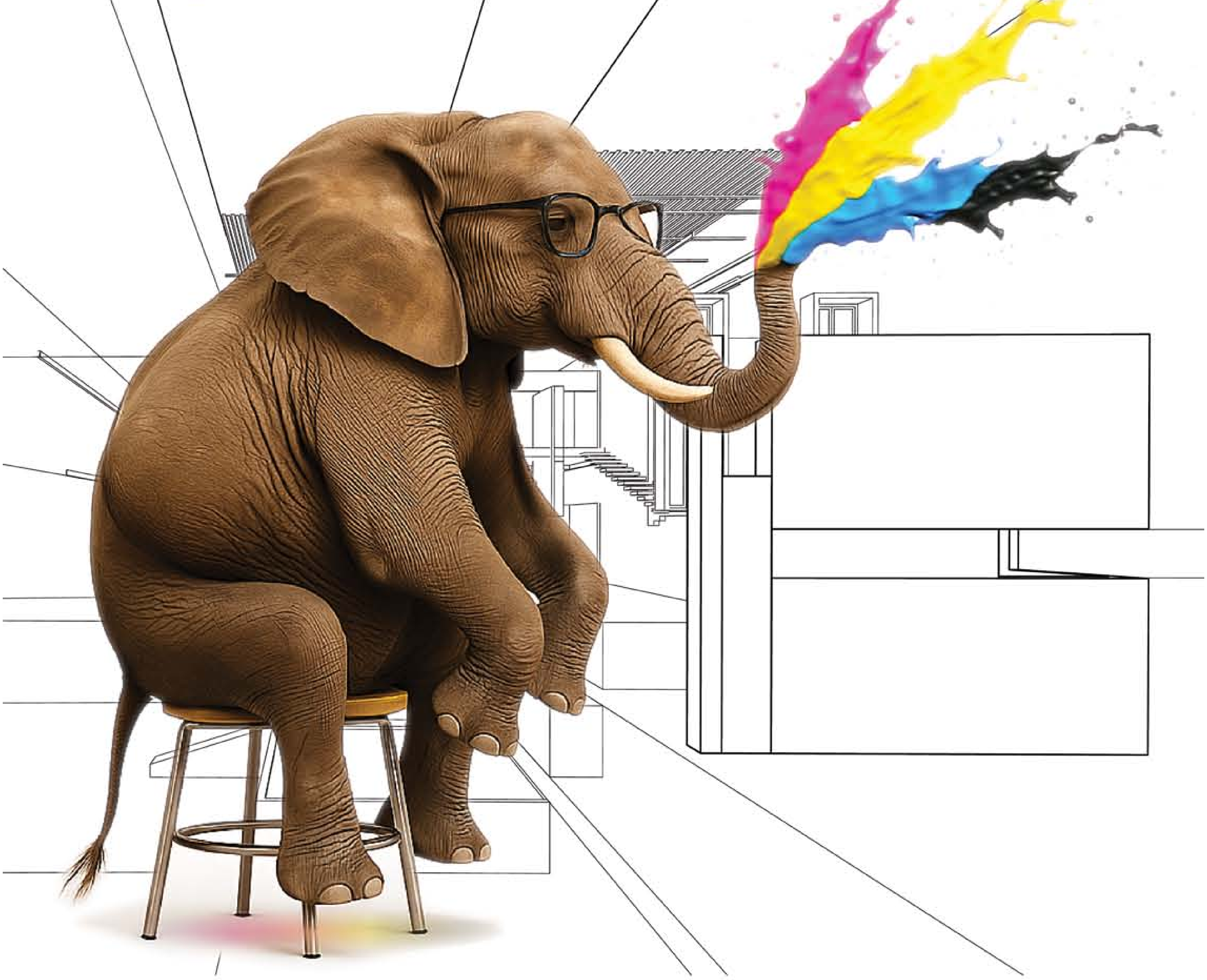
We make your Business bigger than your problems.



We get you ahead on

- Booth production
- Event conceptualisation
- Event management

Wait, there's more

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

مجموعة مسقط للإعلام
Muscat Media Group

manzana

Shamik Rao: **+968 79333149** | Syed Amir Saleem: **+968-78471944** | Sanjeev Rana: **+968 97221630**

A
WEDNESDAY
July 1, 2026
16 Muharram 1448 AH

TIMESOFOMAN.COM
TWITTER.COM/TIMESOFOMAN
INSTAGRAM.COM/TIMESOFOMAN
FACEBOOK.COM/TIMESOFOMAN
YOUTUBE.COM/USER/TIMESOFOMANONLINE
LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/TIMES-OF-OMAN

Times of Oman

GOLDEN JUBILEE

51 YEARS OF LEGACY

Founded 1975 · Volume 51 No. 85 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

TELEPHONE CALL

Sayyid Badr discusses regional, global issues with Canadian counterpart

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, and Anita Anand, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada held a telephone call on Tuesday.

The call addressed bilateral relations between the two countries and followed up on the outcomes of the recent visit by the Canadian Minister to the Sultanate of Oman. It also focused on building upon the understandings achieved during the visit to enhance cooperation and political consultation, as well as expanding the horizons of partnership in areas of mutual interest.

The two sides reviewed developments in the regional and international landscapes. Both sides underscored the importance of intensifying political and diplomatic efforts, and of fostering a conducive environment for the implementation of constructive understandings—aimed at reducing sources of tension and opening broader horizons for security, stability and prosperity. -ONA

GOLD PRICES IN OMAN DIP 27% FROM JANUARY PEAK

Jewellers say lower prices are already encouraging more customers to return to the market

Times News Service

Times Exclusive

MUSCAT: After scaling record highs earlier this year, gold prices in Oman have fallen sharply, offering welcome relief to jewellery buyers and investors.

The price of 24-carat gold, which reached OMR70.2 per gram on January 29, has dropped to OMR 51.3 per gram on Tuesday—a decline of OMR18.9, or nearly 27 per cent.

The January price marked the highest retail level recorded in Oman in recent times.

The correction follows months of volatility in international bullion markets, where gold surged on geopolitical tensions, strong central bank buying and safe-haven demand before easing as investor sentiment improved and expectations surrounding global interest rates shifted.

For consumers in Oman, the decline translates into substantial savings.

"A 10-gram purchase of 24-carat gold now costs roughly OMR 513, compared with OMR702 at the January peak—a saving of about OMR 190," said Mohammed, manager of Al Haseena Jewellery.

Jewellers say lower prices are already encouraging more customers to return to the market after many postponed purchases during the price rally. "The drop in prices is expected to boost demand for jewellery, particularly for weddings, gifts and investment," a jeweller on Ruwi High Street said. International gold prices also remained under pressure on Tuesday, weighed down by easing geopolitical concerns and changing expectations over the US Federal Reserve's interest rate outlook.

Analysts said investors were increasingly shifting towards riskier assets, reducing demand for gold as a safe-haven investment.

Despite the recent correction, analysts note that gold prices remain significantly higher than they were a year ago, reflecting continued uncertainty in the global economy.

Market experts say future price movements will depend on several factors, including US interest rate decisions, inflation trends, the strength of the US dollar and geopolitical developments.

Al Wahaibi becomes first Omani to lead World Cup event A4

OMAN

COMMENTARY

My Enduring Love Affair with Oman

I had been working in Qatar for nearly five years when I first heard about Oman—a country renowned for its breathtaking natural beauty and the warmth and hospitality of its people.

Although Qatar is geographically much smaller than Oman, it was far less developed in 2012 than it is today.

Preparations for hosting the FIFA World Cup 2022 had just begun, and the country's skyline was undergoing a dramatic transformation, with construction projects visible everywhere.

When I had the opportunity to visit Qatar again last year, I could barely recognise it. The modest airport I remembered from 2012 had been replaced by a world-class aviation hub. The scale of development was astonishing, and I was amazed by how much the country had changed within a decade.

My own journey to Oman began in April 2012 when I accepted a job with a media organisation in Muscat.

I landed late at night at the Seeb Airport, which was much smaller and quieter than today's Muscat International Airport. The company driver was waiting for me with a placard bearing my name. As we drove towards the city, I was captivated by the wide, well-lit roads lined with greenery. Equally striking were the neat rows of low-rise buildings painted in similar shades, creating a unique and harmonious cityscape.

Enjoying the peaceful drive, I arrived at a hotel in Darsait, which would be my home for the next fifteen days until I found permanent accommodation.

Alone in my room, my first thought was to call my family and let them know that I had arrived safely. However, I did not yet have a local SIM card. The driver assured me that he would arrange one the following morning.

When I finally received the hotel's Wi-Fi password, I discovered that Skype and Google services commonly used for international calls were unavailable at the time.

Having become accustomed to using them in Qatar, I felt frustrated and disconnected. Thankfully, a helpful gentleman suggested Yahoo Messenger, which became my lifeline to family and friends back home.

The hotel food was rather expensive, so I began exploring nearby restaurants. I soon found a place serving a hearty vegetarian thali, which was both delicious and affordable.

My routine became simple: a substantial lunch that was enough to keep me going through the evening. I followed this pattern throughout my stay at the hotel.

During my first day at work, I used the company transport. Later, I started commuting by the orange taxis that are common in Muscat.

Being unfamiliar with the local transport system, I once attempted to stop a vehicle used for training young drivers, not realising it was not a taxi. The driver understandably ignored my signal.

Eventually, an orange taxi stopped and took me to the Sheraton Roundabout area. The driver charged me one Omani rial for what was a very short journey. Unaware that I had been overcharged, I casually mentioned the fare to my colleagues at the office. They immediately informed me that the trip should have cost only about 300 baisas.

That experience taught me an important lesson. From then on, I became more careful and always agreed on the fare before starting a journey.

More than fourteen years have passed since that first night in Oman. Over the years, I have grown older and wiser, but my affection for this beautiful country has remained unchanged. Oman has given me professional opportunities, unforgettable experiences, lasting friendships, and countless memories.

What began as a new job in a foreign land gradually evolved into a deep connection with a country that I now proudly consider my second home. Even after all these years, my love affair with Oman continues without a hitch.

Projects worth OMR700,000 inaugurated

The projects cover the period from 2022 to 2026 within the framework of the partnership between the public and private sectors to support the health sector in the governorate

SUR: The Directorate General of Health Services in South Al Sharqiyah Governorate inaugurated on Tuesday a package of support projects provided by Oman India Fertiliser Company (OMIFCO), at a total cost of approximately OMR700,000.

The projects cover the period from 2022 to 2026 within the framework of the partnership between the public and private sectors to support the health sector in the governorate.

The inauguration ceremony was held under the auspices of Dr. Yahya Badr Al Maawali, Governor of South Al Sharqiyah.

The projects aim to enhance the infrastructure of health establishments and equip them with modern medical devices and equipment, contributing to raising the efficiency of health services and improving the quality of diagnosis and treatment for citizens and residents.

Eng. Khalid Mohammed Al Fannah Al Araimi, Sustainability and Corporate Communications Manager at Oman India Fertiliser Company said that the package of projects comes within the company's commitment to its social responsibility and its keenness to support the health sector and enhance its capabilities to keep pace with the needs of health institutions in South Al Sharqiyah Governorate.

He explained that the projects included financing the purchase of ultrasound equipment for pregnant women's clinics and radiology departments in a number of hospitals, health complexes, and health centers in the governorate, including Sur Hospital, Sur Health Complex, Jalan Bani Bu Ali and Jalan Bani Bu Hassan hospitals, Jalan Health Complex, and a number of health centers, at a value of OMR334,000, making it the largest support project implemented by the company during this period.

Al Kamil Health Centre

He added that the projects also comprised financing the expansion of Al Kamil Health Centre at a cost of OMR160,000, financing the purchase of electroencephalogram (EEG) and electromyography (EMG) devices for the stroke unit that was inaugurated in 2024 at a value of OMR52,000, and financing the purchase of an electrical generator for Jalan Health Complex at a value of OMR82,000. Furthermore, they included financing the purchase of endoscopes for Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT) clinics at Sur Hospital and Jalan Health Complex at a value of OMR33,500, and maintaining the garden of Jalan Bani Bu Ali Hospital at a cost of OMR8,000. -ONA

Bella Bathwares: Redefining luxury bathroom experiences in Oman

MUSCAT: As bathrooms become an important part of modern home, hospitality and commercial design, Bella Bathwares is strengthening its position in Oman's luxury sanitaryware market by combining elegant products, reliable service and a customer journey built around trust, convenience and long-term satisfaction.

The luxury sanitaryware segment in Oman has changed significantly in recent years. Customers are no longer looking at bathrooms only as functional spaces. In premium homes, villas, hotels, apartments and commercial projects, bathrooms are now seen as part of the overall design experience, with greater emphasis on comfort, technology, finishing details and product reliability.

Bella Bathwares has responded to this shift by offering a wide range of sanitaryware and bathroom solutions that combine design, quality, availability and service. Its approach focuses not only on premium-looking products, but on the full customer experience — from consultation and product selection to delivery, technical guidance and after-sales support.

Bella was recently recognised with the Times of Oman Best Brand in Customer Experience Award in the Luxury Sanitaryware category, a milestone that reflects the brand's growing connection with customers and its efforts to build confidence in a competitive market.

"This recognition is a proud milestone for Bella, because customer experience is not something that can be created only through advertising. It is built over years through trust, consistency, product quality and the way customers are treated before and after purchase," said Abdul Hameed Al Rawahi, General Manager, Bella Bathwares.

For Bella, the award is also a tribute to the people behind the brand. The company believes every showroom consultant, delivery team member, technical support staff and after-sales professional has contributed to shaping the experience customers receive. For customers, the recognition serves as reassurance that Bella takes responsibility seriously at every stage of the journey.

In the luxury sanitaryware category, Bella defines customer experience as something that goes beyond visual appeal. While customers may first be attracted by elegant designs, finishes and collections, the real experience continues through product performance, service response, warranty support and peace of mind.

"Luxury today is about confidence, convenience and long-term satisfaction. A customer may first notice the design, but the real experience continues through product performance, service response, warranty support and peace of mind," stated Al Rawahi.

Bella's customer journey begins with proper consultation. Customers come with different requirements. Some are building a new home, some are renovating an existing property, while others are working on larger residential, hospitality or commercial projects. Bella's showroom teams guide them on product options, sizes, finishes, functionality and suitability for their spaces.

Product selection is another important part of the experience. Bella offers a broad portfolio of sanitaryware and bathroom solutions, allowing customers to choose products according to their design style, budget and project requirements. The company also places strong emphasis on availability and coordination, as delays in bathroom fittings can affect construction and interior timelines.

The brand also gives importance to delivery, installation guidance and after-sales service. In sanitaryware, the company believes the job does not end once the product is sold. Customers need proper guidance, technical clarity and reliable support even after purchase. This complete approach helps Bella create a smoother and more professional customer journey.

The changing market in Oman has also created new opportunities for luxury sanitaryware brands. Oman's wider growth in real estate, hospitality and tourism-led developments has supported stronger demand for higher-quality building and interior products. Vision 2040 and ongoing investment in infrastructure, tourism and premium residential projects are helping shape customer expectations in the interiors segment.

Today's customers are more informed and more demanding. They compare designs, ask about warranties, look for modern solutions and expect brands to provide both product variety and service reliability. As a result, the luxury sanitaryware market is no longer only about appearance. It is about complete value, where design, durability, functionality and service all matter.

Several design and lifestyle trends are influencing customer choices. Clean, modern and minimal bathroom designs are becoming increasingly popular. Wall-hung toilets, concealed cisterns, frameless shower areas, matte finishes and coordinated bathroom collections are preferred because they create a neat, spacious and contemporary look.

Technology is another major influence. Smart toilets, sensor-based functions, water-saving features, smart mirrors and comfort-focused bathroom solutions are attracting customers who want convenience along with design. Globally, smart toilets and wellness-focused bathroom products are becoming important areas of innovation, especially as customers look for hygiene, comfort and efficiency.

