement. Furthermore, the partnership seeks to create opportunities for research collaborations, allowing students to engage in meaningful,

impactful research that addresses real-world challenges. Outside the classroom, the collaboration also encourages students to become active contributors to community development, reinforcing the importance of service and social responsibility. Together, these efforts ensure that students not only receive financial support but also gain access to a well-rounded educational experience that prepares them for success both academically and in their communities. "This partnership marks a significant milestone in our mission to foster inclusive education," said Dr. Moosa Al Kindi, Dean of MCBS. "With Al Manahil Foundation, we aim to eliminate barriers to learning and provide deserving students with the opportunities they deserve and need to succeed and contribute to society." The collaboration is also an essential part of MCBS's broader strategy to create a transformative learning environment, where students from all backgrounds can achieve their full potential. Through this partnership, MCBS and Al Manahil Foundation are building a bridge for educational growth, cultural exchange, and innovation across Oman and beyond.

OMAN RANKED 4TH IN MEDAL TALLY

Oman team shines at 2nd Asian Yogasana Sports Championship 2025

MUSCAT: The 2nd Asian Yogasana Sports Championship 2025 was concluded at the Indira Gandhi Stadium, New Delhi, from 25 April to 27 April, marking a historic chapter in the evolution of Yogasana as a structured, competitive sport in Asia. The championship witnessed participation from 21 Asian nations, each bringing forth the richness of Yogic tradition, athletic excellence, and cultural unity. Organized by Asian Yogasana (recognized by the Olympic Council of Asia) and hosted by Yogasana Bharat, the only nationally affiliated body under World Yogasana, the championship was supported by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, and The Sports Authority of India (SAI). The championship featured 88 competitive events across Junior, Senior, Senior A, and Senior B categories. A defining highlight of the event was the dominance of female participation, with 302 female athletes surpassing 174 male athletes, underlining the growing trend of women's empowerment in Yogasana sports. Salha Hakim Mohammed, Positive Energy. Oman and President, Oman Yogasana Federation and



Anuradha Murugan, Secretary, Oman Yogasana Federation, and the selected Technical Official from Oman, led a team of 6 Athletes for the competition. Oman ranked 4th in the medal tally, securing 11 medals, which include 1 Gold, 4 silver, and 6 bronze. Oman Team: Salha Hakim Mohammed – Positive Energy, Oman, President of Oman Yogasana Federation. Anuradha Murugan – Team Coach & Technical Official from Oman for 2nd Asian Yogasana Sport Championship, Secretary of Oman Yogasana Federation. Halima AL Mataani, Team Manager, Bikram Mishra, Team Coach Sree Vaishnavi Jeyakumar, Team Captain Olimuthu Rani, Athlete Sanmath Kaur Ajmani, Athlete Yashvi Rajesh, Athlete Paranjay Sanjeev Vyas, Athlete Vivaan Rai, Athlete

GULF TRAFFIC WEEK 2025

Liva Insurance joins national efforts to promote safer roads across Oman

MUSCAT: Liva Insurance has reaffirmed its commitment to community well-being and responsible driving by launching a nationwide awareness campaign as part of the Gulf Traffic Week 2025. The initiative includes a bold Out-of-Home (OOH) and social media campaign, focused on educating the public about road safety, and echoes the company's mission to protect lives and promote responsibility behind the wheel. This year's Gulf Traffic Week, observed across the region under the theme "Safe Driving, Saves

Lives", shines a spotlight on one of the most critical issues on the road today: the dangers of using a phone while driving. The campaign calls on individuals, corporations, and institutions to recognize their role in creating a safer road environment. In full alignment with the Royal Oman Police's (ROP) objectives, Liva Insurance's campaign focuses on raising awareness about distracted driving, using impactful visuals, safety-first messaging, and community-wide outreach to encourage more mindful behavior behind the wheel.

As part of its broader Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts, Liva Insurance also took part in the Royal Air Force of Oman's (RAFO) Traffic Day, held at Ghala Air Force Base earlier this month. The event, organized with strong community engagement and public education in mind, served as a platform for dialogue between government bodies, private entities, and youth—a core focus in Liva's ongoing social mission. Hanaa Al Hina'i, CEO of Liva Insurance, shared her thoughts: "Traffic safety is not just a cam-

paign- it's a call to action. Our roads are shared spaces, and we all have a role to play in keeping them safe. At Liva Insurance, we take pride in supporting the Royal Oman Police's vision and contributing to initiatives that create lasting impact across Oman." With every campaign and collaboration, Liva Insurance continues to lead by example—championing awareness, empowering communities, and reinforcing the values of care, responsibility, and protection that drive its mission beyond insurance.

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