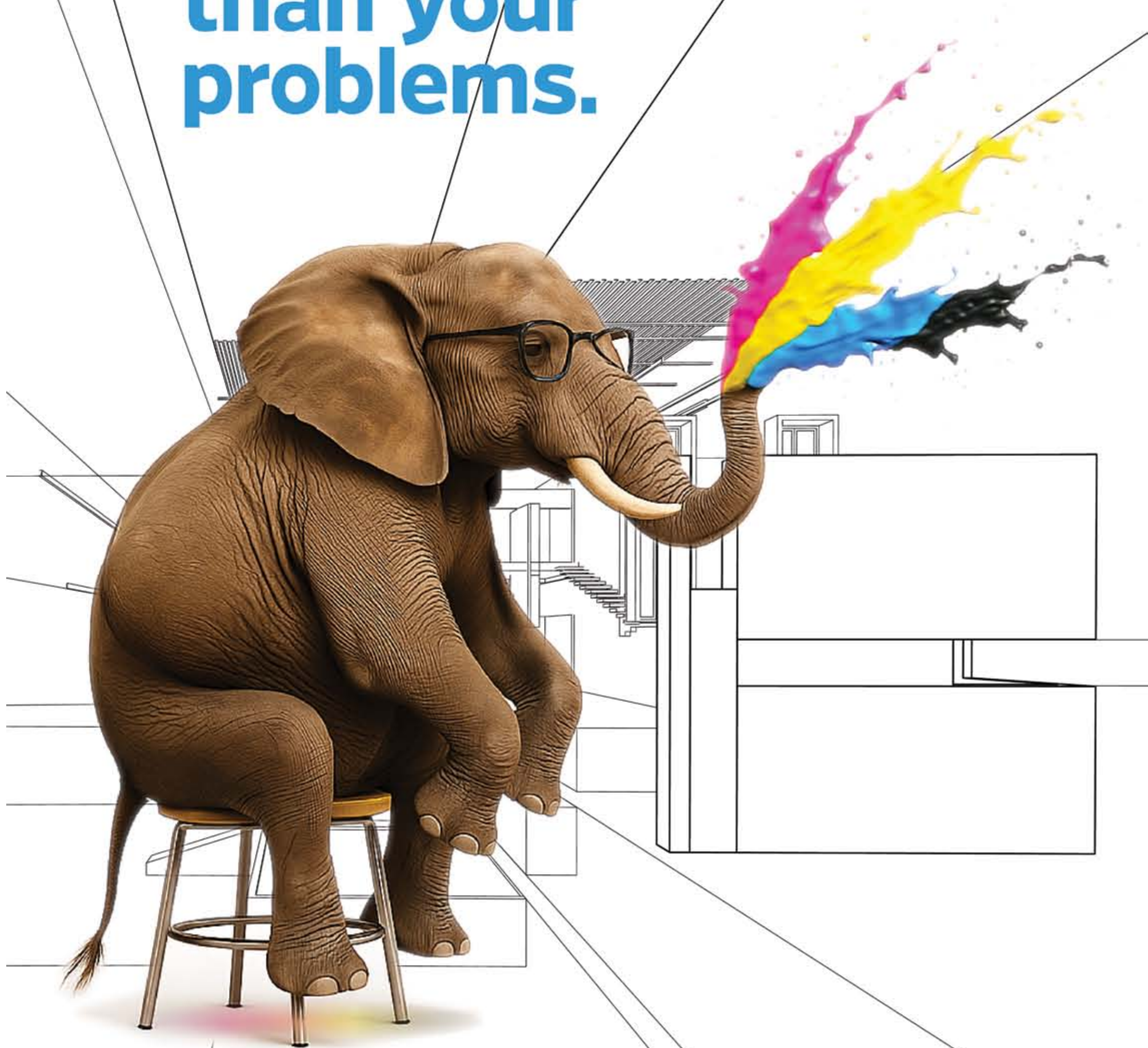


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51

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WORLD CUP 2026

UPCOMING MATCHES

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ARGENTINA



For Hyundai Enquiries
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PROFOUND LOSS

SAYYID SHIHAB CONVEYS HM'S CONDOLENCES TO QATAR ON PASSING OF SHEIKH HAMAD BIN KHALIFA





DOHA: On behalf of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, accompanied by HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, offered condolences and sympathies to Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, on the demise of Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani.

HH Sayyid Shihab conveyed the condolences and sympathies of His Majesty the Sultan to Sheikh Tamim, Al Thani family and the brotherly Qatari people on this profound loss, praying to the Almighty Allah to grant the late Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa mercy and forgiveness, and to rest his soul in peace in paradise.

Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani expressed his deep gratitude and appreciation to His Majesty the Sultan for his sincere condolences and sympathies, praying to Allah the Almighty to protect His Majesty, grant him a long life, and bestow upon him good health and well-being. HH Sayyid Shihab was accompanied by an official delegation comprising HH Sayyid Dr. Kamil bin Fahd Al Said, Secretary-General at the Secretariat General of the Council of Ministers; HH Sayyid Lo'ay bin Ghaleb Al Said, Secretary-General of the Diwan of Royal Court; Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister; Dr. Abdullah bin Nasser Al Harrasi, Minister of Information; Sayyid Ibrahim bin Said Al Busaidi, Minister of Heritage and Tourism; and Sayyid Ammar bin Abdullah Al Busaidi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the State of Qatar.

Upon arrival at the Amiri Hall at Hamad International Airport, HH Sayyid Shihab and the accompanying delegation were received by Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs, along with a number of senior Qatari officials. -ONA **See also >A4**

WORLD CUP QUALIFIER

India-Pakistan blockbuster to headline FIH Youth Hockey5s Asia Cup in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A new chapter in Asian hockey is set to unfold in Oman as Muscat prepares to host the inaugural FIH Under-18 Youth Hockey5s Asia Cup from July 20 to 25, bringing together the continent's brightest young stars in a tournament that promises top-class action, fierce rivalries and a direct route to history.

At the heart of the six-day championship is the blockbuster India-Pakistan clash on July 24 - a match expected to transform the Hockey Arena in Al Amerat into a cauldron of colour, passion and noise.

Few rivalries in world sport carry the emotion, prestige and legacy of India versus Pakistan in hockey. From Olympic finals to Asian classics, the two nations have shared some of the game's greatest moments over the past century. Now, that legendary contest arrives in the exhilarating Hockey5s format, where blistering pace, relentless attacks and spectacular goals promise an electrifying spectacle.

With regional supremacy, World Cup qualification and immense pride at stake, organisers are anticipating the tournament's biggest crowd when the subcontinental giants face off in Muscat.

The Road to Egypt

The championship is far more than a continental title race.

The Youth Hockey5s Asia Cup serves as the official Asian qualifier for the inaugural FIH U18 Youth Hockey5s World Cup, which will be staged in Cairo, Egypt from December 6 to 13,



2026 - the first event of its kind in international hockey.

Every match in Muscat carries enormous significance, with three boys' teams and two girls' teams earning coveted qualification berths for the historic World Cup. The tournament will feature Asia's emerging talent across two competitions. Seven teams in the boys' and girls' sections will compete. They are Oman, India, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh in the boys' section, while India, Pakistan, Oman, China, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Iran are in the girls' section.

For many of these young players, Muscat represents the first step towards future international stardom.

'Oman is setting the standard': FIH President

Speaking exclusively to the Times of Oman on Monday, FIH President Tayyab Ikram paid glowing tribute to the Sultanate's emergence as one of the world's most trusted destinations for international hockey.

"Oman has repeatedly shown that it is a wonderful host for international hockey," Ikram said. **>A2**

OIL SURGES, GOLD TUMBLES AS HOSTILITIES ESCALATE IN REGION

The aggravation has cast fresh doubts over the future of the interim US-Iran pact signed last month

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oil prices jumped as Iran escalated its attacks on Gulf states in retaliation for US strikes, threatening energy shipments through the Strait of Hormuz.

The official price of Oman crude oil for delivery in September 2026 settled at USD 72.11 per barrel on Monday.

Today's price recorded a rise of USD 2.82 from the price of last Friday which stood at USD 69.29.

It is noteworthy that the monthly average price of Oman crude oil for delivery in the current month of July stood at USD 102 per barrel, marking a decrease of USD



2.73 compared to the delivery price for last June.

Brent crude futures rose \$2.34, or 3.08 percent, to \$78.35 a barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate crude gained \$2.21, or 3.09 percent, to \$73.62 a barrel.

The escalation cast fresh doubt over the future of the interim US-Iran agreement signed last month, which aimed to reopen the strait and end the war after 60 more days of negotiations.

Gold falls

Meanwhile gold prices fell more

than one percent at the start of Asian trading on Monday, as concerns over a potential closure of the Strait of Hormuz triggered a sharp spike in oil prices, reviving expectations of interest rate hikes to counter inflationary pressures.

Spot gold declined 1.2 percent to \$4,072.78 per ounce, while US gold futures for August delivery dropped 0.8 percent to \$4,081.70 per ounce.

Oil prices jumped nearly four percent, the dollar strengthened, and Asian equities retreated as fighting intensified in the Gulf region.

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BILATERAL RELATIONS

HM the Sultan sends message to Kazakhstan

ASTANA: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a written message to President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev of the Republic of Kazakhstan, dealing with the bilateral relations between the two countries.

Kazakh Ministry

The message was handed over by Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Bahrani, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Republic of Kazakhstan, when he was received by Alibek Kuantyrov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, at the headquarters of the Kazakh Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Astana. -**ONA**



COMMENTARY

The First Sentence Is a Promise

There is a question every writer should ask before putting the first word on paper: Would I continue reading this if someone else had written it?

Imagine walking into a bookshop. Thousands of books surround you. You pick one up, read the first paragraph, and quietly place it back on the shelf. Then another. And another. Suddenly, you open a novel by Haruki Murakami. Before you realise it, you have read ten pages without noticing the time. A few shelves away lies Paulo Coelho's *The Alchemist*. You tell yourself, "Just one page," but one page becomes a chapter.

The same magic can be found in the writings of Rabindranath Tagore, whose gentle prose carries the wisdom of a philosopher, or in the stories of R. K. Narayan, who transformed ordinary Indian streets into unforgettable worlds. Even Gabriel García Márquez could make readers believe that the impossible was simply another form of reality.

What separates these writers from the thousands whose books remain unopened? The answer is surprisingly simple. They never allow their readers to become bored. I once imagined a conversation between a young writer and an old editor. "The story is good," the writer proudly said. The editor smiled and replied, "Perhaps. But will the reader stay long enough to discover that?" That single question may be the most important lesson any writer can learn.

Readers owe us nothing. They can close the book after the first sentence, stop reading after the first paragraph, or leave our article half-way through without ever returning. Every sentence is therefore a silent invitation. Every paragraph is a promise that something worthwhile lies ahead. If that promise is broken, the reader quietly walks away.

Too often we confuse writing with informing. Information fills the mind, but writing should awaken the imagination. Facts may educate, but stories transform. A good article does not merely explain life; it recreates it.

Charles Bukowski once ob-



served that there are too many boring writers. His words may sound severe, yet beneath them lies an uncomfortable truth. Writing is not simply arranging words in grammatical order. It is arranging emotions, memories, questions, silence, and music.

A paragraph should breathe. It should have rhythm. Some sentences should run like a river, while others should pause like a traveller watching the sunset. Without rhythm, writing becomes mechanical. It may be correct, but it is never memorable.

Perhaps that is why the greatest novelists linger in our minds long after we close their books. Murakami invites us into dreamlike worlds where loneliness feels strangely beautiful. Coelho reminds us that every journey begins with a simple act of faith. Tagore teaches us that poetry can exist inside ordinary conversation.

Narayan finds extraordinary meaning in the routines of everyday people. Márquez convinces us that imagination is sometimes more truthful than reality itself. None of them relied on complicated vocabulary. They relied on curiosity. They understood that readers continue reading not because they understand every word, but because they desperately want to know what comes next.

A writer should therefore become less like a lecturer and more like a storyteller. Do not simply tell me that it rained. Let me hear the drops against the window. Let me smell the wet earth. Let me feel the cold wind touching the face of your lonely character. Do not merely describe happiness. Allow me to experience it.

Every reader carries an invisible story. Someone reading

your article may have just lost a loved one. Another may be struggling with debt, loneliness, or uncertainty. Someone else may be searching for hope after repeated failures.

Good writing offers each of them a mirror. Although they read the same words, each discovers a different meaning. That is the miracle of literature.