The bathroom is also increasingly being viewed as a personal wellness space. Customers want bathrooms that feel calm, premium and easy to maintain. Materials, textures, lighting, storage and finishing details all play a role in creating that experience. This lifestyle shift is encouraging brands to offer solutions that combine beauty, durability and practical daily use.

Bella's key strength lies in understanding the local market and matching international design expectations with the needs of customers and projects in Oman. Over the years, the brand has built trust through its showroom presence, wide product range, service approach and after-sales support.

"Our priority is to keep strengthening Bella's position in Oman's luxury sanitaryware market by introducing more modern designs, advanced bathroom technologies and customer-focused solutions," Al Rawahi added.

Looking ahead, Bella aims to continue improving the showroom experience, product education and service efficiency. For the brand, growth is not only about opening more showrooms or adding more products. It is about becoming the name customers trust when they want bathrooms that are beautiful, reliable and built for long-term satisfaction.

COMMENTARY

FIFA World Cup and The Return of Small Maradona


by MOHAMMED ANWAR AL BALUHSI

Every four years, something strange happens to me. I become a child again. The FIFA World Cup arrives, and suddenly I am no longer a lecturer, a writer, or a former banker. I am transported back to a simpler time when life was measured not by salaries, deadlines, or social status, but by football matches played under the scorching sun. Whenever the World Cup comes around, one particular memory always returns to me.

I still remember living in Wadi Bahis, Al Seeb, during my childhood. It was around 1990, if my memory serves me correctly. One afternoon, there was a loud knock on our door. Before anyone could answer, a familiar voice shouted from outside.

"Small Maradona! Come out! We have a match and we need you!"

The voice belonged to my friend Zakaria. To this day, I can still hear his voice echoing in my mind. Small Maradona. That was my nickname.

Not because I was as talented as Diego Maradona, of course, but because of my height, my style of playing, and perhaps my endless enthusiasm whenever a football appeared. In those days, Maradona was more than a footballer. He was a global phenomenon. Every child wanted to imitate him. Every football-loving boy dreamed of dribbling like him.

And since my friends believed I looked and played a little like him, the nickname stayed.

The moment Zakaria called, I rushed outside without hesitation. There was no need for lengthy planning, expensive equipment, or organized facilities. All we needed was a ball, a few friends, and enough space to create our own World Cup.

The football field was not really a football field. Sometimes it was an empty piece of land. Sometimes it was an open space between houses. The goalposts were often made from stones, sandals, or anything available. Yet to us, it was bigger than any stadium in the world.

As soon as the match started, we were no longer children from Oman. We became international football stars. One friend imagined himself to be Maradona. Another was Romário. Someone else wanted to be Lothar Matthäus or Roberto Baggio. For ninety minutes, imagination replaced reality.

Looking back today, I realize that those matches were about much more than football.

They were about friendship. They were about belonging. They were about dreams. The beautiful thing about football is that it gives ordinary people extraordinary moments. It allows a child in Oman to dream alongside children in Argentina, Brazil, Germany, France, or Spain.

Today, decades later, the world has changed dramatically. Technology dominates our lives. Children spend more time on screens than playgrounds. Conversations often revolve around business, politics, and social media.

Yet every four years, the FIFA World Cup performs its magic once again. In Oman, the atmosphere becomes impossible to ignore.

Coffee shops become crowded long before kick-off. Restaurants install giant screens. Shopping malls organize viewing areas. Friends create WhatsApp groups dedicated entirely to football discussions. Even people who rarely watch football suddenly become experts on formations, tactics, and refereeing decisions.

At workplaces, the World Cup becomes part of daily conversation. Employees discuss last night's match before discussing office matters. Predictions are exchanged over coffee. Friendly rivalries emerge between supporters of different nations. Some support Brazil. Others support Argentina. Many admire Portugal because of Cristiano Ronaldo.

The younger generation often debates whether Lionel Messi is the greatest player of all time. Older football lovers still remember Pelé, the king of football, whose name continues to inspire generations.

What fascinates me is how football unites people who may otherwise have little in common. During the World Cup, nationality, profession, and social status become less important. For a few weeks, everyone becomes part of the same global conversation.

Whenever I watch Argentina play, however, my heart quietly returns to that childhood memory. I remember Zakaria standing outside my family's house. I remember the excitement in his voice. I remember running outside without thinking twice. And I remember being called "Small Maradona."

Perhaps that is why the FIFA World Cup means more to me than goals, trophies, or statistics. For me, it is a journey through time. It reminds me of friendships that shaped my childhood, dreams that filled my imagination, and a period of life when happiness was as simple as kicking a football with friends until sunset.

The World Cup may be the world's biggest sporting event, but for many of us it is also something deeply personal. It reconnects us with forgotten memories and reminds us of who we once were.

And every four years, when the first whistle blows somewhere in the world, I smile quietly to myself.

Because for a brief moment, Small Maradona returns.

Strategic projects of Al Dhahirah Goverorate reviewed

Infrastructure projects are worth more than OMR23 million, with a completion rate of 88%

IBRI: Al Dhahirah Governorate organised on Tuesday a press meeting during which the most prominent developmental achievements and future projects of the governorate were reviewed, with wide participation that included a number of officials from government entities and media representatives.

The meeting witnessed the presentation of three main pillars: the first on the plans and vision of the governorate during the Eleventh Five-Year Plan (2026–2030), while the second pillar reviewed the executive status of the governorate's projects during the Tenth Five-Year Plan, and the third addressed municipal projects in the governorate.

The first pillar was highlighted by Taher Mabkhout Al Junaibi, Governor of Al Dhahirah, who emphasised the importance of utilising the governorate's competitive advantage, with a primary focus on food and water security projects, tourism and archaeological sites, logistics, renewable energy, mining and industry, in addition to supporting digital transformation, which would support economic and investment activity in the governorate and provide business opportunities for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and job opportunities for job seekers.

He pointed out that the most prominent strategic projects implemented and under implementation during the Tenth Five-Year Plan reached a total value of more than OMR770 million, including the expansion of service networks (water, electricity, telecommunications) at OMR235 million, solar energy projects in Ibri at OMR270 million, Ibri Industrial City (Madayn) at OMR25 million, the Integrated Economic Zone at the Empty Quarter border crossing (Phase 1) at OMR122 million, in addition to mining projects (Mazoon Copper Project in Yanqul) at OMR115 million, and food security projects at OMR40 million.

Al Junaibi also reviewed the projects approved in the Al Dhahirah Governorate plan for the year 2026 within the Eleventh Five-Year Plan, including the Ibri Public Park (Phase 2), the establishment of the Science and Innovation Center, the development of the commercial area in Al Dariz in the Wilayat of Ibri, the Al Nahda neighborhood walkway (Phase 2), paving roads and parking lots for the viewpoints of the Wilayats of Yanqul and Dhank, paving roads for residential and industrial layouts, energy-saving lighting projects, developing the Ibri waterfront "Our Waterfront", and projects for developing and beautifying the centers of the wilayats, public parks, and children's playgrounds, in addition to the Ibri Central Slaughterhouse project.

For his part, Eng. Nuseir Ali Al Siyabi, Director General of A'Dhahirah Municipality, presented the second pillar on the executive status of the governorate's projects during the Tenth Five-Year Plan, explaining that the total number of projects in this pillar reached 182 projects (159 implemented and 23 under implementation), with an overall completion rate of 89%, and a total value of OMR 40 million, to which the private sector contributed more than OMR 3 million.

The meeting also revealed that the municipal projects were distributed across three main pillars: infrastructure projects, development, parks, and health walkways projects, and service projects. Infrastructure projects included 88 projects worth more than OMR 23 million, with a completion rate of 88%, which included paving internal roads, paving roads for industrial layouts, road maintenance, and energy-saving lighting projects.

Meanwhile, development, parks, and health walkways projects included 22 projects worth more than OMR 11 million, with a completion rate of 89%, most notably the Ibri Public Park (Phase 1), the viewpoints of Yanqul and Dhank, the walkway of the Niyabat of Hamra Al Duru, the Al Aqbah neighborhood walkway, the Dhank walkway, the Al Waqbah walkway, and the Al Nahda neighborhood walkway.

Regarding service projects, they included 75 projects to the tune of more than OMR 1.5 million, with a completion rate of 89%, which included a car show arena, the development of the Friday Market in Yanqul, the protection of property from floods, the events square in Ibri, and rainwater drainage in the governorate's wilayats. -ONA

WORLD DRUG DAY

Forum highlights drug prevention efforts

MANAH: An awareness panel discussion titled "Safety Charter" was held on Tuesday at Oman Across Ages Museum.

The event was organised by the Health Committee in the Wilayat of Manah under the "Bridges of Hope" initiative, as part of the wilayat's participation in the community competition to curb the spread of drugs and psychotropic substances.

The event also coincided with the celebration of World Drug Day, which falls on the twenty-sixth of June every year.

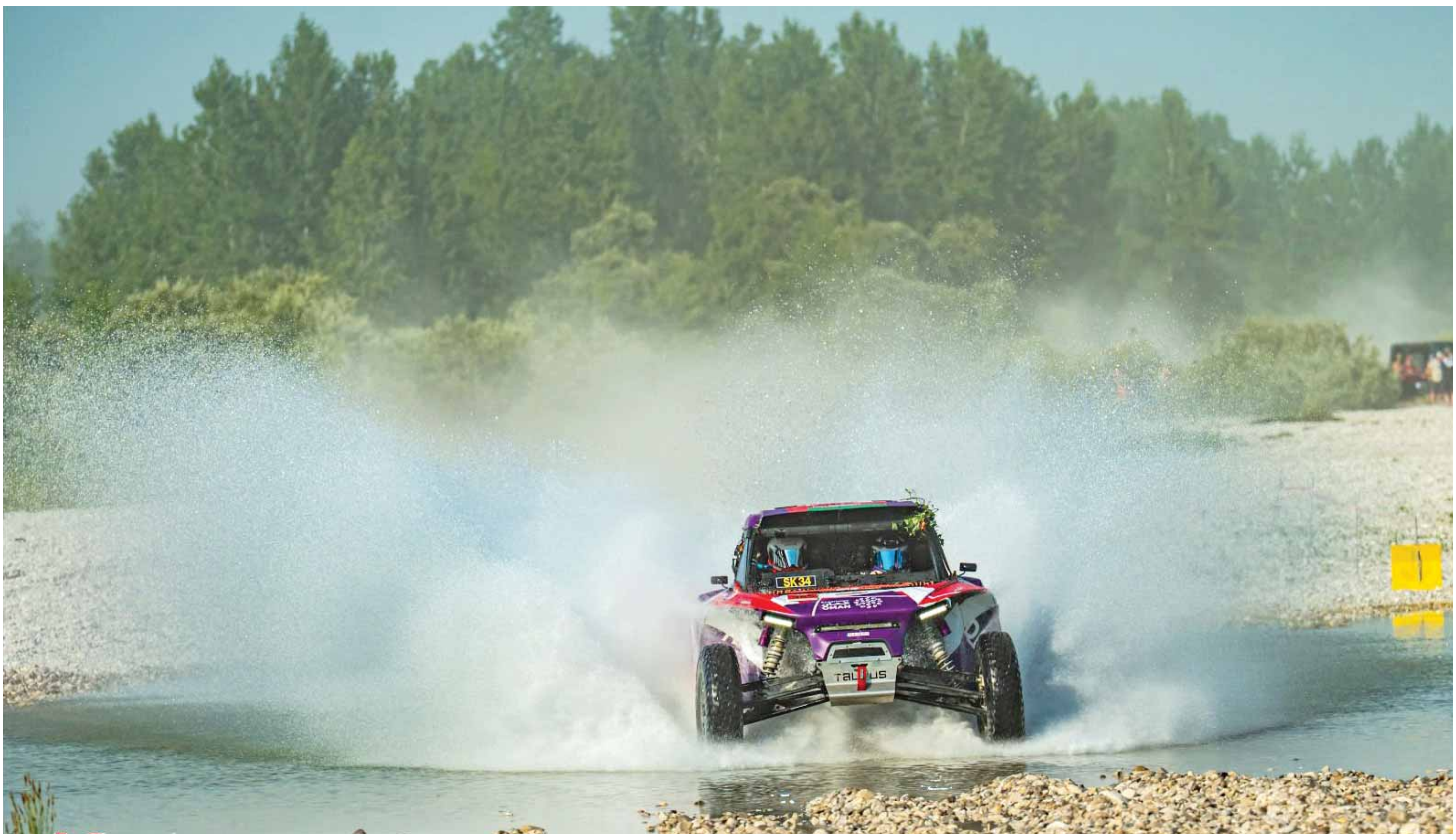
The event was held under the auspices of Sulaiman Nasser Al Hajji, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health for Administrative and Financial Affairs.

The session aimed to enhance community awareness regarding the dangers of drugs and psychotropic substances, consolidate a culture of dialogue among community members to confront negative behaviours and alien phenomena, and promote values of shared responsibility in protecting youth and families, drawing upon the authentic values that characterize Omani society.

The panel discussion comprised four main pillars addressing the legal, social, health, and religious aspects associated with combating drugs and psychotropic substances.

The session featured the screening of several video clips highlighting the efforts of the Health Committee in the Wilayat of Manah in executing awareness programs and events, introducing the community competition to curb the spread of drugs and psychotropic substances, and showcasing prominent community initiatives aimed at promoting awareness and prevention against this scourge. -ONA

History-maker Al Wahaibi becomes first Omani to lead World Cup event



The experienced rally driver, whose career has been built largely in conventional rallying, said he was encouraged by his growing competitiveness in the discipline

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Hamed Al Wahaibi has carved out a place in Omani sporting history after becoming the first Omani to lead the standings of a World Cup event, opening a 24-point advantage at the halfway stage of the 2026 FIA World Baja Cup following the Italian Baja.

The landmark achievement came despite the Omani driver retiring on the final stage of the fourth round of the eight-event championship; a strong points haul throughout the weekend lifted him to the top of the overall standings.

Driving a Taurus in the Challenger category, Al Wahaibi now leads the FIA World Baja Cup with 205 points, ahead of Saudi Arabia's Dania Akeel (181), Norway's Hedda Hosås (176) and South Africa's Saood Variawa (166). He also enjoys a commanding lead in the Challenger standings, ahead of Qatar's Abdulaziz Al Kuwari (160) and the Netherlands' Mitchel van den Brink (156).

Even more remarkably, Al Wahaibi has climbed to the top of the overall championship while competing in a Challenger-class car, which is less powerful than the premier T1+ category machinery driven by several of his closest rivals.

According to a press statement from Al Wahaibi's team, he is the first Omani to lead the standings of a World Cup event, making it a landmark achievement for the Sultanate. The official FIA race report also confirmed his rise to the top, describing him as the "new outright leader of the FIA World Baja Cup."

The Italian Baja proved to be a test of resilience from start to finish. Al Wahaibi's campaign nearly unravelled before the rally even began when he rolled his Taurus during the shakedown after striking a tree stump, cracking the windscreen.

Undeterred, he recovered to finish fifth in the prologue before producing another impressive performance on Saturday.

During the 156.29km Madrisio stage, Al Wahaibi and his Polish co-driver, Maciej Giemza, encountered a navigation system problem beyond the team's control, costing them valuable minutes. Despite the setback, they fought back to finish second in the Challenger category for the day, collecting crucial championship points.

Disaster struck on Sunday's final 94.42km stage when, still adapting to Baja rally navigation after a career in conventional rallying, Al Wahaibi clipped the root of a tree close to the course.

The impact damaged the front-right suspension and forced his retirement.

However, the FIA World Baja Cup awards points for performances on individual stages as well as the final classification, enabling the Omani to collect 44 valuable points.

Combined with setbacks suffered by several championship rivals, including Al Kuwari's rollover and retirement, the haul was enough to propel him into the outright championship lead.

Despite the retirement, Al Wahaibi was upbeat about both his pace and the progress he continues to make in Baja rallying.

