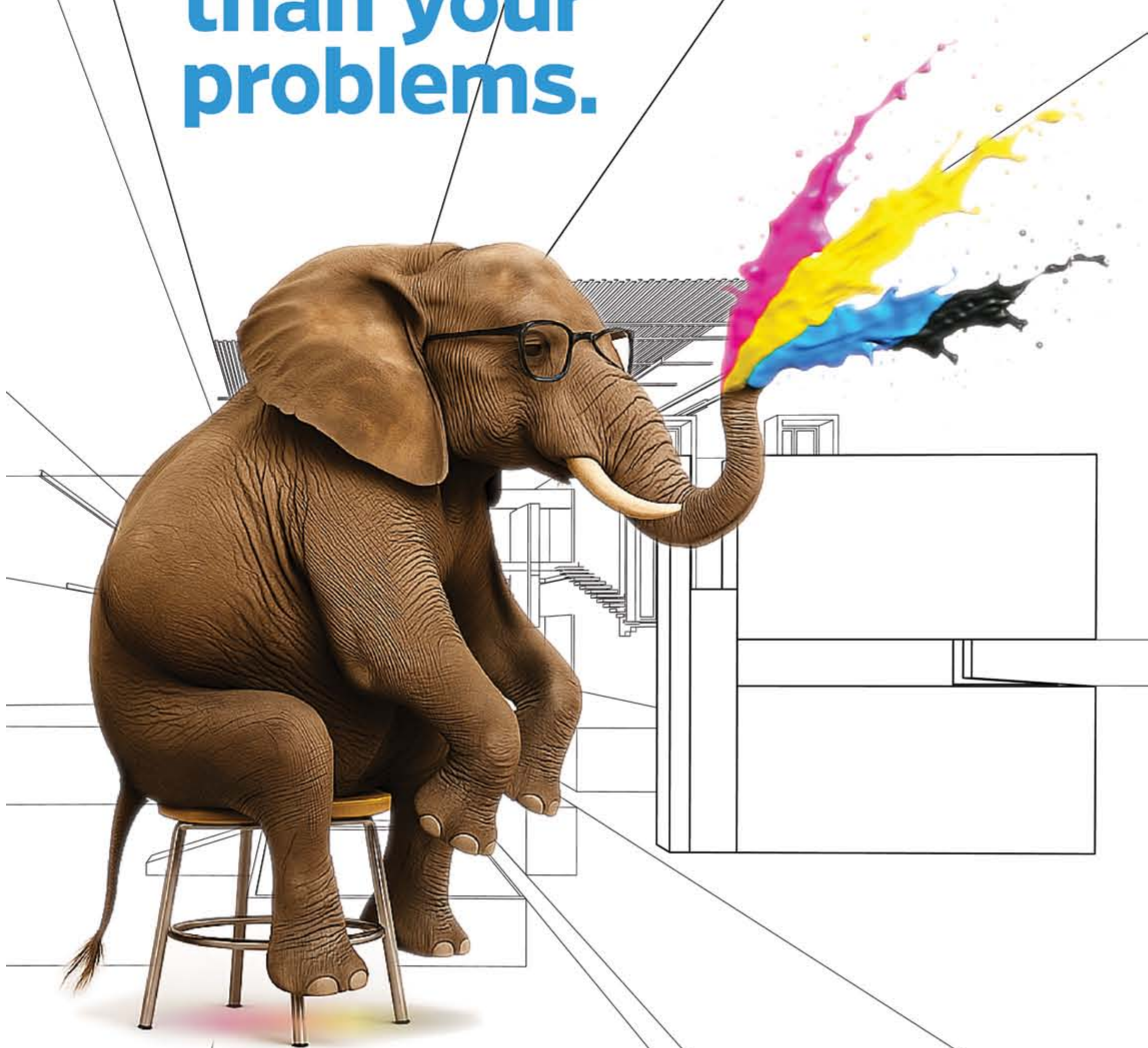


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Lecture held on AI use in financial auditing

The lecture aimed to highlight the latest global standards and best practices, and demonstrate the role of advanced technologies in boosting institutional performance



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Secretariat General of the Shura Council, represented by the Information and Statistics Department, organised an introductory lecture entitled 'Artificial Intelligence in Administrative and Financial Auditing' in cooperation with the State Audit Institution on Wednesday.

The lecture was delivered by a specialist from the Directorate General of Integrity and Anti-Corruption at the State Audit Institution, as part of the Secretariat General's efforts to enhance knowledge of emerging technologies, strengthen institutional capabilities, and support digital transformation in line with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

The lecture aimed to familiarise Secretariat General staff

with the key applications of artificial intelligence in administrative and financial auditing, highlight the latest international standards and best practices, and demonstrate the role of advanced technologies in improving institutional performance, enhancing the efficiency of audit processes, strengthening governance and transparency, and supporting data-driven decision-making.

The presentation also addressed the transformation of internal auditing in the era of big data, highlighting the shift from traditional auditing methods to intelligent audit systems based on comprehensive data analytics, risk prediction, process automation, and real-time analytical insights that support auditors in carrying out their responsibilities.

It further reviewed the Sultanate of Oman's strategic di-

rection in the field of artificial intelligence, relevant national initiatives, and the latest international standards and intelligent auditing tools, together with their applications in data analytics, risk detection, and improving the quality of audit outcomes.

Intelligent auditing

In addition, the lecture presented practical examples of the use of artificial intelligence in auditing government projects and outlined the anticipated benefits of intelligent auditing, particularly enhancing the comprehensiveness of audit examinations, enabling the early detection of irregularities, and allowing auditors to focus on priority issues.

It also emphasised that artificial intelligence serves as a decision-support tool for auditors, while professional judgement

remains the responsibility of the human auditor.

The lecture further reviewed the requirements for transitioning to intelligent auditing, the implementation roadmap for this transformation, and the importance of developing national competencies through specialised professional training programmes and certifications.

The lecture forms part of the Secretariat General's ongoing efforts to strengthen the capabilities of its employees, foster a culture of innovation, and expand the effective use of advanced technologies, thereby contributing to the development of the workplace, enhancing institutional performance, and improving the efficiency of the Secretariat General's operational framework in support of the objectives of Oman Vision 2040. -ONA

Sayyid Badr holds talks with British counterpart



LONDON: Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Oman's Foreign Minister, held talks on Wednesday with Yvette Cooper, the United Kingdom's Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development, at the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office in London.

The meeting underscored the strength of the longstanding strategic partnership between Oman and the United Kingdom, with both sides reaffirming their commitment to further expanding cooperation across the political, economic, cultural and scientific sectors.

The ministers also exchanged views on the latest regional developments and key international issues. Discussions focused on

strengthening preventive diplomacy, enhancing coordination and consensus-building mechanisms to contain regional risks, and supporting efforts aimed at de-escalation and dialogue to promote peace and stability.

Both sides emphasised the importance of safeguarding maritime security and ensuring the uninterrupted flow of global supply chains and international trade in accordance with the principles of international law.

The two ministers reaffirmed the value of the deep mutual trust and respect that underpin Oman-UK relations and stressed the need for continued coordination on issues of shared interest to bolster constructive cooperation and contribute to regional and international stability.

EIGHTH MEETING

State Council hosts Ministry of Education, SQU



MUSCAT: The Education and Research Committee of the State Council on Wednesday hosted Dr. Abdullah Mohammed Al Shibli, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education for Higher Education, as part of the Committee's deliberation on the proposed study entitled "Governance Efficiency of Non-Governmental Higher Education Institutions: Government Oversight and Self-Governance," chaired by Dr. Abdullah bin Mohammed Al-Sarami, Head of the Committee.

During its eighth meeting of the third regular sitting of the eighth term under the chairmanship of Dr. Abdullah Mohammed Al Sarmi, Head of the Committee, the Committee discussed with the Undersecretary the current landscape of non-governmental higher education institutions in the Sultanate of Oman, the diversity of their academic programmes and their alignment with development needs and labour market requirements, as well as policies supporting these institutions.

The discussion also covered mechanisms for measuring the impact of government investment in these institutions and the role of international partnerships in enhancing education quality and advancing the competitiveness of higher education institutions in line with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

The meeting further addressed the legislative and regulatory framework governing non-governmental higher education institutions, policies for the distribution of government scholarships and grants, governance and quality standards and mechanisms for developing the oversight system towards a model focused on output efficiency and performance indicators. Ad-

ditionally, the discussion examined the flexibility of regulatory frameworks and their capacity to keep pace with technological and global developments.

The meeting also highlighted the importance of strengthening integration between governmental and non-governmental higher education institutions, alongside challenges related to licensing and accreditation, financial sustainability, the measurement of legislative impact and mechanisms for developing the legislative framework to enhance the quality and management efficiency of higher education.

In a separate session, the sub-committee emanating from the Education and Research Committee—tasked with deliberating the proposed study entitled "Research and Innovation: Priorities and Measuring the Return on Development in the Sultanate of Oman"—hosted a number of officials from Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) to seek their observations and perspectives on the subject of the study.

The sub-committee, chaired by Dr. Mohammed Nasser Al Saqri, reviewed indicators of scientific output, funding, programmes and research trends over the past ten years, as well as mechanisms for aligning research and innovation with national priorities and sectoral needs, and the impact of incentive and promotion policies on enhancing applied research and innovation.

Discussions also addressed the measurement of the impact of research outputs and their translation into patents, products and institutional applications, alongside the challenges facing these efforts and the university's requirements for increasing the economic and knowledge impact of research. -ONA

SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Sports Flame 2026: Strategic pact enriching sports-filled summer

MUSCAT: Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre, part of Omran Group, has signed a strategic partnership agreement with Sohar International bank to host the fourth edition of "Sports Flame 2026" event.

This summer's edition returns with an expanded programme and a comprehensive sports and entertainment experience for all members of the community.

The event will take place from 14 July to 15 August 2026, during which the air-conditioned halls at Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre will transform into a vibrant hub bringing together athletes, amateurs, families and children in an integrated indoor environment.

This setting enables everyone to engage in sports and enjoy a diverse array of summer activities away from the summer heat.

This year's Sports Flame features over 20 sports and interactive activities, alongside tournaments, competitions and entertainment experiences designed to cater to various ages and interests.

This reflects the event's year-on-year evolution and its growing prominence as one of the



Sultanate of Oman's premier community-focused summer destinations.

The programme includes several key highlights, among them the dedicated screening of the semi-final and final matches of the 2026 FIFA World Cup, allowing the public to share in the excitement of the global tournament within a setting that combines sporting fervour with entertainment.

The event also features the "Spark Night of Martial Arts,"

bringing together enthusiasts of combat sports in a distinctive competitive atmosphere, in addition to "Muscat Night Run," which offers a unique running experience under the lights of Madinat Al Irfan (Al Irfan City).

The summer camp for children returns with an integrated programme blending physical activity, learning and recreation, aimed at developing children's motor and cognitive skills while making positive and enjoyable use of the

summer break.

This partnership further reflects a shared vision between Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre and Sohar International to enhance the presence of high-quality community events, support the sports and entertainment events sector and highlight Muscat as a destination capable of hosting integrated experiences that combine sports, entertainment and community engagement. -ONA

DIPLOMATIC CLUB

US Embassy in Muscat celebrates 250th Independence Anniversary

MUSCAT: The Embassy of the United States of America in Muscat on Wednesday hosted a reception to commemorate the 250th anniversary of American independence and to celebrate the historic and future partnership between the United States and the Sultanate of Oman.

Ana Escrogrima, US Ambassador accredited to the Sultanate of Oman, affirmed in her address that the partnership between the United States and the Sultanate of Oman constitutes an integral part of their shared history. She highlighted the celebration of the fruitful cooperation built over decades, reinforced by strong and mutually beneficial ties, which has contributed to enhancing security and prosperity in the region



and across the globe.

The reception, held at the Diplomatic Club, showcased key milestones in the bilateral relations between the two friendly nations and featured a short film entitled "From the Sea to the Stars," which illuminated the evolution



of US-Omani relations.

The event also included a companion exhibition titled "The Founders," which recounts the story of America's independence and traces the development of bilateral relations with the Sultanate of Oman.

The reception was attended by a number of ministers, undersecretaries, dignitaries and heads of diplomatic missions accredited to the Sultanate of Oman, along with several officials from the Foreign Ministry and the private sector. -ONA

AL MANAR RACING DRIVER

Dar Al Atta’a signs community pact with Al Faisal Al Zubair



MUSCAT: Dar Al Atta’a Association announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Oman’s international racing driver Al Faisal bin Khalid Al Zubair, from Al Manar Racing team, to strengthen cooperation in humanitarian and community initiatives while promoting the values of social responsibility and volunteerism across the Sultanate of Oman.

The partnership brings together one of Oman’s leading charitable organizations with one of the nation’s most accomplished international athletes, reflecting a shared commitment to creating a lasting social impact through sport and community engagement.