Philosophy has always understood this. Philosophers ask, "What is the purpose of life?" Writers answer not with definitions but with characters, journeys, conversations, and moments of silence. Literature gives emotions to philosophy, and philosophy gives depth to literature. Together they remind us that human beings rarely remember statistics, but they never forget stories.

Sometimes I think writers worry too much about sounding intelligent. They search for difficult words when simple ones would touch the heart more deeply. Readers are not looking for a dictionary. They are looking for a companion. They want to hear a human voice speaking honestly across the page.

That is why the first sentence matters so much. It is not merely an introduction; it is a handshake. It tells the reader, "Come with me. I promise this journey will be worth your time."

So before you publish your next article, ask yourself one final question: If I were the reader, would I continue reading?

If the answer is yes, then perhaps your writing has already begun to sing.

Because the finest writing is never measured by how many words it contains, but by how many hearts refuse to stop reading.

CABLE

HM greets French President

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

In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan lauded the depth of the strong relations binding the two

countries. His Majesty wished France continued stability and prosperity, and the realisation of further achievements. -**ONA**

Oman's inflation rate reaches 2.8% in June 2026



Vegetable prices

surged by 23.6%,

followed by Fruit

(9.9%), Meat (7.3%),

Non-Alcoholic

Beverages (3.6%),

and Milk, Cheese and

Eggs (2.9%)

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman's inflation rate reached 2.8% in June 2026 compared with the corresponding month of 2025 according to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) data released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

The average inflation rate for the period from January to June 2026 also stood at 2.8%. The data showed that the Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages group recorded the highest annual increase among the main CPI categories, rising by 6.1%.

This was followed by Miscellaneous Goods and Services, which increased by 5.7%, Transport by 5.5%, Restaurants and Hotels by 4.6%, and Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance by 3.1%. Prices for Education rose by 2.2%, while Health increased by 1.8%.

Meanwhile, prices in the Recreation and Culture category edged up by 0.3%, while Communication, Tobacco, and Clothing and Footwear remained unchanged compared with June 2025. In contrast, prices for Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels declined by 0.6% year-on-year.

At the governorate level, A'Dhahirah recorded the highest inflation rate in Oman at 3.5%

during June 2026, followed by Muscat at 3.2%, A'Dakhiliyah at 3.1%, Al Wusta at 3.0%, and Al Buraimi at 2.9%.

Inflation reached 2.4% in both Musandam and South Al Batinah, followed by Dhofar at 2.2%, while North Al Batinah and South Al Sharqiyah each recorded 2.1%. North Al Sharqiyah posted the lowest inflation rate among Oman's governorates at 1.9%.

Within the Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages category, several subgroups registered notable year-on-year price increases compared with June 2025. Vegetable prices surged by 23.6%, followed by Fruit (9.9%), Meat (7.3%), Non-Alcoholic Beverages (3.6%), and Milk, Cheese and Eggs (2.9%).

Prices also increased for Sugar, Jam, Honey and Confectionery (2.2%), Food Products Not Elsewhere Classified (2.0%), Bread and Cereals (0.9%), and Oils and Fats (0.5%). In contrast, Fish prices declined by 1.7% compared with June 2025. -**ONA**

MARITAL COUNSELLING

Programme launched to bolster family stability

SALALAH: The marital counselling programme "Companionship of Life" commenced on Monday at the University of Dhofar.

The three-day initiative, implemented by the Ministry of Social Development in Dhofar Governorate, is designed to bolster family stability and enhance awareness of essential life skills for a successful marriage.

The programme targets engaged couples and newlyweds, structured around four core pillars, namely the foundations of building a happy and stable family; personality types and understanding one's life partner; communication and harmony in marital relationships; and family planning.



ships; and family planning.

The programme features three training sessions delivered by a panel of specialists, covering key topics such as financial planning,

family planning, pre-marital medical screening, the fundamentals of a contented and stable family, communication and compatibility in marriage. -**ONA**

YOUTH HOCKEY'S ASIA CUP

FROM A1

Organisational structure built by Oman has become a benchmark for the region, says FIH President Ikram

"From outstanding venues and flawless logistics to the professionalism of Hockey Oman, every event here reflects world-class standards.

"The organisational structure that Oman has built has become a benchmark for the region, and it gives the FIH tremendous confidence to continue bringing major international events to Muscat."

His comments come as Muscat hosts a packed calendar of elite competitions, with the ongoing Junior AHF Women's Asia Cup seamlessly followed by the Youth Hockey5s Asia Cup.

'This is about building hockey's future'

Ikram said the launch of the FIH Youth Hockey5s World Cup is one of the federation's most important long-term initiatives, aimed at making hockey more accessible and creating greater opportunities for young athletes around the world.

"The FIH Youth Hockey5s World Cup 2026 is a flagship initiative under our Empowerment and Engagement Strategy," he said.

"Our vision is to make hockey more accessible by promoting a format that is adaptable, exciting and easier for more communities and National Associations to embrace."

He explained that the initiative

forms part of FIH's 'More Opportunities to Compete' strategy.

"We want to create meaningful international opportunities for young athletes and emerging hockey nations. These tournaments strengthen the development pathway, inspire the next generation and give talented players the chance to compete on the global stage."

According to Ikram, the impact extends far beyond the competition itself.

"The Youth Hockey5s World Cup is much more than a world-class tournament. It is a catalyst for youth development, greater inclusion and the sustainable global growth of hockey."

Ikram believes the fast-paced format is perfectly suited to attracting a new generation of players and fans.

"Hockey5s is dynamic, fast, exciting and full of goals. It naturally connects with young people and reflects the kind of sport today's generation enjoys watching and playing."

Exciting new pathway

"The U18 Asia Cup in Muscat and the inaugural Youth World Cup in Egypt represent an exciting new pathway for future stars. Together, they will help expand participation, nurture talent and strengthen hockey across every continent."



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Oman-Hong Kong trade to grow beyond \$200 million in future

More than 150 representatives from government agencies, trade organisations and the private sector attended the forum, organised by HKETO Dubai in partnership with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and supported by Invest Oman

MUSCAT: Bilateral merchandise trade between Hong Kong and Oman currently stands at around US\$200 million, and the



figure is expected to grow steadily in the coming years as both sides strengthen investment, trade and business cooperation, according to Simon Chan, Director-General of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (HKETO) in Dubai. Speaking to Times of Oman, on the sidelines of the Oman-Hong Kong Business Forum in Muscat, Chan said the two economies have significant untapped potential and that Hong Kong is well placed to help Omani businesses access mainland China and the wider Asian market. More than 150 representatives from government agencies, trade organisations and the private sector attended the forum, organised by HKETO Dubai in partnership with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) and supported by Invest Oman. Chan said Oman-China relations have continued to strengthen over the years, with China remaining Oman's largest trading partner and a key partner under the Belt and Road Initiative. He noted that the partnership is evolving beyond traditional sectors such as energy and infra-



structure into high-growth areas including renewable energy, advanced technology and the digital economy, complementing the goals of Oman Vision 2040. "Hong Kong plays an important role in this flourishing partnership," Chan said, highlighting the city's unique position under the "One Country, Two Systems" framework. He described Hong Kong as a "super connector" and "super value-adder" that links international businesses with mainland China and the wider Asian region, making it an ideal platform for Omani companies looking to expand overseas. The forum also showcased opportunities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA), one of the world's largest and fastest-growing economic regions. Officials said the GBA offers businesses access to advanced manufacturing, innovation, financial services and a vast con-

sumer market. Speakers included Juhaina Al Balushi, Head of Marketing at Invest Oman; Daniel Lam, Regional Director for the Middle East and Africa at HKTDC; Sultan Abdulla, Head of Investment Promotion at Invest Hong Kong; and Nassif Mahfoud, Deputy Director for the Middle East at HKTDC. The discussions focused on enhancing trade, attracting investment and encouraging businesses from Oman and Hong Kong to establish partnerships and expand into new markets. HKETO Dubai also highlighted its commitment to supporting the "Economic and Trade Express" platform, a joint initiative with Invest Hong Kong and HKTDC that helps Hong Kong's small and medium-sized enterprises and start-ups explore overseas opportunities while attracting international companies to invest and establish operations in Hong Kong. Officials said the forum reflected the growing momentum in economic cooperation between Oman and Hong Kong and expressed confidence that bilateral trade and investment would continue to expand in the years ahead.

South Al Sharqiyah Governorate signs two agreements to support social development

SUR: South Al Sharqiyah Governorate on Monday signed two agreements worth OMR310,000 with Oman India Fertilizer Company (OMIFCO) to implement development and service projects aimed to realise a tangible economic and social impact and consolidate infrastructure across the wilayats of the governorate. The two agreements were signed Dr. Yahya bin Badr Al Maawali, Governor of South Al Sharqiyah, and Eng. Khalid bin Mohammed Al Fanna, Director of Sustainability and Corporate Communications at Oman India Fertilizer Company. The first agreement provides for the construction of moun-



tain roads and dykes to the tune of OMR200,000. The project, which aims to the boost the readiness of infrastructure and raise safety standards, constitutes an extension of a 2022-2026 joint development programme worth OMR650,000. The second agreement focuses on providing electrical and electronic appliances, worth OMR110,000, in the interest of low-income families in the wilayats of Sur, Al Kamil WAl Wafi, Jaalan Bani Bu Hassan, Jaalan Bani Bu Ali and Masirah. The initiative aims to enhance a 2021-2025 Social Development Programme worth OMR440,000. -ONA

Dust storm advisory issued for motorists

MUSCAT: The General Directorate of Traffic has urged motorists in the Al Dakhiliyah and Al Wusta governorates to exercise extra caution as active winds continue to cause sand accumulation on roads and significantly reduce horizontal visibility due to blowing dust. The Royal Oman Police advised road users to maintain a safe distance between vehicles, avoid dangerous overtaking, and drive at reduced speeds. Motorists are also urged to pull over in a safe location if visibility becomes severely limited.



Authorities stressed the importance of following traffic safety guidelines to help prevent accidents during the adverse weather conditions.

Omani students gear up for global Adobe design contest

MUSCAT: Three Omani students are intensifying their preparations to compete in the Adobe Certified Professional World Championship, set to take place in the United States, where they will face contestants from across the globe. Their participation follows a successful run in the Omani National Championship for Graphic Design from Adobe 2025-2026, which drew overwhelming interest from students and young talents across all educational governorates of the Sultanate of Oman. The national competition registered over 850 participants, with 514 advancing past the initial stages, 113 progressing to advanced rounds, and nine reaching the finals—culminating in the selection of three winners to represent Oman on the world stage. Throughout the national championship, competitors underwent a rigorous series of technical and artistic assessments, including level-determination tests, Adobe-accredited professional examinations, and creative graphic design projects evaluated by a specialised jury against precise artistic criteria.



The final round featured a six-hour practical challenge, during which contestants demonstrated their capacity for creative thinking, mastery of digital tools, time management and the ability to translate concepts into fully realised visual designs. Following their victory, the students have been enrolled in an intensive preparatory training programme aimed at elevating their technical and artistic readiness, while sharpening their competitive edge for the global arena. The training has placed heavy emphasis on proficiency in core Adobe applications—notably Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, and Adobe InDesign—alongside practical exercises simulating the scope and complexity of international-level challenges. Participants have been coached on project requirement analysis, creative ideation, selecting appropriate visual solutions and delivering polished work within strict timeframes. The programme is led by a spe-

cialist in graphic design, offering the students hands-on practical sessions, continuous assessment and monitoring, regular feedback loops, and targeted identification of strengths and areas for improvement. This holistic approach is designed to refine their artistic and creative skills while ensuring they are fully equipped to meet the demands of international competition with confidence and professionalism. Beyond technical proficiency, the training has also cultivated essential complementary competencies, including creative problem-solving, rapid decision-making, performing under pressure, precision in execution, and the art of translating ideas into compelling visual narratives. These skills are particularly critical, as the global championship challenge spans approximately eight hours, during which participants must deliver a complete design project adhering to stringent specifications. The Adobe Certified Professional World Championship is among the most prestigious international

competitions in the digital design sphere. It offers participants a unique platform to showcase their talents, exchange insights with peers from diverse countries and explore cutting-edge methodologies and technologies shaping the future of graphic design and the creative industries. Moreover, it serves as a vital springboard for discovering, nurturing, and empowering young talent, preparing them for the evolving demands of the digital economy. The participation of Omani students in this global event reflects the Sultanate of Oman's growing commitment to identifying and cultivating national talent, providing a conducive environment for training, development, and competitive excellence. It further reinforces Oman's presence on the international stage in specialised forums. Through their participation, the students aspire to deliver a performance that reflects their creative calibre, and to represent the Sultanate of Oman with distinction at this premier global gathering. -ONA

OMAN

IN PICTURES: HH SAYYID SHIHAB CONVEYS HM’S CONDOLENCES TO QATAR ON PASSING OF SHEIKH HAMAD BIN KHALIFA



Sayyid Badr pays tribute to late Emir of Qatar

Oman’s Foreign Minister highlighted the late Emir’s major contributions in the fields of media and culture

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman’s Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, has paid tribute to His late Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani as a symbol of wisdom and foresight, a model of generosity and giving and as a leader who combined a clear political vision with development and a strong commitment to people.