"The car was great, and everything went well throughout the Baja. But we did not notice the tree root, which led to our contact with it and damage to the car," he said.

The experienced rally driver, whose career has been built largely in conventional rallying, said he was encouraged by his growing competitiveness in the discipline.

"I am very happy because my speed was good, and I have a long-term plan to participate in the World Cup. Also, my main goal is to score valuable points in the competition for the Challenger class title, especially given the extensive experience that my competitors possess in Baja rallies."

Al Wahaibi said his approach for the remainder of the season would be shaped by the bigger championship picture rather than outright speed.

"We trust our ability to compete until the end of the season, and I must think about the championship and not push to the absolute limits in every stage, as this is the fundamental point of difference from classic rallies."

The FIA World Baja Cup now heads to Baja España Aragón in Spain later this month before rounds in Portugal, Qatar and Dubai. With four events remaining, Al Wahaibi will carry both the overall championship lead and a slice of Omani sporting history into the second half of the season as he bids for one of the biggest international honours in the country's motorsport history.

MEETING

Discussion on the efficiency of emergency management system

MUSCAT: The National Committee for Emergency Management held a meeting on Tuesday, chaired by Lt.Gen Hassan Mohsen Al Shraiqi, Inspector General of Police and Customs and Chairman of the National Committee for Emergency Management.

During the meeting, the Committee reviewed its ongoing activities and followed up on the implementation of this year's annual plan.

Discussions also addressed a number of topics pertaining to mechanisms for developing and enhancing the efficiency of the national emergency management system. Lt.Gen Al Shraiqi commended the advanced level of coordination and integration among the Committee's sectors and sub-committees. This, he affirmed, contributes to strengthening efficiency and responsiveness. He also praised the cooperation of the community with the Committee, which constitutes a fundamental pillar in facilitating the performance of the emergency management system's duties and the achievement of its objectives. -ONA

BILATERAL RELATIONS

Oman, Uzbekistan hold political consultations session

MUSCAT: The ninth round of political consultations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Uzbekistan was convened in Muscat on Tuesday.

The Omani side was chaired by Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs, while the Uzbek side was led by Bakhromjon Aloyev, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

During the session, the two sides reviewed existing bilateral relations and explored means of enhancing them across various domains, particularly in the political, economic, investment, commercial, scientific and cultural spheres.

Discussions also focused on supporting joint investments, activating trade exchange and pursuing their development in a manner that serves the mutual interests of both countries.

Muscat–Tashkent air route

The two sides welcomed the inauguration of the direct Muscat–Tashkent air route, in addition to exchanging views on a number of regional and international issues.

The session was attended by Sheikh Ahmed Hashil Al Maskari, Head of the GCC and Regional Neighbourhood Department at the Foreign Ministry, Abdusalom Khatamov, Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Sultanate of Oman, along with a number of officials from both countries' foreign ministries. -ONA

SHURA COUNCIL

National plans for carbon neutrality targets discussed

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Shura Council on Monday hosted Eng. Mohsin bin Hamad Al Hadhrami, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, who delivered a visual presentation on the objectives of the Oman Centre for Net Zero and the updated national plan.

The session was attended by Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Nadabi, Secretary General of the Council, along with esteemed Members of the Council.

This engagement comes within the framework of strengthening cooperation between the legislative and executive institutions, whereby Members were briefed on the latest national efforts aimed at achieving carbon neutrality targets, in support of Oman Vision 2040 and the advancement of sustainable development.

His Excellency outlined before the Members the objectives of the Oman Centre for Net Zero and its role in leading the national transition towards a low-carbon economy through the preparation and updating of national plans, overseeing the implementation of initiatives and projects related to net zero, and managing the carbon certificates system and the national carbon registry.

He further highlighted the Centre's contributions in supporting scientific research and innovation, developing national capacities, enhancing energy efficiency, and keeping pace with global best practices and technologies in the fields of climate and energy.

The presentation also addressed the key features of the updated national plan, noting that it is based on an integrated roadmap for emissions reduction, supported by the necessary regulatory, legislative, and financial enablers.

This approach ensures the balanced and sustainable achievement of net zero targets, with a focus on enhancing efficiency in priority sectors and accelerating their transformation pace.

He affirmed that the net zero pathway represents not only an environmental commitment, but also an economic opportunity that contributes to strengthening the competitiveness of the national economy, localizing green industries, attracting investment, creating job opportunities, and enhancing the competitiveness of Omani exports in global markets.

The visual presentation also highlighted the Centre's key achievements, most notably the development of the national "Mizan" platform for carbon emissions management and inventory, which supports decision-makers by providing an integrated system for monitoring emissions reduction projects and measuring performance indicators across various sectors.

It further referred to developments in the carbon markets framework, including the regulatory and institutional steps taken to strengthen Oman's presence in global carbon markets, attract investments, facilitate technology transfer, and create new opportunities for small and medium enterprises as well as national talent in areas related to the carbon economy.

This meeting reflects the Shura Council's commitment to following up on priority national programmes and staying informed of developments in government policies related to energy transition and climate action, thereby enhancing its legislative and oversight role and supporting the integration of national efforts to achieve sustainable development.

SOUTH AL BATINAH

International Day Against Drug Abuse

A'RUSTAQ: South Al Batinah Governorate yesterday observed the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Trafficking.

An event to mark the occasion was organized by South Al Batinah Governorate's Police Command, in cooperation with the Office of the Governor of South Al Batinah. The event focused on raising public awareness about the risks involved in drug abuse and drug trafficking.

It also stressed the need to support national efforts on protecting society against drug addiction.

The event included a lecture on addressing drug abuse from an Islamic perspective, in addition to a drama and a play about the dangers of addiction. The audience listened to a real-life story told by a person who recovered from drug addiction. In addition, a therapist from Al Amal International Hospital elaborated on the practice of recuperation and social support that could be extended to addicts by families and community members.

On the occasion of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Trafficking, three public awareness exhibitions were held in different locations in the governorate, with support from government departments and private sector establishments. -ONA

CABLES

His Majesty the Sultan sends greetings to presidents of Somalia and Burundi

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud of the Federal Republic of Somalia on his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his best wishes to Somalia to achieve aspirations

of further stability and prosperity.

Cable of greetings

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Évariste Ndayishimiye of the Republic of Burundi on his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan lauded the strength of bilateral relations between the two countries.

His Majesty also wished President Évariste success in leading the people of his country and to achieve further accomplishments and development. -ONA

Times OF OMAN

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

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

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

Shura Committee discusses child media ethics code with journalists

Tourism and Culture Committee of the Shura Council, welcomed the delegation of the Omani Journalists Association, commending the Association's efforts in developing and launching the Child Media Code of Ethics

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Media, Tourism and Culture Committee of the Shura Council met onTuesday with the Omani Journalists Association, represented by its Women Journalists Affairs Committee, as part of efforts to strengthen cooperation with national professional institutions and to review media initiatives aimed at protecting children and safeguarding their rights.

During the meeting, the Association presented the Child Media Code of Ethics, which it has adopted and launched as a professional and ethical framework designed to reinforce responsible media practices when addressing issues related to children in the Sultanate of Oman.

At the outset of the meeting, Abdullah bin Hamad Al Harthi, Chairman of the Media, Tourism and Culture Committee of the Shura Council, welcomed the delegation of the Omani Journalists Association, commending the Association's efforts in developing and launching the Child Media Code of Ethics.

He described the Code as an important step towards strengthening the professional and ethical responsibilities of media institutions and practitioners, thereby contributing to the creation of a safe media environment that respects children's rights, safeguards their dignity, and preserves their identity and values.

He stressed that the national media constitutes one of the fundamental pillars of building public awareness, shaping future generations, and consolidating the nation's value system.

He noted that the rapid developments in communication technologies and digital media have further increased the responsibility of media institutions to provide purposeful and responsible content that reinforces national identity while preserving the privacy and authentic values of Omani society.

He further explained that the Omani media today bears a greater responsibility than ever before in addressing behaviours and social phenomena that are inconsistent with the values of Omani society.

This can be achieved by instilling authentic national values and Omani identity among younger generations, promoting a sense of belonging and national pride, and protecting children from all forms of media exploitation and exposure to content that contradicts societal values and principles.

He affirmed that fulfilling this responsibility requires close coordination among media, educational, social, and legislative institutions to foster a safe and supportive environment for children's healthy development.

Following the opening remarks, Dr. Amal bint Talib Al Jahouriya, Chairperson of the Women Journalists Affairs Committee of the Omani Journalists Association, delivered a visual presentation covering the various aspects of the Child Media Code of Ethics.

She explained that the philosophy underpinning the Code is based on the principle that children represent the foundation of society's future and that the media is a key partner in their upbringing and character development through the provision of responsible media content that respects their dignity, protects their privacy, and promotes the values of citizenship, identity, and belonging.

She also reviewed the principles on which the Code is founded, foremost among them respect for children's rights and human dignity, ensuring the best interests of the child in all forms of media coverage, protecting children's privacy, rejecting all forms of discrimination, violence, abuse, and neglect, empowering children to express their views and participate in issues affecting them, and strengthening the professional and ethical responsibility of journalists and media institutions in covering child-related issues.

The presentation further outlined the Code's principal objectives, including enhancing the media's responsibility in protecting children and safeguarding their rights in accordance with the highest professional and ethical standards; embedding the principle of the best interests of the child across all forms of media content; protecting children's dignity and privacy; raising awareness of children's rights, relevant national legislation, and international conventions; producing safe media content that contributes to the intellectual, cultural, and creative development of children; strengthening the media's role in preventing violence, exploitation, neglect, and discrimination; promoting partnerships among the media, families, educational institutions, government entities, and civil society organisations; and improving the professional capabilities of media practitioners through continuous training in child-friendly journalism.

Dr.Al Jahouriya explained that the preparation of the Code was the outcome of a broad national partnership between the Omani Journalists Association and several institutions concerned with children and the media.

This collaborative approach ensured alignment with national legislation and international conventions while reinforcing consistency with the Omani Child Law, the Media Law, the Basic Law of the State, and the objectives of Oman Vision 2040, particularly those relating to human capital development, child empowerment, knowledge-based society building, and the promotion of professional and responsible media.

She also reviewed the Association's efforts throughout the drafting process, which included consultative meetings with relevant stakeholders, specialised discussion sessions to formulate the Code's provisions, and awareness programmes following its launch to introduce its objectives and practical application to legislative bodies, media organisations, educational institutions, and civil society organisations.

She noted that the Code was officially launched in April 2026 in the presence of representatives from the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), the International Federation of Journalists – Asia-Pacific, media professionals, and child protection stakeholders.

The launch ceremony also witnessed the signing of the Code by several media institutions and journalists, reflecting their commitment to implementing its principles and provisions.

Following the presentation, Members of the Committee raised a number of questions and observations addressing various aspects of the Code.

Discussions focused on the stages through which the initiative evolved from its initial concept to its adoption and official launch, the framework underpinning its provisions, the Association's efforts to introduce the Code to public and private sector institutions, and mechanisms for promoting its principles among media organisations, educational institutions, and civil society organisations.

Members also discussed the existing cooperation between the Association and government entities responsible for child protection, particularly the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Education, and the Oman Human Rights Commission.

They reviewed the international experiences referenced during the drafting process, the extent to which the Code complements relevant national legislation, the challenges media institutions may encounter in complying with professional standards governing the coverage of child-related issues, and proposals to strengthen adherence to the Code's provisions in order to foster a responsible media culture that respects children's rights and safeguards their best interests.

The meeting also featured an extensive discussion between Committee Members and representatives of the Association on emerging behavioural patterns among young people in Omani society, the factors contributing to these developments, and ways to address them through coordinated institutional efforts.

Participants reviewed a number of local and international experiences in addressing such issues and discussed the role that the media can play in preventing them through the delivery of purposeful awareness content, the promotion of national values, and the dissemination of safe digital practices and responsible use of modern technologies and social media platforms.

These efforts contribute to reducing digital risks,

protecting children and young people, and strengthening their awareness, sense of belonging, and social responsibility.

The meeting was chaired by Abdullah bin Hamad Al Harthi, Chairman of the Media, Tourism and Culture Committee of the Shura Council, and attended by the Committee Members.

PARTNERSHIP

MoU inked to boost cooperation in smart transport system

MUSCAT: Karwa Motors and "eMushrif" signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) aimed at enhancing joint cooperation in developing and providing smart transportation solutions and technologies.

This partnership aims to raise security and safety levels, develop fleet management systems, and utilise the latest digital technologies in the transport and communications sector.

This memorandum comes within the framework of the commitment of both parties to support digital transformation efforts in the transport sector and to provide integrated solutions that meet the needs of government and private entities.

This will be achieved by merging the industrial expertise of Karwa Motors with the advanced technical solutions developed by "eMushrif" in the fields of vehicle tracking, fleet management, and smart safety systems.

Under the MoU, the two sides will work to explore cooperation opportunities in developing innovative solutions, including bus and vehicle monitoring and management systems, technologies to enhance driver and passenger safety, operational data analysis, and smart monitoring systems, in addition to digital solutions that contribute to improving operational efficiency and raising the quality of services.

The two sides emphasised that this partnership represents a strategic step towards building a smarter and more sustainable transport system.

It also reflects their commitment to supporting the objectives of Oman Vision 2040 through localizing modern technologies and enhancing local content, keeping pace with global developments in the smart transportation sector.

Officials from both companies expressed their anticipation to translate this memorandum into practical projects that contribute to providing advanced solutions for the Omani and regional markets, enhance operational security and safety standards, and raise the efficiency of fleet management using the latest technologies of artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things, and data analysis. -ONA

AL DAKHILIYAH

Municipal Council discusses plan to develop infrastructure

NIZWA: The Municipal Council of Al Dakhiliyah Governorate discussed on Tuesday a number of development, service, and planning topics related to the needs of the governorate's wilayats, within the framework of following up on efforts to develop infrastructure and enhance the level of services provided to the community.

During the meeting, which was held today under the chairmanship of Yasser Fadhil Al Maharbi, Vice Chairman of the Council, the Council was briefed on the latest developments regarding the Al Jabal Al Akhdar Festival scheduled to be held in the coming period. It also discussed a number of topics related to housing, planning, and developmental services in the governorate's wilayats.

The Council discussed several requests related to developmental and tourism services in the governorate's wilayats and reviewed a number of applications concerning service sites, investment, and agricultural projects, in addition to planning matters related to urban expansion and community services in the wilayat.

Furthermore, the Council reviewed the annual plan of the Ministry of Social Development for 2026, and the final report of the analytical reading initiative of the monthly statistics of the Directorate of Labour in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate, alongside examining the minutes of the fourth meeting of the Health and Environmental Affairs Committee of the Municipal Council for the year 2026.

The Municipal Council emphasised the importance of continued coordination with the competent authorities to follow up on the implementation of recommendations as well as developmental and service projects, in a manner that contributes to enhancing the quality of services and achieving sustainable development across the various wilayats of Al Dakhiliyah. -ONA

‘No plans’ to meet US in ‘next few days’ at any level, Iran says

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baghaei, as quoted by Iranian state media Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), said Tehran is not scheduled to meet US officials in the immediate future

TEHRAN: Iran on Tuesday said that the Islamic Republic has “no plans” to hold any meetings with the United States in the coming days at any level, even as diplomatic engagements continue separately in Doha on the related implementation of the 14-point memorandum of understanding (MoU) aimed at ending the hostilities in West Asia.

Speaking at a press briefing, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baghaei, as quoted by Iranian state media Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), said Tehran is not scheduled to meet US officials in the immediate future.

“Basically, we have no plans to meet with the American side at any level in the next few days,” the spokesperson said.

He clarified that discussions scheduled in Doha are not political negotiations with Washington, but rather technical-level talks linked to the implementation of previously agreed understandings, including issues related to frozen Iranian assets.