Al Manar Racing Team is an Omani motorsport platform that competes in prestigious international GT3 championships. Led by Al Faisal Al Zubair, who proudly represents Oman on the global stage, the team has established itself as a modern sporting platform that combines elite competition with national partnerships, digital innovation, and meaningful community initiatives.

Under the agreement, Al Faisal Al Zubair will serve as Dar Al Atta’a Charity Ambassador, supporting the association’s humanitarian mission through participation in charitable and community events,

raising awareness of its programmes, and encouraging members of the public to embrace the values of giving and volunteerism.

As part of the collaboration, Dar Al Atta’a logo will also be displayed on Al Manar Racing Team’s race car during selected international competitions, extending the association’s humanitarian message to a global audience and showcasing Oman’s charitable values on the international motorsport stage.

The partnership reflects both parties’ belief in the power of sport as a platform for positive social change and in leveraging Al Faisal Al Zubair’s international profile to inspire community engagement and strengthen the culture of social responsibility.

Commenting on the partnership, Mariam Issa al Zadjali, Founder and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Dar Al Atta’a said: “This partnership marks an important step towards expanding awareness of charitable work and inspiring different segments of society particularly young people to engage in volunteerism and humanitarian initiatives. It also represents a continuation of Dar Al Atta’a mission to build impactful community partnerships with distinguished national figures who can effectively reach and influence

the wider community.” She added

“At Dar Al Atta’a, we firmly believe that meaningful partnerships are among the most important pillars for achieving sustainable social impact. We are delighted to welcome Al Faisal Al Zubair as our Charity Ambassador. He is an inspiring national role model for young Omanis, and his strong local and international presence will help amplify our message and promote a culture of giving and volunteerism both within Oman and beyond.” She ended

For his part, Al Faisal Al Zubair expressed his pride in joining the initiative. “I am honoured to join the Dar Al Atta’a family as its Charity Ambassador. I believe that success in sport carries a responsibility towards society and I hope to contribute to advancing the association’s humanitarian mission and helping its message reach wider audiences both in Oman and internationally,” he said

The agreement marks the beginning of a series of humanitarian and community initiatives that Al Faisal Al Zubair will undertake in partnership with Dar Al Atta’a over the coming months, reflecting both parties’ commitment to creating sustainable and meaningful social impact for the benefit of the Omani community.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

‘Environmental Guardians’ initiative for Khareef Dhofar season begins

SALALAH: The Environment Authority in Dhofar Governorate on Wednesday commenced the implementation of the “Environmental Guardians” initiative, coinciding with the Khareef Dhofar (monsoon) season.

The initiative forms part of ongoing efforts to strengthen environmental protection and preserve the natural assets that attract a significant influx of visitors during this period, and will continue for a duration of two months.

Adnan Ahmed Ghawas, Head of the Environmental Control and Emergency Section at the Environment Authority in Dhofar Governorate and supervisor of the initiative, stated: “The initiative aims to intensify field presence at tourist and natural sites and green spaces, covering areas affected by



the Khareef season. This contributes to curbing adverse practices and behaviours that may impact the environment, vegetation cover and wildlife, while simultaneously enhancing compliance with environmental regulations and requirements.”

He added that field teams are tasked with conducting monitoring and surveillance operations,

delivering environmental awareness programmes, responding to reports and violations and guiding visitors on the importance of maintaining the cleanliness of natural sites and protecting vegetation cover—thereby reinforcing environmental sustainability and preserving the natural heritage that distinguishes Dhofar Governorate. **-DNA**

ENVIRONMENT AUTHORITY

Over 1,000 students take part in environment competition

MUSCAT: The Environment Authority on Wednesday marked the conclusion of an environment protection competition that saw the participation of more than 1,000 school students from different governorates of the Sultanate of Oman.

The closing ceremony of the competition was held under the auspices of Dr. Abdullah bin Ali Al

Amri, Chairman of the Environment Authority.

The competition’s drawing contest attracted more than 300 students, while the environment video filming contest saw the participation of more than 500 students. More than 300 students took part in the environmental essay writing contest. The competition

aimed to foster a sense of responsibility towards the environment in young generations.

The ceremony included a visual presentation that showcased the highlights of the competition. Students who won top places in the contests were felicitated at the conclusion of the ceremony. **-DNA**



Tender Notice

Oman Water & Wastewater Services Company (Nama Water Services) hereby announces the following Tenders:

Tender No.	Description of Project	Eligibility	Tender Fee (RO)	Last Date of Distribution of Tender Documents	Bid Submission Date
OW/T/10033/2026	Consultancy Services for Construction Supervision of Water Distribution Networks in the Wilayat of Al Kamil and Al Wafi, South Al Sharqiyah Governorate	Local Companies registered with Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority and International Companies specialized in the works mentioned	R.O 500/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	16/7/2026	24/8/2026
OW/T/10031/2026	Consultancy Services for Construction Supervision of Water Distribution Networks in the Wilayat of Jaalan Bani Bu Hassan, South Al Sharqiyah Governorate	Local Companies registered with Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority and International Companies specialized in the works mentioned	R.O 500/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	16/7/2026	24/8/2026
OW/T/10034/2026	Consultancy Services for Construction Supervision of Water Distribution Networks in the Wilayat of Jaalan Bani Bu Ali, South Al Sharqiyah Governorate	Local Companies registered with Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority and International Companies specialized in the works mentioned	R.O 1000/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	16/7/2026	24/8/2026
OW/T/10029/2026	Consultancy Services for Construction of Water Distribution Networks in Al Nahdah, Al Hajer and Deem, Wilayat of Al Amerat, Muscat Governorate	Local Companies registered with Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority and International Companies specialized in the works mentioned	R.O 1000/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	16/7/2026	24/8/2026
OW/T/10009/2026	Build, Own and Operate of Desalination Plant (8,000 M3/Day) Capacity for 20 Years at Wilayat of Masirah	Local Companies registered with Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority in Excellent Grade and International Companies specialized in the works mentioned	R.O 1000/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	16/7/2026	24/8/2026
OWW/T/10033/2026	Project Management Services for Nama Water Services Capital Projects	Local Companies registered with Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority and International Companies specialized in the works mentioned	R.O 1000/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	16/7/2026	17/8/2026
OWW/T/10016/2026	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of the Odor Control Unit with all Accessories at STP & (PS3A, PS3B, PS4 & PS5) in the Wilayat of Wadi Bani Khalid, North Al Sharqiyah Governorate	Local Companies registered with Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority specialized in the works mentioned	R.O 100/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	16/7/2026	17/8/2026

- The tender documents can be obtained from the e-tendering page (Supplier Login) from this announcement date. The applicants shall pay the tender fee by logging into their (I-supplier Page).
- Applicants who are not registered shall register through the following link: <https://nws.nama.om/Business-with-Us/Vendor-Registration> in order to receive the login credentials of the Supplier portal.
- All applicants who have paid the tender fee shall have access to the Tender Documents through Nama Water Services e-tendering page (Supplier Login <https://nws.nama.om/en-us/Business-with-Us/Supplierlogin>). All participating companies shall submit a Bid Bond of 1% of the bid value in a sealed envelope. Bid Bonds must be obtained from a local Bank registered in the Sultanate of Oman addressed to Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company (Nama Water Services) Chairman of Tender Committee not later than 2:00 pm on the bid submission date.
- The bid along with all required documents shall be uploaded through Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company (Nama Water Services) e-tendering page not later than 2:00 pm on the date specified above. For more details refer to Tender Page of our website www.nws.nama.om & in case of general queries you may contact us through the email ID of tender@owwsc.nama.om



RADO DIASTAR ORIGINAL OMAN EDITION

Inspired by TIMELESS ARCHITECTURE, DEFINED BY RADO

The skyline of Muscat embodies a vision of cultural pride, precision, and lasting craftsmanship – values deeply rooted in Omani identity expressed exquisitely in the new Rado DiaStar Original Oman Edition watches.

Purity, Balance and Timelessness

These new timepieces are inspired by timeless architecture that distinguishes Oman’s capital city. At the heart of their design is a refined balance between classical Middle Eastern geometry and the Sultanate’s contemporary sense of elegance and harmony. Clean lines, symmetry, and carefully measured surfaces create an atmosphere of calm confidence.

WATCHES WORTHY OF A UNIQUE LANDSCAPE

The Rado DiaStar Original Oman Edition watches take their design inspiration from Oman’s architectural heritage. Produced in four distinct models, the collection is available in silver or golden tones, each offered in two sizes: 30mm designed for slimmer wrists, and 38mm, expressing a bolder character.

enriched by architectural inspiration and a play of multiple brushed effects that add texture and depth.

Rado x Oman

Oman’s history is a rich and fascinating one. Rado’s own meaningful connection with the Sultanate dates back to 1970, a pivotal year that marked the beginning of Oman’s modern era. In recent years, Rado has continued to strengthen its presence across the Middle East and looks ahead with confidence to deepening its long-standing relationship with Oman. Reconnecting with long-time Rado enthusiasts while welcoming new audiences, the Swiss watchmaker is proud to share its spirit of innovation, design excellence, and material mastery with a new generation.

About Rivoli Group

The Rivoli Group is synonymous with luxury lifestyle retail. Over the last four decades, it has established a wide footprint, serving its customers across the UAE, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain offering a diverse portfolio of over 100 prestigious international brands.

From its headquarters in Dubai, the Group has swiftly established its reputation as one of the largest importers, distributors and retailers of luxury products with over 230+ stores in the region.

Rado calibre R764, and the smaller sizes are equipped with the Rado calibre R586.

The case construction balances robustness with refinement. Framed by a polished Ceramos™ bezel – declined in platinum or yellow gold-coloured finishes – the design is paired with a polished stainless steel middle case and topped by a vertically faceted sapphire crystal with anti-reflective coating on the inside.

Turning the watch reveals a stainless steel case back adorned with a special laser engraving reading “OMAN EDITION”,



Seven road maintenance projects worth OMR14mn underway in Dhofar

The Transport ministry has completed construction work on a new coastal dirt road connecting the Wilayats of Rakhyut and Dhalkut in Dhofar Governorate



SALALAH: The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology is implementing seven road maintenance and rehabilitation projects in Dhofar Governorate at a total cost exceeding OMR14 million, spanning a total length of about 168 kilometres, as part of its efforts to develop the road network infrastructure and enhance traffic safety.

The Ministry completed one project during the first quarter of this year, while four other projects are expected to be completed during the fourth quarter of 2026.

The sixth project is scheduled for completion in the first quarter of 2027, and the seventh in the second quarter of 2028, within the framework of its plans aimed at enhancing the efficiency of the road network infrastructure in the governorate.

Eng. Said Mohammed Tabook, Director General of the Directorate General of Roads and Land Transport in Dhofar Governorate, stated to Oman News Agency (ONA) that during the first quarter of this year, the Ministry took over the maintenance and rehabilitation project of the (Tawi Ateer -



Wadi Rakhah - Jibjat) road, with a length of 30 kilometres and at a total cost of OMR1,280,000.

He added that the Ministry is currently implementing a maintenance and rehabilitation project for the (Madinat Al Haq - Jabal Yoor - Tawi Ateer - Wadi Darbat) road in Dhofar Governorate, with a total length of 42 kilometres and an estimated cost of OMR1,953,000, noting that the completion rate of the project has reached about 40 percent.

Eng. Said pointed out that the Ministry is currently working on the maintenance and rehabilitation project of the (Al Maamoura - Taqah) dual carriageway in Dhofar Governorate, with a length

of 22 kilometres and at a cost of OMR1,500,000, and it is expected to be completed in November 2026. He explained that the project includes adding an asphalt layer along the road from Al Maamoura roundabout in the Wilayat of Salalah to the roundabout of the Wilayat of Taqah.

As for the maintenance and rehabilitation project of the (Taqah - Madinat Al Haq) road in the Wilayat of Taqah, Dhofar Governorate, he indicated that the length of the mountain road extending from Taqah roundabout to the Madinat Al Haq area is 24 kilometres, with a total cost estimated at about OMR1,570,000, noting that the implementation of the project

is expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2026.

In the western area of Dhofar Governorate, the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology has completed the construction works for cutting a new coastal dirt road connecting the Wilayats of Rakhyut and Dhalkut in Dhofar Governorate, with a length of 20 kilometres and at a total cost of OMR700,000.

He added that the new coastal road allows the passage of various types of vehicles and passes through mountainous terrain and breathtaking natural landscapes. He explained that the project contributes to facilitating movement between the two wilayats by reducing the distance from 60 to about 20 kilometres, which is equivalent to a shortcut of approximately 40 kilometers. He pointed out that the coastal road paving project is currently undergoing budgeting procedures in preparation for completing its future phases, in line with development aspirations in the governorate and contributing to improving the quality of the road network infrastructure.

Regarding the project for maintaining the asphalt roads (Hafuf - Khadrafi) in the Wilayat of Dhalkut and improving the (Anatokh) slope in the Wilayat of Rakhyut, the Director General indicated that the completion rate of the construction works has exceeded 80 percent, with a total cost of more than RO 2 million, and the project is expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2026.