He also highlighted the late Emir’s major contributions in the fields of media and culture, which helped make Qatar a widely recognised success story.

In an interview with Al Jazeera, Sayyid Badr Albusaidi said the late Emir laid the foundations of Qatar’s modern economic and urban renaissance.

He also established the groundwork for the Qatar National Vision 2030, which set the course for sustainable development. Under his leadership, added Sayyid Badr, Qatar became one of the world’s largest producers and exporters of natural gas, strengthening its position in the global economy.

He said history would remember the late Emir for establishing Al Jazeera, which has become a leading media institution and an influential school of journalism. It also strengthened Qatar’s international profile and that of the Gulf region, while highlighting Qatar’s political, diplomatic, cultural and humanitarian role at both the regional and international levels.



Sayyid Badr said the late Emir established Qatar as a trusted mediator in resolving disputes and bringing parties together noting that Qatar played a prominent role in mediation, de-escalation efforts and negotiations. It also hosted numerous international talks and events, making Doha a central venue for diplomatic engagement.

He added that the late Emir was known for his courage, his ability to make wise decisions that promoted peace, harmony and closer relations, and for speaking the truth with wisdom when addressing issues affecting the region and the wider world.

Sayyid Badr said humanitarian work became a cornerstone

of Qatar’s policy during the late Emir’s reign. Through relief efforts, humanitarian initiatives and education and healthcare projects, Qatar helped ease the suffering of millions. He also noted Qatar’s humanitarian contributions in Palestine, Sudan, Somalia, Lebanon and Afghanistan.

He recalled the close fraternal relations between Oman and Qatar during the reigns of His late Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said and His late Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani.

He said those ties have continued to grow stronger under His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

Sayyid Badr Albusaidi said the late Emir consistently chose dialogue as the means to resolve disputes and worked to remove obstacles from regional relations. He remained committed to maintaining channels of communication even during periods of tension.

He added that Qatar’s participation in regional and international forums was marked by wisdom and left a clear legacy in advancing dialogue and bringing brothers and friends closer together.

SYMPATHIES

Officials pay condolences at Qatar’s embassy in Muscat



MUSCAT: A number of their excellencies and officials visited the Embassy of the State of Qatar in Muscat yesterday to offer condolences on the passing of Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani.

They were received by Sheikh Mubarak bin Fahad bin Jassim bin Mohammed Al Thani, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the Sultanate of Oman and embassy staff.

Their excellencies and the officials expressed their condolences and sympathies to their brethren in the State of Qatar, paying tribute to the late Emir’s

pivotal role in Qatar’s renaissance and development, and in strengthening fraternal ties and advancing relations between the two brotherly countries. They affirmed the strength of the historic bonds between the two nations, which continue to deepen under the blessed leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of Qatar.

The Qatari Ambassador expressed his profound gratitude for the sincere fraternal sentiments shown by Oman — leadership, government and people — on

the passing of Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa, and the deep impact his loss has had on the people of Qatar. He wished for the continued development and prosperity of Oman-Qatar relations.

At the conclusion of the visit, Their excellencies and the officials recorded their messages of condolences in the embassy’s book of condolences, praying to Allah the Almighty to grant the late Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani vast mercy, to rest him in peace in paradise, and to bestow upon the sisterly State of Qatar lasting security and prosperity. -ONA

MAX Fashion Wins Best Brand in Customer Experience Award in Fashion Retail Category



MAX Fashion - Landmark Group, was felicitated with the 'Times of Oman Best Brand in Customer Experience (CX) Award in Fashion Retail Category' at the Times of Oman CX Awards 2026. The awards presentation was co-located with Times of Oman CX Forum 2026, held at Hotel Kempinski, Muscat. The premier event was attended by over 325 CX leaders across sectors in Oman.

MAX has consistently demonstrated a strong commitment to customer experience by making contemporary fashion accessible, affordable, and enjoyable for families across Oman. Offering an extensive range of apparel, footwear, accessories, and lifestyle products for men, women, and children, the brand continues to combine quality, value, and style while delivering a seamless shopping experience across both physical stores and digital platforms.

With a customer-centric approach built around convenience, innovation, and value, MAX continually enhances every stage of the customer journey through trend-led collections, intuitive omnichannel shopping, personalised promotions, and responsive customer service. Its focus on understanding evolving consumer preferences and delivering consistent quality has helped establish the brand as one of the region's most trusted fashion retailers.

By continuously investing in digital transformation, in-store experiences, sustainability initiatives, and customer engagement, MAX continues to set benchmarks in customer experience within the fashion retail sector. Its commitment to delivering fashionable products, exceptional value, and outstanding service reinforces its position as a preferred shopping destination for customers across Oman.

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

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meeting and exceeding customer expectations. The winners are selected based on an extensive consumer survey conducted by the Times of Oman.

EA signs two pacts to develop nature reserves



MUSCAT: The Environment Authority on Monday signed two agreements to consolidate environmental inspection and develop infrastructure at nature reserves.

The agreements stem from efforts to protect the environment, raise the efficiency of field performance and support sustainable environmental development.

The agreements were signed by Dr. Abdullah bin Ali Al Amri, Chairman of the Environment Authority, and Maj. Gen. Abdullah bin Ali Al Harthi, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Security and Safety Services Corporation.

The first agreement provides for the implementation of environmental inspection and monitoring work in a manner that controls environmental violations in different governorates of the Sultanate of Oman, in addition to drafting reports and entering data into electronic systems in accordance with the procedures adopted by the Environment Authority.

The second agreement stipulated the implementation of the first phase of Al Saleel Natural Park's development project in the Wilayat of Al Kamil W'Al Wafi.

The project seeks to promote ecotourism, preserve biodiversity and develop the park's infrastructure and service facilities in a manner that meets the needs of members of the public. -ONA

NORTH AL BATINAH

CPA promotes environmental awareness

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Directorate General of Consumer Protection in North Al Batinah Governorate, in cooperation with the Environment Department in the governorate, organised an awareness lecture titled "Waste Management and Recycling to promote sustainability, reduce plastic waste, and encourage waste sorting and recycling practices in the workplace."

The event, included awareness materials displayed on electronic screens and a dedicated collection point for plastic beverage bottle caps, contributing to the promotion of positive environmental behaviours and supporting Environment and Society Indicator initiatives.





شركة إسمنت عمان (ش.م.ع.ع.)
Oman Cement Company (S.A.O.G)

P.O. BOX 560, RUWIL, POSTAL CODE 112, SULTANATE OF OMAN
(Factory Al Misfah West, Bausher, Tel. # 00968 24437070 ext. 102, Fax # 00968 24437777)

TENDERS

The company invites specialized companies to participate in the following tender:

Sl. #	Tender ID	Description	Tender Fee	Deadline for Request for Tenders	Deadline for Submission of Offers
1.	1012000100-26	Replacement of water distribution network inside Oman Cement Housing complex.	Free	23th July 2026 2359 Hours	28th July 2026 2359 Hours
2.	Re- Tender 04-2025	Sales of Obsolete Items	Free	23th July 2026 2359 Hours	28th July 2026 2359 Hours
3.	1570000544-26	Upgradation of ESP Clinker Cooler	Free	23th July 2026 2359 Hours	28th July 2026 2359 Hours
4.	1570000563-26	SUPPLY INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF PACKAGE AC UNIT	Free	23th July 2026 2359 Hours	28th July 2026 2359 Hours
5.	1560000237-26	Water Pipeline Replacement	Free	23th July 2026 2359 Hours	28th July 2026 2359 Hours
6.	1012000101-26	Hiring of AC Bus OCC Staff.	Free	23th July 2026 2359 Hours	28th July 2026 2359 Hours

Tender documents can be obtained by scanning the barcode provided at the bottom of this advertisement. Bidders are required to complete all the requested information in the form to submit their request. Upon successful submission, the tender documents will be shared accordingly.

The last date for submission of offers is on Tuesday, 2359 hours, detailed date on the above table, accompanied by a bid bond issued by any local bank in Oman (equivalent to 1%) of the total tender value. The bid bond must be valid for 120 days from the last date of submission of offers, and the ORIGINAL bid bond must be submitted on the tender box at the reception of our Administration Building, Al Misfah West factory Site, Bausher, Muscat, Oman.

The Company's account is detailed below:

Account name:

Bank Name:

Account number:

Account Type:

SWIFT Code:

Oman Cement Company SAOG

Bank Muscat SAOG

0423 01086 3070 017

OMR

BMUSOMRX



For inquiries, please contact nasser.said@omancement.com & yaqub.tamtami@omancement.com Contact details: Office number: +968 22705601, 22705566.

To request for tender documents, Please scan the code and fill the requirements.



"In the name of Allah, The Most Gracious the Most Merciful"

إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ
We Belong to Allah and to Him We Shall Return

With profound sorrow, we announce the passing away of

Khalid Said Mohamed Al Hasani

Chairman, Oman Medical Supplies and Services Co LLC.

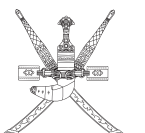
We mourn the passing of our Chairman, an extraordinary leader whose vision, wisdom, and dedication left a lasting impact on all of us. Under his visionary leadership, our company achieved remarkable milestones. His legacy of wisdom, integrity, and dedication will forever remain the foundation of our organization.

We share in the grief and extend our deepest sympathies to the entire family. May the Almighty grant them courage to face the days ahead and loving memories to hold in their hearts forever.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.



وزارة التنمية الاجتماعية
Ministry of Social Development



Tender Announcement

The Internal Tender committee of Ministry of Social Development hereby announces the following tender :-

Tender No.	Tender Subject	Grade	Last date for obtainment of tender document	Last date for tender submission	Tender Document Price (non-retundable)	
					Small and Medium companies	Local companies
334/2026	Providing cleaning services for the Ministry's General Office building in the airport heights	Companies specialized in the field of Hygiene, washing and pest controlregistered with the Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority with excellent or first or second or third or fourth degree.	Monday 20-07-2026 02:00 PM	Thursday 30-07-2026 10:00 AM	10 R.O	25 R.O
335/2026	Purchase and supply of split unit air conditioners, 2 tons, number (100) air conditioners	Companies specialized in the field of supplying electrical, mechanical and industrial machinery and equipment and spare parts and registered with the Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority in the excellent, first, second, third or fourth degree	Sunday 02-08-2026 02:00 PM	Sunday 23-08-2026 10:00 AM	10 R.O	25 R.O

❖ Specialized Companies, registered with the Tender Board may obtain the Tender documents at theTender Board e-tendering digital portal link (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>), On Tuesday 14/07/2026

❖ For Inquiry, please contact though the e-tendering website (reg@tenderboard.gov.om) Tel. (24402200)

"The lowest or any other tender shall not be binding to the Ministry"

www.mosd.gov.om

FINANCIAL STABILITY

Customer-centric debt recovery and credit evaluation: the key to sustainable cash flow management

MUSCAT: In today's increasingly competitive business environment, effective cash flow management is essential for organizational success. While recovering outstanding debts remains a critical aspect of financial stability, modern businesses are recognizing that debt collection is no longer just about recovering money—it is about preserving customer relationships, protecting brand reputation, and ensuring long-term business sustainability.

This evolution has given rise to a customer-centric approach to debt recovery, where organizations focus on understanding customer circumstances, maintaining respectful communication, and providing practical solutions that benefit both the creditor and the customer.

Moving Beyond Traditional Debt Collection

Historically, debt collection was often associated with aggressive follow-ups and pressure tactics. However, leading collection organizations are now adopting strategies that prioritize empathy, transparency, and professionalism.

Customer-centric debt collection services seek to recover outstanding payments while maintaining positive customer relationships. The objective is not merely to collect dues, but to help customers resolve their financial obligations in a manner that is fair, respectful, and mutually beneficial.

Respectful Communication Builds Trust

One of the fundamental pillars of customer-centric collections is respectful engagement.

At Sadad International, customer interactions are conducted professionally and within appropriate business hours. As a matter of practice, customers are contacted only between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM on working days. No collection calls are made during public holidays. In addition, all

calls are recorded to ensure quality, courtesy, and compliance with established service standards.