“What will be done in Doha tomorrow is a discussion on the implementation of clauses of the memorandum of understanding, including the release of Iran’s frozen assets, which is with the Qatari side,” he said.

Baghaei further emphasised that Iran would continue to honour its commitments only if the other parties do the same.

“We will implement our commitments as long as the other side implements its commitments,” he said.

He added that the memorandum of understanding clearly defines the obligations of all parties involved and reiterated Iran’s position that the United States has responsibilities under the agreement framework.

Earlier on Tuesday, Qatar’s Foreign Ministry spokesperson Majed Mohammed Al-Ansari said the discussions in Doha are part of broader mediation efforts and involve multiple regional concerns, including Iran-related talks.

He clarified that US Special Envoy Steve Witkoff and Senior Adviser to US President Donald Trump Jared Kushner are currently in Doha to meet mediators and Qatari officials and are not engaged in direct negotiations with Iranian representatives for diplomatic discussions involving regional issues following the recent exchange of fire between the two sides over incidents in the Strait of Hormuz.

“The US envoys Mr Steve Witkoff and Mr Jared Kushner are here in Doha to meet with the mediators and Qatari officials, and the talks will be around all regional issues which are of concern, including negotiations with Iran,” Al-Ansari said, stressing that “they are not here for direct negotiations with the Iranians.”

He further clarified that the ongoing process involves technical-level engagement rather than high-level political negotiations after the conclusion of the initial round of talks as part of the 14-point MoU, with both sides agreeing to establish a High-Level Committee and a roadmap towards a final agreement within 60 days in Switzerland earlier this month.

“The technical teams are the ones coming in and out of Doha and other locations for this. So this reference is probably to the technical team that is involved in the talks with the mediators in pushing a lot of these technical issues forward,” he said.

“It’s not a high-level delegation as I stated earlier; it’s the technical side of the negotiations,” Al-Ansari added, noting that the teams move between Doha and other locations depending on the progress of discussions.

On the issue of Iranian assets, the Qatari official noted that the $6 billion in frozen Iranian funds has not yet been transferred to Tehran, adding that any such movement would depend on the progress of negotiations.

He said the release of funds would proceed “according to the advancement of negotiations”, underscoring that financial arrangements remain linked to ongoing diplomatic developments. — ANI

Mitsubishi Wins Best Brand in Customer Experience Award in Crossover SUV Category

MITSUBISHI, distributed by General Automotive Company (GAC) - part of The Zubair Corporation, was felicitated with the ‘Times of Oman Best Brand in Customer Experience (CX) Award in Crossover SUV Category’ at the Times of Oman CX Awards 2026. The awards presentation was co-located with Oman CX Forum 2026, held at Hotel Kempinski, Muscat. The premier event was attended by over 325 CX leaders across sectors in Oman.

Mitsubishi has consistently demonstrated a strong commitment to customer experience through its versatile range of crossover SUVs, designed to meet the evolving needs of modern drivers and families. Combining advanced technology, practical functionality, safety, and driving comfort, Mitsubishi’s crossover lineup delivers a balanced ownership experience that resonates with customers across diverse lifestyles and driving conditions.

With a customer-centric approach focused on reliability, innovation, and everyday convenience, Mitsubishi continues to enhance the driving journey through intelligent features, spacious interiors, and advanced all-wheel-control technologies. Its crossover SUV portfolio reflects the brand’s dedication to understanding customer expectations and delivering vehicles that offer confidence, comfort, and long-term value.

By continuously investing in product development, safety technologies, and mobility solutions, Mitsubishi has strengthened its position as a trusted automotive brand. Its ability to combine practicality with performance and innovation has helped establish the brand as a benchmark for customer satisfaction and experience within the crossover SUV segment.

The Best Brand in Customer Experience (CX) Awards are instituted by Times of Oman, in collaboration with Muscat Media Group, Gulf Leaders Circle and TEvents. They are presented to the leading brands that are ahead of the curve in meeting and exceeding customer expectations. The winners are selected based on an extensive consumer survey conducted by the Times of Oman.

Co-located with:

Infoline PRESENTS OMAN CX FORUM 2026

Customer Experience Beyond Imagination

POWERED BY Ford LINCOLN

STRATEGIC PARTNER Tadoom

For more information, contact: 78471944/97221630

BILATERAL TALKS

Japanese PM to visit India

NEW DELHI: Japan Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi’s visit to India from July 1 to 3 is expected to boost investment and innovation opportunities, strengthen economic ties and give a boost to efforts for building resilient supply chains in areas like semiconductors and critical minerals.

Diplomatic sources said that the focus during the visit will also be on boosting maritime security, defence tech cooperation, and developing an “Industrial Value Chain” connecting the Bay of Bengal and Northeast India.

The Japan PM will take part in the 16th India-Japan Annual Summit, which will provide an opportunity for both sides to review and strengthen the full spectrum of bilateral cooperation as well as exchange views on regional and global issues of mutual interest.

This would be the first official visit of Prime Minister Takaichi to India. This visit follows Prime Minister Modi’s visit to Tokyo in August 2025 for the 15th India-Japan Annual Summit and reflects the shared commitment of the two countries to further enhance India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership.

Japan PM will also attend the India-Japan Business Forum meeting.

The sources said there may be a declaration concerning AI cooperation and proposals also include a large-scale green ammonia project in Odisha, strengthening biogas cooperation, and promoting regional resilience via POWERR Asia.

“The visit aims to boost economic growth through investment and innovation. There will be focus on strengthening economic security, including building resilient supply chains in areas like semiconductors and critical minerals,” a source said. — ANI

THREATENING GLOBAL STABILITY

Democrat Congressman Ro Khanna slams Donald Trump’s foreign policy

WASHINGTON, DC: Democrat Congressman Ro Khanna on Monday accused the US President Donald Trump of allegedly abandoning America’s “moral vision”, threatening global stability, and implementing immigration policies that severely undermine the nation’s leadership in technology and Artificial Intelligence.

Speaking during the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum Leadership Summit in Washington, DC, Khanna heavily criticised what he described as a shift toward a foreign policy dictated by “might makes right,” directly targeting the Trump administration’s rhetoric toward multiple nations.

“Now you have an America that has forgotten that moral vision, that has a foreign policy of might makes right, threatening not just Iran, threatening Cuba, threatening to conquer Greenland and we were having dinner as if everything is normal. Who cares about the partnerships of this and that when this President is literally destroying America’s leadership in the entire world?” he stated.

Further turning his focus to domestic policy, the Democratic lawmaker strongly condemned the administration’s approach to immigration and its impact on the American technology sector, particularly in relation to student visas.

“And the demagoguery about immigrants, the demagoguery of this President and talking about the lack of immigrants coming into the United States. How can we sit here and not condemn his policies on what he has done with student visas, with the demonization of talent coming to the United States,” he said.

Khanna further cited statistics regarding the global AI workforce to criticise the President for attempting to restrict the flow of high-skilled foreign professionals.

“He talks about leading in AI. 38% of the top AI researchers are of Chinese origin. 72% have foreign degrees. This is a President who doesn’t understand that we need to be recruiting talent, not turning talent away. He’s a lame duck,” he said.

Khanna concluded his remarks with a confident prediction regarding the upcoming electoral cycles, claiming a victory of the Democrats.

“The Democrats are going to win decisively in 2026 and we’re going to win in 2028,” Khanna affirmed.

Earlier, US Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs Jacob Helberg warned that the concepts of digital and artificial intelligence sovereignty are vulnerable to political manipulation abroad, which could inadvertently pressure nations into draining substantial financial resources to replicate pre-existing technologies.

Instead of pursuing absolute domestic control over obsolete technology frameworks, the official argued that genuine sovereignty should be demonstrated through cutting-edge innovation and active contributions to the international technological landscape.

He further characterised New Delhi as a vital ally for Washington in the international pursuit of technological dominance, highlighting the country’s vast reservoir of engineering expertise and its rapidly expanding technology sector. — ANI

IVACS REOPENS

India resumes tourist visas for Bangladesh

DHAKA: The Indian Visa Application Centres (IVACs) in Bangladesh have reopened after being closed for nearly two years, following the resumption of tourist visas.

In the capital, Dhaka, a large number of Indian visa applicants were seen standing in line in front of the IVAC located at Jamuna Future Park, submitting their visa applications and expressing their satisfaction that tourist visas had resumed.

Medical visa

“I’ve come here to get a medical visa. I have submitted my papers. The services and everything are very good. Two years ago, I had some problems, but now it is very good,” Chandra Roy, a visa seeker, told ANI.

“Of course, it is useful. For medical purposes or tourism, both are essential for Bangladeshis, especially medical services,” he added.

“After a long time, the tourist visa has opened. Because of that, everybody wants to go abroad. They want to visit India, like in the old days,” Roy said.

“I have come here for an Indian visa, mainly for a medical visa. I receive treatment in Chennai and also at Manipal Hospital in Kolkata. I had also taken a medical visa a while ago; they had given me a six-month visa,” said Shakila Akter Seema, another visa seeker.

Good treatment is available

“The doctor asked me to go again, which is why I applied for a new medical visa. Most people from our country mainly go to India for medical treatment, whether it is to Chennai or any other place. Since good treatment is available there, that’s why we go. I went to Manipal last time for a check-up and liked it very much, so I am going again,” she said.

On June 25, Indian High Commissioner Dinesh Trivedi announced that tourist visas would resume on June 28, 2026, from five visa centres, including the one in the capital, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

He made this announcement after presenting his credentials to the President of Bangladesh. — ANI

SPORTS

Bowlers, Kaia lead Zimbabwe to their biggest Test triumph

Muzarabani picked up 4 for 65 in the second outing as Zimbabwe thrashed Bangladesh by an innings and 85 runs

HARARE: Zimbabwe registered their biggest win in Test cricket as they thrashed Bangladesh by an innings and 85 runs on the third afternoon in the one-off Test in Harare.

It was the first time that Zimbabwe won two successive Tests by an innings margin. In their previous Test, in October 2025, they had beaten Afghanistan by an innings and 73 runs at this very venue. That was also their biggest win at the time.

After conceding a first-innings lead of 270, Bangladesh collapsed once again and were all out for 185 in the second innings, with Blessing Muzarabani picking up 4 for 65.

Bangladesh started the day on 40 for 1, but were soon reduced to 46 for 3, as Muzarabani dismissed the overnight batters Mahmudul Hasan Joy and Mominul Haque inside the first four overs of the day. Bowling predominantly short of good length, he kept the duo on the back foot before snaring them with fuller deliveries.

Najmul Hossain Shanto and Mushfiqur Rahim resisted briefly, using contrasting methods. Shanto was aggressive, and didn't miss out on the opportunities to pull and drive. Mushfiqur was defensive, often leaving the ball and even taking a couple of blows to the body.

They took Bangladesh past 100 before Newman Nyamhuri bowled Shanto to break the 61-run stand. It was an attempted yorker that ended up as a low full toss. Shanto went for the drive but got an inside edge onto his stumps. He made 30 off 41 balls.

Mushfiqur didn't last long after that. A couple of minutes before lunch, Muzarabani had him caught down the leg side for 34 with an innocuous delivery. Muzarabani had his fourth soon after the lunch break when Towhid Hridoy edged a length ball to third slip. He should have had his fifth too in the following over, but Brian Bennett, at gully, put down a sharp chance from Taijul Islam.

Amite Hasan and Taijul frustrated Zimbabwe for a while, adding 34 off 44 balls for the seventh wicket, before Evans had Taijul caught behind with a short ball down the leg side.

Richard Ngarava hastened the end by picking up two wickets in the next over. Muzarabani, however, could not complete his five-for. Ironically, he was the catcher for the tenth wicket. When Hasan Mahmud miscued a pull off Nyamhuri, Muzarabani ran backwards from mid-on to complete the catch.

Just like in the first innings, Zimbabwe's seamers shared all ten wickets. It was only the second occasion in their Test history that all 20 wickets fell to fast bowlers. The first one was in 1993, in a losing cause against Pakistan in Rawalpindi.

Innocent Kaia, who scored his maiden Test hundred and equalled Bangladesh's first-innings total on his own with 140, was named the Player of the Match.

Brief scores: Zimbabwe 410 (Kaia 140, Madhevere 77*, Taijul 7-138) beat Bangladesh 140 (Mominul 60, Nyamhuri 4-61, Ngarava 2-18) and 185 (Mushfiqur 34, Muzarabani 4-65, Ngarava 3-32) by an innings and 85 runs. - Agencies

MEDIA APPEARANCES

Players end protest over prize money

LONDON: Top tennis players at Wimbledon have decided to end their protest over prize money and will no longer be limiting their media appearances during the first week of the Grand Slam tournament.

A statement on Monday from the advisory firm representing the players said the decision follows "constructive meetings" with the All England Club over the weekend.

Sally Bolton, the chief executive at the All England Club, said she was "really pleased" with the players' decision.

"I think it's great news that we and they can now just concentrate on the championships and on the tennis," Bolton said. "We've had some really fruitful conversations over the weekend. They've been really positive."

Most of the top-10 ranked players had said they would limit their post-match media appearances to 15 minutes during the first week of the tournament, continuing a protest that started at the French Open. Players have argued that their share of the revenues from the Grand Slam tournaments is less than 15% and should be bigger.

They've also asked for larger contributions to a player welfare fund. Wimbledon announced a 20% hike in total prize money this year and organizers expressed disappointment with the players' decision to continue their protest.

But further talks over the weekend proved productive, even though the statement said "the underlying matters remain unresolved."

"Constructive dialogue with Wimbledon and the other Grand Slams will continue," the statement said. "The players and the Club will make no further comment at this time."

World number ones Aryna Sabalenka and Jannik Sinner were among the stars who limited their media appearances to 15 minutes on Saturday and Sunday in protest at the amount of prize money on offer at the Grand Slams. - Agencies

WIMBLEDON

Reigning champ Sinner survives scare

LONDON: World No.1 Jannik Sinner survived an almighty scare as he began his Wimbledon title defence with a five-set comeback victory over inspired opponent Miomir Kecmanovic on Monday.

One month on from a seismic second-round loss at the French Open, four-time major winner Sinner recovered from an error-strewn start and an awkward fall to overcome his 50th-ranked opponent 4-6, 6-3, 6-7 (6-8), 6-2, 6-3 after a tense three and a half hours.

Sinner opted against contesting a grass tournament in the lead-up to Wimbledon, with this his first match since an extraordinary collapse against Argentine Juan Manuel Cerundolo, whom he had led by two sets and 5-1 at Roland Garros.

Having appeared to physically shut down in the stifling Paris heat that day, Sinner's durability was thoroughly tested by Kecmanovic, and he was fortunate to escape relatively unscathed after a moment of genuine concern on Centre Court.

There were gasps in the crowd when Sinner slipped behind the baseline during the third set and took time to return to his feet, with the umpire heading over to check on him. Blood was also seeping from the Italian's shoe during a must-win fourth set, which he later explained was caused by a problematic toenail.

Sinner had won just one of his past nine matches that had gone to a fifth set - but he raised his level when it truly mattered to stave off Kecmanovic and avoid becoming only the third defending Wimbledon men's champion to lose in the first round.

Sinner, contesting the opening match on Centre Court after beating Carlos Alcaraz last year to win a first Wimbledon title, said: "I tried to stay there mentally, [but] also trying to enjoy the moment.

"Coming here, [playing in the] opening match on Centre Court, it's a huge privilege.

"It has been an amazing, amazing day for me to feel this way at least once in my life.

"I think I handled the situation still quite well. It was very nervy, but I'm very happy that I found a way today."

'I'm surprised they let me keep playing' - Sinner jokes about bloody injury

Djokovic 'happy but not the freshest' after Wu battle

A resilient Novak Djokovic launched his latest bid for a record 25th Grand Slam title with a battling win over China's Wu Yibing in the first round. The 39-year-old has been tied with Australia's Margaret Court on 24 major titles since the 2023 US Open.

