

We make your Business bigger than your problems.



We get you ahead on

- Booth production
- Event conceptualisation
- Event management



Wait, there's more

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





51

YEARS OF
LEGACY

Founded 1975 · Volume 51 No. 99 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group





Your instant Digital Personal Loan,
right when you need it!

Exclusively for Government Employees

The maximum loan amount is 15000. Terms and conditions apply.



Apply now

Bank Muscat. Better Everyday.

COMMENTARY

The Pitch and the Polls: How the 2026 World Cup Final Mirrored a Divided World

MOHAMED ISSA AL ZADJALI
Chairman
Muscat Media Group



For decades, football has been celebrated as the ultimate unifier—a sport capable of pausing conflicts and bridging cultural divides. Yet, as the final whistle blew at the FIFA World Cup 2026 final, it became undeniable that the beautiful game can no longer be separated from the harsh realities of global politics. The pitch in 2026 wasn't just a battleground for a trophy; it became a mirror reflecting a deeply fractured world.

A Heartbreaking Farewell to the Albiceleste
For me, and millions of fans globally, supporting Argentina was a lifelong romance. My loyalty stretched across generations, from the legendary exploits of Mario Kempes in 1978 to the fairytale coronation of Lionel Messi in 2022.

To be clear, my admiration for Lionel Messi remains unchanged—he is, without a doubt, the greatest player to ever grace the game so far.

But football teams do not exist in a vacuum; they represent nations, regimes, and geopolitical stances. Following the Argentine government's overt alignments and unwavering support for Israel amidst the ongoing crisis and devastating humanitarian toll in Gaza, a profound shift occurred.

While I still love Messi the individual, I can no longer support the team he represents. My loyalty to the Albiceleste has officially ended. From now on, my allegiance lies firmly with Spain. For many of us—including a vast circle of my own friends and peers—cheering for Argentina became impossible when the jersey became tied to a regime's political stance.

A Final Defined by Geopolitics
The day of the final made these geopolitical fault lines glaringly obvious. The pre-match atmosphere was charged not just with sporting anxiety, but with political symbolism. Images circulated globally of the Argentine ambassador presenting a national jersey to Benjamin Netanyahu, securing the passionate backing of Israel for Argentina. Meanwhile,

political figures like U.S. President Donald Trump weighed in, further solidifying the Western political alignment behind the South American squad.

Concurrently, the hearts of Palestinians, and millions of people worldwide who stand against the tragedy in Gaza, beat firmly for Spain. Spain's courageous, principled diplomatic stance in defense of human rights and Palestinian statehood transformed La Roja into more than just a football team. They became the standard-bearers for a global conscience.

A Masterclass on the Grass: Viva España
When the referee blew the starting whistle, the narrative shifted from political tension to absolute sporting brilliance. Spain did not just win; they dominated. **>A3**

WORLD CUP 2026 TROPHY

Spain's triumph delights 300-strong Spanish community in Oman

RAHUL DAS
rahuldas@timesofoman.com



MUSCAT: For the nearly 300 Spanish nationals living in Oman, Monday morning became a moment to cherish as Spain defeated Argentina to lift the FIFA World Cup 2026 trophy.

Celebrations broke out at hotels, restaurants and cafés across Muscat as Spanish supporters hugged, waved flags and sang in jubilation following the final whistle.

Spain's Ambassador to Oman, F. Javier de Istúriz, described the victory as an emotional and unforgettable experience. "It was a great final that we all lived with great emotion. Argentina

proved to be a very tough rival," the ambassador said.

He also thanked football fans in Oman for their support throughout the tournament. "I am very grateful for the numerous messages of support we received during the championship. I am delighted that Spain's victory has been celebrated by so many people," he added. **>A3**



Deputy PM for
Defence Affairs bids
farewell to Nepalese
Ambassador

A5

OMAN ADVANCES IN ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE INDEX



Oman climbed six places in EPI to rank 49th globally out of 180 countries, up from 55th in 2024



MUSCAT: The Environment and Natural Resources priority under Oman Vision 2040 aims to establish effective, balanced and resilient ecological systems that protect the environment and sustain natural resources in support of the national economy.

The priority seeks to balance environmental, economic and social requirements within the framework of sustainable development, while ensuring high-quality, pollution-free environments, enhancing food and water security through renewable resources and advanced technologies, and optimising Oman's strategic location and biodiversity.