Such practices help foster trust and encourage constructive dialogue between creditors and customers.

Understanding Individual Circumstances

Every customer has a unique story behind delayed payments. Financial difficulties may arise due to business challenges, personal emergencies, temporary cash flow constraints, or unforeseen circumstances.

A customer-centric collection approach emphasizes listening and understanding before proposing solutions. Flexible repayment arrangements, installment plans, negotiated settlements, and financing options can often help customers fulfill their obligations without undue hardship.

By addressing the root cause of payment delays, organizations can improve recovery rates while strengthening customer loyalty.

Omnichannel Engagement Enhances Accessibility

Modern customers expect convenience and flexibility in communication. Debt recovery services increasingly leverage multiple communication channels, including telephone calls, emails, SMS, customer portals, and mobile applications.

An omnichannel approach enables customers to engage through their preferred medium, resulting in more effective communication and faster resolution of outstanding accounts.

Transparency Creates Confidence

Transparency remains a cornerstone of successful debt recovery.

Customers are more likely to cooperate when they receive clear information regarding outstanding balances, supporting documentation, payment options, and



next steps. Providing accurate statements of account, invoices, purchase orders, and transaction records helps eliminate misunderstandings and promotes confidence in the recovery process.

Maintaining detailed records of all interactions further supports professionalism and accountability.

Compliance: The Foundation of Ethical Collections

Customer-centric collections cannot succeed without strong regulatory compliance.

Debt recovery activities must align with applicable legal and regulatory frameworks, including requirements issued by regulatory authorities such as the Central Bank and the Ministry of Commerce. Equally important is adherence to local customs, cultural expectations, and ethical business practices.

Compliance ensures that collection activities remain fair, transparent, and legally sound while protecting the rights of all parties involved.

Leveraging Data for Smarter Recovery

Technology and analytics are playing an increasingly important role in modern debt recovery strategies.

Data-driven collection models help organizations determine the most effective communication channels, optimal contact times, preferred languages, and appropriate outreach frequency. Such insights reduce unnecessary customer contacts and improve engagement outcomes.

By utilizing data intelligently, organizations can create more personalized and effective collection strategies while enhancing the overall customer experience.

Customer Retention Matters

Successful debt recovery is not simply about collecting overdue payments—it is also about preserving valuable customer relationships.

A customer who experiences respectful and professional treatment during a difficult financial period is more likely to continue doing business with the organization in the future. This approach strengthens customer retention, protects brand reputation, and contributes to long-term business growth.

How Compliance Supports Customer-Centric Collections

Compliance and customer-centricity are closely interconnected.

Promoting Fair Treatment

Debt collection regulations are designed to ensure customers are treated fairly and protected from harassment, intimidation, or misleading practices. This aligns naturally with customer-centric principles and promotes respectful interactions.

Increasing Trust and Transparency

Compliance requirements often mandate accurate disclosure of outstanding balances, supporting documentation, and available payment options. Providing customers with complete and accurate information fosters trust and encourages cooperation.

Protecting Customer Privacy

Data privacy regulations require organizations to safeguard sensitive personal and financial information. Responsible data handling reassures customers that their information is protected and used appropriately.

Encouraging Appropriate Communication

Regulatory frameworks often define when and how customers may be contacted, the frequency of communications, and acceptable communication channels. These safeguards help prevent intrusive outreach and support a positive customer experience.

Supporting Vulnerable Customers

Many jurisdictions require organizations to identify and support customers facing financial hardship, medical challenges, disabilities, or other vulnerable circumstances. Customer-centric collection practices leverage this understanding to offer tailored solutions and additional assistance where needed.

Driving Consistency and Accountability

Strong compliance programs establish policies, staff training, quality assurance mechanisms, and complaint resolution procedures. These controls ensure customers receive consistent and fair treatment regardless of who manages their account.

Reducing Complaints and Disputes

Accurate documentation, transparent communication, and regulatory adherence help organizations resolve disputes efficiently, resulting in fewer complaints and higher levels of customer satisfaction.

The Future of Debt Recovery

Industry leaders increasingly recognize that compliance should not be viewed as a separate function but as an integral part of the customer journey.

Organizations that successfully combine regulatory compliance, empathetic communication, flexible repayment solutions, data-driven decision-making, and strong governance frameworks are achieving better recovery outcomes while maintaining positive customer relationships.

With more than four decades of experience in credit management and debt collection, Sadad International continues to champion customer-centric recovery practices that balance business objectives with customer care. By leveraging experienced professionals, proven processes, and innovative technologies, the company helps clients improve cash flow while preserving long-term customer value.

In today's business landscape, customer-centric debt recovery is no longer an option—it is a strategic necessity. Compliance provides the guardrails, empathy builds trust, and together they create a sustainable pathway toward stronger cash flow management and healthier customer relationships.

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- Entrepreneurship, innovation and business growth led by women.
- Building inclusive, diverse and equitable organizations.
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PARTNERSHIPS AND AWARDS

SYED AMIR SALEEM: syed.amir@mimg.om | +968 78471944

SANJEEV RANA: sanjeev@mimg.om | +968 97221630

SHAMIK RAO: shamik.rao@mimg.om | +968 79333149

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SPORTS

Sinner retains Wimbledon title

After his French Open meltdown, the Italian top seed outlasted Germany's Zverev for his second successive crown

LONDON: A year ago, it was a matter of bouncing back after wasting three match points in a devastating loss to Carlos Alcaraz in the French Open final and showing that he could still win a Grand Slam after a three-month doping ban. This year it was about demonstrating that he still has the physical toughness to win a major after a debilitating second-round meltdown at Roland Garros in a Paris heat wave. Whatever gets thrown Jannik Sinner's way in the French capital — it seems lately — only makes him stronger across the Channel in London. For the second straight year, Sinner responded to adversity in Paris with a title at Wimbledon. The top-ranked Sinner beat Alexander Zverev 6-7 (7), 7-6 (2), 6-3, 6-4 on Sunday for his second consecutive title at the All England Club after his German opponent appeared bothered by a knee issue



following a slip to the grass on a key point in the third set. When Sinner ripped a forehand winner up the line on his first match point, the Italian dropped to the grass on his back in an unusually dramatic celebration for the normally low-key Italian. "This one means a lot because (it) was a tough one after Paris again," Sinner said. "I'm proud of myself and my team, which continues to push me in the right direction." Amid stifling heat and humidity in Paris in late May, Sinner had his 30-match winning streak ended after coming within one game of a straight-set victory over Juan Manuel Cerundolo, who was ranked No. 56. Sinner went in for medical exams in Milan after the Paris defeat and didn't play an official match again until he arrived at Wimbledon, where he twice had to come back from a set down in a five-set marathon against Miomir Kecmanovic in the first round. Sinner then didn't drop a set the rest of the way until the final,

having dominated against Novak Djokovic in the semi-finals. "It goes to show the maturity of the player that we're working with," said Darren Cahill, one of Sinner's coaches. "That he can take a kick in the guts like that. "What makes us the most proud of him and working with him is the way he comes back from those," Cahill added. "It doesn't put him down for too long." It was Sinner's fifth Grand Slam title. "I don't think this one was any

more important than any of the others that he's played," Cahill said. "But it felt damn special, that's for sure." It was Sinner's 10th straight victory over Zverev, who was coming off his first Grand Slam title at the French Open. Zverev's previous best performance at Wimbledon was reaching the fourth round three times. "I'm 29 years old and this is the first time I actually believe I can win this trophy," Zverev said. Prince William joined his wife Kate and two of their children for the final in a star-studded Royal Box that also included actors Dustin Hoffman, Nicole Kidman and Ben Stiller. "There's no better place to play tennis," Sinner said during the trophy ceremony. Linda Noskova beat Karolina Muchova in an all-Czech women's final on Saturday for her first Grand Slam title.

Zverev slips The top two seeds appeared perfectly matched until Zverev earned his only break point of the match at 3-3 in the third set - 2 hours and 42 minutes in. Sinner produced a drop shot and Zverev slipped and appeared to hyper-extend his right knee as he attempted to change directions behind the baseline. Zverev grasped his knee in apparent discomfort and Sinner went around the net and helped his opponent up off the grass. Zverev quickly resumed playing but he appeared slightly hampered and

slung his racket across the baseline in frustration when he missed a forehand and handed Sinner the first break of the match and a 5-3 lead in the third. Sinner then served it out. Zverev had also lost 14 straight sets to Sinner and when he claimed the opening set of the final with a forehand winner up the line to conclude a tight tie-breaker, he let out a loud roar toward his box as he bent over in celebration. Zverev continually cranked out serves at up to 139 mph (224 kph), while Sinner produced a series of well-placed aces at a slightly lower speed. But Sinner began to read Zverev's serve better in the second-set tiebreaker and Zverev started to miss forehands. "He showed once again," Zverev said, "why he's the best player in the world." Sinner produced 58 winners to Zverev's 49 and had only 25 unforced errors to Zverev's 45. Sinner became the first player to win the men's singles title at Wimbledon without conceding a service game in either the semi-finals (against Novak Djokovic) or the final since Roger Federer did it in 2003 against Andy Roddick and Mark Philippoussis, respectively, en route to the first of his record eight titles. Despite the defeat, Zverev will leapfrog Alcaraz into the No. 2 spot in the rankings on Monday. Alcaraz missed both the French Open and Wimbledon this year due to a right wrist injury. - Agencies

IPL FRANCHISE

Stephen Fleming steps down as CSK head coach

CHENNAI: Stephen Fleming has stepped down as head coach of Chennai Super Kings (CSK), bringing an end to a decorated tenure during which the franchise won five IPL and two Champions League T20 (CLT20) titles. The CSK franchise said on Monday that they had parted ways mutually, "bringing to a close one of the most successful and enduring partnerships in IPL history. The decision was reached with respect and gratitude, following a series of open and honest discussions between Fleming and the Super Kings management." Fleming also ended ties with

Super Kings' other franchises - Joburg Super Kings (SA20) and Texas Super Kings (MLC) - where he was head coach. The announcement came barely a few hours after TSK finished last in MLC 2026. The JSK team had also not made a SA20 final in four seasons. Speculation over Fleming's future as CSK coach has been rife ever since the team ended their third successive IPL season without a title. CSK finished eighth in IPL 2026 following on from a last-placed finish in 2025. After their final league game this year, Fleming had said that his

future with the franchise was the "management's call, not mine." "Eighteen years is a lifetime in sport, and I leave with nothing but gratitude," Fleming said in a statement. "My time with Chennai Super Kings has been the privilege of my coaching career. I am proud of everything we have achieved. "Together, we celebrated unforgettable victories, overcame difficult moments, and built memories that will stay with me forever. CSK will always be close to my heart, and I will be cheering the team on for years to come." Fleming joined CSK as a player

ahead of IPL 2008 and took over as head coach the following season. He formed a formidable working relationship with MS Dhoni and helped the team enter the playoffs a record 12 times. They also made a record ten appearances in the final, and won titles in 2010, 2011, 2018, 2021 and 2023. They won the Champions League title in 2010 and 2014. "Stephen Fleming has been the heartbeat of our coaching unit for almost the entire journey of this franchise," CSK owner Rupa Gurunath said. "For nearly two decades, he has helped shape our identity, vision, and pursuit of

excellence. While our journey together on the field comes to a close, he will always remain an integral part of the team's legacy." CSK's back-to-back triumphs in IPL 2010 and 2011, their title win in 2018 following a two-year ban, and their win in 2023 after Dhoni took over the captaincy from Ravindra Jadeja midway through the previous season are among the highlights of Fleming's tenure. CSK have so far made no announcements regarding the future of their other support staff members, including batting coach Mike Husey and bowling coach Eric Simons. - Agencies







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Images shown for illustrative purposes only.

OMAN OIL PRICE RISES

The price of Oman crude oil has increased, with prices for delivery by September 2026 reaching \$72.11. The price of Oman crude oil rose by \$2.82 from the price of Friday, which was \$69.29.

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 7,618.23 points, down by -0.44% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -0.72% at 609.29 points. Oman Chromite, up 9.98%, was the top gainer while, Oman United Insurance, down 8.33%, was the top loser.

Electricity generation in Oman rises by 6.8%

Net electricity generation, which includes purchases by the Oman Power and Water Procurement Company and purchases by the Rural Areas Electricity Company by region, also increased by 6.8%, reaching 19,717.5 GWh, compared with 18,457.6 GWh during the same period of the previous year



MUSCAT: Total electricity generation in the Sultanate of Oman increased by 6.8% by the end of May 2026, reaching 20,314.0 GWh, compared with 19,027.4 GWh during the corresponding period in 2025, according to the latest preliminary data issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSD).