But he started his campaign for the standalone record with a gritty 6-4, 5-7, 6-4, 6-4 win on a rowdy Centre Court to maintain his 100% win rate in 21 first-round matches at SW19.

"It felt really challenging for me today," said Djokovic, who had not played since his third-round defeat by Brazilian teenager Joao Fonseca at the French Open.

"I'm feeling happy but not the freshest. It didn't feel like the first round to be honest."

Defending champion Swiatek passes tough test

After surviving a first-round rollercoaster on Centre Court to open her Wimbledon title defence, No. 3 seed Iga Swiatek buried her head in her towel for several minutes courtside on Tuesday.

Her 6-1, 2-6, 6-3 battle over Taylor Townsend in 2 hours and 2 minutes had been an emotional one as well as a physical one.

"It was tough couple of weeks, not a season where everything went how I wanted," the Pole explained in her on-court interview.

"I don't think I won any three-set match this year, so I'm happy that I could do it here, because obviously it means a lot opening the court as defending champion."

Aryna Sabalenka rated her Wimbledon first-round performance as an "eight out of 10" as she began her campaign with a commanding 6-2, 6-3 win over qualifier Teodora Kostovic in 65 minutes. - Agencies

IN MALAYSIA FROM JULY 9

Oman girls chase history in ACC U19 Premier Cup on debut

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's Under-19 women's cricket team is all set to script a new chapter in the country's cricketing history when it makes its debut in the ACC U19 Women's Premier Cup in Malaysia, with a coveted place in the ACC U19 Women's Asia Cup up for grabs.

Led by Nitya Joshi, the young Oman side will become the country's first women's Under-19 team to compete in an Asian Cricket Council (ACC) pathway tournament when it opens its campaign against the UAE at the YSD UKM Oval on July 11 before facing Bhutan at the Bayuemas Oval the following day.

The 13-team tournament, to be held from July 9 to 18, offers a direct route to the ACC U19 Women's Asia Cup, with the four semi-finalists earning qualification.

Head coach Aamir Kaleem believes the squad is ready for the challenge after an intensive two-month training programme.

"The preparation has been good. We had a two-month training camp with the girls with a goal of playing good cricket and giving ourselves a chance to qualify for the U19 Women's Asia Cup," Kaleem said.

While acknowledging that it will be the first overseas pathway event for the squad, Kaleem is confident his players can embrace the occasion.

"The girls are playing such a pathway competition for the first time and away from home and their families, so adapting to the environment and getting used to the conditions will play a part. There is pressure, can't deny that, but we carry that along and look to use it as our strength and play quality cricket." The squad comprises a talented crop of youngsters, with most of the players around 15 years of age, while a handful of 17-year-olds have already gained experience with the senior Oman women's team.

"It is an opportunity for the girls to showcase their talent and knock on the door of the senior women's team," Kaleem added.

The coach has challenged his players to express themselves on the continental stage and make the most of the opportunity.

"It would be a target. The girls have been guided to express their character on the platform and execute their skills. As a group, we look forward to the challenge and thank Oman Cricket for the backing. We are hopeful of playing quality cricket in the tournament."

The 13 participating teams are divided into four groups: Group A comprises Thailand, Japan and Myanmar; Group B features UAE, Oman and Bhutan; Group C consists of hosts Malaysia, Indonesia and Kuwait; while Group D includes Nepal, Hong Kong, Qatar and Singapore.

The top two teams from each group will progress to the quarter-finals, with the four semi-finalists securing qualification for the ACC U19 Women's Asia Cup.

Oman squad: Nitya Joshi (captain), Lujaina Syed (vice-captain), Amishi Sarkar (wicketkeeper), Areeba Mughal, Sahana Jeelany, Eshal Siddiqui, Pia Sharma, Kushi Egodagamage, Ira Yadav, Aneeka Ashik, Akithya De Silva, Blessy Jeeba, Manha Mariyam and Abeeha Farooq.

Support staff: Aamir Kaleem (coach), Damith Warusavithana (team manager) and Merita Pinto (team supervisor).

OMAN OIL PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman crude oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by August 2026 reaching $65.20. The price of Oman crude oil fell by $1.49 from the price of Monday, which was $66.69. -ONA

MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 7,507.94 points, up by 0.55% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.70% at 596.87 points. Salalah Port Services, up 9.90%, was the top gainer while, Al Hassan Engineering, down 33.33%, was the top loser. >B2

Importance of credit insurance highlighted

The workshop aimed to introduce manufacturers and exporters to domestic and international trade guarantee tools, and to enhance awareness of insurance services that contribute to mitigating commercial risks and bolstering trust among trading partners

SALALAH: Raysut Industrial City, which operates under the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn), in cooperation with Credit Oman, organised on Tuesday a workshop on the importance of credit insurance in commercial business and its role in enhancing Omani exports, with the participation of representatives from industrial companies operating in Dhofar Governorate.

The workshop aimed to introduce manufacturers and exporters to domestic and international trade guarantee tools, and to enhance awareness of insurance services that contribute to mitigating commercial risks and bolstering trust among trading partners, thereby supporting the growth of Omani exports and raising their competitiveness in foreign markets.

Haitham Abdullah Al Yaqoobi, Acting Chief Executive Officer of Credit Oman, reviewed the institution's efforts in supporting economic development by providing credit insurance solutions that contribute to stimulating domestic trade and enhancing Omani exports.

The presentation addressed the prominent risks covered by Credit Oman, which include commercial risks such as non-payment for goods, buyer insolvency, or delayed payment, in addition to non-commercial risks associated with exporting, such as restrictions and legislation imposed by importing countries, political events, and economic challenges.

The workshop also reviewed the services provided by Credit Oman, including the domestic credit insurance policy for sales within the Sultanate of Oman, the export credit insurance policy for foreign markets, and the multi-buyer insurance policy. It also introduced mechanisms for entering global markets and highlighted the importance of risk management in supporting business sustainability and enhancing the competitiveness of enterprises. -ONA

STRENGTHEN COOPERATION

Oman participates in Bahrain Smart Cities Summit

MANAMA: The Sultanate of Oman is participating in the ninth edition of Bahrain Smart Cities Summit 2026, which commenced on Tuesday, as part of efforts to strengthen cooperation and exchange expertise in the fields of innovation and smart technologies.

Throughout the two-day conference, Oman is presenting five working papers addressing a range of themes related to the future of smart cities and sustainable urban development, including the role of decentralisation in achieving sustainability, the application of smart technologies in residential buildings to enhance comfort and safety levels, the impact of urban planning and environmental sustainability projects on public health, and sustainable municipal transformation within the framework of Oman Vision 2040.

Additionally, a paper on the North Al Batinah Green Initiative will be presented, focusing on environmental sustainability, afforestation and the strengthening of green infrastructure.

This participation underscores the Sultanate of Oman's commitment to adopting innovative solutions and advancing smart city concepts, thereby supporting sustainable development efforts and aligning with global trends in urban development and quality-of-life enhancement.-ONA

BRIEFS

Oil falls as investors await potential US-Iran talks

SINGAPORE: Oil prices fell yesterday as investors awaited the outcome of potential talks between the United States and Iran, after the two sides exchanged missile strikes over the weekend in a test of a fragile ceasefire aimed at ending their four-month conflict. Brent crude futures for August delivery, which expire today, fell 75 cents, or 1.03%, to $72.40 a barrel. The more actively traded September Brent contract declined 40 cents, or 0.54%, to $73.51 a barrel. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures slipped 47 cents, or 0.66%, to $70.32 a barrel. -ONA

Nikkei index records best quarterly performance on technology rebound

TOKYO: Japan's Nikkei index rose yesterday, boosted by a rebound in technology stocks that helped the index achieve record quarterly gains. The Nikkei 225 index climbed 0.86% to close at 70,062.32. During the April-June quarter, the index surged 37 percent, marking its strongest quarterly performance on record since 1965. The broader Topix index gained 0.73% to 4,010.88. The Nikkei dipped during part of the session, and stock performance at the close was mixed, with 104 stocks rising and 121 declining. Taiyo Yuden was the top percentage gainer on the index, surging 8.28%, followed by Furukawa Electric, which advanced 7.04%, and Screen Holdings, which climbed 6.20% to a record high. - ONA

SEAMLESS JOURNEY

UAE's first national passenger rail service begins

ABU DHABI: The UAE's first national passenger rail service entered operation this morning as Etihad Rail welcomed its first paying passengers onboard the inaugural scheduled service from Fujairah to Abu Dhabi, marking a historic milestone in the country's transport journey.

Departing Fujairah Station at 5:34am and arriving at Mohammed Bin Zayed City Station in Abu Dhabi at 7:19am, the inaugural service marked the beginning of scheduled passenger rail services in the UAE.

Customer demand has been strong since bookings opened, with more than 10,000 tickets sold ahead of the start of operations. A total of 6 passenger services will operate as Etihad Rail begins the introductory operational phase of its national passenger network, offering customers a safe, reliable and comfortable new way to travel between Fujairah and Abu Dhabi.

Passengers travelling onboard Etihad Rail today benefitted from a modern travel experience, including guaranteed seating, onboard Wi-Fi, power outlets at every seat, generous luggage allowances and Premium Class services designed to deliver greater comfort and convenience.

To deliver a seamless end-to-end customer journey, Etihad Rail has also announced that is working closely with the Integrated Transport Centre (Abu Dhabi Mobility) to integrate passenger rail with Abu Dhabi's wider public transport network, enabling customers to connect easily with buses, taxis and other mobility services as part of a fully integrated mobility ecosystem.

Azza Alsuwaidi, Chief Operating Officer at Etihad Rail, said: "Every great piece of national infrastructure has two beginnings: the day it is built, and the day people begin making it their own. Today, with the support and guidance of our wise leadership, we embark on that second beginning.

"The first departure from Fujairah this morning is the moment a national vision becomes part of everyday life, giving people a new way to connect with one another, with opportunity and with the places that make our country so unique.

"Years from now, passengers will be able to say they were there at the very beginning."

Dr. Abdulla Hamad AlGhfeli, Acting Director General of the Integrated Transport Centre, said: "The journey doesn't end when passengers step off the train. It continues all the way to their final destination."

STATISTICS

India's industrial output increases by 5.1% in May, manufacturing, electricity sectors drive expansion

NEW DELHI: India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) recorded a growth of of 5.1 per cent in May 2026 compared to the same month last year, supported by growth in manufacturing and electricity sectors, according to data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on Monday.

The ministry said manufacturing output grew 5.5 per cent year-on-year in May, while the Electricity and Gas Supply sector recorded a strong growth of 9.9 per cent. However, Mining and Quarrying contracted by 1.6 per cent during the month.

The Quick Estimate of the IIP stood at 122.7 in May 2026, compared with 116.7 in May 2025.

MoSPI also announced a major methodological change in the compilation of the IIP. The ministry has adopted the Output Producer Price Index (Output PPI) as the deflator for the new IIP series with base year 2022-23, replacing the Wholesale Price Index (WPI).

According to the ministry, the change affects 234 out of 463 item groups in the IIP basket, representing 36.02 per cent of the total index weight. The revised series supersedes the earlier WPI-based IIP 2022-23 series released on June 1, 2026.

MoSPI said Output PPI provides a more granular price structure than WPI and will improve the estimation of real output for value-based production items. The ministry added that the move is in line with international best practices and recommendations of the Technical Advisory Committee on the base revision of IIP.

Within the manufacturing sector, 16 out of 23 industry groups recorded positive growth during May 2026.

The top three contributors to manufacturing growth were "Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers" with growth of 14.5 per cent, "Manufacture of electrical equipment" with growth of 20.8 per cent and "Manufacture of basic metals" with growth of 4.6 per cent.

According to the ministry, passenger cars, auto components, spares and accessories, and commercial vehicles were among the major contributors to growth in the motor vehicle segment.

Under the use-based classification, capital goods recorded the highest growth of 12.9 per cent, followed by consumer durables at 7.2 per cent, infrastructure and construction goods at 5.9 per cent, intermediate goods at 5.8 per cent, consumer non-durables at 3.6 per cent and primary goods at 2.6 per cent. -ANI

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Salalah Port Services, up 9.90%, was the top gainer while, Al Hassan Engineering, down 33.33%, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 7,507.94 points, up by 0.55% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.70% at 596.87 points. Salalah Port Services, up 9.90%, was the top gainer while, Al Hassan Engineering, down 33.33%, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded while Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 9549 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 46.59 million, with more than 158.27 million shares changing hands. Out of 77 traded securities, 34 advanced, 18 declined, and 25 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for RO 916K while foreign investors were net sellers for RO 786K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 130K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 13,085.38 points, up 1.03%. Prices of Ahli Bank, Financial Corporation, Oman United Insurance, OMINVEST, Bank Dhofar were up by 5.00%, 4.00%, 2.99%, 2.70%, 2.44% respectively. Prices of DIDIC, Muscat Finance, United Finance, Bank Muscat, Muscat Insurance were down by 2.01%, 1.49%, 1.06%, 0.98%, 0.34% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 9,756.98 points, up 1.11%. Prices of Dhofar Cattle Feed, Salalah Mills, Galfar Engineering, Oman Fisheries, Al Maha Ceramics were up by 5.61%, 4.62%, 4.55%, 4.35%, 3.57% respectively. Prices of Al Hassan Engineering, Voltamp Energy, A'Saffa Foods were down by 33.33%, 1.14%, 0.13% respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.17% before closing at 3,050.17 points. Prices of Salalah Port Services, Al Maha Marketing, Majan College, Abraj Energy, Oman Telecom were up by 9.90%, 2.42%, 2.27%, 1.03%, 0.96% respectively. Prices of Muscat Gases, SMN Power Holding, Sembcorp Salalah, Muscat Desalination, National Gas were down by 2.03%, 1.45%, 1.16%, 1.08%, 0.89% respectively.