This priority is directly linked to the economy and development axis by ensuring resource sustainability, and serves as a key driver for emerging sectors such as the green and circular economies, while also supporting the Human and Society axis. **>A6**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

52 inspectors deployed in Dhofar

1 A total of 52 inspectors, divided into 19 field teams, have been deployed to conduct morning and evening inspections. **>A2**

OMAN

FIFA World Cup final fever spills over

2 Football fans across Oman chose passion over punctuality on Monday morning after staying up late to watch the FIFA World Cup. **>A3**

MARKET

Workshop on waste management

3 "Madayn", in cooperation with "be'ah", organised a workshop on "Industrial Waste Management" on Monday. **>B1**



CHANGAN

ALL NEW

UNI-S 4WD ROYAL

REDEFINING THE RIDE OF TOMORROW

1.5L Turbo Engine, 185 hp | 7 Speed DCT

SUPER WARRANTY - 6 YEARS UNLIMITED MILEAGE





EMI

OMR143*

for 6 years

 800 50800

 9662 8909

Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment LLC

*Terms and Conditions Apply

Images shown are for illustrative purpose only. Specification may vary as per the model variant. To know more, please visit the CHANGAN AUTO Showroom.

Showrooms : Qurum 94641010, Mawaleh 97888180, Nizwa 96628940, Sohar 95351200, Salalah 96629050, Ibri 96628930, Barka 96629010, Sur 96628920

MEETINGS

Foreign Minister receives copies of credentials of ambassadors of Korea, Malaysia and Switzerland



MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, received on Monday copies of the credentials of Lee Jong il, Amba-

sador-designate of the Republic of Korea; Ahmad Kamrizamil Bin Mohammad Riza, Ambassador-designate of Malaysia; and Grego-



rio Bernasconi, Ambassador-designate of the Swiss Confederation, who are appointed to Oman. The Foreign Minister welcomed

the ambassadors, wishing them success in performing their diplomatic duties. He affirmed his aspiration that the relations of friend-



ship and cooperation between Oman and their respective countries will witness further growth and development, serving mutual

interests. The ceremony of receiving the copies of credentials was attended by a number of officials from the Foreign Ministry. -ONA

COMMENTARY

Remembering Oman's Eternal Renaissance: A Personal Reflection

Today marks the fifty-seventh anniversary of the Eternal Renaissance Day, a time to reflect on the monumental changes that have shaped modern Oman. It was on this day, 23rd July 1970, that the late Sultan Qaboos bin Said assumed power, ushering in an era of unprecedented progress and development. For those of us who lived through the pre-1970 period, the transformation is nothing short of miraculous.

It is impossible to forget the Oman we lived in before 23rd July 1970. For nearly three decades, life, for me, was stagnant, marked by a severe lack of basic necessities. There was no electricity, no clean drinking water, and virtually no access to health or educational services. We lived in an era of darkness, a stark contrast to the world we inhabit today. In my book, "Oman prior to 1970," I documented most of these hardships faced by Omanis. The primary reason for this was the absence of a substantial national income. When oil was discovered and the first shipment was exported in June 1967, the pace of development was agonizingly slow. Early projects, like the piped water system in Muscat and Muttrah and the start of the Muttrah Corniche, were a beginning, but they were not enough to lift



the country out of its prolonged recession. Sultan Said bin Taimur, the preceding ruler, was against borrowing from abroad, a policy that, while arguably sound given the lack of national income, contributed to the country's economic stagnation. At the time, the Sultanate of Muscat and Oman was unique in having no foreign debt, a fact that highlights the conservative financial policy of the era.

The vision of Sultan Qaboos was not limited to infrastructure. He understood that a nation is built by its people. Within a decade, the three schools that existed in 1970 became hundreds. The Sultan Qaboos university opened its doors in 1986, educating the first generation of Omani leaders, doctors and engineers. In healthcare, the Royal Hospital and a network of clinics reached even the most remote

villages in the mountains and deserts, eradicating diseases like malaria and giving every Omani citizen access to modern care.

He brought not just technology to Oman, but hope.

Perhaps the greatest achievement of Sultan Qaboos was not what he built, but what he left behind: a legacy of peace, tolerance, and stability. His wise and peaceful transition of power on 10th January 2020 amazed the world and ensured the continuity of the nation. Today, under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, the march of progress continues.

On the occasion of the 57th anniversary of the birth of modern Oman, let us pay tribute to the spirit of the man who was behind the transformation of Oman into a modern entity, Sultan Qaboos bin Said, may God have mercy on him.