He noted that work continues on the project to implement side slopes for the Khadrafi - Sarfait and Khadrafi - Dhalkut road, which aims to rehabilitate the (Khadrafi - Sarfait) road with a total length of about 7 kilometres, and the (Khadrafi - Dhalkut) road with a length of one kilometre, at a total cost reaching OMR5 million.

He explained that the project works include removing all damages and collapses that the side slopes were subjected to, and reshaping them in a way that contributes to reducing the forces acting on the sliding surfaces, in addition to constructing retaining walls, and executing soil stabilization and slope reinforcement works to limit the risks of future landslides, thereby enhancing road stability and raising the safety level for its users. It is expected to be completed by mid-2028.

The implementation of these projects comes within the framework of the efforts of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology to develop the road network in Dhofar Governorate, enhance traffic safety, and support sustainable development, in addition to contributing to stimulating economic and tourism activity in the governorate.

The Ministry is executing these projects according to the highest technical and engineering specifications, contributing to providing a safe and integrated road network that meets urban and community development requirements and supports the objectives of Oman Vision 2040 in the field of infrastructure and sustainable transport. -ONA

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BAIT AL FALAJ CAMP

39th cohort of Joint Command and Staff College graduates



MUSCAT: The Academy for Strategic and Defence Studies yesterday celebrated the graduation of the 39th cohort of the Joint Command and Staff College. The event took place at its headquarters in Bait Al Falaj Camp, under the patronage of Sayyid Hamoud Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior, and in the presence of Maj.Gen Hamid Ahmed Sakroon, Chairman of the Academy for Strategic and Defence Studies.

Brigadier Mohammed Ahmed Al Mashikhi, Commandant of the Joint Command and Staff College, stated in his address that the College continues to implement its development and modernisation plans in line with the requirements of the present and the anticipated challenges of the future.

This is achieved through the advancement of the education and training system, the enhancement of quality programmes and various excellence initiatives, all aligned with the rapid transformations in military sciences and modern technologies.

Subsequently, the Minister of Interior, the patron of the ceremony, presented awards to the top-ranking participants of the cohort and conferred certificates upon the graduates.



The 39th Joint Command and Staff Course is one of the specialized academic programmes designed to prepare and qualify officers for operational-level roles, equipping them with military knowledge and sciences through the latest curricula and training methodologies.

The 39th cohort commenced in August 2025, with the participation of officers from the Ministry of Defence, the Sultan's Armed Forces, other military and security services, as well as a number of officers from the GCC countries and several Arab and friendly nations.

The academic programme comprised three main terms, fea-

turing a number of tactical and operational exercises, specialist lectures delivered by Undersecretaries and Ambassadors, and concluded with the execution of Exercise "Al Hazm," which served as the culminating event of the course.

The graduation ceremony was attended by a number of ministers, commanders of the Sultan's Armed Forces and other military and security services, ambassadors of Arab and friendly nations, senior officers from the Sultan's Armed Forces and other military and security services, military attachés and members of the College's directing staff and academic faculty. -ONA

IN TANZANIA

Big turnout at Oman pavilion

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman's pavilion at the 50th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair "SabaSaba 2026" in the United Republic of Tanzania attracts a notable turnout of visitors and officials.

The pavilion features the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates "Madayn", the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), and the SMEs Development Authority "Riyada". Alongside these bodies, 20 Omani companies are participating, representing industrial, commercial and service sectors.

On the sidelines of the exhibition, the supervisory team for promoting Omani products "OPEX", in close coordination with the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman in Tanzania, is

preparing to host a joint Omani-Tanzanian Businessmen Meet tomorrow, Thursday.

This event is designed to explore new commercial partnerships and boost import and export operations between the two countries. The event also aims to highlight the incentives and services offered by relevant Omani authorities to attract foreign investments and enhance a thriving investment environment in Oman.

During his visit to the Sultanate of Oman's pavilion at the exhibition, Saud Hilal Al Shidhani, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Republic of Tanzania, said that Oman's participation in SabaSaba 2026 in Dar es Salaam reflects the long-standing historical and trade ties between the Sultanate of Oman and Tanzania. -ONA

EXPANDING NETWORK

Defining moment

<FROM A1 Services to Abu Dhabi will commence on July 9, expanding Oman Air's network to 49 destinations.

Con Korfiatis, Chief Executive Officer of Oman Air, said: "The launch of five new routes in a single month marks a defining moment for Oman Air. It reflects not only the pace of our transformation but also our ambition to connect Oman to more of the world than ever before. Every new destination we add not only strengthens our network but, most importantly, brings more people into Oman. We hope our guests enjoy discovering these incredible destinations with us, and they can look forward to many more exciting developments from Oman Air in the months ahead." The July measures reflect Oman's continued efforts to modernise its economy.

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIP

MoC to enhance probe into aviation incidents

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology on Wednesday signed a memorandum of cooperation (MoC) with Oman Aviation Academy to expand cooperation in the investigation of aviation incidents and accidents.

The MoC aims to establish a sustainable institutional partnership between the two sides, develop national competencies, enhance technical readiness, support rapid response and realize the highest levels of aviation safety in the Sultanate of Oman.

The MoC was signed by Eng. Khamis bin Mohammed Al Sham-makhi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology for Transport, and Dr. Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Abri, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Oman



Aviation Academy.

Areas of cooperation include the exchange of technical expertise, the implementation of specialized training programmes and the grooming of national personnel through emergency exercises and related events in a manner that enhances the readiness of inves-

tigation teams and improves the efficiency of institutional performance.

The MoC embodies a keenness to unify efforts and enhance the position of the Sultanate of Oman in applying the best international practices in the field of aviation safety. -ONA

URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE

Urban planning projects drive sustainable growth

IBRI: Al Dhahirah Governorate is proceeding with the implementation of high-quality urban development projects that consolidate the foundations of sustainable development, enhance its appeal for residential and investment purposes and improve the efficiency of urban infrastructure and services.

Eng. Mahfoudh Talib Al Hasanani, Director General of Housing and Urban Planning in Al Dhahirah Governorate, stated that the progress rate for infrastructure works at "Hay Al Masarat" project in the Wilayat of Ibbi - part of the "Surooh" integrated residential neighbourhoods initiative - has reached 46 percent, while the completion rate for residential units in the first phase exceeds 15 per cent.

He affirmed that the project will contribute to strengthening residential stability, enhancing quality of life and supporting the objectives of sustainable urban development in the governorate.

He explained that the project is being developed on a land area exceeding 220,000 square metres and comprises 231 residential units of various types, including villas and townhouses.

Of these, 25 units are allocated under the social housing programme, and 122 residential plots are designated for beneficiaries of housing option schemes. The project also includes service and recreational facilities, comprising a mosque, a commercial area, and green spaces.

He emphasised that the struc-



tural plan for the Wilayat of Ibbi, launched in April 2026, serves as the primary framework guiding urban development and enhances the efficiency of land utilization and urban growth planning across the governorate.

He further noted that the social housing programme has continued to implement its projects in the governorate, with 88 residential units completed for eligible beneficiaries during 2025, thereby supporting the provision of adequate housing for low-income families.

He added that over 1,000 Omani citizens from the governorate benefited from residential land grants during 2025 through the available housing option schemes, namely "Choose Your Land," "Own Your Land," and "Plan Your Land."

During the first half of 2026, approximately 160 citizens have benefited, and more than 55 villages across the various wilayats of the governorate have been incorporated into the "Plan Your Land" housing option.

He stated that, to ensure balanced urban growth in line with demographic expansion, the Directorate has approved and developed a number of residential and investment master plans in the wilayats of Ibbi, Yanqul and Dhank.

With regard to enhancing the governorate's preparedness for natural disaster risks, the Directorate implemented a project to update wadi flow paths and floodplain zones following the recent weather event.

This effort resulted in the preparation of 18 updated maps identifying affected areas and proposing appropriate engineering solutions, in addition to the review of dam sites in coordination with relevant authorities. These measures support the effectiveness of urban planning and help mitigate future flood risks.

He noted that the real estate registry department in the governorate continues to deliver its services to beneficiaries.

During 2025, the Department issued approximately 11,485 title deeds, while the number of title deeds issued during the first half of 2026 reached approximately 4,947. In addition, over 1,100 property transactions were registered, and real estate notary offices completed more than 1,700 external notarisation transactions during the first quarter of the current year. These figures reflect the growing dynamism of the real estate sector and the increasing demand for property-related services. -ONA



TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Nama Dhofar Services invites the specialized companies to participate and submit their offers for the below said tenders:

Tender Number	Tender Name	Last Date for Collection of Tender Documents	Time & Last Date for Proposal Submission	Tender Fee (OMR) Including VAT (5%)
DISC/2026/062	UTILITY NETWORK EXTENSION – Lot – 06B/2026	16-July-2026	23-July-2026	52.500
DISC/2025/111-2	Re-Tender: UTILITY NETWORK EXTENSION – Lot – 07F/2025	09-July-2026	16-July-2026	52.500

- To purchase the tender document website via the link or the Barcode below: https://supplier.nama.om:4443/OA_HTML/OA.jsp?OAFunc=XTEN_TENDER_FLOAT_DISC_F
- Every company wishing to participate in this tender must attach with its bid a bid bond in the form of a bank guarantee from one of the banks operating in the Sultanate of Oman. Any bid that does not contain the bid bond will be disqualified.
- The original bid bond must be submitted in an envelope sealed with red wax and addressed to the chairperson of the minor tender committee and written on outside the Tender name and the Tender number and it should be paced in the tender box in Nama Dhofar Services in Salalah before 03:00 pm of the last day for submitting Bids.
- Bids shall be submitted online through using "supplier portal". No hard copies are accepted.
- The Tender fees are not refundable. However, Tenderers who are holding "Riyada" card issued from public authority for SME development will be exempted from providing the tender fee and the Bid bond.
- The company is not obliged to accept the lowest or any other bid.
- In the event of receipt of the tender document on behalf of another company, the interested purchasers in the above tender document should provide details of the person's name and the company details.



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Royal Oman Police

ANNOUNCEMENT

Public Online Auction to Sell Used ROP Vehicles

The Royal Oman Police - Directorate of Public Relations and Security Information – announces a public online auction through the ROP Auctions Platform to sell used ROP vehicles via the website (www.rop.mzadcom.om), starting from Wednesday, 08 July 2026.

The vehicles displayed for sale may be inspected during the period from 05 to 07 July 2026 from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Vehicle Detention Yard at the Directorate General of Transport at the Airport Heights.

Bidders must abide by the following terms and conditions:

- To register on the website www.rop.mzadcom.om
- To pay an insurance amount of RO 500/- (five hundred Omani Riyals) via the website, which is non-refundable in case of failure to pay the value of the purchased vehicle or carry out the procedures for its registration and transfer within the specified period.
- To pay the auctioneer fees at 2% of the value of the vehicle plus 5% VAT.
- To pay the value of the vehicle by electronic transfer within 48 working hours.
- To register and transfer the vehicle within 3 days after paying its value to avoid a fine of RO 5/- (five Omani Riyals) for each day of delay after the end of the specified period, without the Royal Oman Police bearing any responsibility in the event of its loss or damage.
- The Royal Oman Police and the Auction Website shall not bear any responsibility if the image or description of any vehicle displayed does not match the reality and do not guarantee its validity or technical integrity. Buyers must verify the same themselves through visual inspection during the days designated for inspection.
- **For more details, please visit the website (www.rop.mzadcom.om) or call 98886154.**

HIGH NUTRITIONAL CONTENT

9,000 papaya trees planted

NIZWA: The papaya fruit is emerging as a promising agricultural crop, valued for its high nutritional content and economic viability, contributing to food security and the development of the agricultural sector. Youth-led and investment projects in the Sultanate of Oman are increasingly turning to this crop.

Faisal bin Ali Al Bahri, owner of papaya cultivation project, has harnessed the natural advantages of Al Dakhiliyah Governorate to establish a venture that strengthens food security, boosts local output and advances sustainable agriculture.

Al Bahri said his project comprises about 9,000 trees of the Taiwanese hybrid variety “Red Lady”, known for rapid fruiting, high yield and superior quality. The trees are spread across four acres under a modern system that optimises land use and enhances production.

The project yields an average



of two to three tonnes of fresh fruit per week, ensuring a steady year-round supply to local markets with high quality and marketable standards, he said.

On marketing, Al Bahri said the project meets demand in Nizwa, Bahla and Al Hamra, while also supplying central markets such as the Central Market of Samail, promoting Omani produce across governorates.

He added that the project stands out for its high production den-

sity on limited land, reflecting intensive and smart land use. The early-fruited variety produces weekly without interruption, and the fruit’s durability reduces losses during transport, minimising waste.