— United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev . Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	7,533.84	7,469.53	7,507.94	7,466.71	41.22	0.55 %
FINANCIAL INDEX	13,085.38	12,930.08	13,085.38	12,951.59	133.80	1.03 %
Industry Index	9,773.15	9,653.46	9,756.98	9,650.06	106.92	1.11 %
Services Index	3,065.63	3,043.15	3,050.17	3,045.00	5.18	0.17 %
MSX Shariah Index	598.27	592.90	596.87	592.69	4.17	0.70 %
MSX TR INDEX	11,653.43	11,553.95	11,613.36	11,549.59	63.76	0.55 %
FINANCIAL TR IDX	16,055.57	15,865.02	16,055.57	15,891.40	164.17	1.03 %
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	12,516.93	12,363.64	12,496.21	12,359.27	136.94	1.11 %
SERVICES TR IDX	4,107.36	4,077.25	4,086.66	4,079.72	6.93	0.17 %
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,253.83	1,253.83	1,253.83	1,253.83	0.00	0.00 %

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
158,275,315	46,591,249	9,549	36,729,473,568	34	18	25	77

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 30

REGULAR MARKET

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	476,000	160,940	29	0.330	0.344	0.330	0.344	0.334	0.010	2.994	0.344	0.325	0.344	0.100	36,120,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	145,000	53,172	12	0.374	0.380	0.365	0.380	0.370	0.010	2.703	0.380	0.365	0.376	0.100	426,684,488
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	39,658	22,345	12	0.556	0.570	0.556	0.570	0.555	0.015	2.703	0.570	0.570	0.570	0.100	188,597,445
OM0000009908	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	15,346,046	3,785,147	1,452	0.243	0.249	0.242	0.248	0.242	0.006	2.479	0.248	0.242	0.248	0.040	857,953,731
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	783,000	159,905	31	0.205	0.210	0.203	0.210	0.205	0.005	2.439	0.210	0.210	0.205	0.100	638,357,692
OM0000003000	Al MAHA PETROLEUM PRODS MRKTNG	47,590	57,307	10	1.200	1.230	1.200	1.229	1.200	0.029	2.417	1.229	1.100	1.228	0.100	84,801,000
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	113,665	47,779	9	0.420	0.424	0.420	0.424	0.414	0.010	2.415	0.424	0.414	0.424	0.100	21,345,168
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	193,728	32,934	30	0.170	0.172	0.170	0.172	0.170	0.002	1.176	0.170	0.170	0.172	0.100	51,351,104
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	46,656,280	9,088,583	1,375	0.194	0.197	0.193	0.195	0.193	0.002	1.036	0.195	0.200	0.195	0.100	1,290,363,023
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	10,148,625	3,983,611	327	0.389	0.394	0.389	0.393	0.389	0.004	1.028	0.393	0.393	0.394	0.100	302,688,600
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	1,876,708	2,601,426	313	1.358	1.395	1.358	1.370	1.357	0.013	0.958	1.367	1.367	1.367	0.100	1,027,500,000
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	25,456,095	5,643,374	2,255	0.220	0.223	0.220	0.222	0.220	0.002	0.909	0.222	0.222	0.222	0.100	961,398,510
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	447,256	144,759	30	0.323	0.328	0.323	0.325	0.323	0.002	0.619	0.325	0.325	0.325	0.100	211,556,875
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	284,602	54,242	24	0.191	0.193	0.189	0.191	0.190	0.001	0.526	0.191	0.188	0.191	0.100	136,451,611
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGG & INVESTMENT	2,999	450	1	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.000	0.000	0.150	0.149	0.164	0.100	22,500,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	5,002,668	2,491,331	4	0.498	0.499	0.498	0.499	0.499	0.000	0.000	0.499	0.498	0.499	0.100	811,347,231
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	10,000	1,590	1	0.159	0.159	0.159	0.159	0.159	0.000	0.000	0.159	0.158	0.162	0.100	19,378,125
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	20,000	64,504	3	3.230	3.230	3.225	3.225	3.225	0.000	0.000	3.225	3.225	3.260	0.100	289,282,500
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	60,000	50,100	201	0.835	0.835	0.835	0.835	0.835	0.000	0.000	0.835	0.805	0.835	0.100	104,289,797
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO.	107,825	10,894	12	0.102	0.102	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.000	0.000	0.101	0.101	0.109	0.100	9,090,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	156,873	46,584	22	0.296	0.300	0.292	0.300	0.300	0.000	0.000	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.100	60,000,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	45,125	13,899	7	0.308	0.309	0.308	0.309	0.309	0.000	0.000	0.309	0.305	0.309	0.100	73,050,690
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	761,617	102,678	66	0.135	0.135	0.134	0.135	0.135	0.000	0.000	0.135	0.134	0.135	0.100	301,988,659
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	69,760	8,441	12	0.122	0.122	0.121	0.121	0.121	0.000	0.000	0.121	0.119	0.122	0.100	21,175,000
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	20,500	3,936	5	0.192	0.192	0.192	0.192	0.192	0.000	0.000	0.192	0.192	0.193	0.100	129,578,387
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	9,618,758	4,314,772	752	0.448	0.453	0.446	0.447	0.447	0.000	0.000	0.448	0.447	0.448	0.010	3,576,000,000
OM0000010120	ASYAD SHIPPING	2,573,469	722,717	588	0.284	0.285	0.277	0.282	0.282	0.000	0.000	0.282	0.282	0.282	0.000	1,468,865,887
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	1,200	932	2	0.777	0.777	0.777	0.777	0.778	-0.001	-0.129	0.777	0.776	0.777	0.100	93,240,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	9,000	2,466	2	0.274	0.274	0.274	0.274	0.276	-0.002	-0.725	0.274	0.272	0.278	0.100	11,738,980
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	27,822,540	11,287,248	1,231	0.409	0.409	0.403	0.405	0.409	-0.004	-0.978	0.405	0.410	0.405	0.100	3,040,090,810
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	3,000	279	1	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.094	-0.001	-1.064	0.093	0.092	0.096	0.100	33,119,839
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	779,974	137,018	98	0.175	0.182	0.174	0.174	0.176	-0.002	-1.136	0.174	0.174	0.174	0.010	174,000,000
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	695,900	177,754	71	0.257	0.259	0.254	0.255	0.258	-0.003	-1.163	0.255	0.255	0.258	0.100	243,415,847
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	6,946	1,423	3	0.204	0.206	0.204	0.204	0.207	-0.003	-1.449	0.204	0.187	0.227	0.100	40,725,662
OM0000001509	DHOFAR INTL DEVELOPMENT & INVEST	66,988	19,593	17	0.296	0.296	0.292	0.292	0.298	-0.006	-2.013	0.292	0.292	0.292	0.100	144,848,393
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	60,205	9,633	17	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.165	-0.005	-3.030	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.100	25,600,000
Total	36	149,909,600	45,303,765	9,025												

Parallel Market

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000002333	SALALAH PORT SERVICES	500	233	2	0.450	0.533	0.450	0.533	0.485	0.048	9.897	0.533	0.460	0.533	0.100	95,853,334
OM0000001301	DHOFAR FOODS AND INVESTMENT	108,460	21,719	19	0.196	0.207	0.196	0.207	0.196	0.011	5.612	0.207	0.207	0.210	0.100	40,919,123
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	300,000	63,000	11	0.210	0.210	0.210	0.210	0.200	0.010	5.000	0.210	0.195	0.210	0.100	583,441,092
OM0000001889	SALALAH MILLS	50,000	33,800	3	0.660	0.680	0.660	0.680	0.650	0.030	4.615	0.680	0.667	0.680	0.100	42,474,884
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGG & CONTRACTING	802,139	144,508	61	0.179	0.184	0.177	0.184	0.176	0.008	4.545	0.184	0.184	0.184	0.100	37,349,506
OM0000002911	FINANCIAL CORPORATION	200	21	2	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.100	0.004	4.000	0.104	0.094	0.108	0.100	7,283,116
OM0000001020	OMAN CHROMITE	667	1,934	1	2.900	2.900	2.900	2.900	2.800	0.100	3.571	2.900	2.680	0.000	1.000	10,527,000
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	400	113	2	0.280	0.290	0.280	0.290	0.280	0.010	3.571	0.290	0.252	0.290	0.100	15,950,000
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	32,100	2,398	4	0.075	0.075	0.074	0.074	0.072	0.002	2.778	0.074	0.073	0.074	0.100	1,554,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	2,143,167	322,660	83	0.150	0.156	0.150	0.154	0.150	0.004	2.667	0.154	0.154	0.154	0.100	33,880,000
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	5,834	785	3	0.134	0.136	0.134	0.135	0.132	0.003	2.273	0.135	0.134	0.136	0.100	13,365,000
OM0000010823	OMAN GATEWAY FUND	100	103	1	1.030	1.030	1.030	1.030	1.012	0.018	1.779	1.030	1.029	1.111	0.000	28,165,606
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	27,881	4,990	7	0.177	0.180	0.175	0.180	0.178	0.002	1.124	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.100	106,458,638
OM0000009569	JABAL REIF	7,635	796	5	0.104	0.105	0.104	0.105	0.104	0.001	0.962	0.105	0.101	0.105	0.100	18,270,000
OM0000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	150	32	1	0.212	0.212	0.212	0.212	0.210	0.002	0.952	0.212	0.210	0.212	0.100	3,923,027
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	10,070	1,076	6	0.107	0.108	0.106	0.108	0.107	0.001	0.935	0.108	0.106	0.108	0.100	70,452,965
OM0000004669	SHARQIYAH DESALINATION	1,200	209	2	0.174	0.175	0.174	0.175	0.174	0.001	0.575	0.175	0.160	0.175	0.100	17,115,378
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	375	208	1	0.554	0.554	0.554	0.554	0.552	0.002	0.362	0.554	0.554	0.588	0.100	96,198,638
OM0000001251	DHOFAR BEVERAGES	87,436	15,896	5	0.178	0.182	0.178	0.182	0.182	0.000	0.000	0.182	0.000	0.182	0.100	3,640,000
OM0000001384	FINANCIAL SERVICES	2,342	562	1	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.000	0.000	0.240	0.240	0.000	0.100	4,800,000
OM0000001608	OMAN PACKAGING	460	90	1	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.000	0.000	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.100	6,324,993
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	258,323	60,445	191	0.234	0.234	0.233	0.234	0.234	0.000	0.000	0.234	0.233	0.234	0.100	468,641,940
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	27,474	2,253	6	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.000	0.000	0.082	0.081	0.082	0.100	18,223,680
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	8,000	544	1	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.000	0.000	0.068	0.068	0.000	0.100	13,600,000
OM0000001806	MUSCAT INSURANCE	9,500	5,512	2	0.582	0.582	0.580	0.580	0.582	-0.002	-0.344	0.580	0.550	0.580	1.000	6,394,527
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	37,835	4,230	14	0.114	0.114	0.110	0.111	0.112	-0.001	-0.893	0.111	0.111	0.113	0.100	9,435,000
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	44,052	4,089	6	0.093	0.093	0.092	0.092	0.093	-0.001	-1.075	0.092	0.092	0.102	0.100	14,310,637
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	2,529,450	166,945	5	0.067	0.067	0.066	0.066	0.067	-0.001	-1.493	0.066	0.066	0.073	0.100	20,271,657
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	6,200	911	5	0.147	0.148	0.145	0.145	0.148	-0.003	-2.027	0.145	0.134	0.147	0.100	4,350,000
Total	29	6,501,950	860,062	451												

OECD-FAO AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK

Global agricultural, fisheries production projected to expand by 13% over next 10 years

PARIS: Global average gross agricultural income per worker is projected to increase by 9% by 2035, driven by productivity gains and broadly stable agricultural prices, according to a new report released by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Remains vulnerable

However, this outlook remains vulnerable to market volatility caused by crises and conflicts. The report estimates that if the frequency of shocks observed in recent years continues, there is a 25% probability that agricultural incomes in 2035 will be lower than current levels. Short term risks are also significant, as recent energy price hikes and resulting reductions in fertiliser use are likely to affect agricultural production in 2027. While high-income countries can more easily absorb these shocks, low-income countries face deteriorating food security.

The OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2026-2035 provides a global baseline reference for medium-term prospects for agricultural and fisheries markets at national, regional and global levels. Under stable conditions, global agricultural and fisheries production is projected to expand by 13% over the next 10 years, driven mainly by productivity improvements and production intensification, with growth concentrated in Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America.

However, the Outlook also highlights the potential negative impacts of adverse shocks, even if they are temporary. If the 33% average surge in energy prices observed in the first half of 2026 were to continue in the second half of the year, global grain production would decline by 0.9 percent in 2027 and more sharply, by 1.7%, in low-income countries. Associated income losses and higher food prices would also force households in lower-income countries to reduce food consumption and shift towards cheaper food.

"Our agrifood systems are under pressure, and our farmers are on the front line of rising energy and fertiliser costs," OECD Secretary-General Mathias Cormann said. "Their resilience is our food security. Protecting it means better support to weather shocks, sustained investment in productivity, and open, well-functioning global markets."

"To sustain productivity growth in agrifood systems, we must strengthen their resilience. Resilience is not about surviving the last shock; it is about preparing for the next one," said FAO Director-General QU Dongyu. "By investing today in diversified trade corridors, regional reserves of critical agricultural inputs, resilient infrastructure, and a more diversified energy mix across agrifood systems that reduces dependence on oil, we can transform vulnerability into preparedness and ensure that temporary disruptions do not become food security crises."

Under stable conditions where productivity gains are expected to account for most production growth, some expansion in crop areas and livestock numbers will still be necessary. As a result, direct greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture are projected to increase by 6.5% over the next decade. Livestock are expected to account for around 77% of this increase, reflecting growing animal herds, while synthetic fertilisers are estimated to contribute a further 23% through higher nitrous oxide emissions by 2035.

Projected productivity improvements are expected to exert downward pressure on real agricultural commodity prices. -WAM

FOUR INITIAL WORKSTREAMS

China, EU officially launch trade and investment consultation mechanism

BEIJING: China and the European Union (EU) have confirmed the official establishment of China-EU trade and investment consultation mechanism as the two sides held the first meeting of the mechanism, according to a joint statement issued on Tuesday.

The two sides identified four initial workstreams under the mechanism, which include trade and investment balancing, export controls, intellectual property rights and WTO reform, the joint statement said.

China's Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao and European Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security and Interinstitutional Relations and Transparency Maros Šefčovič co-chaired the first meeting of the mechanism on Monday in Brussels.

The two sides conducted comprehensive, in-depth and constructive discussions on key economic and trade issues, according to the commerce ministry.

During the meeting, the two sides agreed to establish a joint monitoring mechanism to exchange relevant data, monitor trade flows and support technical work with a view to improving transparency, enhancing mutual trust and managing trade frictions.

Balancing

They agreed that increased market access measures and initiatives can contribute to the balancing of trade relationship. They also discussed possible tariff or non-tariff initiatives to this effect, exchanged lists of market access issues and agreed to continue consultations within the trade and investment balancing workstream with a view to making progress on specific concerns.

Both sides took note of the positive results of the China-EU export control dialogue regarding rare earth elements and other critical materials and minerals, and intended to strengthen dialogue in this field, according to the joint statement. The two sides recognised the need to strengthen the China-EU export control dialogue and agreed to take further facilitation measures to maintain the stability of global industrial and supply chains. -Xinhua

CONNECT
PRINT EDITION

WWW.TIMESOFOMAN.COM
WEDNESDAY, JULY 01, 2026

RENT

CARGO

VACANCY

JOB VACANCY

URGENTLY REQUIRED

An Excellent grade Construction Company in Muscat is Looking for Oman Experienced following Personnel:

1) **2 Nos of Project Manager** with minimum 10+ years of experience
2) **4 Nos of Project Engineer** with minimum 5 years of experience
3) **Quantity Surveyor** with minimum 5+ years of experience

All above should be a **B. E / B.Tech Civil graduate** and should have experience in Building Construction field.

Email your CV to: careersmct@hotmail.com

JOB WANTED

FINANCE

Senior finance professional CA(Inter) MBA expertise dynamic and results-driven finance professional with over 20 yrs of progressive experience in financial leadership roles across multinational corporations in Oman. Holds a strong track record in strategic financial planning,etc.

Contact/WA: +968-95877725

FINANCE

An Indian CA with over 25 years of experience in manufacturing, retail and construction industry in accounting, banking arrangements, Tax, VAT, budgeting and cash flow management seeks managerial position.

CONTACT : 75156709

FINANCE

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

Contact: 94274470
Email: azamca7@gmail.com

SUPPLY CHAIN

Indian, male, MBA with 17 yrs Oman experience in supply chain (procurement, warehousing & logistics) SAP knowledge, looking for suitable placement. Ready to join immediately.

Contact : 92813310

GENERAL MANAGER & SR MANAGEMENT

Dynamic professional with 17+yrs of progressive experience in financial strategy, business consulting/ management, operational excellence, and growth leadership across trading, construction, RMC production, and management opportunities.

Phone : 97403883
Email : shabeer_shaik2000@yahoo.com

ENGINEER

Diploma holder, experienced MEP engineer with 12yrs of expertise in electrical, mechanical and plumbing works, possesses a valid D/L. Looking for a suitable opportunity in Oman.

Contact, WA +968 79880602, +91 7200747471

CHANGE OF NAME

I Phool Mohammed Ranki (holder of Indian passport No. M8974021) son of Akbar Ali Ranki having permanent residence in Shastri Nagar Kajapada room no 44½ 2175, Kurla (W) Mumbai 72 (complete postal address in India) and presently residing in seeb Souq Muscat (Mbay Oman) (complete postal address in Oman) intend to change my name from **PHOOL MOHAMMED AKBAR ALI RANKI** (old name) to **PHOOL MOHAMMED AKBAR ALI SHAIKH** (new name) for all practical purpose. Any objection towards my name may please be communicated to Embassy Of India, Muscat, Diplomatic Quarters, Al Khuwair, P. Box. No.1727, Postal Code: 112, Ruwi, Sultanate Of Oman.