Net electricity generation, which includes purchases by the Oman Power and Water Procurement Company and purchases by

the Rural Areas Electricity Company by region, also increased by 6.8%, reaching 19,717.5 GWh, compared with 18,457.6 GWh during the same period of the previous year.

On the water sector, total water production declined by 3.4% to 201,255.4 thousand cubic metres. Muscat Governorate recorded a 6.8% decrease, with water production falling from 83,653.9 thousand cubic metres by the end of May 2025 to 78,000.6 thousand cubic

metres during the corresponding period in 2026.

In contrast, water production in Dhofar Governorate increased by 2.9% to 32,086.4 cubic metres, compared with 31,183.9 cubic metres during the corresponding period of 2025. Meanwhile, water production in the remaining governorates declined by 2.5%, reaching 91,168.5 cubic metres, compared with 93,459.4 cubic metres during the same period of the previous year. **-ONA**

SPAIN, BELGIUM AND FINLAND

Piyush Goyal to lead Indian delegation to Europe from July 13

NEW DELHI: Indian Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will lead a high-level business delegation to Spain, Belgium and Finland from July 13 to 17 to deepen India's economic engagement with Europe and explore new opportunities for Indian exporters.

Speaking about India's expanding network of trade agreements, Goyal said the FTAs signed have opened up new opportunities for Indian businesses.

"The Free Trade Agreements signed by India with developed nations under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi have opened up immense export potential for India's industrial sector, farmers, fishermen, and MSMEs, while also creating new employment opportunities," the minister said. Highlighting the implementation of the India-UK FTA, Goyal said, "The Free Trade Agreement with the UK is set to come into effect on the 15th, allowing goods from India to be exported at zero duty."

Goyal also referred to the proposed India-European Union Free Trade Agreement, saying, "A Free Trade Agreement with the 27 nations of the European Union was finalised during a meeting between the Prime Minister and



the President of the European Union on January 27th."

Announcing his Europe visit, Goyal said, "I am embarking on a visit to four of these countries next week, leading a business delegation to explore new opportunities for Indian exporters."

He said the delegation includes companies of all sizes from diverse sectors. "A large business delegation--comprising companies of all sizes and representatives from diverse sectors--is participating in this visit."

According to a statement issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Goyal's visit to Spain, Belgium and Finland "underscores India's commitment to strengthening economic partnerships across Europe, with a focus on trade, investment, technology, innovation and sustainability." **-ANI**

REPORT

GCC inflation remains stable at 1.8% in 2025: GCC-Stat

MUSCAT: A report issued by the GCC Statistical Centre (GCC-Stat) on inflation rates for 2025 showed that price levels remained stable across the GCC countries. The overall inflation rate reached 1.8% in 2025, compared with 1.6% in 2024, remaining below the 2% threshold for the second consecutive year. This reflects the effectiveness of economic policies in containing inflationary pressures and maintaining price stability.

The report highlighted that the GCC inflation rate remains among the lowest globally. At 1.8%, it was lower than the inflation rates recorded in emerging market and developing economies at 5.3%, the global average at 4.2%, Japan at 3.2%, the United States at 2.6%, both the European Union and advanced economies at 2.5%, and the euro area at 2.1%.

The report also indicated that inflation rates across the GCC countries remained broadly aligned. Housing together with



miscellaneous goods and services constituted the main drivers of GCC inflation in 2025, jointly accounting for approximately 73% of

overall inflation.

At the level of the main Consumer Price Index divisions, miscellaneous goods and services re-

corded the highest inflation rate at 5.4%, followed by housing at 4.0%, recreation and culture at 2.0%, restaurants and hotels at 1.6%, food

and beverages at 1.2%, education at 1.0%, tobacco at 0.6%, and clothing and footwear at 0.4%. Meanwhile, health, communication, and furnishings and household equipment recorded no annual change at 0.0%, while transport registered a decline of 0.2%.

The report reviewed the evolution of GCC inflation during the period 2020-2025, showing that inflation increased from 1.5% in 2020 to 2.4 per cent in 2021, peaked at 3.2% in 2022, then eased to 2.3% in 2023 and 1.6 per cent in 2024, before edging up slightly to 1.8% in 2025, reflecting relative stability compared with global inflation developments.

Regarding the GCC's major trading partners, the report showed that inflation rates, ranked from highest to lowest, were as follows: Brazil 5.0%, the United Kingdom 3.9%, Japan 3.2%, India 2.8%, the United States 2.6%, Germany 2.2%, the Republic of Korea 2.1%, Italy 1.5%, France 0.9%, while the

People's Republic of China recorded the lowest inflation rate at 0.0%.

The report further noted that the 2.1% decline in global food and beverage prices helped ease imported inflationary pressures. However, the 15.2% increase in natural gas prices, together with ongoing geopolitical tensions, continues to pose risks that warrant close monitoring.

In conclusion, the report emphasised that the close convergence of inflation rates across the GCC countries, together with their stability below 2%, provides a favourable environment for advancing Gulf economic and monetary integration.

It also offers fiscal space for member states to continue implementing economic reforms and development spending, while underscoring the importance of harmonising statistical methodologies and strengthening policy preparedness to address potential future external shocks. **-ONA**

LONG-TERM STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

France-Oman business ties deepen amid focus on long-term investment

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Growing geopolitical and economic shifts across the Gulf are driving countries to prioritise long-term strategic partnerships over purely commercial relationships, according to Lionel Rabin, Founder and Managing Director of Haliqa - Bridging Energies and Chairman of the Oman-France Joint Business Council.

Speaking on the evolving business landscape, Rabin said recent regional developments have reinforced a clear trend in the Gulf, where governments increasingly evaluate international partnerships based not only on commercial performance but also on their contribution to national development goals.

"Governments are looking for partners who invest locally, transfer expertise, build capabilities and remain committed through periods of uncertainty," he said.

Rabin noted that the relationship between Oman and France reflects this long-term approach, with cooperation steadily expanding over the years across sectors including defence, energy, logistics, infrastructure, industry, technology and artificial intelligence.

He said the recent State Visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin



Tarik to France has given fresh impetus to bilateral relations, creating new opportunities for strategic cooperation and investment between the two countries.

According to Rabin, the Oman-France Joint Business Council plays a key role in strengthening economic ties by connecting businesses, encouraging investment and converting high-level strategic dialogue into practical commercial partnerships.

Supported by the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) and MEDEF International, the council serves as a platform to facilitate collaboration between

Governments are looking for partners who invest locally, transfer expertise, build capabilities and remain committed through periods of uncertainty

Omani and French companies across priority sectors.

Rabin added that Gulf countries are increasingly seeking partners who can contribute to their long-term economic transformation rather than simply supplying goods and services, reflecting a broader shift towards sustainable investment, knowledge transfer and capability building.

He said this evolving approach presents significant opportunities for companies willing to establish a long-term presence in Oman and support the country's economic diversification agenda under Oman Vision 2040.

GLOBAL WEALTH REPORT 2026

India's households miss global shift to financial assets: UBS

NEW DELHI: Global personal wealth rose at its fastest pace in years in 2025, driven by strong financial markets and gains in non-financial assets, but India remains an outlier with only about one-fourth of household wealth held in financial assets, underscoring the country's continued dependence on property and other physical assets for wealth creation, according to the UBS Global Wealth Report 2026.

The report said global personal wealth increased by 10.8 per cent in US dollar terms in 2025, more than double the pace recorded in each of the previous two years. "The world became significantly wealthier again in 2025, and at a rapid pace. Personal wealth rose by over 10%, lifted by strong markets and rising non-financial assets," it said.

However, UBS cautioned that the gains were not evenly shared. "This growth was fueled by strong financial markets and a notable increase in non-financial assets... However, the gains were uneven: while average wealth rose notably, median wealth actually declined in most markets, highlighting a growing divide between the wealthiest and the broader population," the report said.



Against this backdrop, India stood out not for the size of its financial wealth, but for its composition. According to the report, financial assets account for just 25.8 per cent of gross wealth in India, among the lowest shares in the 56 markets covered by the study. By comparison, financial assets make up over 80 per cent of household wealth in Sweden, Israel and

Taiwan, nearly 79 per cent in the United States and around 52 per cent in mainland China.

"On the opposite end of the scale we find a value below 20% in Türkiye, below 26% in India, just above 31% in Spain and close to 44% in Germany," UBS said, highlighting the stark differences in how household wealth is held across countries. **-ANI**

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Oman Chromite, up 9.98%, was the top gainer while, Oman United Insurance, down 8.33%, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 7,618.23 points, down by -0.44% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -0.72% at 609.29 points.

Oman Chromite, up 9.98%, was the top gainer while, Oman United Insurance, down 8.33%, was the top loser. Shares of So-har International Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 8546 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 26.02 million, with more than 97.64 million shares changing hands. Out of 71 traded securities, 15 advanced, 25 declined, and 31 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net sellers for RO 1404K while domestic investors were net buyers for RO 1130K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 274K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 13,198.16 points, down -0.29%. Prices of Al Anwar Investment, Oman Arab Bank, Bank Dhofar were up by 1.18%, 0.86%, 0.44% respectively. Prices of Oman United Insurance, Oman & Emirates Investment, United Finance, Al Madina Takaful, Bank Nizwa



were down by 8.33%, 1.25%, 1.06%, 0.82%, 0.70% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 9,835.50 points, down -0.33%. Prices of Oman Chromite, Oman Flour Mills, Muscat Thread Mill, Gulf International Chemicals, Oman Chlorine were up by 9.98%, 3.19%, 2.36%, 1.39%, 1.21% respectively. Prices of Galfar Engineering, Gulf Mushroom Products were down by 2.24%, 1.15% respectively.

Services Index was down by -0.52% before closing at 3,058.57 points. Prices of Barka Desalina-tion, Majan College, OQ Explora-tion & Production, Ooredoo were

up by 2.53%, 2.34%, 1.06%, 0.91% respectively. Prices of Al Bati-nah Power, Al Suwadi Power, OQ Gas Networks, Dhofar Generat-ing, Abraj Energy were down by 3.68%, 3.16%, 1.36%, 1.22%, 0.77% respectively. — **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	7,668.23	7,591.95	7,618.23	7,652.14	-33.91	-0.44 %
FINANCIAL INDEX	13,279.96	13,173.52	13,198.16	13,237.20	-39.05	-0.29 %
Industry Index	9,911.90	9,816.94	9,835.50	9,868.47	-32.96	-0.33 %
Services Index	3,074.60	3,052.76	3,058.57	3,074.60	-16.03	-0.52 %
MSX Shariah Index	614.21	608.14	609.29	613.74	-4.45	-0.72 %
MSX TR INDEX	11,963.64	11,745.62	11,786.23	11,838.74	-52.46	-0.44 %
FINANCIAL TR IDX	16,327.02	16,196.15	16,226.44	16,274.45	-48.01	-0.29 %
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	12,694.62	12,573.01	12,596.79	12,639.00	-42.22	-0.33 %
SERVICES TR IDX	4,119.39	4,090.12	4,097.91	4,119.39	-21.48	-0.52 %
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
97,646,476	26,016,480	8,546	38,394,717/37	15	25	31	71

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, JULY 13

RIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST RD	LAST OFFER	P/B VALUE	MARKET CAP
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REGULAR MARKET

OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	1,000	162	1	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.158	0.004	2.532	0.162	0.158	0.162	0.100	12,234,564
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	286,385	49,248	13	0.170	0.173	0.170	0.172	0.170	0.002	1.176	0.172	0.172	0.175	0.100	52,891,657
OM0000000759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	7,988,948	3,783,388	411	0.474	0.478	0.474	0.477	0.472	0.005	1.159	0.477	0.477	0.010	3,816,000,000	
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	498,500	164,508	27	0.329	0.332	0.328	0.332	0.329	0.003	0.912	0.332	0.331	0.334	0.100	216,113,484
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	28,591,849	5,232,929	1,250	0.186	0.186	0.182	0.183	0.189	-0.006	-0.032	0.183	0.182	0.183	0.100	1,404,709,038
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	12,150	10,212	25	0.840	0.842	0.840	0.842	0.838	0.004	0.477	0.842	0.842	0.842	0.100	105,164,082
OM0000005249	BANK DHOFAR	422,721	95,625	143	0.229	0.229	0.225	0.229	0.228	0.001	0.439	0.229	0.224	0.229	0.100	696,113,864
OM0000001509	DHOFAR INTL DEVELOPMENT & INVEST	8,785	2,559	7	0.288	0.286	0.288	0.286	0.296	0.000	0.000	0.286	0.282	0.286	0.100	146,832,618
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	67,000	25,512	5	0.380	0.382	0.380	0.382	0.382	0.000	0.000	0.382	0.380	0.382	0.100	428,930,198
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	5,200	16,796	18	3.230	3.230	3.230	3.230	3.230	0.000	0.000	3.230	3.226	3.230	0.100	289,731,000
OM0000002077	AL SHARGIYA FINANCIAL SERVICES	400	64	1	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.000	0.000	0.160	0.155	0.160	0.100	50,466,720
OM0000002440	AL SHARGIYA INVESTMENT HO.	50,000	5,050	8	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.000	0.000	0.101	0.101	0.102	0.100	9,090,000
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	2,066	1,570	2	0.760	0.760	0.760	0.760	0.760	0.000	0.000	0.760	0.760	0.760	0.100	91,200,000
OM0000003000	AI MAHA PETROLEUM PRODS MRKTNG	1,020	1,204	3	1.180	1.180	1.180	1.180	1.180	0.000	0.000	1.180	1.180	0.000	0.100	81,420,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	330,140	100,693	12	0.305	0.305	0.305	0.305	0.305	0.000	0.000	0.305	0.304	0.305	0.100	72,105,050
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	150,751	26,360	43	0.176	0.176	0.174	0.175	0.175	0.000	0.000	0.175	0.175	0.176	0.010	175,000,000
OM0000004735	SEWBOORP SALALAH	211,535	54,365	28	0.257	0.258	0.256	0.257	0.257	0.000	0.000	0.257	0.257	0.257	0.100	245,434,961
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	1,722,463	448,071	52	0.259	0.264	0.259	0.260	0.260	0.000	0.000	0.260	0.260	0.261	0.100	380,276,380
OM00000010120	ASTAD SHIPPING	811,262	224,614	275	0.279	0.279	0.272	0.278	0.278	0.000	0.000	0.278	0.305	0.278	0.000	1,448,030,910
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	1,342,126	1,897,025	66	1.404	1.410	1.402	1.402	1.405	-0.003	-0.214	1.402	1.402	1.365	0.100	1,051,500,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	10,000	2,900	4	0.292	0.299	0.281	0.298	0.299	-0.001	-0.334	0.298	0.284	0.297	0.100	59,600,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	26,600	13,232	5	0.489	0.489	0.485	0.488	0.500	-0.002	-0.400	0.488	0.500	0.498	0.100	808,721,285
OM0000000796	BANK MUSCAT	8,451,620	3,343,045	1,414	0.400	0.400	0.395	0.397	0.399	-0.002	-0.501	0.395	0.395	0.395	0.100	2,880,038,634
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	405,489	57,188	19	0.142	0.142	0.141	0.141	0.142	-0.001	-0.704	0.141	0.140	0.141	0.100	315,410,378
OM0000002226	AL JAZEERA SERVICES	37,000	10,321	3	0.279	0.279	0.278	0.278	0.280	-0.002	-0.714	0.278	0.278	0.278	0.100	11,910,351
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	737,261	285,622	128	0.390	0.391	0.386	0.387	0.390	0.003	0.769	0.387	0.387	0.400	0.100	298,067,400
OM0000004788	MADINA TAKAFUL	16,000	1,936	4	0.121	0.121	0.121	0.121	0.122	-0.001	-0.820	0.121	0.121	0.123	0.100	21,175,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	31,000	2,883	2	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.094	-0.001	-1.064	0.093	0.093	0.095	0.100	33,119,839
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	27,493	11,981	22	0.436	0.437	0.430	0.430	0.435	-0.005	-1.149	0.435	0.430	0.435	0.100	21,647,222
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	2,000	317	3	0.159	0.159	0.158	0.158	0.160	-0.002	-1.250	0.158	0.145	0.159	0.100	20,219,063
OM0000000972	QO GAS NETWORKS	13,201,704	2,875,900	1,480	0.222	0.222	0.215	0.218	0.221	0.003	1.357	0.218	0.215	0.218	0.100	944,078,015
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	666,625	122,843	67	0.190	0.190	0.182	0.184	0.190	-0.006	-3.158	0.184	0.184	0.184	0.100	131,450,767
OM0000009906	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SFP2)	16,110,024	4,294,837	1,733	0.274	0.274	0.262	0.264	0.274	-0.010	-3.650	0.264	0.264	0.264	0.040	913,305,584
OM0000004925	ALBATRAH POWER	782,137	144,214	80	0.188	0.188	0.183	0.183	0.190	-0.007	-3.684	0.183	0.172	0.205	0.100	123,504,400
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	500	165	1	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.360	-0.030	-8.333	0.330	0.330	0.380	0.100	34,650,000
Total		82,969,764	23,307,339	7,355												

Parallel Market

OM0000001020	OMAN CHROMITE	100	323	1	3.230	3.230	3.230	3.230	2.937	0.293	9.978	3.230	2.937	3.230	1.000	11,724,900
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	2,418	1,410	5	0.589	0.589	0.583	0.583	0.565	0.018	3.186	0.583	0.554	0.589	0.100	101,234,306
OM0000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	300	65	1	0.217	0.217	0.217	0.217	0.212	0.005	2.368	0.217	0.210	0.216	0.100	4,015,552
OM0000001997	AL ANWAR INVESTMENT	10,400	1,383	8	0.132	0.137	0.131	0.131	0.138	-0.006	-2.341	0.131	0.131	0.131	0.100	12,869,000
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	46,421	3,388	7	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.072	0.001	1.389	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.100	1,533,000
OM0000002341	OMAN CHLORINE	5,606	930	4	0.166	0.168	0.165	0.168	0.166	0.002	1.205	0.168	0.163	0.168	0.100	12,013,485
OM0000005290	OMAN ARAB BANK	230,000	54,280	56	0.236	0.236	0.236	0.236	0.234	0.002	0.855	0.236	0.236	0.236	0.100	473,647,427
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	19,545	3,479	5	0.178	0.178	0.178	0.178	0.177	0.001	0.565	0.178	0.176	0.190	0.100	105,275,765
OM0000001095	DHOFAR INSURANCE	32,747	11,135	11	0.340	0.345	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.000	0.000	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.100	39,559,336
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	4,000	436	1	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.000	0.000	0.109	0.105	0.109	0.100	9,265,000
OM0000001426	OMAN REFRESHMENT	1,673	2,008	2	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.200	0.000	0.000	1.200	1.200	0.000	0.100	60,000,000
OM0000001889	SALALAH MILLS	500	340	1	0.680	0.680	0.680	0.680	0.680	0.000	0.000	0.680	0.680	0.684	0.100	42,474,884
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	99,155	3,580	7	0.036	0.037	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.000	0.000	0.036	0.032	0.038	0.100	3,060,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	2,127,630	318,238	137	0.148	0.156	0.146	0.147	0.147	0.000	0.000	0.147	0.146	0.147	0.100	32,340,000
OM0000002848	NATIONAL FINANCE	1,500	324	1	0.216	0.216	0.216	0.214	0.214	0.000	0.000	0.216	0.216	0.216	0.100	138,248,815
OM0000001154	OMAN REEF	62,380	6,447	19	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.109	0.000	0.000	0.108	0.104	0.108	0.100	15,960,000
OM0000002651	OMIPCO	116,816	2,263,483	866	0.194	0.196	0.193	0.194	0.194	0.000	0.000	0.194	0.193	0.194	0.100	1,297,738,756
OM0000001823	OMAN GATEWAY FUND	100	104	1	1.040	1.040	1.040	1.040	1.040	-0.006	-0.574	1.040	1.045	1.054	0.000	28,439,055
OM0000000447	OMAN REIT FUND	48,650	5,259	14	0.108	0.109	0.108	0.108	0.109	-0.001	-0.917	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.100	70,452,968
OM0000000740	DHOFAR GENERATING	4,950	401	1	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.082	-0.001	-1.220	0.081	0.074	0.084	0.100	18,001,440
OM0000000910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	498	29	1	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.073	-0.001	-1.370	0.072	0.068	0.073	0.100	14,400,000
OM0000000531	OMAN ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	2,525	51	1	0.178	0.178	0.179	0.175	0.175	-0.004	-0.920	0.175	0.173	0.175	0.100	35,600,000
OM0000000371	SOHAR POWER	1,854	501	4	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.300	-0.030	-1.000	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.100	5,400,000
Total		23	14,853,514	2,680,071	1,148											



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Contact/WA: +968-95877725

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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

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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

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JOB WANTED

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Accountant in Oman seeks job. Contact 77336141

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

Accountant in Oman seeks a job. Contact : 92106856

Indian male B.com Accountant looking for suitable job. 13 yrs experience in Oman. D/L & NOC available. Contact 90302933.

CA Intermediate-qualified professional (Keralite) with 3+ yrs of experience, currently based in Oman on a family visa, seeking full-time or part-time opportunities. Contact: 91281006, 78536919

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Chief Accountant, finance manager Indian male with 19 yrs experience in Oman. Accounts up to finalization. MIS, audit, tax, VAT. Contact 78543201 E-mail kramct2021@gmail.com

27 yr Indian male holding MBA (UK) looking for job in Accounts & Sales.Contact 77198066

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Postgraduate with 10+ yrs of GCC experience in HR & administration, skilled in recruitment, payroll, employee relations & office administration. Contact: +96875191563 Email: Eisha-sheikh88@outlook.com

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Civil, project engineer (Indian male) 10 yrs Oman experience in building construction having valid D/L looking for suitable opportunity. Contact: 76423164 email : sjn112020@gmail.com

Fresher Mechanical engineer (B.Tech) seeking an opportunity in Mechanical or MEP field valid Oman D/L. Available to join immediately. Contact: 76267602 Email : yedhu911@gmail.com

ENGINEER

Engineer, designer Indian female electrical engineer with 11 yrs experience including 7yrs in Oman, in MEP design and project coordination, with Oman D/L. Contact +968 97890503

Cep electrical engineer seeks placement. Contact: 94768845

Service engineer with 3 yrs gulf experience seeks job. Contact -92225082 Email- nithisraj333@gmail.com

Mechanical Engineer having piping experience & completed Masters in supply chain management & logistics from UK, seeking Job opportunities, having 6 yrs of experience. Contact : 91251757. Email: jighilthoprath@gmail.com

IT

Indian male, MCA, experience in network admin, IT support, website and Odoo ERP. Contact : 79701775

MANAGER

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

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FOUR CHAMPIONS AND A TALE OF BITTER RIVALRY



Argentina, England, France and Spain — the world's top four-ranked teams — are two wins from glory as classic rivalries, superstar duels and the Golden Boot race add extra intrigue to the World Cup semi-finals

ATLANTA: It's a World Cup semi-final lineup for the ages. Four World Cup champions. The world's top four-ranked teams. Five of the six leading scorers, one GOAT and one of football's fiercest rivalries.

Argentina, Spain, France and England went into the tournament as FIFA's top four-ranked teams and are two wins away from being crowned world champions again.

Both semi-finals are too close to call. France will face Spain in Arlington, Texas, on Tuesday and England will meet Argentina in Atlanta

on Wednesday. Not since 1990 has the final four of a World Cup been made up entirely of previous winners. England and Argentina were involved then, although they did not play each other.

Then, like now, Argentina were the defending champions — after beating West Germany in the 1986 final in Mexico — and went on to lose to West Germany in the 1990 final.

This year could also produce a repeat of the 2022 final if France and Argentina both advance.

England vs Argentina: Football's fiercest rivalry renewed
Argentina must overcome England in a match that renews one of football's fiercest rivalries, with political tensions also heightened by the 1982 Falklands War.

On the field there have been numerous flashpoints between the teams on the World Cup stage.

Argentina captain Antonio Rattin, whose death was announced on Saturday, was sent off in a bad-tempered quarter-final against eventual winners England in 1966.

England manager Alf Ramsey even tried to stop his players from swapping shirts with their opponents after the 1-0 victory.

Twenty years later, Diego Maradona's infamous "Hand of God" goal helped Argentina to a 2-1 quarter-final victory on the way to lifting the trophy in 1986.

David Beckham was sent off in 1998 for kicking Argentina midfielder Diego Simeone, who was heavily criticised by the English media for his reaction to what appeared to be only light contact. Argentina won the round-of-16 match on penalties.

Beckham gained his revenge four years later by scoring the penalty in a 1-0 victory that contributed to Argentina being eliminated in the group stage.

France and Spain meet again in the semi-finals of a major tournament just two years after going head-to-head at the European Championship.