Environmentally, the project expands green cover, curbs desertification and fosters a more sustainable agricultural system, Al Bahri added.

He pointed out that the project offers a sustainable income source and opens opportunities for papaya-based processing industries such as juices, jams and natural care products, enhancing the added value of local produce.

On tree care, Al Bahri said a comprehensive programme ensures high yields through balanced fertilisation with treated organic fertilisers, continuous pruning for ventilation and sunlight, and thinning of damaged or overcrowded fruit to promote optimal size and shape for marketing.

CDAA

Inspection drive to continue

< FROM A1 Institutions, companies, property owners and tourism establishments have also been called upon to comply fully with preventive safety requirements by maintaining facilities, inspecting fire protection systems and ensuring all safety measures are operational. The Authority confirmed that inspection campaigns will continue throughout the Khareef season and that legal action will be taken against those who violate safety regulations.

Complementing these operational measures, the Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority will implement an extensive public awareness programme through social media platforms, television and radio broadcasts, in addition to field awareness teams stationed at tourist sites and public gathering areas. The campaign aims to promote a culture of prevention, encourage community participation and reduce accidents during the season.

The Authority also issued strong warnings against swimming in unauthorised locations such as natural springs, pools, waterfalls and beaches, noting that rough seas and powerful currents along Dhofar’s coastline during the Khareef season pose significant risks. Parents have been urged to closely supervise children and prevent them from approaching water bodies, elevated areas and slippery surfaces without supervision.

In parallel, the Royal Oman Po-

lice has reinforced the Police Command of Dhofar Governorate with additional manpower, advanced machinery and specialised technical equipment to strengthen security services and policing operations throughout the season.

To improve emergency response and road safety, the ROP has established a network of security checkpoints along the main routes leading to Dhofar. These include the Hamra Al Duru checkpoint on the Ibbi-Fahud road, Al Ghaba checkpoint in the Wilayat of Adam, Saih Al Zamaim and Al Ghaftain checkpoints in the Wilayat of Haima, the Qatbit checkpoint in Muqshin and the Saih Al Khairat checkpoint in Thumrait.

The checkpoints have been equipped with direct communication facilities, allowing travellers to quickly contact emergency services whenever assistance is required while ensuring comprehensive security coverage along the highways leading to the governorate.

Mounted police patrols have also been assigned to monitor rugged tourist areas that are inaccessible to conventional vehicles, ensuring a visible security presence and providing assistance to visitors in remote locations.

Meanwhile, Coast Guard and rescue teams have been deployed to beaches and areas surrounding natural water springs to provide immediate response to emergencies while offering preventive safety advice to visitors.

Police Aviation will play a key role during the Khareef season by providing aerial support for search and rescue operations, air ambulance services and rapid emergency response. Helicopters stationed at the Al Wusta Governorate Police Command have been equipped with integrated teams of pilots, technicians and medical personnel capable of providing first aid before transferring casualties to hospitals.

The Royal Oman Police also confirmed its full readiness to secure the events and activities accompanying the Khareef season. Measures include facilitating passport and visa procedures at border crossings, streamlining customs operations and increasing police patrols at tourist attractions, event venues and public gathering areas.

The force urged all visitors to comply with traffic regulations, cooperate with police personnel and contact the emergency hotline (9999) or the nearest police station whenever assistance is needed.

Motorists travelling long distances have been advised to avoid speeding and reckless driving, take regular rest breaks and remain alert for shifting sand dunes and reduced visibility caused by strong winds along sections of the highways leading to Dhofar.

The combined deployment by the CDAA and the ROP underscores Oman’s commitment to ensuring that the 2026 Khareef Dhofar season is safe, secure and well-managed.

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Ford Mustang Mach-E Wins Best Brand in Customer Experience Award in Performance EV Category



MUSTANG Mach-E, distributed by Arabian Car Marketing Company in Oman, was felicitated with the ‘Times of Oman Best Brand in Customer Experience (CX) Award in Performance EV Category’ at the Times of Oman CX Awards 2026. The awards presentation was co-located with Oman CX Forum 2026, held at Hotel Kempinski, Muscat. The premier event was attended by over 325 CX leaders across sectors in Oman.

The Mustang Mach-E has redefined the electric vehicle experience by combining the iconic spirit of Mustang performance with cutting-edge electric mobility. Designed to deliver exhilarating acceleration, advanced connectivity, intelligent technology, and everyday practicality, the Mustang Mach-E has set new benchmarks for customer satisfaction in the rapidly evolving EV segment.

With a strong focus on innovation, performance, and driver-centric design, the Mustang Mach-E offers a seamless ownership experience support-

ed by advanced digital features, intuitive infotainment systems, and a suite of smart driver-assistance technologies. Its ability to deliver both excitement and convenience has made it a preferred choice among customers seeking a premium electric driving experience.

The vehicle’s bold design, impressive electric performance, spacious interior, and advanced technology ecosystem reflect Ford’s commitment to meeting the evolving expectations of modern drivers. By combining sustainability with performance and comfort, the Mustang Mach-E continues to strengthen Ford’s position as a leader in the future of mobility and customer experience.

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

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COMMENTARY

DISCLOSURE DAY: Spielberg’s Stellar Return to Sci-Fi

Steven Spielberg makes an impressive return to the science-fiction genre with Disclosure Day, offering audiences a refreshing original story in a cinematic landscape increasingly dominated by sequels, franchises, and superhero spectacles. Revisiting the genre that helped establish his legendary reputation, Spielberg once again demonstrates why he remains one of cinema’s greatest visionaries.

Although the film is built around the revelation of long-suppressed evidence of extraterrestrial contact, its true focus lies elsewhere. Rather than relying solely on alien encounters, Disclosure Day examines themes of truth, institutional secrecy, fear, public trust, and humanity’s search for meaning within an immense universe. The result is an emotionally engaging and visually immersive experience that continues to resonate well after the final scene.

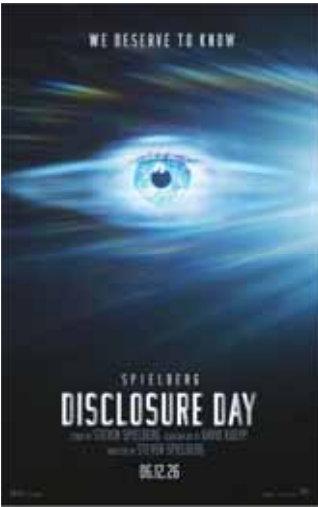
The story centres on Daniel Kellner (Josh O’Connor), a cybersecurity expert who uncovers classified information suggesting that governments, defence agencies, and powerful private corporations have concealed evidence of alien encounters for generations. His pursuit of the truth brings him together with meteorologist Margaret Fairchild (Emily Blunt), and their investigation develops into an absorbing blend of investigative thriller, intelligent science fiction, and



heartfelt human drama.

The screenplay successfully maintains a careful balance between suspense and emotion, ensuring that even its quieter, more introspective moments remain compelling. The film’s emotional core is strengthened by outstanding performances from its lead actors. Emily Blunt delivers a graceful and deeply affecting portrayal of Margaret, combining warmth, intelligence, and quiet resilience. Josh O’Connor gives Daniel both determination and vulnerability, portraying a man driven by an unwavering desire to uncover the truth despite the personal consequences. Their natural chemistry lends authenticity to every scene they share, while Colman Domingo leaves a lasting impression as Hugo Wakefield, whose presence proves vital to the unfolding story.

Spielberg’s direction is exceptional throughout, effortlessly blending large-scale spectacle with intimate char-



acter moments. His mastery of pacing, atmosphere, and visual storytelling allows every sequence to unfold with confidence and precision. The film’s most unforgettable scenes are not necessarily its spectacular revelations but the emotional responses of characters confronting discoveries that challenge everything they believed.

Spielberg understands that genuine wonder is most powerful when grounded in authentic human emotion.

Visually, Disclosure Day is magnificent. Its cinematography captures both the grandeur of the unknown and the intimacy of personal relationships, while the seamless visual effects enhance the storytelling without ever becoming a distraction. Every technical element serves the narrative rather than overshadowing it.

Adding another layer of emotional richness is John Williams’ superb musical score. His compositions beautifully blend mystery, hope, and tenderness, elevating the film’s emotional impact and perfectly complementing Spielberg’s vision.

Beyond its science-fiction premise, Disclosure Day raises timely questions about transparency, institutional secrecy, misinformation, and humanity’s readiness to accept transformative truths. These ideas feel particularly relevant in today’s information-driven world. Yet despite its serious themes, the film ultimately remains optimistic, celebrating curiosity, resilience, and hope in the face of the unknown. Bold, intelligent, visually captivating, and emotionally rewarding, Disclosure Day stands as another remarkable achievement from one of cinema’s most accomplished storytellers, reaffirming his enduring gift for creating unforgettable cinematic experiences.

EMPOWER YOUTH

Training for digital content creators

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Information, through its Media Training Centre and in partnership with the Ministry of Education, has concluded four specialised training programmes targeting young people, as part of its efforts to empower youth, promote positive and responsible social media use, and cultivate a generation of conscious digital content creators.

The programmes are part of a broader development initiative launched by the Ministry in 2025 under the title “Towards a National Framework for Engaging with Social Media,” in collaboration with government, private and civil society partners.

The initiative aims to nurture inspiring and positive role models among the youth, providing peers with examples to follow, reinforcing responsible digital behaviours, and strengthening digital identity and citizenship through the optimal use of digital platforms.

It also seeks to guide young people towards developing intellectual skills and building knowledge, transforming digital influence from a tool of entertainment into a means of learning and intellectual growth.

Eight school students from across the Sultanate of Oman took part in the two-week programmes, which focused on responsible digital content creation, managing negative content and social media risks,



fact-checking, and distinguishing between authentic and AI-generated content.

The programmes aimed to build youth role models on social media, develop skills in crafting impactful media messages, and enhance critical thinking, contributing to media literacy and improving content quality on digital platforms.

The training combined theoretical modules with practical applications, covering digital content creation, impactful messaging, and safely handling negative content on social media.

Interactive activities, practical exercises and applied projects were also included to enable students to produce purposeful and responsible digital content. The programmes are part of the Ministry’s ongoing efforts to foster a culture of responsible media, empower youth to use digital platforms positively, and reinforce citizenship and community awareness, while keeping pace with the rapid changes in the digital media landscape.

Awareness event held to promote organ donation culture in Oman

The event also sought to familiarise attendees with the concept of organ donation, the legal criteria governing donation, the registration mechanism, as well as to address and correct common myths surrounding the field

MUSCAT: Oman Medical Specialty Board on Wednesday organised a community awareness event on organ donation under the theme “Give the Gift of Life,” aimed at raising public awareness of the importance of organ donation and encouraging community members to register as donors.

The event also sought to familiarise attendees with the concept of organ donation, the organs and tissues that can be donated, the medical and legal criteria governing donation, the registration mechanism, as well as to address and correct common misconceptions and myths surrounding the field.

The event featured two panel discussions. The first addressed the religious and legal dimensions of organ donation, presented by Dr. Hussein Ali Al Sinani, Assistant Public Prosecutor and Hammoud Abdullah Al Habsi, a religious preacher from the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs. The second session examined the medical aspects of organ donation

and was delivered by a team from Oman Centre for Organ and Tissue Transplantation Regulation.

The accompanying exhibition included a number of informational booths covering the definition of organ donation, the organs and tissues eligible for donation, the medical and legal standards governing the donation process and its stages through to transplantation. Additionally, information was provided on pre-transplant, intraoperative, and post-transplant medical care, the importance of physical and psychological rehabilitation for recipients, and the procedure for registering in the organ donation system. The event, held at Al Arahimi Boulevard in Muscat Governorate, drew a large and diverse audience from various segments of society, with active engagement at the informational booths and panel discussions. This reflects the growing public awareness of the importance of organ donation and its role in saving patients’ lives and improving their quality of life.

— ONA



VENEZUELA EARTHQUAKE AFTERMATH

Death toll crosses 1,900 as relief efforts intensify

CARACAS: Rescue and relief operations remain underway in Venezuela after the deadly twin earthquake last week left over 1,900 people dead, according to official sources, according to media report.

As per the American broadcaster, National Assembly President Jorge Ramirez - the acting president’s brother - on Tuesday announced that at least 1,943 had died, an increase of about 200 from the day before.

However, the casualty figure is believed to be much larger.

According to the US Geological Survey, there is a high likelihood that tens of thousands are dead.

CNN reported that the United Nations’ Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Venezuela, Gianluca Rampolla, said on Monday that the Venezuelan government and the UN are procuring 10,000 body bags in anticipation of more deaths. As Venezuelans

in La Guaira continued to pick through the rubble of downed buildings yesterday, a government excavator stood immobile next to a pile of concrete and bent rebar. With plenty of work to do as the country reels in the aftermath of the earthquake, CNN further reported that when asked why the excavator was idle, the operator said there wasn’t any gasoline to put in it.