JOB VACANCY

ENGINEER

Looking for an experienced HSE professional. Nebosh certificate is mandatory. Send us your CV to cv.hrmgmt@gmail.com or via WhatsApp at 91729644.

SALES/MARKETING

A reputed company is looking for sales executives with minimum 2 years' experience in equipment's & machinery sales having Oman driving license. Cont/whatsapp - 99212416

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Indian Chartered accountant with 18 yrs of Oman experience is looking for a suitable opportunity - Contact : 95782629

Accountant with B.com & MBA Finance, 7 yrs of experience in Oman, UAE and India. Capable of handling all accounting and finance related works. Contact no: 95655830

47 yrs, male, Accounts manager, 22 yrs exp, B-com. Contact: 98184705

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Finance & commercial professional with over 20 yrs of experience in Oman (OACPA Certified) Seeking suitable placement. Contact : 96791053, Email: jibinpetern@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATION

Indian male graduate with 20 yrs experience seeks job for executive secretary, admin or any other suitable post. Presently available in Muscat. Contact: 91410074.

B.Tech grad (F), experienced in admin, business development, operations, contracts, logistics & budgeting. Seeking a suitable placement. Contact: 97732903

ARCHITECT

Indian male, B. Arch (5yrs) graduate 1 yr work exp. Skilled in Architectural planning, conceptual designing, interior design, exterior facade design, drafting, 3D visualization, software certification. Looking for suitable positions. Contact: +968 98503696, Email: ar.brianboby@gmail.com

ENGINEER

Civil Engineer with 10 yrs GCC experience having valid visa and D/L seeks placement. Contact : +968 79585378, Email ID: vineesh.v35@gmail.com

Sr. Project engineer MEP/ Mech 19 yrs experience in construction. Contact/WA: 97135658

ENGINEER

Sudanese Civil engineer with over 17 yrs of experience, including 1 year in Oman seeking a position in Project management or any administrative role. OSE membership and a valid Omani D/L. Contact: 92323037

MANAGER

Real estate Property admin manager in Oman, Contact: 77336141

Business development & operations manager, MBA, Indian male, 13+ yrs exp, working in Oman with Omani D/L seeking opportunity Contact : 77648022

MANAGER

Construction manager, Sr. mechanical engineer (MEP & HVAC), Indian male 20+yrs of experience seek placement. Contact: 97639094, Email: srinivasan 20031@gmail.com

PURCHASE/ PROCUREMENT

Indian male (35), MBA, 10+yrs exp in procurement & logistics, valid Oman D/L ready to join immediately. Contact: 92536194

SALES/MARKETING

Indian M(36) MBA with Oman 10 yrs exp in FMCG sales currently working in Oman. Contact : 79755795

PARAGUAY STUN GERMANY IN A PENALTY SHOOTOUT

Four-time winners were knocked out of the 2026 World Cup, losing 4-3 in a thrilling penalty shootout after the game ended in a 1-1 stalemate after extra time

FOXBOROUGH: Four-time winners Germany were knocked out of the 2026 World Cup, losing to Paraguay in a thrilling penalty shootout after it finished 1-1 after extra time on Monday.

Germany's Kai Havertz and Nick Woltemade had their spot-kicks saved by Paraguay goalkeeper Orlando Gill.

But Paraguay twice missed chances to go through as Antonio Sanabria shot wide and Fabian Balbuena's effort was stopped by 40-year-old Manuel Neuer.

However, in sudden death, Jonathan Tah blazed over for Germany before defender Jose Canale scored the decisive kick to send Paraguay through 4-3 on penalties.

Earlier, Julio Enciso, who previously played in the Premier League with Brighton and Ipswich, had headed Paraguay into a shock lead in the 42nd minute.

But Germany produced a much improved performance in the second half and equalised when a glancing header from Havertz connected with a cross from Liverpool midfielder Florian Wirtz.

Paraguay defended superbly to take the tie to extra time, although Germany thought they had won it when Tah headed into the net, only for it to be ruled out by VAR as Waldemar Anton was adjudged to have fouled Gill.

Germany went first in the shootout, but were never ahead as Havertz missed his country's first penalty, before Woltemade was also denied. Paraguay missed two chances to seal it, but took their third opportunity with the impressive Canale staying calm to score and spark incredible scenes of celebration.

Paraguay will play either two-time champions France or 1958 runners-up Sweden in the last 16 in Philadelphia on Saturday.

Germany lose World Cup shootout for first time

Germany won the World Cup in 1954, 1974, 1990 and 2014, but have failed in three successive tournaments since their most recent success.

In 2018, they lost to Mexico and South Korea as they finished bottom of their group, before failing to make it out of the group again in 2022, coming third after losing to Japan.

This year's exit was another World Cup humiliation against a Paraguay side that were 41st in the FIFA world rankings at the start of the tournament, 31 places below Germany. Paraguay had lost 4-1 to the United States in their first match, but since then head coach Gustavo Alfaro has made them hard to break down and hard to score against as they finished third in Group D.

With the central defensive partnership of Canale and Gustavo Gomez performing superbly, Germany were repeatedly frustrated by a side that defended narrowly, deep and at times with everyone behind the ball.

But, although not a great game to watch, it proved effective as the game went to penalties, with 6ft 6ins goalkeeper Gill becoming Paraguay's hero. For Germany, this was the first time they had ever lost a World Cup penalty shootout in five attempts.

Their only previous unsuccessful shootout at a major tournament came at the hands of Czechoslovakia in the 1976 European Championship final, when Antonin Panenka famously won it with a chipped penalty down the middle in the style which now bears his name.

It was a major triumph for the landlocked South American country of 7 million people that's surrounded by football giants like Argentina and Brazil.

"I think we deserved one more game and to be honest, considering everything that was said, everything we went through," Canale said. "What I want to highlight from our team is how united we are. ... Today was a game we really needed to show our true colors."

Paraguayans celebrated in the streets of the capital, Asunción, screaming, jumping and hugging when the match ended. Some cried and dropped to their knees in disbelief, with the familiar beat of the team's song "Soy Albirrojo" reverberating through the crowd.

"We had to analyze every player, every detail. Thanks to that I was able to only miss two penalties," Gill said. "This is for all the people of Paraguay."

"It's not enough for German football," coach Julian Nagelsmann said.

"We had very big plans for this World Cup. It's very difficult to disappoint again," Havertz said. "It was difficult to create chances and keep the pace."

Nagelsmann added: "There's a real sense of dejection in the dressing room. Unfortunately, that's how football works sometimes, some teams can win with simple means. And you have to defend against those means consistently. We took too long to make our opponent chase the game. We could have put the ball into the box far more often. We have to settle the game before it gets to [penalties]. Our build-up play was too slow."

'Terrible decision': Germany's goal disallowed by VAR

FOXBOROUGH: Germany thought their blushes had been spared when defender Jonathan Tah rose highest to head his side into a 2-1 lead in the 12th minute of extra time of their World Cup tie with Paraguay, only for the video assistant referee (VAR) to intervene.

The unmarked Tah rose at the back post and powered a header across Paraguay goalkeeper Orlando Gill, but the effort was chalked off after what former England captain Alan Shearer called a "pathetic" incident seconds before. As the corner was swung in, Germany's Waldemar Anton was judged to have impeded Gill, as the goalkeeper fell to the turf before getting up and attempting to make the save from Tah's header.

But after referee Jalal Jayed made his way over to the pitchside monitor at the recommendation of the VAR and ruled the goal out, Shearer said on BBC One the Paraguayan had "conned the referee".

Shearer insisted: "I don't agree with that decision at all. The keeper falls to the ground on a slight touch and it's very soft. I thought it was a terrible decision. "You have to understand it is a contact sport, the goalkeeper has conned the referee and the VAR. The way he went down was pathetic."

Germany head coach Julian Nagelsmann was left fuming at the disallowed goal.

He said: "In my opinion, this foul was not a real foul; it was actually a joke that his goal was disallowed."

Nagelsmann was shown a yellow card for his protests as the effort was ruled out, while his future remains unclear.

Former Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp, working for German television during the World Cup, likened Tah's disallowed goal to many which Premier League champions Arsenal had scored throughout the season. Klopp told MagentaTV: "If the goal is illegal, then Arsenal won't be English champions. They've scored 60% of their goals that way.

"We [Germany] win the game when the ball goes in. So, of course, this is brutal."

As the game restarted, former Premier League assistant referee Darren Cann shared his views on the decision.

"This is soft, in my opinion," Cann said on BBC One.

"But judging by what we've seen in the tournament so far, it wouldn't surprise me if they do rule it out.

"We've seen two or three goals ruled out for very small offences. This is hardly anything.

"It's a small block on the goalkeeper, but for me, it's not enough. I suspect they will be ruling this out. We feel this should not be disallowed."

Ex-Scotland winger Pat Nevin, in Boston for BBC Radio 5 Live, also believed the apparent foul was not clear enough to rule the goal out. He said: "It is mayhem around there. There is a block - has it affected the goalkeeper? It looks like it.

"It is a subjective call. That is not clear." - Agencies

EARLIEST EXIT FOR DUTCH

Morocco hit spot to knock out Netherlands in last 32

GUADALUPE: Ismael Saibari scored the decisive goal in a penalty shootout, and Morocco sent the Netherlands to their earliest World Cup exit, eliminating the Dutch 3-2 after a 1-1 draw on Monday night. With the shootout tied at 2-all after four rounds, Morocco goalkeeper Yassine Bounou made a strong save of Crysencio Summerville's attempt, batting it away with his left hand.

Saibari then sent the winner into the low left corner as goalkeeper Bart Verbruggen went the other direction. The midfielder tore off his shirt and screamed with joy as he was mobbed by team-mates.

Earlier in the shootout with Morocco trailing 1-0, Verbruggen appeared to have stopped an attempt by Soufiane Rahimi, but the goalkeeper couldn't secure the ball and deflected it over the line with the back of his leg. "We know when we do everything on the pitch, it's God that gives something back to us as well," Morocco head coach Mohamed Ouahbi said.

"We give all the energy that we have on the field. Rahimi's goal could have not been a goal, but it went in thankfully."

The Netherlands had reached at least the Round of 16 in 11 previous World Cups, including a quarter-final appearance four years ago in Qatar, when Morocco made a breakthrough run to become the first team from Africa to reach the semi-finals. In this year's expanded tournament, 32 teams reached the knockout stage for the first time.

Morocco move on to face co-host Canada in the Round of 16 on Saturday in Houston. The Atlas Lions previously beat Canada 2-1 in the group stage of the 2022 World Cup. Morocco were on the front-foot for major stretches of the game on Monday. The Netherlands instead focused on counterattacking.

"I think Morocco have gained everybody's respect now," said Ouahbi, who took over as head coach in March. "I saw (the Netherlands' style of play) as a form of respect."

Cody Gakpo scored in the 72nd minute for Netherlands. After the goal, which was assisted by Summerville, the Dutch bench ran onto the field to embrace the 27-year-old Gakpo, who broke down in tears. Gakpo and his partner, Noa van der Bij, recently announced that they lost their unborn child.

Morocco's Issa Diop tied it in the 91st. Chemsdine Talbi sent a looping cross into the box from about 28 yards out on the left side and connected with Diop for a clean header that Verbruggen had no chance to stop.

Neither team had a strong scoring opportunity in 30 minutes of extra time at Estadio BBVA.

In the second half of extra time, Netherlands head coach Ronald Koeman used one of his substitutions to bring on Justin Kluivert. Kluivert was one of three Dutch players to miss his penalty.

"The last substitution I made was to bring in Justin (Kluivert) because he's one of the best at penalty shootouts," Koeman said. "But he missed his penalty and that's even more bitter for him and for us." It was the third consecutive time the Netherlands has been eliminated from the World Cup in a penalty shootout.

It was the second game of this tournament to conclude with a shootout. Paraguay beat Germany on penalties earlier Monday.

The teams entered with the highest combined ranking of any Round of 32 match. Morocco were sixth in the world and the Netherlands were seventh.

"We need to be telling ourselves that no one can stop us," Ouahbi said. "Nobody is unbeatable. If we get things wrong, we'll go home."

Morocco defender Noussair Mazraoui said, "A really tough game against a really tough opponent. One of the best opponents you can face in the world. It's a top 10 of the world, I think a contender to win eventually the World Cup. The way that we managed to win today is a huge acknowledgment for us as a national team, of course." - Agencies

ADVANCE TO ROUND OF 16

Last-gasp Martinelli strike edges Brazil past Japan

HOUSTON: With Brazil trailing for much of the game and with extra time looming, Gabriel Martinelli came through in a big, big way at the World Cup.

Martinelli entered the game as a second-half substitute and put an end to Japan's near-upset on Monday, scoring the winning goal late in injury time to give five-time champion Brazil a 2-1 victory and a spot in the round of 16.

The result was a showcase of Brazil's Italian connections. Martinelli holds dual citizenship in Italy and Brazil, and the man who made the decision to change the team's makeup was Carlo Ancelotti, an Italian who is the first European to coach the South American country's national team.

"Above all else we wanted to freshen up the field because Martinelli has a lot of intensity as a player," Ancelotti said through a translator.

"When he goes in the match he's always on his top game."

Brazil will next face either the Ivory Coast or Norway on Sunday in East Rutherford, New Jersey, in the round of 16.

"We can never be content with what we're doing," Ancelotti said. "We're doing a good job. We are performing. But you can never be content because we want to play better. We want to play at the highest level."

Casemiro had earlier equalised for Brazil on a header in the 56th minute off an assist from Gabriel Magalhães after just missing another chance two minutes earlier. The shot sailed just out of the reach of the outstretched hand of Japan goalkeeper Zion Suzuki and into the net.

Kaishu Sano stole a misplaced pass at midfield and took it down the field before a right-footed shot from above the half circle put Japan ahead in the 29th minute.

"There is no one not making mistakes because nobody is perfect," Ancelotti said. "But you have to overcome it and you have to push it forward. The team did a good job of that in the second half."

Vinícius Júnior, who has scored four goals so far in this year's tournament, had a chance to put Brazil on top in the 58th minute but his shot from the left box was deflected by Suzuki and went off the far post.

Casemiro left in the first minute of second-half stoppage time with what appeared to be a leg injury.

Brazil had two chances to even the score early in the second half before breaking through. On the first one, Suzuki blocked a header from Bruno Guimarães in the 52nd minute. Soon after, Casemiro's header bounced off a defender's head and Suzuki's face. Suzuki finished with four saves.

Brazil great Neymar didn't play Monday after making his first appearance for the team since 2023 in the last game against Scotland. He played only 14 minutes in that 3-0 win after missing the first two group matches at the World Cup with a right calf injury.

"I was seriously considering putting him on the pitch," Ancelotti said. "In the end, we did not need him."

Japan have never won a knockout match at the World Cup, going 0-4 in the round of 16 — including also taking the lead the last two times in 2018 and 2022 before losing.

The win was Brazil's 12th in 15 games against Japan. The teams have also played to two draws while Japan got their first win in the series in a friendly in Tokyo in October.

"The gap between us is closing now," Japan coach Hajime Moriyasu said through a translator. "Brazil are a top-tier team and we're definitely approaching that level."

Then he mentioned the loss in Qatar four years ago before adding: "We have to up our game."

Monday's victory came on the anniversary of their first World Cup championship in Sweden in 1958, when a 17-year-old Pele scored two goals in the final against the host country. - Agencies

GROUP STAGE EXIT

Koubek resigns as coach of Czech Republic

MEXICO CITY: Czech Republic head coach Miroslav Koubek has resigned following the nation's group stage exit at the FIFA World Cup 2026. The Czechs finished bottom of Group A, having taken just one point from their matches against South Korea, South Africa and Mexico.

The 74-year-old boss only took on the role ahead of Czech's World Cup play-off matches. He guided them to successive penalty-shootout victories over the Republic of Ireland and Denmark, which secured the country's return to the global finals after a 20-year absence.