Spain won 2-1, with a then-16-year-old Lamine Yamal on the scoresheet, and went on to lift the Euros by beating England in the final.

Erling Haaland may be out of the race, but five of the six leading scorers are still standing and others could yet force their way into contention.

Mbappé and Lionel Messi lead the way with eight goals each. Haaland has seven but cannot add to that tally after Norway were eliminated by England in the quarter-finals.

Jude Bellingham and Harry Kane have six goals apiece, while Ousmane Dembélé has five.

Mikel Oyarzabal has four and could yet emerge as a contender if Spain overcome France.

There is also a battle for the all-time World Cup scoring record, with Messi on 21 goals and Mbappé on 20.

Golden Boot race heats up
It has become one of the tournament's most compelling subplots, with many of the world's best finishers hitting top form.

Erling Haaland may be out of the race, but five of the six leading scorers are still standing and others could yet force their way into contention.

The nations have met repeatedly at major tournaments. France beat Spain in the final of Euro 1984.

That man Messi
He is already regarded by many as the greatest of all time — the GOAT — and his performances at what is likely to be his final World Cup, at the age of 39, have only strengthened that argument.

This will be Messi's first game against England.

If Messi can lead Argentina to the title, he will surpass the great Diego Maradona by winning two World Cups for his country.

Argentina would also become the first team to retain the World Cup since Brazil in 1958 and 1962.

Pelé was part of those Brazil teams and went on to win a third World Cup in 1970. — Agencies

Police investigate death of South Africa's Adams



CAPE TOWN: Police said on Monday they are investigating the death of South Africa World Cup football player Jayden Adams, after his body was discovered this weekend at a property in the city of Cape Town.

The 25-year-old Adams died two weeks after helping South Africa reach the knockout stage of a World Cup for the first time.

Authorities have not released a cause of death.

"Cape Town central police registered an inquest for investigation following the discovery of the body of a 25-year-old male on Saturday," police said in a statement sent to media.

Adams played in all three of South Africa's group games as it produced its best performance at the World Cup. He did not feature in the 1-0 loss to Canada in the round of 32 on June 28.

South Africa Sports Minister Gayton McKenzie said Adams had played in his team's group game against Czech Republic hours after learning that his grandmother had died.

McKenzie asked the public and media to "exercise restraint and compassion" and not speculate on the cause of Adams' death while authorities conduct an investigation.

There were moments of silence and tributes for Adams at the England vs. Norway and Argentina vs. Switzerland World Cup quarter-final games on Saturday. — Agencies

yet made any funeral plans.

"As you all know, it was an untimely death. The family is struggling to process it," Juanito Adams said. "It won't be easy to carry on. People say it will become easier, but it won't. You just learn to live with it."

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England have another level we can reach, says Kane

ATLANTA: Captain Harry Kane has predicted England "have another level we can reach" as they bid to win the World Cup for the first time since 1966.

The Three Lions needed extra time before beating Norway 2-1 on Saturday, with a semi-final on Wednesday in Atlanta against Argentina (11pm, Oman time).

After the quarter-final, boss Thomas Tuchel said he was unhappy with England's performance, saying the team "got lucky", were "sloppy", made "a lot of technical mistakes" and were "not fast enough, not repetitive enough".

Kane, 32, has scored six goals in this tournament and is England's joint top goalscorer, along with Jude Bellingham.

The skipper felt Tuchel's frustrations were because the side did not replicate what they were doing in training.

Skills
"When he sees us train and sees the closeness of us and sees what we can do, especially with the players we have, the way we attack, our one-on-ones and the skills, he just wants to see that version of us," said Kane.

"He knows as much as anyone that it's not as simple as that, we're playing against good opposition and good teams.

"He's trying to drag it out of us and we know ourselves we have another level we can reach.

"We haven't seen that yet, we've shown it in glimpses. Against Norway it was in glimpses. But we haven't had full control that we would like and I feel we can have.

"We'll be playing against one of the best teams in the world in the semi-final, so the most pleasing thing is we are in a semi-final and still feel we can improve.

"But I don't think it is something to get really over the top about. We are showing a lot of good things."

While Kane agreed with Tuchel's comments, Bellingham - who has scored twice in England's



past two matches - felt differently.

"It's difficult out there, it's a tough shift," said Bellingham after the match. "All the players have put in a tough shift. My thoughts and appreciation goes to the players out there.

"Maybe he [Tuchel] doesn't know what it's like to play in those conditions against Erling Haaland, Martin Odegaard, Antonio Nusa and Alexander Sorloth. They're not an easy team to play against. I can't speak highly enough of the lads."

England have also lost in the past European Championship finals - against Italy on penalties at Wembley in 2021 and then against Spain in Berlin two years ago.

"It's been an extremely successful era of our national team," said Bayern Munich striker Kane. "Of course, we want to get over

the line. That is the missing piece now.

"We're knocking on the door. We're getting to these semi-finals and finals. It's a big week.

"We've been together six weeks and shown every bit of desire for the badge and we're going to need an even bigger push now for the last week or so.

"Ultimately we are in a semi-final of the World Cup and that has not always been the case for this national team, so we have to enjoy it." — Agencies

Infantino opens door to 64-team World Cup

NEW YORK: Plans for a 64-team men's World Cup are set to be assessed after the 2026 tournament, with FIFA boss Gianni Infantino saying the event needs to be "for the whole world".

The proposal for an expanded tournament was put forward last year, and Infantino says the success of the expanded 48-team tournament means FIFA should look at how a 64-team World Cup could work.

"These are all issues that we will be examining after the World Cup," Infantino told Swiss broadcaster Blue Sport, when asked if the tournament could grow to 64 teams.

"When organising a World Cup, it's important to organise it for the whole world - not just Europe and South America, but effectively the entire world. Every nation should be allowed to dream of participating in the World Cup.

"You can see that the quality of the teams is extremely high, and it's getting higher and higher, all over the world. If you don't give smaller countries a chance to participate in the World Cup, they'll lack the incentive to keep improving."

Infantino said that the first 48-team World Cup has been "a huge success", citing the progression of nine out of 10 African teams to the knockout stages.

"At the last World Cup, there were only five teams from Africa," he said. "That just goes to show how important it is to include all teams - to give them this opportunity to participate."

The FIFA council approved the expansion of the World Cup from 32 to 48 teams in 2017.

An official proposal to boost the 2030 World Cup to 64 teams was put forward by South American governing body CONMEBOL in April 2025, but no decision has been reached.

The 2030 edition will be mainly co-hosted by Spain, Portugal and Morocco, with the three opening matches to be hosted by Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay to celebrate the centenary of the competition.

Uruguay hosted the first World Cup, in 1930.

UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin is among those to have dismissed the 64-team proposal, with the Slovenian saying it is a "bad



idea" for both the tournament itself and the qualifying process. Asian Football Confederation (AFC) president Sheikh Salman bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa agreed, saying further expansion would bring "chaos".

Victor Montagliani, president of the governing body for football in North and Central America and the Caribbean (CONCACAF), said the suggestion "doesn't feel right" and he believes the expansion would damage "the broader football ecosystem".

However, Andrew Giuliani, executive director of the White House's World Cup task force, said the United States could consider making a bid to host the 2038 World Cup and would be able to "handle it" if expanded to 64 teams.

FIFA's official position has always been it will discuss expansion ideas with stakeholders and it is duty bound to consider any proposals from council members.

The FIFA council would make the ultimate decision, but there are no signs it is something expected to happen imminently. — Agencies

Elimination hurts, says Switzerland coach Murat Yakin

KANSAS CITY: Switzerland's World Cup quarter-final exit may still be ranking coach Murat Yakin, but the Swiss have judged their run to the last eight a success.

Yakin, the Swiss Football Association president, Peter Knaebel and national team director Pierluigi Tami hailed their progress to the quarters, where they lost 1-3 to Argentina in Kansas City on Saturday.

Switzerland were down to 10 men not long after equalising in the second half when striker Breel Embolo was sent off, picking up his second caution of the game after a VAR review for simulation.

It was a decision that Yakin continued to rail against on Sunday, insisting his side faced more than just the world champions on the pitch.

"We played not only against a great Argentina side and the world champions, but also against 70,000 Argentine fans, the referee, and VAR. That is simply too much. Naturally, the elimination hurts," he told a press conference.

But the Swiss coach said good foundations had been laid down for future tournaments.

"We are far from finished. We have a good mix of players. We have consistently integrated young players."

Yakin also wants to continue in charge. "I still love being a coach and am proud to be the head

coach of the Swiss national team. I am truly enthusiastic about working with this squad. There is absolutely no thought in my mind of taking a different path."

The 51-year-old, who has won 49 caps for Switzerland, has coached the team for the past five years and has two more years remaining on his contract.

"We want to remain ambitious in upcoming campaigns as well. At the same time, the Nations League in particular gives us the opportunity to give young players a chance."

Switzerland next compete in the second tier of the Nations League, having been relegated in 2024. They face North Macedonia, Scotland and Slovenia over the next few months. — Agencies

3-point EU plan for child online safety, age verification outlined

European

Commission

President laid out a three-pronged legislative strategy to dismantle Big Tech’s “unrestricted access” to children, demanding strict platform accountability, a new age verification system, and a legally mandated “social media start date”

BRUSSELS: European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Monday stressed the need for age-appropriate restrictions on social media platforms in Europe to make them a safer place for children.

During a press conference after a Special Panel on child safety online with co-chairs Dr Melchior and Professor Fegert, Ursula laid out a three-pronged legislative strategy to dismantle Big Tech’s “unrestricted access” to children, demanding strict platform accountability, a new age verification system, and a legally mandated “social media start date”.

She shared her remarks on X and captioned the post, “We need age-



appropriate restrictions on platforms. This is not about whether children can access social media. It is about when social media can access our children. For a safer start online for every child.”

In her first major point, von der Leyen asserted that tech companies must shoulder the full legal burden of product safety, shifting the responsibility entirely away from families. Under Europe’s Dig-

ital Services Act, she vowed to continue enforcing “safety-by-design” rules to aggressively strip away addictive features, dark patterns, and harmful content.

Under the European Union’s Digital Services Act (DSA), platforms are already required to mitigate risks arising from harmful online content.

“In Europe, whoever develops a product is responsible for its

safety. Car manufacturers must make their vehicles safe. We do not expect children to design their own seatbelts. We do not expect parents to fit airbags at home. And the very same must be true for big tech. This is why we have the Digital Services Act so that providers remove harmful features - addictive algorithms, dark patterns, harmful content, or unwanted contacts,” she stated.

“With our DSA, we have already taken strong action - against TikTok’s addictive design, and just last week against Meta. Because the rule in Europe is safety-by-design. The platforms have a duty of care to their users, especially to their most vulnerable users. So when a young person reports a problem, providers must respond quickly and effectively. Children’s rights must be taken seriously. And companies must be held accountable,” she added.

Turning to her second point, the European chief called for robust, age-appropriate restrictions to govern how digital networks interact with minors, shifting the



conversation from whether children can access social media to “whether and when social media can access our children”.

To put boundary-enforcing power back into the hands of families, she championed the deployment of an EU-developed age verification app. “It is clear we need age-appropriate restrictions on platforms. This is not about whether children can access social media. It is about whether and when social media can access our children. The question is no longer if children face risks online, but what can we do to give children a safer start online? And here, our age verification app is one of the tools to get it done,” she said.

She described the app as “easy to use, privacy preserving, and open source” and said it is “about putting power back into the hands of parents”.

For her third and final point, von der Leyen made an explicit case for the establishment of a legally mandated “social media start date” to block the online platforms from having unregulated access to children, promising a formal legislative proposal later this year.

“Just as we do not give our children keys to the car before they have their licence or let them

buy alcohol until they are legally allowed, we need to set the age at which they can legally access social media. The status quo, a world where we continue to allow big tech unrestricted access to our children, will only consign another generation to more mental harm, addiction and misery,” von der Leyen said.

The European Commission president advocated a gradual, phased approach to digital exposure based on childhood development, emphasising that toddlers under three should have zero screen time, while older children should only access social media under strict time limits and adult supervision to allow them time to build identities in the real world.

Emphasising the urgency of implementing this phased access across “social media plus” platforms, von der Leyen warned that European governments cannot afford to wait, concluding that once childhood is gone, it cannot be recovered.

Notably, currently, at least 22 European nations, both within and outside the European Union, have either proposed, passed, or are actively considering hard age-based bans to keep young teenagers off social media completely. — ANI

A TRUE AMERICAN PATRIOT



Trump orders US flags at half-mast to honour Senator Lindsey Graham

WASHINGTON DC: US President Donald Trump on Sunday announced that American flags across the United States will be flown at half-mast until Saturday evening in honour of South Carolina’s late Senator Lindsey Graham, who passed away on July 11 following a “brief, sudden illness.”