Meanwhile, Indian medical teams continue carrying out relief ops in Venezuela after the country was struck by twin earthquakes earlier in June.

In a post on X, Jaishankar said, “On Doctors’ Day, extend best wishes to all our medical professionals for their efforts and dedication in service of the society. A special thanks to our medical teams, as they carry out challenging relief operations in Venezuela under #OperationAmistad.”

— ANI

WEST ASIA CONFLICT

US, Iran hold technical talks in Doha to secure permanent ceasefire deal

DOHA: The United States and Iran are holding technical talks in the Qatari capital, Doha, as part of efforts to reach an agreement on maritime navigation and secure a lasting ceasefire.

An informed source and an Iranian official said US envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner met with Qatar’s Prime Minister, who is mediating alongside Pakistan to pave the way for the talks, though they will not take part in the discussions themselves.

The negotiations are based on a 14-point interim agreement signed last month, aimed at ending the war that began after US and Israeli strikes on Iran in February, and reopening regional maritime navigation, with a 60-day deadline for reaching a permanent deal.

Maritime navigation in the region has partially resumed. Before the war, the strait handled 20 percent of global oil and liquefied natural gas trade.

“The talks are taking place indirectly now, with no face-to-face meetings between the two sides,”



the source said to Xinhua. “The sessions are closed and are being facilitated by the mediators.”

The source added that the discussions are focused on implementing the memorandum of understanding reached in Islamabad on June 17, including issues related to frozen Iranian assets and maritime security in the

Strait of Hormuz.

Talks about deal’s implementation, Iran’s top negotiator in Qatar says

The talks between representatives from the US and Iran in Qatar have focused on the implementation of the deal that views ending the war between the two countries, Iran’s

deputy foreign minister Kazem Gharibabadi was quoted as saying.

Gharibabadi, who heads the Iranian delegation in Doha, met with Qatari Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, as well as participating in a meeting with representatives from Qatar and Pakistan about the deal’s implementation. — Agencies

DETAILED EXPLANATION

India issues notice to Meta on WhatsApp usernames feature, seeks reply in 3 days

NEW DELHI: The Union Government has issued a notice to Meta regarding the roll-out of the “usernames” feature on WhatsApp in India, said sources on Wednesday.

Sources told ANI that the Government directed Meta to furnish a detailed explanation on the “usernames” feature within three days. The Government has further directed Meta not to roll out the “usernames” feature until consultation on the matter is over.

The move comes after privacy concerns were raised about the latest feature rolled out by Meta for WhatsApp.

According to Meta, a username is an optional unique identifier you can choose for your WhatsApp account. It starts with the @ symbol (for example, @Name123) and can be used by others to message or call a person, while keeping their phone number private.

The username is different from the display name (the name that appears in your profile). The display name doesn’t have to be



unique, but the username does.

According to Meta, people who don’t have the persons’ number saved will see their username instead by default. This includes when they participate in group

chats, message someone directly, or make calls on WhatsApp. Their username always appears with an @ symbol in front. This makes it easy for others to tell the difference between their username,

their display name, and their phone number.

Meta says, Usernames are unique to each account. If the username a person wants is already taken, they will need to choose a different one. Certain usernames are held for businesses, governments, or public figures and can’t be claimed by others.

Internet users and domain experts have raised certain privacy concerns as well as concerns on safety arguing that anyone can create a username. This could potentially permit cybercriminals to register handles that mimic others or even officials.

According to government sources, authorities will look into the legal mechanisms available to potentially block the feature if required. “The government will look into WhatsApp’s username feature over impersonation concerns. It will look into legal mechanisms to possibly block feature also the legality of WhatsApp’s username feature,” a source said.

— ANI

FROM 2028

Sony to stop making PlayStation game discs

TOKYO: Sony announced on Wednesday that it would only release PlayStation (PS) games in digital formats, no longer producing any physical discs, from January 2028.

Sid Shuman, a senior director at Sony Interactive Entertainment Content Communications, called the move a “response to shifting trends in consumer preference.”

The change will save production and distribution costs but will also limit options for consumers, particularly those keen to swap games or buy or sell on the second hand market.

The decision follows soon after news of a release date for the long-awaited Grand Theft Auto VI release, and the announcement that this game would only be available as a digital purchase.

“As consumer preferences and the broader entertainment industry continue to shift away from physical discs to digital, physical game disc production for all new games releasing on PlayStation consoles will be discontinued



starting January 2028,” Sony’s Shuman wrote in a PlayStation blog post.

After this date, new games will only be available on the online PlayStation Store “and at retailers in digital format only.”

The move will have no impact on games released prior to this date, the Japanese tech giant said.

“This is a natural direction for Sony Interactive Entertainment to adapt to consumer trends as the general preference for digital media significantly outpaces physical discs,” Shuman wrote. “This transition will enable us to align more closely with how most of our community prefers to access and play games today,” he added. — DW

OMAN OIL PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman crude oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by September 2026 reaching \$67.07. The price of Oman crude oil fell by \$1.97.

-ONA

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 7,561.13 points, up by 0.71% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.59% at 600.39 points. Aman REIT, up 8.82%, was the top gainer while, Al Maha Marketing, down 8.87%, was the top loser.

FSA approves share allocation percentages for Omifco's IPO

The results revealed that the volume of collected amounts exceeded the offered value by 18 times for the retail category and 27.4 times for the institutional category, with the total demand value reaching OMR4.69 billion



MUSCAT: The Financial Services Authority (FSA) announced the approval of the share allocation percentages for the initial public offering (IPO) of Oman India Fertiliser Company (OMIFCO) after reviewing the subscription results. The results revealed that the volume of collected amounts exceeded the offered value by 18 times for the retail category and

27.4 times for the institutional category, with the total demand value reaching OMR4.69 billion. The Authority was keen on studying all available options to determine the appropriate allocation mechanism in accordance with the methodology specified in the prospectus. This approach relied on a policy that accommodates all subscribing categories to the greatest extent

possible and allocates appropriate shares to the largest number of shareholders, thereby achieving the desired balance while simultaneously contributing to expanding the participation base in public offerings. Consequently, the Authority approved the allocation results for the small retail investors category (Category II) by establishing a minimum limit of 6,500 shares,

in addition to allocating approximately 5.618 percent of the remaining shares. The volume of demand in this category reached 737,943,400 shares, while the collected amounts reached approximately OMR115.12 million, representing a coverage ratio of about 2.206 times. Meanwhile, the approved allocation results for the large retail investors category (Category

II) reached approximately 17.818 percent on a pro-rata basis for each subscriber. Share requests for this category amounted to 1,877,108,000 shares, while the collected amounts stood at approximately OMR292.83 million, reflecting a coverage ratio of about 5.612 times. Regarding the local institutions category (Category I), the allocation results approved a rate of

2.6806 percent on a pro-rata basis for each subscriber. As for the foreign institutions category (Category I), the Authority approved the allocation according to the mechanism specified in the prospectus after setting the offer price at 156 baisas for both local and foreign institutions through the book-build-ing process. The subscription results indicated that institutions registered investment requests amounting to 27,461,059,143 shares, while the actual amounts collected from this category reached OMR4.284 billion, representing a coverage ratio of 27.4 times. It is noteworthy that the Financial Services Authority approved the prospectus for OMIFCO's public offering on 11 June 2026. The offering included 1,672,343,750 shares, representing 25 percent of the company's total capital, with a total value of OMR260,885,625. The subscription period for all categories began on 16 June 2026, and continued until 25 June 2026. The remaining stages are scheduled to be completed according to the timeline specified in the prospectus. The refund of excess funds is set to begin on 2 July, while the process of listing the company's shares on the Muscat Stock Exchange will commence on 8 July. -ONA

FIRST QUARTER OF 2026

Commercial, industrial activities grow in Al Wusta

HAIMA: Al Wusta Governorate is witnessing growth across various commercial, industrial, and investment sectors during the first quarter of this year, as the number of registered commercial records rose to 190, representing a growth rate of 233.3 percent, bringing the cumulative total of records to 7,017, according to statistical data from the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion. Abdoon Mohammed Al Harsousi, Director of the Department of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion in Al Wusta Governorate, confirmed that this growth is a result of the accelerating economic momentum driven by strategic projects in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm and the areas affiliated with the governorate. He pointed out that this development reflects the effectiveness of government facilities and digital transformation in supporting the business environment and boosting opportunities for entrepreneurs, thereby contributing to consolidating the path of sustainable development and placing the governorate in an advanced position on the national economic map. He explained that Al Wusta Governorate recorded remarkable growth in the movement of establishing companies and new commercial records during the first quarter of this year. He noted that the Wilayat of Duqm continued to lead by registering 97 new commercial records, achieving a growth rate of 223.3 percent, followed by the Wilayat of Mahout with 54 records and the highest growth rate at 315.4 percent, then the Wilayat of Al Jazer with 29 records and a growth of 190 percent, while the Wilayat of Haima registered 10 new commercial records, growing by 150 percent. Regarding the legal forms of companies, he said that "sole proprietorship company" ranked first with 77 records, representing a growth rate of 220.8 percent, followed by "individual traders" with 67 records, showing a growth of 318.8 percent, then "limited liability companies" with 38 records and a growth rate of 322.2 percent, in addition to registering 7 home-based businesses, and one record registered for street vending activities. Furthermore, the activity of "building and construction contracting - general construction of residential and non-residential buildings" topped the list of the



most licensed economic activities in the governorate and its four wilayats, recording a growth of 457.1 percent, following the issuance of 195 licenses during the first quarter of this year compared to 35 licenses during the same period in 2025, bringing the cumulative total of licenses for this activity to 627. Regarding facilitating the business environment, he mentioned that statistics showed an increase in completed commercial licenses, reaching 882 licenses during the first quarter of this year, an increase of 28.9 percent compared to the same period in 2025, bringing the cumulative total of licenses to 6,189 completed commercial licenses. Al Harsousi indicated that the industrial sector continued to record positive performance, as the number of completed industrial licenses reached 116 during the same period, achieving a growth of 12.6 percent, bringing the cumulative total to 1,607 completed industrial licenses, reflecting the diversity and geographical expansion of the production base. He added that in the field of foreign investment, the governorate recorded a growth of 53.3 percent, with 23 new foreign investment commercial registrations during the first quarter of this year, raising the cumulative total to 826 records, while the Wilayat of Duqm accounted for 21 records, confirming its status as a major investment destination. Regarding foreign trade movement, the number of certificates of origin issued from Al Wusta Governorate reached 112 certificates during the first quarter of this year, distributed between 49 certificates under the Greater Arab Free Trade Area agreement and 63 certificates under the GCC agreement, reflecting the growing role of the governorate in supporting national exports and enhancing their access to regional and international markets. -ONA

15-YEAR CONTRACT

Nama Water Services awards OMR900mn performance-based water services contract

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Coinciding with the official visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to the French Republic, Nama Water Services has awarded one of the Middle East's largest performance-based contracts, marking another milestone in the company's transformation towards more efficient, sustainable and performance-driven operating models. The contract has been awarded in partnership with SUEZ, the Oman Infrastructure Fund (Rakiza) and their partners, National Trading Company and National Energy Center, to operate and maintain water and wastewater services across Muscat Governorate and the North and South Al Sharqiyah governorates under Cluster 1, in addition to implementing a comprehensive performance-based programme to reduce Non-Revenue Water (NRW). The 15-year contract, valued at around OMR 900 million, will provide water and wastewater services to more than 2.3 million people, representing approximately 43 per cent of Oman's population. It is one of the largest performance-based water contracts in the region and reflects Oman's continued commitment to adopting advanced operating models that improve service efficiency and sustainability. Nama Water Services will continue to play its strategic role in governance, oversight and performance management, ensuring that operations remain aligned with national priorities, while the operator delivers services through a performance-based model supported by clearly defined key per-



formance indicators. Qais bin Saud Al Zakwani, Chief Executive Officer of Nama Water Services, said the project represents another milestone in the company's institutional transformation and reflects its vision to reshape the management and operation of the water sector through a world-class operating model built on performance, innovation and sustainability.

He said the project will strengthen asset management, improve the resilience of the water system and establish a new generation of smarter, more sustainable and future-ready services. Al Zakwani added that the project also focuses on developing national talent through a comprehensive capacity-building and knowledge transfer programme, while maintaining an Omanisation rate of more than 83 per cent, promoting local content and In-Country Value (ICV), and supporting Oman's long-term economic development objectives. He noted that the project builds on Nama Water Services' ongoing transformation programme through modern operating models, international best practices, digital technologies and performance-based governance. It is expected to address key sector challenges, including reducing non-revenue water, improving network reliability, strengthening asset management and using digital solutions, opera-

tional intelligence and predictive analytics to support proactive operations and better decision-making. He further said that the partnership with leading international expertise represents an investment in knowledge and innovation, and a strategic step towards accelerating the transformation of the water sector while strengthening water security and supporting the goals of Oman Vision 2040. In the water services, the contract includes: Operation and maintenance of 240 wells, management of a 10,700-km water network, distribution of around 470,000 cubic metres of drinking water per day, rehabilitation and upgrading of four desalination plants, and operation of more than 400,000 smart water meters. The wastewater services scope includes: Operation and maintenance of 22 wastewater treatment plants, a total treatment capacity of 280,000 cubic metres per day, management of a 3,000-km wastewater network, management of 400 km of treated water distribution networks for reuse. The contract is governed by 33 key performance indicators (KPIs) and aims to reduce non-revenue water from 34 per cent to 11 per cent by 2040. It also focuses on improving asset reliability through preventive maintenance and advanced digital solutions for network monitoring, smart leak detection and asset management, enhancing operational efficiency, faster response times and continuous improvement across water and wastewater services.