David Trunda, President of the Football Association of the Czech Republic, said: "The coach offered me his position at a personal meeting today and I decided to accept his offer after an open and fair debate." - Agencies

WORLD

US Supreme Court vastly expands Donald Trump's presidential power

Among a series of rulings, the court voted 5-4 to reject Trump's 2025 firing of Fed Governor Lisa Cook. But it held that presidents have free rein to fire agency heads at will, overruling a landmark decision that dates back to almost a century

WASHINGTON DC: The US Supreme Court on Monday dramatically expanded presidential power when it ruled to uphold President Donald Trump's firings of the heads of independent federal agencies.

The top court, however, stood firm against his decision to fire the governor of the Federal Reserve, the US central bank.

Among a series of rulings, the court voted 5-4 to reject Trump's 2025 firing of Fed Governor Lisa Cook.

But it held that presidents have free rein to fire agency heads at will, overruling a landmark decision that dates back to almost a century. The court upheld Trump's dismissal of Federal Trade Commission member Rebecca Slaughter over policy differences.

Trump last August tried to oust Cook, the first Black woman to serve as a Fed governor, citing unproven mortgage fraud allegations which she denied. Cook argued the allegations were a pretext to remove her for monetary policy differences.

Trump has openly attacked the Federal Reserve as he exercised pressure on the world's biggest central bank to cut interest rates more rapidly and deeply.

On Monday, the court's Chief Justice John Roberts and fellow conservative Justice Brett Kavanaugh were among those who ruled against Trump's decision.

Roberts said the Federal Reserve's governors "do not serve at the president's pleasure — they instead serve staggered 14 year terms, and may be removed only 'for cause.'"

The court argued that the president cannot remove officials at the independent Fed "for any reason or no reason."

What did the Supreme Court say about Trump's firing powers?

However, the court in a separate 6-3 ruling backed Trump's firing of Democratic Federal Trade Commission member Slaughter, expanding his presidential powers over the executive branch of government.

The ruling overturned the Supreme Court's 1935 precedent that had recognized the authority of Congress to protect leaders of certain regulatory agencies from presidential removal at will.

Trump had dismissed Slaughter over policy differences, but a lower court ruling blocked the dismissal, citing the 1935 ruling, known as Humphrey's Executor ruling.

Slaughter was appointed to the post by former President and fellow Democrat Joe Biden. She was one of two Democratic FTC commissioners fired by Trump shortly after his return to the White House last year. Her term was due to run until 2029.

Major blow to Trump as US Supreme Court keeps birthright citizenship intact

The US Supreme Court on Tuesday struck down President Donald Trump's executive order and upheld birth right citizenship for all children born in the United States.

American broadcaster CNN shared the court document, which mentioned that children born in the United States to parents who are unlawfully or temporarily present in the country are entitled to automatic US citizenship under the Citizenship Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

The Court also relied on its earlier ruling in United States v. Wong Kim Ark, which established that children born in the US to foreign parents are entitled to birthright citizenship.

This comes as earlier in May, Trump wrote that a "negative ruling on Birthright Citizenship, on top of the recent Supreme Court Tariff catastrophe, is not Economically sustainable for the United States of America!", the New York Times reported. It further reported that three of the court's conservatives -- Justices Clarence Thomas, Neil M. Gorsuch and Samuel A. Alito Jr. -- dissented. Justice Brett M. Kavanaugh joined the court's majority to strike down the executive order, but he said he based his decision on a federal law, not on the Constitution.

The New York Times further underlined that civil rights groups on Tuesday rejoiced as the Supreme Court struck down the Trump administration's executive order.

Deborah Fleischaker, a former Homeland Security official now with the Latino group UnidosUS, called it "a huge relief."

CNN reported that one of the main arguments that President Donald Trump's attorneys had raised was that the 14th Amendment required people to be domiciled -- or with the intention of remaining -- in the United States before being entitled to birthright citizenship. — Agencies

BILATERAL MEETING

German FM and US State Secy discuss Iran MoU

WASHINGTON, DC: German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul on Tuesday discussed the MoU between Iran and the US with Secretary of State Marco Rubio in Washington, emphasising the need to secure safe and free passage through the Strait of Hormuz.

In a post on X, the German Foriegn Office formally welcomed the recent agreement between the United States and Iran to halt mutual attacks and resume negotiations, describing it as an "important step" that provides a vital window for diplomacy.

"The agreement between the United States and Iran to halt mutual attacks and continue negotiations is an important step. It creates an opportunity for diplomacy in what remains a highly fragile situation," the post read.

Among various subjects of discussion, the duo underscored the need for maritime security, highlighting that any final framework must also conclusively address Iran's nuclear program so that it "must never again pose a threat."

"The priority now is to reach a sustainable solution that ensures safe and free passage through the #StraitOfHormuz and, in particular, addresses Iran's nuclear programme, which must never again pose a threat," it stated.

Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio reflected on the talks and affirmed that the two leaders expressed shared resolve to ensure that Iran can never "obtain or develop" a nuclear weapon.

He stated that the duo also discussed the need for NATO burden-shifting and the conflict resolution between Russia and Ukraine.

"Met with German Foreign Minister @AussenMinDE today to discuss the situation in the Middle East and reiterated our shared commitment to ensuring Iran never obtains or develops a nuclear weapon. We also reaffirmed the need for NATO burden shifting and a durable peace between Russia and Ukraine," he wrote. — ANI

SERGIO GOR

Trump calls Indian PM 'friend', remains deeply committed to India ties: US Envoy

WASHINGTON, DC: US President Donald Trump views Prime Minister Narendra Modi as "a friend" and stays profoundly dedicated to enhancing cooperation with New Delhi, US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor has stated, detailing the personal equation between the two leaders as a vital driver in progressing bilateral ties.

Delivering an address at the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) Leadership Summit, Gor remarked that President Trump continues to hold India in high esteem and regularly mentions his experiences in the country.

"The United States wants to work hand in hand with India. We care about this relationship. We have a president who deeply cares about this relationship," Gor observed.

"I was just with him before the weekend started here in DC and I could spend about two hours with the president, and he was captivated by what I have seen in India. He has very fond memories of India. His visit last time, it was one of his most remarkable visits that he continues to talk about. He holds India in a very fond place."

The American diplomat expressed optimism that President Trump would travel back to India during his second term.

"I look forward to, at some point... having the president visit us back in India," he noted.

Underscoring the strong mutual chemistry shared by the two leaders, Gor recollected an interaction from a recent Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) event held in Miami.

"I was a couple months ago... with the president at UFC in Miami and we're sitting backstage and he said to me, 'Let's call the Prime Minister.'"

"I said, 'Sir, it's 6:00 AM in the morning there.'"

"He said, 'He'll be up. He's like me.'"

Though the phone conversation was subsequently moved to the next day, Gor stated that the occurrence demonstrated the true dynamic of the relationship between Trump and PM Modi.

"The message there, the louder message of that story is when you're friends with somebody, not everything has to be scheduled."

"And the president truly considers the Prime Minister a friend."

Gor mentioned that the connection between the two leaders extends back to Trump's first term in office and continues to yield advantages for the wider strategic partnership.

"His years with the Prime Minister go back to his first term. There's warm memories of India. And so that's an incredible benefit," the US Ambassador shared.

The envoy highlighted that both administrations remain concentrated on delivering practical developments across trade, investment, defence and technology.

"We are results driven," he pointed out, adding, "The United States wants to work hand in hand with India."

He further underscored that the next two years would be pivotal in anchoring the bilateral relationship for the next several decades.

"These next two years will set the relationship on a path for several decades ahead. So for everyone here who participates in this, think of this as a long-term project. This is not a one-year or two-year project, but what we sow now will continue to sustain us decades ahead," Gor explained.

Trump and PM Modi have built a deep functional dynamic since Trump's first presidency, highlighted by major public rallies including "Howdy Modi" in Houston in 2019 and "Namaste Trump" in Ahmedabad in 2020. This exceptional personal rapport has been frequently highlighted by representatives from both democracies as a catalyst pushing shared goals in defence, trade, technology and overall security architecture across the Indo-Pacific.

— ANI

A VERY TRAGIC CONFLICT

Austrian envoy says Ukraine conflict goes beyond Kyiv

NEW DELHI: Calling Russia's invasion of Ukraine a defining challenge for Europe's future, Austrian Ambassador to India Robert Zischg on Tuesday said that the conflict is not only about Ukraine's sovereignty but also about the continent's long-term security architecture, warning that any settlement must address broader concerns over regional stability.

In an interview with ANI, Zischg said that the conflict, which recently completed four years in February, is of "fundamental interest" to Austria and the European Union as it is unfolding at Europe's doorstep.

"It's about the future security architecture of Europe," the Ambassador said, adding that the conflict has implications that extend well beyond Ukraine.

"We've already seen there were drone attacks also in Romania and other Baltic countries. So even if we reached, say, a settlement with Ukraine, who would guarantee us that President Putin would not continue? The unthinkable nowadays has become thinkable," he added.

Describing the conflict as "very tragic", Zischg said Austria's historical experience makes the war particularly significant for the country.

"This is a very tragic conflict. As you've alluded to, it's very close to Austria. It's not a conflict which is very far away," he said.

Recalling Austria's post-Second World War history, he noted that the country was occupied by the Allied powers between 1945 and 1955, with eastern Austria, including Vienna, under Soviet occupation.

He also referred to the decades when Austria lay on the edge of the Iron Curtain, saying neighbouring countries under communist rule endured authoritarian regimes and difficult conditions.

"This is why the Russian aggression against Ukraine is of such a fundamental interest, not only to Austria but also to the European Union. It's at our doorstep," he said.

The Ambassador also underscored the importance of international law and the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter, arguing that they safeguard the sovereignty and independence of all nations, particularly small and medium-sized states.

"International law guarantees the independence and sovereignty of all countries," he said.

Calling himself "an international law expert", Zischg said the UN Charter fundamentally changed international relations after 1945 by placing restrictions on the use of force.

"If you do away with that regulation, then we're at the mercy of the big powers, as it has been until 1945," he said.

Describing the Ukraine conflict as distinct from other ongoing crises around the world, Zischg said Russia's invasion stands out because it involved one sovereign country invading another with the objective of taking over its territory.

"In Ukraine, it's actually very simple. One country, the Russian Federation, invaded another country, Ukraine, with the aim of taking over that country. And now, as they did not conquer the whole of the country, they want to take at least a large chunk of that country," he said.

"This is a situation which you cannot compare to many other conflicts which are now raging in the world, which are equally depressing and need urgent resolution. But it stands out because I don't know of any other example where one country invaded another country to take over this country," he added.

Zischg said the outcome of the conflict would have lasting consequences not only for Ukraine but also for Europe's security order in the years ahead. — ANI

LIFESTYLE

NEW COMPOUNDS SHOW PROMISE AGAINST CANCER, DIABETES, HYPERTENSION

The technique allows precise control over molecular structure by modifying reaction conditions, opening new avenues for designing molecules with tailored properties

A research team from Omsk University and the Institute of Theoretical and Experimental Biophysics of the Russian Academy of Sciences has developed a new method that could aid the development of drugs for cancer, diabetes and high blood pressure.

The researchers successfully created a mechanism for synthesising biologically active pyridin-2-one derivatives — compounds widely used as the foundation for many medications targeting diabetes, hypertension and cancer, a university source told Russia Today.

The technique allows precise control over molecular structure by modifying reaction conditions, opening new avenues for designing molecules with tailored properties.

Cytotoxicity tests on the BT474 human breast cancer cell line showed that several of the synthesised compounds significantly reduced cancer cell activity. The results also indicated that toxicity levels were linked to the nature of molecular substituents, while morphological studies confirmed cancer cell death under the influence of the developed compounds — control samples remained viable. - ONA

BankDhofar provides customers with safe and reassuring travel experience during holiday season

The bank's travel insurance offering typically includes core protections such as emergency medical coverage while travelling abroad, compensation for trip cancellations or interruptions, protection against lost or delayed baggage, and cover for flight delays or missed connections. In addition, customers benefit from personal accident protection and round-the-clock emergency assistance

MUSCAT: BankDhofar is reinforcing its position in Oman's banking and protection services landscape with a travel insurance proposition designed to deliver convenience, flexibility and comprehensive coverage for customers during the busy holiday travel season.

Rather than offering travel insurance as a standalone product, BankDhofar integrates it within a broader bancassurance ecosystem is underwritten by Dhofar Insurance. This approach enables customers to access protection solutions directly through the bank's digital platforms and branch network, ensuring a streamlined experience that aligns with modern, on-the-go lifestyles.

The bank's travel insurance offering typically includes core protections such as emergency medical coverage while travelling abroad, compensation for trip cancellations or interruptions, protection against lost or delayed baggage, and cover for flight delays or missed connections. In addition, customers benefit from personal accident protection and round-the-clock emergency assistance services, providing reassurance across both leisure and business travel segments.

Digital enablement

The bank has also prioritised digital enablement, allowing customers to access and activate insurance solutions through mobile banking channels and partner digital platforms. This reflects a broader shift in customer expectations, where simplicity, speed and mobile-first access are central to financial decision-making, particularly during peak holiday periods.

BankDhofar's travel insurance framework is designed to serve a diverse customer base. Budget-conscious travellers can opt for essential coverage focused on medical emergencies and core travel risks, while families benefit from broader protection that can extend to dependents and baggage-related incidents. Frequent travellers and business customers can access more comprehensive multi-trip solutions through bancassurance partnerships, while premium clients benefit from enhanced lifestyle-linked protection bundled with exclusive banking services.

This segmented approach reflects BankDhofar's strategy of tailoring financial protection to different travel behaviours and income groups, ensuring relevance across Oman's increasingly mobile population.

With its integrated and digitally accessible travel insurance offering, BankDhofar continues to differentiate itself as a provider of practical, lifestyle-oriented financial solutions in the Sultanate's evolving banking landscape.

LIMITED-TIME

FUSO Oman Launches Summer Service Campaign

MUSCAT: General Automotive Company (GAC), a part of The Zubair Corporation and the authorised distributor of Mitsubishi FUSO trucks and buses in Oman, has announced the launch of its Summer Service Campaign, designed to help fleet operators and commercial vehicle owners maintain peak performance and reliability during Oman's demanding summer months.

As part of this limited-time campaign, FUSO customers can benefit from a free checkup covering critical vehicle systems, including air conditioning, cooling system, tyres, and belts. The campaign aims to ensure vehicles remain road-ready, efficient, and protected against the challenges of extreme temperatures. In addition to the complimentary inspection, customers will receive a 20% discount on labour and a 50% discount on parts for repairs identified during the free checkup, providing significant savings while maintaining vehicle safety and operational efficiency.

Supporting businesses

This campaign reinforces Mitsubishi FUSO Oman's commitment to supporting businesses, fleet operators, and commercial transport owners by minimizing downtime and maximizing vehicle uptime during the busiest and hottest period of the year. Speaking on the campaign, Manoj Ranade, General Manager of General Automotive Company, said: "At Mitsubishi FUSO Oman, we understand the importance of keeping fleets moving, especially during Oman's challenging summer season. This campaign reflects our commitment to helping our customers maintain vehicle performance, reduce downtime, and operate with confidence through our expert service and genuine parts support."

The FUSO Summer Service Campaign benefits can be availed in authorized FUSO service centres present in 14 locations across Oman. Customers are encouraged to book their appointments early and take advantage of the seasonal offers.


10:38
Times OF OMAN
GOLDEN JUBILEE
51
Made in Oman, for Oman.
Maal
The National Payment Card
'SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS NOW NEEDED FOR A LASTING PEACE'
The 'Workable' Peace – Diplomacy or a Tactical Trap?
OMR3.3bn investments in logistics
A5
TO CONTINUE READING THE FULL EDITION, PLEASE
FOLLOW
OUR OFFICIAL
WHATSAPP
CHANNEL
إشهار
التوزيع الرقمي
Eshhar
Your Digital Distributor