In a post on Truth Social, Trump paid tribute to Graham, describing him as a “dear friend” and praising his service to the nation and the state of South Carolina.

“In honour of the remarkable life and achievements of Senator Lindsey Graham, a dear friend of mine and a truly great man who achieved so much for our country and his beloved home state of South Carolina, I am ordering all American flags throughout the United States lowered to half-mast until Saturday evening at 6 P.M. GOD BLESS YOU, LINDSEY!” Trump wrote.

In a separate Truth Social post, the US President remembered Graham as a “true American patriot” and one of the greatest senators he had known.

“Senator Lindsey Graham, one of the greatest people and senators I have ever known, is dead! He was always working and was a true American patriot. Lindsey will be greatly missed,”

Trump said.

US Senator Lindsey Graham, a close aide of US President Donald Trump, passed away on Saturday evening after “brief and sudden illness”, his office said on Sunday. In a statement, Graham’s office said the family of the Republican Senator from South Carolina had sought privacy during the difficult time.

“On the evening of Saturday, July 11, US Senator Lindsey Graham passed away from a brief and sudden illness. Senator Graham’s family appreciates prayers at this time and asks for privacy during this incredibly difficult period,” the statement said.

The sudden death of US Senator Lindsey Graham from a “brief and sudden illness” on Saturday has prompted an outpouring of tributes from American and world leaders, who praised his unwavering commitment to his home state of South Carolina, transatlantic security,

US Vice President JD Vance reflected on the complexity and dedication which he said defined Graham’s career. Recalling his time working alongside him, Vance shared a personal anecdote about their evolving professional relationship in a post on X. — ANI

CHATUCHAK DISTRICT

Bangkok fire leaves 27 people dead

BANGKOK: A major fire inside a bar in Thailand’s capital Bangkok late on Sunday night left at least 27 people dead, officials said.

Rescuers said the fire, which was first reported around midnight, broke out in a packed house in the Ladprao area of Chatuchak district.

The joint is popular with local residents and is located in the same area of the city as the busy Chatuchak market.

The market attracts tens of thousands of local and international tourists on weekends.

“Twenty-seven bodies were moved out, lifeless bodies. Some were sent to hospitals, we are checking their conditions,” Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said in televised remarks from the scene of the blaze.

Sixty-three others were injured. City governor Chadchart Sittipunt informed reporters that 22 of them are currently in critical condition.

Another city official said the blaze had already burned through the joint by the time rescuers had arrived.

Witnesses reported that the fire started near the stage area,



the official added.

Footage shared online shows a huge blaze raging and plumes coming out of the front door of the pub. People are seen trying to flee as thick black smoke billows into the sky.

Victims found in restrooms Anutin told reporters that survivors had told how the pub rapidly

filled with smoke, forcing many to run to the back of the venue.

But there were no fire escapes and many of the victims were found in the restrooms, he added.

Firefighters brought the fire under control after half an hour, officials said.

Photos of the aftermath show charred tables and chairs and the

damaged interior of the pub.

Thailand has seen similar tragedies in bars. The largest was a New Year’s Eve celebration at the Santika nightclub in Bangkok on January 1, 2009.

The blaze, apparently sparked by an indoor fireworks display, killed 66 people and injured more than 200. — Agencies

HEALTH SERVICES

China targets average life expectancy of 80 by 2030 in new five-year health plan

BEIJING: China aims to raise its average life expectancy to 80 years by 2030, from 79.25 years in 2025, under a national health plan for the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-2030).

The plan, issued by the State Council, forms part of China’s broader efforts to improve public medical services and advance the Healthy China initiative. It sets out measures to expand fair access to healthcare, encourage wider public awareness of proactive health management, and bring the country’s core health indicators in line with those of high-income economies.

The document further calls for reinforced public health emer-

gency response capabilities and improved primary-level disease prevention and treatment.

It also underlines major tasks to optimize all-round life-cycle health services for all people, shore up robust health safeguards, build an integrated, high-quality medical network, cultivate new growth engines for the health sector, and advance health-centered governance in the sector.

The plan urges advancing the construction of smoke-free environments and strengthening smoking cessation services to reduce the smoking rate among people aged 15 and above to 20 percent. To improve life-cycle health

services, it calls for modifying the policy framework supporting childbirth, and standardizing infertility diagnosis and treatment services as well as the administration and application of assisted reproductive technologies, with higher medical cost coverage for appropriate assisted reproductive technologies.

Regarding women’s health, specifically, the plan highlights enhancing breast and cervical cancer screening and early diagnosis and treatment, and fully implementing free Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination under the national immunization program for eligible girls.

Since Nov. 10, 2025, girls aged 13

in China can receive two doses of bivalent HPV vaccines free of charge, with a 6-month interval between doses. Both domestic and imported HPV vaccines are currently on the market in China. The country’s first homegrown nine-valent HPV vaccine was administered for the first time last September.

For the elderly, the plan calls for further guidance on the rational use of medications, and stresses efforts to develop general hospitals with distinctive strengths in geriatric medicine, advance community-supported home-based eldercare, and improve the care system for older adults with disabilities and dementia. — Xinhua



LIFESTYLE

Scientists just unlocked a cheaper way to make clean hydrogen fuel: Study

This technology uses electricity from renewable sources to split water into hydrogen and oxygen, producing clean hydrogen fuel in the process

Researchers have developed a durable new catalyst that produces clean hydrogen without relying on expensive platinum metals. The breakthrough could make renewable hydrogen fuel cheaper, more efficient, and easier to scale for real-world energy use.

Renewable energy sources can cut harmful emissions, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and improve efficiency. However, many clean energy technologies remain expensive because they depend on costly materials such as platinum group metals (PGMs) and require efficient ways to store energy for later use.

Researchers at Washington University in St Louis are working on a possible solution. A team led by Gang Wu, professor of energy, environmental & chemical engineering in the McKelvey School of Engineering, has developed a new catalyst designed for an anion-exchange membrane water electrolyser (AEMWE).

This technology uses electricity from renewable sources to split water into hydrogen and oxygen, producing clean hydrogen fuel in

the process.

Wu's group focused on replacing expensive platinum-based materials commonly used in hydrogen production systems. Their approach uses renewable electricity generated from sunlight, wind, or water to power the separation of hydrogen from water molecules.

"Going from water to hydrogen is a very desirable way we are able to store energy for different applications," Wu said. "Hydrogen itself can be used as an energy carrier and is useful for different chemical industries and manufacturing."

To build the catalyst, the researchers combined rhenium phosphide (Re_2P) and molybdenum phosphide (MoP). Together, the two materials created a highly effective composite that improved the hydrogen extraction process. The rhenium component helped hydrogen attach to and release from the catalyst surface, while the molybdenum sped up the splitting of water in the alkaline electrolyte.

The team paired the new catalyst with a nickel-iron anode and found that the system performed better than a leading state-of-the-art cathode, including one based

on PGM materials. According to Wu, the catalyst also operated for more than 1,000 hours at industry-level current densities of 1 and 2 amperes per square centimetre. That makes it one of the most durable platinum-free cathodes developed so far for anion-exchange membrane water electrolyzers.

"Our findings allowed us to rationalise the critical role of engineering the hydrogen-bond network at the catalyst/electrolyte interface in designing high-efficiency, low-cost AEMWEs," Wu said.

"Our catalyst showed the lowest resistance across the studied potential range, which suggests the fastest hydrogen adsorption kinetics among the studied catalysts. These newly achieved performance and durability metrics make our catalyst one of the most promising membrane electrode assemblies for practical anion-exchange membrane water electrolyzers," added Wu.

Although the experiments were carried out at laboratory scale, the researchers plan to continue studying whether the technology can be expanded for industrial use.

- ANI

ROUND-UP

BYD Sealion 5 super hybrid SUV redefines the standards of everyday family driving in Oman

The BYD Sealion 5 stands out on Omani roads with its sophisticated “Ocean X” design language, balancing sleek aesthetics with muscular SUV proportions

MUSCAT: Following its successful introduction to the Sultanate of Oman, the BYD Sealion 5 DM-i continues to gain strong momentum among motorists.

Seamlessly blending advanced space, intelligent technology and pioneering efficiency, this full-sized SUV delivers on BYD’s global promise to elevate the daily driving experience through world-class engineering.

The BYD Sealion 5 stands out on Omani roads with its sophisticated “Ocean X” design language, balancing sleek aesthetics with muscular SUV proportions. Built for modern family life, the vehicle measures over 4.7 meters in length with a generous 2.7-meter wheel-base, providing class-leading interior space and comfortable seating for five adults. Practicality is a core strength, featuring a 410-litre boot that expands to 1,442 litres when the rear seats are folded flat—making it highly adaptable for school runs, shopping and weekend travel.

At the heart of the Sealion 5 is BYD’s world-leading DM-i (Dual Mode intelligent) Super Hybrid technology. The system pairs the ultra-safe BYD Blade Battery with a high-efficiency 1.5-litre Xiaoyun internal combustion engine to prioritize an electric-led driving experience. Operating predominantly in pure-electric mode during urban commutes, it delivers the quietness and instant torque of an EV alongside the long-distance security of a traditional engine. The intelligent system automatically manages power allocation, delivering 0-100 km/h acceleration in 8.1 seconds and an outstanding combined driving range of 791 km. The cabin features a high-resolution 12.8-inch touchscreen, “Hi BYD” voice control, and standard NFC smartphone access for keyless entry. Designed for active lifestyles, its groundbreaking Vehicle-to-Load (V2L) technology



transforms the SUV into a mobile power source, supplying up to 3.3kW to power external devices and camping gear during desert or wadi excursions. Passenger protection is anchored by the ultra-safe Blade Battery architecture and a standard 360-degree safety shield, featuring Adaptive Cruise Control, Blind Spot Detection and Lane Keep Assistance. Onboard comfort is enhanced by a premium standard equipment list, including electrically adjustable front seats and a high-definition 360-degree camera for effortless parking. As popularity grows across the Sultanate, the BYD Sealion 5 DM-i remains the premier choice for families seeking a sophisticated, versatile, and highly efficient vehicle.

In Oman, BYD vehicles are distributed by World Auto Business.

FLEXIBLE FINANCING SOLUTIONS

BankDhofar launches summer short-term loan campaign with competitive rates for summer travel and expenses

MUSCAT: BankDhofar, the second-largest bank in the Sultanate of Oman in terms of branch network - has announced the launch of a seasonal short-term loan campaign designed to support customers with personal expenses and travel plans during the July to August travel period, offering flexible financing solutions at highly competitive, segment-based interest rates.

The limited-time campaign aims to provide short-term financing options with repayment tenures ranging from 6 to 12 months. The initiative is tailored to meet rising demand for Personal and travel-related spending during the summer season, as families and individuals across Oman prepare for Summer activities and personal commitments.

Under the campaign, BankDhofar is offering differentiated pricing across three key customer segments. Mass customers will benefit from a special rate of 3.49%, while clients under the Al Rifaa segment will be offered a reduced rate of 3.25%. The bank’s premium Al Riadah segment will enjoy the most competitive rate of 2.99%, reflecting its focus on rewarding high-value and long-standing customer relationships.

The campaign targets a broad base of customers, including individuals planning summer travel, new customers transferring their



salaries to BankDhofar, and existing clients eligible for fresh personal financing. It also places particular emphasis on premium banking segments, reinforcing the bank’s commitment to delivering differentiated value propositions across its customer tiers.

BankDhofar Stated that the initiative is part of its broader strategy to enhance customer experience through seasonally relevant financial solutions that align with lifestyle needs. By introducing Short-term loans.

For personal expenses and travel during peak summer months, the bank aims to support customers in managing their financial commitments more conveniently

while maintaining flexibility.

The offering is poised to appeal strongly to salary earners and families seeking structured repayment options for Personal and travel expenses, including airfare, accommodations, and seasonal spending, without the need to dip into long-term savings.

The campaign reflects BankDhofar’s ongoing focus on innovation in retail banking and its commitment to delivering tailored credit solutions that respond to evolving customer behavior patterns.

The short-term loan campaign is available for a limited period only during the July and August peak season. Customers are encouraged to visit their nearest BankDhofar

branch for more details on eligibility criteria, documentation requirements, and loan approval processes. With this initiative, BankDhofar continues to strengthen its position as a customer-centric financial institution, offering practical and timely solutions that enhance lifestyle convenience while supporting responsible borrowing.



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