RBI

India's financial system in strong position to withstand global shocks

NEW DELHI: India's financial system remains resilient and well-capitalised despite persistent global uncertainties, the Reserve Bank of India said in the June 2026 edition of its Financial Stability Report. The FSR reflects the collective assessment of the Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council on risks to financial stability. The RBI said global markets have largely absorbed recent shocks. "Despite repeated shocks, the global financial system has thus far demonstrated notable re-

silience, with markets remaining orderly after an initial bout of volatility following the outbreak of the West Asia conflict," the report said. But the central bank warned that risks have not eased. "Nevertheless, global financial stability risks remain elevated," the RBI said. It noted that persistent supply chain uncertainties could tighten financial conditions and revive inflation, while elevated public debt, bond market fragilities, stretched asset valuations, and leveraged NBFIs remain key vulnerabilities. India's position is comparatively

stronger. "India's sound macroeconomic fundamentals place it in a stronger position than many of its peers and provide greater resilience to external shocks than in past crisis episodes," the FSR said. The RBI added that the balance of risks has turned favourable due to the interim peace deal and recent policy steps to support capital inflows. The domestic financial system continues to show strength across sectors. "Domestic financial system remains resilient underpinned by strong bank and non-bank balance sheets," the report

said. Scheduled commercial banks remain safe and sound, backed by strong capital and liquidity buffers, better asset quality, and stable profits. Stress tests indicate banks are prepared for adverse scenarios. "Macro stress test results indicate that the banking system remains well-positioned to absorb potential shocks, with aggregate capital ratios projected to remain comfortably above regulatory thresholds even under hypothetical adverse scenarios," according to the RBI. -ANI

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Aman REIT, up 8.82%, was the top gainer while, Al Maha Marketing, down 8.87%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 7,561.13 points, up by 0.71% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.59% at 600.39 points. Aman REIT, up 8.82 per cent, was the top gainer while, Al Maha Marketing, down 8.87 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of OQBI were the most active in terms of number of shares traded while Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of turnover. A total number of 11336 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 54.5 million, with more than 182.1 million shares changing hands. Out of 71 traded securities, 21 advanced, 20 declined, and 30 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for RO 983K while foreign investors were net buyers for RO 556K, followed by domestic investors for RO 427K worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 13,178.72 points, up 0.71%. Prices of Bank Nizwa, Bank Dhofar, Al

Anwar Investment, Muscat Finance, United Finance were up by 2.96%, 2.38%, 1.80%, 1.52%, 1.08% respectively. Prices of Financial Corporation, Muscat Insurance were down by 8.65%, 1.72% respectively. Industrial Index closed at 9,746.13 points, down -0.11%. Prices of Voltamp Energy, Gulf Mushroom Products were up by 0.58%, 0.24% respectively. Prices of Oman Fisheries, Galfar Engineering, Muscat Thread Mill, Oman Cement, Al Anwar Ceramics, Al Anwar Ceramics, SMN Power Holding, National Gas, Al Jazeera Services were down by 3.70%, 2.86%, 1.96%, 0.90%, 0.37% respectively.— **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

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EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	7,572.92	7,508.62	7,561.13	7,507.94	53.19	0.71%
FINANCIAL INDEX	13,178.72	13,044.77	13,178.72	13,085.38	93.34	0.71%
Industry Index	9,830.19	9,738.26	9,746.13	9,756.98	-10.85	-0.11%
Services Index	3,123.43	3,055.37	3,075.12	3,050.17	24.94	0.82%
MSX Shariah Index	601.72	597.34	600.39	596.87	3.52	0.59%
MSX TR INDEX	11,715.46	11,615.98	11,697.21	11,613.36	83.86	0.72%
FINANCIAL TR IDX	16,192.32	16,027.73	16,192.32	16,055.57	136.75	0.85%
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	12,589.98	12,472.24	12,482.32	12,496.21	-13.90	-0.11%
SERVICES TR IDX	4,184.80	4,093.62	4,120.08	4,086.66	33.42	0.82%
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
182,105,589	54,497,787	11,336	36,795,678,748	21	20	30	71

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	P/B VALUE	MARKET CAP	
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000005983	PHOENIX POWER	8,984,275	2,489,252	439	0.280	0.280	0.268	0.255	0.013	5.098	0.268	0.268	0.270	0.100	391,977,191	
OM0000009008	OQBASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	36,135,067	9,139,631	1,635	0.250	0.258	0.250	0.258	0.248	0.010	4.032	0.258	0.224	0.258	802,548,639	
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	6,483,935	883,770	145	0.135	0.139	0.134	0.139	0.135	0.004	2.963	0.139	0.138	0.139	310,936,471	
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	1,934,243	386,115	93	0.198	0.206	0.195	0.196	0.191	0.005	2.618	0.195	0.195	0.195	140,023,643	
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	791,780	168,447	30	0.210	0.215	0.210	0.215	0.210	0.005	2.381	0.215	0.210	0.215	653,536,684	
OM0000004735	SEMBOCORP SALALAH	383,654	100,628	50	0.280	0.287	0.256	0.289	0.255	0.005	1.981	0.280	0.259	0.280	248,188,707	
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	517,289	86,801	27	0.161	0.170	0.161	0.170	0.167	0.003	1.796	0.170	0.167	0.170	52,276,618	
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	4,398	4,836	3	1.100	1.100	1.099	1.099	1.080	0.019	1.759	1.099	1.095	1.099	67,341,225	
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	1,355,665	263,603	61	0.198	0.205	0.195	0.195	0.192	0.003	1.563	0.195	0.195	0.195	131,603,049	
OM0000001152	OMAN NATL ENGINEERING & INVEST	20,000	3,040	1	0.152	0.152	0.152	0.150	0.002	1.333	0.152	0.148	0.154	0.100	22,800,000	
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	3,350	306	2	0.095	0.095	0.094	0.094	0.093	0.001	1.075	0.094	0.091	0.094	33,475,966	
OM0000001529	DHOFAH INTL DEVELOPMENT & INVEST	34,311	10,020	11	0.298	0.298	0.292	0.295	0.292	0.003	1.027	0.295	0.290	0.295	146,336,562	
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO	7,738	7,942	10	0.102	0.103	0.102	0.102	0.101	0.001	0.990	0.102	0.102	0.111	9,180,000	
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	3,538,363	5,396,061	307	1.368	1.382	1.364	1.382	1.370	0.012	0.876	1.382	1.382	1.000	1,036,500,000	
OM0000003961	VOLTAMP ENERGY	5,130,563	912,993	33	0.180	0.180	0.174	0.175	0.174	0.001	0.575	0.177	0.175	0.177	0.100	175,000,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	75,998	28,844	21	0.382	0.382	0.371	0.381	0.380	0.001	0.263	0.381	0.381	0.100	427,807,242	
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	32,700	13,897	10	0.425	0.425	0.424	0.425	0.424	0.001	0.236	0.425	0.422	0.425	0.100	21,395,510
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	3,005,388	1,496,689	6	0.498	0.499	0.498	0.499	0.499	0.000	0.000	0.499	0.498	0.499	0.100	811,347,231
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO	128,378	20,638	19	0.161	0.162	0.159	0.159	0.159	0.000	0.000	0.159	0.157	0.160	0.100	18,378,125
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	13,280	42,812	34	3.220	3.225	3.220	3.225	3.225	0.000	0.000	3.225	3.220	3.225	0.100	2,268,250,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	28,220,547	11,382,443	1,767	0.405	0.406	0.402	0.405	0.405	0.000	0.000	0.405	0.404	0.405	0.100	3,040,090,810
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	100	77	1	0.770	0.770	0.770	0.777	0.777	0.000	0.000	0.770	0.700	0.770	0.100	93,340,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	22,893	7,700	9	0.295	0.300	0.294	0.300	0.290	0.000	0.000	0.300	0.295	0.303	0.100	60,000,000
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	2,400	389	4	0.169	0.169	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.000	0.000	0.160	0.159	0.176	0.100	25,600,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	24,155	7,464	7	0.309	0.309	0.309	0.309	0.309	0.000	0.000	0.309	0.309	0.309	0.100	73,050,690
OM0000003388	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	30,840,349	6,003,038	2,000	0.195	0.197	0.194	0.195	0.195	0.000	0.000	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.100	1,290,363,023
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	166,000	53,933	16	0.325	0.325	0.323	0.325	0.325	0.000	0.000	0.325	0.325	0.325	0.100	211,556,875
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	20,807	2,530	8	0.121	0.122	0.121	0.121	0.121	0.000	0.000	0.121	0.120	0.122	0.100	21,175,000
OM0000004072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	29,738,291	6,602,764	2,183	0.224	0.225	0.221	0.222	0.222	0.000	0.000	0.222	0.223	0.222	0.100	961,398,510
OM0000003759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	10,633,523	4,738,505	883	0.448	0.451	0.444	0.447	0.447	0.000	0.000	0.447	0.447	0.450	0.100	3,370,000,000
OM0000006934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	6,596,305	2,575,624	302	0.392	0.393	0.390	0.392	0.393	-0.001	-0.254	0.392	0.392	0.392	0.100	301,918,400
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	10,000	2,730	3	0.273	0.273	0.273	0.273	0.274	-0.001	-0.365	0.273	0.270	0.275	0.100	11,696,137
OM0000002176	ALJAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	14,900	11,625	104	0.835	0.835	0.830	0.830	0.835	-0.005	-0.599	0.830	0.800	0.830	0.100	103,665,307
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	4,150	2,339	4	0.563	0.570	0.563	0.564	0.570	-0.006	-1.053	0.564	0.563	0.569	0.100	186,612,208
OM0000001020	ASTAD SHIPPING	4,788,481	1,336,556	657	0.282	0.282	0.276	0.278	0.282	-0.004	-1.418	0.278	0.278	0.282	0.000	1,448,030,910
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	9,000	1,808	6	0.203	0.203	0.199	0.200	0.204	-0.004	-1.961	0.199	0.200	0.204	0.100	39,927,120
OM0000003000	AI MAHA PETROLEUM PRODS MRKTNG	3,277	3,670	2	1.120	1.120	1.120	1.120	1.229	-0.109	-8.869	1.120	1.120	1.210	0.100	77,280,000
Total	37	180,068,060	54,188,521	10,873												
Parallel Market																
OM0000007310	AMAN REAL ESTATE	22,500	1,565	5	0.069	0.074	0.069	0.074	0.068	0.006	8.824	0.074	0.070	0.074	0.100	14,800,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	17,809	1,188	2	0.066	0.067	0.066	0.067	0.066	0.001	1.515	0.067	0.065	0.072	0.100	20,578,804
OM0000007984	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	29,877	2,767	3	0.092	0.093	0.092	0.093	0.092	0.001	1.087	0.093	0.093	0.101	0.100	14,468,187
OM0000001426	OMAN REFRESHMENT	1,760	2,112	2	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.200	0.000	0.000	1.200	1.200	1.210	0.100	60,000,000
OM0000001989	SALALAH MILLS	250	170	1	0.680	0.680	0.680	0.680	0.680	0.000	0.000	0.680	0.672	0.680	0.100	42,474,884
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	2,088	69	1	0.032	0.033	0.033	0.033	0.033	0.000	0.000	0.033	0.033	0.000	0.100	2,905,000
OM0000003028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	1,296	93	1	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.000	0.000	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.100	1,554,000
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	11,066	8,543	3	0.772	0.772	0.772	0.772	0.772	0.000	0.000	0.772	0.772	0.772	0.100	73,340,000
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	100,000	21,200	2	0.212	0.212	0.212	0.212	0.212	0.000	0.000	0.212	0.211	0.212	0.100	137,947,424
OM0000003281	TAAQEER FINANCE	200	24	1	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.000	0.000	0.120	0.000	0.132	0.100	34,042,884
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	21,149	1,359	4	0.064	0.065	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.000	0.000	0.064	0.060	0.065	0.100	16,000,000
OM0000002600	OMAN ARAB BANK	286,000	66,924	222	0.234	0.234	0.234	0.234	0.234	0.000	0.000	0.234	0.234	0.234	0.100	468,641,940
OM0000005979	OMAN QATAR INSURANCE	10,000	1,840	2	0.184	0.184	0.184	0.184	0.184	0.000	0.000	0.184	0.180	0.195	0.100	29,664,217
OM0000004070	DHOFAH GENERATING	144,500	12,251	27	0.082	0.080	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.000	0.000	0.082	0.082	0.086	0.100	18,223,880
OM0000005659	JABAL REIF	8,337	873	6	0.105	0.105	0.104	0.105	0.105	0.000	0.000	0.105	0.100	0.105	0.100	18,270,000
OM0000001823	OMAN GATEWAY FUND	100	103	1	1.030	1.030	1.030	1.030	1.030	0.000	0.000	1.030	1.000	1.030	0.000	28,165,606
OM0000000005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	5,000	1,444	2	0.288	0.289	0.288	0.289	0.290	-0.001	-0.345	0.289	0.288	0.290	0.100	15,895,000
OM0000002098	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	653,900	101,154	54	0.157	0.157	0.153	0.153	0.153	0.000	0.000	0.153	0.153	0.153	0.100	3,018,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	350,653	38,989	33	0.114	0.114	0.110	0.110	0.111	-0.001	-0.901	0.110	0.110	0.114	0.100	9,250,000
OM0000001806	MUSCAT INSURANCE	5,000	2,853	2	0.575	0.575	0.570	0.570	0.580	-0.010	-1.724	0.570	0.560	0.580	0.100	6,224,276
OM0000004847	OMAN REIT FUND	74,458	7,925	18	0.108	0.108	0.106	0.106	0.108	-0.002	-1.852	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.100	69,148,281
OM0000002306	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	1,883	397	3	0.213	0.213	0.208	0.208	0.212	-0.004	-1.887	0.208	0.206	0.214	0.100	3,849,008
OM0000004669	SHARQIYAH DESALINATION	3,200	545	2	0.175	0.175	0.170	0.170	0.175	-0.005	-2.857	0.170	0.160	0.170	0.100	16,626,367
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	104,537	19,103	14	0.183	0.184	0.178	0.178								



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IN BRIEF

Ecuador coach Beccacece steps down after exit



World Cup appearance, to the knockout round for just the second time after a memorable win over four-time champion Germany in the group stage. After that match, Beccacece made a beeline for the stands and climbed up from the field to embrace his wife and other loved ones while yellow-clad fans around him patted him on the back and tens of thousands more around the stadium jumped and cheered.

Hincapié becomes second player sent off for covering his mouth



Netherlands coach Koeman resigns after shootout loss



Senegal goalkeeper Mendy out with injury for knockout round



group play. Mendy returned to his club team in Saudi Arabia to undergo further testing. The 34-year-old goalkeeper was not present for Tuesday's training session at Husky Soccer Stadium in Seattle, but Thiaw expects him to return Tuesday night. Since his debut in 2019, Mendy has made more than 50 appearances for Senegal. - Agencies

MEXICO CITY: Sebastián Beccacece on Tuesday stepped down as coach of Ecuador following World Cup elimination. The 45-year-old Argentine confirmed it after Tuesday night's 2-0 defeat to host Mexico. "My contract has to end with the end of the World Cup. For us, we are leaving now," Beccacece said. "I believe the dressing room is full of brotherhood. I'm taking the love, respect, commitment and admiration from the boys, from this group of warriors, the Ecuadorian national team." Beccacece was in charge for two years. He led Ecuador, which was making its fifth

MEXICO CITY: Ecuador's Piero Hincapié became the second player to be issued a red card at the World Cup under FIFA's new rule that calls for a player to be sent off for covering their mouth during a confrontational exchange with an opponent. Hincapié was sent off in the 95th minute of Ecuador's 2-0 loss to Mexico Tuesday in the round of 32. He was shown the red card following an exchange with Mexico forward Santi Giménez. Paraguay's Miguel Almiron was the first player to be punished under the new rule when he was sent off in a group stage match against Turkey last week.

KANSAS CITY: Netherlands coach Ronald Koeman resigned on Tuesday after his team was knocked out with a Round of 32 loss to Morocco in a penalty shootout, the earliest exit ever from the tournament for the Dutch team. The 63-year-old Koeman, who had been leading the Dutch national team for the second time after reaching the semifinals of the 2024 European championship, announced his decision in a social media post. In his announcement, Koeman said he shared a dream of a World Cup that would "make history" and no one was more disappointed than he is that it didn't happen.

SEATTLE: Senegal goalkeeper Édouard Mendy is out for the team's knockout round match against Belgium in the World Cup on Wednesday due to injury. On Tuesday, coach Pape Thiaw confirmed the Al Ahli goalkeeper will miss his second consecutive World Cup match because he injured his knee in Senegal's 3-2 loss to Norway in



Mbappé

masterclass keeps France juggernaut rolling on



The striker scored twice to tie Messi for World Cup lead with six goals; Les Bleus rout Sweden 3-0 to set up round of 16 clash with Paraguay

EAST RUTHERFORD: Kylian Mbappé and France are sizzling — and not just because of MetLife Stadium's broiling conditions. Mbappé had his third two-goal game of this World Cup and set a career scoring record for the tournament's knockout rounds, leading Les Bleus over Sweden 3-0 on Tuesday to set up a round of 16 match against Paraguay. "I personally haven't seen a better team," Sweden coach Graham Potter said. "The quality they have all over the pitch and then the options for them off the bench are very, very strong, so they've got as good a chance as anybody, I would suggest." France's 27-year-old star scored the go-ahead goal with a brilliant crossover step in the 45th minute and added his sixth goal of the tournament in the 74th to tie Lionel Messi for the tournament scoring lead. He has 18 goals in 18 World Cup games, one behind the Argentine's career scoring record of 19 in 29 matches. In between, Bradley Barcola had a 53rd-minute goal for France, which became the first nation to score three or more goals in five consecutive World Cup matches. "I'm very aware of who I am, how I play, what I shall do, but it's not just about me," Mbappé said through a translator. "The entire team is aware of what should be done. It is a new competition that has started today. We did play well, but we were

timid. We could have done better at the beginning." Mbappé's 10 knockout round goals are two more than the previous high by Brazilian greats Leônidas and Ronaldo. France coach Didier Deschamps bowed when Mbappé came to the bench after he was substituted in the 85th minute. "We're on a mission — so am I with them," Deschamps said through a translator. France have outscored opponents 13-2. Michael Olise has five assists, the most in a World Cup since Germany's Thomas Häßler had five in 1994. Seeking to reach their third straight World Cup final, France play Paraguay on July 4 in Philadelphia. The winner advances to a quarter-final against Canada or Morocco five days later at Foxborough, Massachusetts. Mbappé scored after goalkeeper Jacob Widell Zetterström tipped Olise's shot just outside the post. Olise played a short corner kick to Ousmane Dembélé, who passed to Mbappé near the byline. Mbappé took a crossover step to get around Viktor Gyökeres and from just outside the 6-yard box sent a diagonal shot inside the far post. Mbappé ran up the centre of the field to celebrate, colliding with Dembélé, and jogged to the bench to hug Deschamps, who returned for the match after going to France for his mother's funeral. "He knows that he will never be alone with us, and we will support him," Mbappé said. Gustaf Lagerbäck lost the ball ahead of France's second goal. Aurélien Tchouaméni passed to Olise, who nutmegged Lagerbäck, and Barcola took a centering touch and sent the ball past Zetterström's outstretched right hand. Mbappé entertained the crowd with a backheel pass to Barcola in the buildup to France's third goal, the 62nd of his international career. Barcola passed to Olise, who sent the ball forward as Mbappé sprinted into the penalty area, took a touch and fired the ball inside the far post. - Agencies

BOOKED LAST 16 SPOT



Mexico down Ecuador to end a 40-year knockout drought

MEXICO CITY: The 40-year wait is over. Mexicans had learned to live with defeats in the knockout stages of the World Cup. On seven occasions, El Tri fans were left heartbroken at this stage. Not anymore. Julián Quiñones and Raúl Jiménez scored within a nine-minute span in the first half and Mexico defeated Ecuador 2-0 on Tuesday night to break a four-decade drought in the knockout stage and progress to the round of 16.

Quiñones opened the scoring in the 22nd minute and Jiménez added a goal in the 31st for the Mexicans, who had not won a knockout-stage match since defeating Bulgaria in the round of 16 when they hosted the tournament in 1986. Mexico coach Javier Aguirre was one of the starting midfielders in that '86 team. "It means a lot to me because I am one of those who could not progress in the knockout stage," Aguirre said. "We are in the round of 16 and it is happening a great connection with the fans. We are like a family. It is spectacular." Mexico lost seven consecutive times at that same stage from 1994 to 2018 and didn't advance past the group stage in 2022. Aguirre, who returned as Mexico's head coach in August of 2024, was an assistant in 1994 and was the coach in 2002 and 2010. "We will be on high alert from here until Sunday. We will try to have the players recover from this and we will see if we are able to win again," Aguirre said. A third goal in the tournament makes Quiñones El Tri's second-highest scorer in World Cup



history behind Luis "Matador" Hernández and Javier "Chicharito" Hernández, who scored four each. Quiñones, who was the scoring leader in the Saudi Pro League last season, has become the spark in the attack that Mexico lacked in previous World Cups. "I am just happy with the result, that is all that matters now," said Quiñones, who is playing in his first World Cup with Mexico. The 29-year-old forward arrived in the country from Colombia at age 17 and became a naturalized citizen in 2023. "Life is about struggle and fight until you get what you want," he said, "and I am taking full advantage of the opportunity that I got." Jiménez scored his second goal of the tournament and has 47 with the national team to break a tie with Jared Borgetti. He is five away from tying "Chicharito" Hernández as the all-time leading scorer for Mexico. Mexico will play another home match on Sunday against the win-

ner of Wednesday's match between England and Congo. Playing at the iconic Azteca Stadium, the Mexican squad boasts an undefeated record across 10 World Cup matches. Mexico have just two official losses at the venue — the last being a World Cup qualifying defeat to Honduras on Sept. 6, 2013. With the win, Mexico extended their unbeaten run to 12 games, dating back to a friendly loss against Paraguay in November. Mexico also became the first CONCACAF side to eliminate a team from CONMEBOL in a World Cup knockout match. Teams from South America won the previous five meetings. The match started one hour after the original scheduled time due to a thunderstorm. It was the second match of the tournament delayed by weather. A storm during the France-Iraq match at Philadelphia on June 22 caused a 2-hour, 11-minute suspension at the end of the first half. - Agencies

TO MEET BRAZIL IN LAST 16



Haaland nets Norway winner

ARLINGTON: Erling Haaland savoured the moment after Norway won a knockout game at the World Cup for the first time on Monday, a celebration that included a horned helmet atop his head and again sitting on the field with team-mates to do the Viking Row in synch with their red-clad fans. "This is unbelievable. This is history," Haaland said on the field after the game. A slight tap from Haaland's left foot in the 86th minute was the difference as Norway beat Ivory Coast 2-1 on Tuesday, setting up another World Cup match against five-time champions Brazil — 28 years after a victory that many consider the greatest ever for the Norwegians. Antonio Nusa scored the opening goal in the first half with a curling kick for Norway, who in their fourth World Cup will next play in the round of 16 against Brazil on Sunday at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey. "This is really a dream come true," Nusa said in translated remarks. Norway are in their first World Cup since that 1998 appearance, when the team got to the knockout round only after scoring goals in the 83rd and 89th minutes for an incredible 2-1 comeback win over then-reigning World Cup champion Brazil in the group finale. Amad Diallo, who had prevented Norway from taking a two-goal lead in the second half, evened the match for Ivory Coast with a left-footed kick in the 74th minute. Even after Haaland's go-ahead goal, his Norway-record 60th in 53 matches, Ivory Coast kept pressing and had a chance to equalise with a direct free kick by Diallo in the sixth minute of stoppage time. Orjan Nyland made a leaping stop, the last of his four saves, when he deflected the ball away as he extended his left hand across his body. It was his Haaland's fifth goal in three games at this year's tournament. - Agencies

Spain heat wave kills more than 1,000 in second-hottest June ever

Spain's Carlos III Health Institute said in a report that at least 1,028 heat-related deaths were reported during the heat wave last month. This number was more than double the 407 recorded in June 2025. This was also the most deaths attributed to heat in June since 2015

MADRID: More than 1,000 people died from heat-related causes during the recent heat wave in Spain, as the country recorded its hottest first half of the year on record, officials said on Wednesday.

Spain's Carlos III Health Institute said in a report that at least 1,028 heat-related deaths were reported during the heat wave last month.

This number was more than double the 407 recorded in June 2025. This was also the most deaths attributed to heat in June since 2015.

On June 23, at the peak of the heat wave, 35.7 million people, which made up roughly 73% of Spain's population, were exposed to health risks

Spain's national weather agency Aemet said in a post on X that last month was the country's second-hottest June on record, with temperatures averaging 3.2 degree Celsius above normal.

"The first half of 2026 becomes the warmest for the whole of Spain since records began, with a temperature 1.6 degrees Celsius above normal," Aemet posted.

Europe's record-breaking heat wave

The recent heat wave, which scorched much of Europe, was the

continent's most severe on record. Temperatures above 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) have broken records in France, Germany and other European countries.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has blamed the heat wave for more than 1,300 additional deaths across Europe, with that number likely to rise.

The extreme heat broke all-time temperature records in several European countries, including Germany, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary, with France experiencing its highest-ever nighttime temperatures.

What do scientists say?

According to meteorologists, the heat wave is being driven by a mass of hot air moving north from the Sahara, fueled by a strong high-pressure system known as the "African anticyclone."

The high-pressure system has created a so-called "heat dome," which traps hot air over Western and Central Europe, allowing temperatures to climb day after day.

Experts say human-induced climate change has intensified temperatures, making this year's record heat wave up to 4 degrees Celsius hotter.

— DW



TELEPHONE CONVERSATION



Iran President briefs Indian PM on West Asia developments

NEW DELHI: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Tuesday briefed Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the latest developments in West Asia and the way forward during a telephone conversation, with PM Modi welcoming the understanding reached and reiterating that all issues should be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy.

According to the Prime Minister's Office press release, President Pezeshkian updated Prime Minister Modi on the recent developments in the region and the future course of the negotiations.

Diplomatic engagement

PM Modi welcomed the understanding reached and reaffirmed India's consistent position that disputes must be addressed through dialogue and diplomatic engagement.

The Prime Minister also stressed the need for sustained efforts to ensure lasting peace and stability in West Asia. He underlined the importance of safeguarding freedom of navigation and commerce, particularly in view of the region's strategic maritime routes.

Sharing details of the conversation, in a post on X, PM Modi said, "Spoke with the President of Iran, Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian, on the recent developments in West Asia. Welcomed the progress made in the negotiations and ex-

pressed hope that continued efforts will lead to lasting peace in the region. Reiterated the importance of freedom of navigation in the Hormuz Strait for India and the World."

This is the third conversation between the two leaders since the conflict erupted in West Asia on February 28 between Israel and the US on one side and Iran on the other.

The leaders spoke on March 12 and March 21. During the conversations, PM Modi had highlighted India's priority regarding the safety and well-being of Indian nationals in the region, including in Iran, as well as the importance of unhindered transit of energy and goods. He had extended greetings on Navroz and Eid.

The talks between the two leaders come days after the virtual signing of a 14-point MoU between the US and Iran, which spells out provisions for the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, as well as easing of financial restrictions on Iran.

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

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SAID IN RESEARCH

Sudan's Rapid Support Forces accused of crimes against humanity in el-Fasher

EL-FASHER: The Rapid Support Forces (RSF) paramilitary's siege and capture of the city of el-Fasher, Sudan, involved ethnic cleansing and other crimes against humanity, NGO Amnesty International said in research released on Wednesday.

Sudan's brutal civil war between the army and the RSF, which began in 2023, has killed tens of thousands and displaced millions.

An independent UN fact-finding mission in February concluded that the 2025 assault on the capital of North Darfur bore the "hallmarks of genocide."

What did Amnesty say about the siege and capture of el-Fasher?

Amnesty interviewed 247 victims or witnesses between early 2024 and October 2025 in North Darfur for its report, entitled "City Under Siege, Children Under Fire: Rapid Support Forces' Crimes Against Humanity in North Darfur."

It said that during the prolonged siege, RSF systematically attacked settlements around el-Fasher which housed the Zaghawa people, an ethnic group in western Darfur.

The report is one of several to allege widespread and deliberate violence against children including killing, abductions, forced recruitment, and rape.

Amnesty Secretary General Agnes Callamard described the conflict as a "war on civilians" and said that the world was warned about the risks during the protracted siege.

"It is a stain on the conscience of humanity," Callamard said. "Children were not collateral damage of this violence — often, they were deliberately targeted and have suffered immensely. They have been killed, injured, raped, abducted, and forcibly recruited on a massive scale."

Callamard said that a nationwide ceasefire was "immediately needed," more than three years after the fighting broke out.

She called for an international force to be deployed to protect civilians, saying attacks on civilians and children "will continue un-



dered" unless action is taken.

What is the situation in Sudan's civil war and el-Fasher?

A fragile alliance between Sudan's army and the RSF militia collapsed in 2023, leading to open war between the two forces by April of that year.

The RSF has made and held considerable gains in the west of the country, particularly in the Darfur regions, leading to something resembling a de facto partition in the country.

The RSF, which can trace its roots back to the Janjaweed militia responsible for the genocide against non-Arab groups in Darfur starting in 2003, has set up a rival administration it calls the

Government of Peace and Unity.

For more than a year, el-Fasher was among the last major cities in Darfur still controlled by the Sudanese Armed Forces. RSF forces surrounded the city before it ultimately fell in October 2025.

RSF forces closing in on another army-held city east of el-Fasher, el-Obeid, in recent months has prompted concerns of similar risks should that city fall.

What did Amnesty say about RSF ringleaders?

Amnesty's report said that the abuses happening "repeatedly and on a large scale" suggested that "those in positions of authority knew, or should have known, what was occurring, and failed to stop it or hold anyone accountable."

Amnesty said that RSF members filmed and publicly shared videos of some of the mass executions, and that it verified 19 videos showing one large massacre near a berm set up around the city, which prevented people from fleeing after the RSF moved in.

"Nine of these videos show RSF commander Al-Fateh Abdullah Idris, more widely known as 'Abu Lulu,' executing captives who were wearing civilian clothing," Amnesty said.

Abu Lulu appearing in such videos had long made him a symbol of the RSF atrocities in el-Fasher. Shortly after the offensive the RSF released a video showing Abu Lulu under arrested and being placed in a cell in an el-Fasher prison.

News outlets including Reuters have subsequently reported, citing sources in the RSF and Sudan's army, that Abu Lulu has been released and is leading troops again — claims the RSF denies.

The report also implicated two senior commanders at the Mina al-Bari detention facility. Major General Gedo Hamdan Ahmed Mohamed (or 'Abu Shouk') allegedly "directed interrogations and participated in torture," while Lieutenant Colonel Abbas Khater Bhakit "was seen ordering the torture of prisoners and facilitating payments." — DW



LIFESTYLE

Google deepens Gemini’s Android integration with direct Google Play access

Users can also buy Google Play gift cards through Gemini and purchase digital items within apps already on their devices, without navigating multiple menus



Google is expanding Gemini’s capabilities on Android with a new feature that weaves the Google Play Store directly into the assistant, allowing users to search for apps, discover new ones and purchase digital content without leaving the conversation. First showcased at Google I/O 2026, the Play Store integration is now rolling out gradually to users. With the update, users can ask Gemini to find apps tailored to specific needs — a navigation app for international travel, for instance, or a meal planner and task

manager. Gemini can then open the app’s page directly within Play Store, making downloads faster and more seamless. Users can also buy Google Play gift cards through Gemini and purchase digital items within apps already on their devices, without navigating multiple menus. The rollout is underway for Android users aged 18 or older with a personal Google Account and the Gemini Apps Activity setting enabled. The feature is not available for Google Workspace accounts at launch. Google sees the real challenge not in installing apps, but in finding the right one among millions

on Play Store, where conventional searches often fall short. Gemini steps in by understanding user intent rather than relying solely on keywords, suggesting the most relevant apps for the task. The integration is part of Google’s broader push to make Gemini a full-fledged digital assistant, following recent integrations with Chrome, Google Wallet, Messages and Phone. The aim is to let users accomplish tasks through a single conversation with Gemini, rather than switching between multiple apps, so they simply say what they need and the assistant handles the rest. — ONA

ROUND-UP

Sohar International launches new rewards campaign under its ‘Fueling Your Journey’ initiative as part of its landmark collaboration with OOMCO

Under the campaign, customers using their Sohar International debit or credit cards at the OOMCO service station in Qurum Heights will be automatically entered into monthly draws, with two winners selected each month to receive Basma Cards worth OMR 500

MUSCAT: Continuing to redefine the way customers engage with everyday banking, Sohar International has launched a new rewards campaign as part of its ‘Fueling Your Journey’ initiative, offering customers additional value and exciting opportunities to win.

The campaign builds on the bank’s landmark collaboration with Oman Oil Marketing Company (OOMCO), which led to the establishment of the Sultanate’s first co-branded service station at Qurum Heights.

Under the campaign, customers using their Sohar International debit or credit cards at the OOMCO Service Station in Qurum Heights will be automatically entered into monthly draws, with two winners selected each month to receive Basma Cards worth OMR 500. Running over a three-month period, the initiative will reward a total of six winners, further strengthening the bank’s differentiated value proposition.



Commenting on the initiative, Abdul Qadir Al Sumali Chief Retail & Wealth Management Officer at Sohar International said, “The idea behind the initiative is straightforward: we want customers to experience the value of banking with Sohar International in moments they might not expect. A routine stop for fuel can become an opportunity to win something meaningful, and that simplicity is deliberate. We believe the strongest propositions are those that fit naturally into our customers’

daily lives, creating relevant and rewarding moments without adding complexity. As the first partnership of its kind in the Sultanate, our collaboration with OOMCO reflects a shared commitment to rethinking how and where customers engage with their bank, delivering practical benefits through more intuitive and connected interactions. We also believe that the future of customer engagement lies in thoughtful cross-sector collaborations that bring together complementary strengths to cre-

ate more impactful and differentiated propositions for the communities we serve.”

Beyond the immediate customer benefits, the initiative reflects Sohar International’s broader approach to fostering more purposeful customer interactions. Through its collaboration with OOMCO, the bank is extending its presence outside conventional banking touchpoints, creating opportunities to connect with customers in familiar, high-frequency environments. The approach re-

flects a growing focus on making banking experiences more contextual, accessible, and relevant to evolving customer lifestyles.

The launch of the Sohar International and OOMCO co-branded service station at Qurum Heights marked a new chapter in customer engagement, introducing the Sultanate’s first integrated banking and mobility destination. More than a conventional branding initiative, the collaboration was designed to create a more integrated customer journey by bringing

banking into the context of daily routines and activities.

As the collaboration between Sohar International and OOMCO continues to evolve, initiatives such as this mark the beginning of a broader program of customer-focused offerings designed to deliver added value through everyday interactions. Building on the foundation established through the co-branded service station, the partnership will continue to explore new opportunities that deliver meaningful benefits for customers.

TRADE-IN BONUS

Toyota rolls out ‘Turn Up The Freshness’ campaign for Camry

MUSCAT: Summer road trips across Oman are getting a major upgrade with the arrival of rewarding seasonal advantages on the legendary Toyota Camry and Camry HEV. The newly rolled out ‘Turn Up The Freshness’ campaign makes it incredibly easy for car buyers to experience this world-class mid-size sedan.

Individual retail customers looking to swap their current vehicle can benefit from a dedicated Trade-In Bonus processed through Best Cars, which is credited straight to the invoice as a special purchase discount. This special seasonal deal gives motorists an incredibly smooth path to driving home a brand-new flagship sedan.

Valid until 8 July, the promotion packages excellent value with extensive benefits to guarantee complete driving confidence. Beyond the trade-in incentive, qualifying purchases of the Camry and Camry HEV include 1 year of comprehensive insurance (Oman only), 1 year of free registration and a 5-year or 50,000 km service package. These valuable campaign benefits are built on an exceptional automotive foundation, as the Camry utilizes the Toyota New Global Architecture (TNGA-K) platform.

The Camry lineup sets an uncompromising standard for mid-size performance by giving drivers a choice between two highly advanced powertrains. The range features a highly responsive 2.5-litre four-cylinder VVT-iE engine alongside a cutting-edge electrified hybrid (HEV) variant that produces a robust 226 HP. Both options provide quick acceleration while maintaining excellent, fuel-saving efficiency. On the outside, the sedan effortlessly stands out across the Sultanate due to its



distinct, low-slung profile and athletic “Hammer Head” front styling that commands an instant presence on any highway.

Step inside, and the Camry reveals a premium, tech-forward sanctuary focused heavily around

driver and passenger convenience. The sophisticated dashboard layout features an expansive 12.3-inch touchscreen display paired with seamless wireless smartphone connectivity for easy media and navigation access. The cabin

offers excellent legroom, high-end upholstery finishes, and ergonomically shaped seating designed to keep five adult passengers completely relaxed during long commutes or weekend getaways.

Family safety remains central to

the Camry experience, backed by the intelligent Toyota Safety Sense active protection framework. This comprehensive suite actively monitors the road using advanced driver assistance systems, including a Pre-Collision System,

Dynamic Radar Cruise Control, and Lane Tracing Alert. To discover these summer advantages firsthand, automotive enthusiasts are invited to visit their closest showroom for a test drive before the campaign wraps up.



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