Oman joins UN body meeting in Republic of Korea

The session deals with means of managing risks and disasters, handling the effects of climate change

SEOUL: The Sultanate of Oman is taking part in the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), being held in the city of Busan in the Republic of Korea from 19 to 29 July 2026.

The session is attended by representatives of parties to the 1972 Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

Oman's delegation is led by Amna Salim Al Balushi, Permanent Delegate of the Sultanate of



Oman to UNESCO.

During its current session, the UNESCO committee discussed files of nomination for new sites to be added to the World Heritage List and reports on the conservation of listed sites, in addition to policies and procedures related to the protection and management of World Heritage sites.

The session also deals with means of managing risks and disasters, handling the effects of climate change and activating the

role of local communities tasked with protecting heritage.

Oman's participation in the session stems from its keenness to follow up developments in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and contribute to the discussion of issues related to the protection and management of World Heritage sites, in a bid to support national efforts aimed at preserving cultural and natural heritage in line with global standards. -ONA

PUBLIC AWARENESS

52 inspectors deployed to safeguard consumers during Dhofar Khareef



SALALAH: The Directorate General of Consumer Protection in Dhofar Governorate is stepping up efforts to implement a monitoring and public awareness plan during Dhofar Khareef (monsoon) Season 2026.

The programmes of the plan seek to ensure the establishment of a safe consumer environment for residents and visitors to the governorate, while at the same time augmenting the level of suppliers' compliance with regulations and legislation governing the markets.

The programmes also include a public awareness campaign, exhibitions, scouting camps and activities that engage children and families. They also include an exhibition of prohibited and contraband goods and a children's public awareness stage and library.

The Directorate General of Consumer Protection in Dhofar Governorate is cooperating with

the Association of People with Disabilities in Dhofar Governorate in delivering awareness messages in sign language.

It also operates an interactive awareness monitor at Salalah Airport, in addition to implementing a digital media plan across various electronic platforms.

To facilitate visitors' access to the Consumer Authority's services, the Directorate allocated a special field office in the Itin Plain to receive reports, complaints and queries in order to ensure rapid response and provide aid.

A total of 52 inspectors, divided into 19 field teams, have been deployed to conduct morning and evening inspections, including on public holidays.

Ten teams have been assigned to Salalah and surrounding areas, while each wilayat in the governorate has its own dedicated inspection team.

The inspections target busi-

nesses that experience high demand during the Khareef season, including food outlets, traditional markets, fruit and coconut stalls, madhabi restaurants, perfume and clothing stores, sweet shops, fuel stations and vehicle rental offices.

Inspectors are monitoring price displays, invoice issuance, product quality and safety, commercial information accuracy, and any misleading practices or unjustified price increases.

During the first half of 2026, the directorate received 549 consumer complaints, with 95.97 percent of initial actions completed within five working days and 91.3 percent of cases fully resolved within 20 working days.

The authority also handled 25 reports, completing 92.59 percent of initial procedures within two working days and achieving a 100 percent final closure rate within five working days. Over the same period, inspectors carried out

17,778 inspection visits across all wilayats of Dhofar.

Alongside enforcement, the directorate has launched the "Your Awareness is Your Safety" campaign, featuring a main awareness exhibition, mobile information booths in shopping malls, activities at summer centres and scout camps, and programmes for children and families.

The campaign incorporates interactive tools such as virtual reality experiences, digital tablets, a children's theatre and library, an environmental sustainability corner, and displays highlighting prohibited and counterfeit goods.

To improve accessibility during the Khareef season, the directorate has opened a temporary field office at Itin Plain to receive consumer complaints, reports and inquiries, in addition to its official communication channels, ensuring faster response times throughout the tourism season.

EXCHANGING EXPERTISE

Oman and Niger hold talks to boost food security



MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, and the Republic of Niger held a session of talks on Monday.

The session discussed aspects of existing cooperation and explored opportunities to develop and expand them in a manner that contributes to supporting food security efforts, enhancing sustainability, and exchanging expertise in fields of mutual interest.

This came during a meeting between Eng. Yaqoub Khalfan Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources for Fisheries, and Bakary Yaou Sangaré, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Nigeriens Abroad of the Republic of Niger.

The meeting addressed ways to enhance bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the

fields of agriculture and water resources.

Additionally, it reviewed opportunities for cooperation in employing modern agricultural technologies, developing water resources management, and enhancing investment and innovation in the agricultural and livestock sectors.

This aims to keep pace with the developmental trends of both countries and contribute to achieving the optimal use of natural resources.

The two sides emphasized the importance of continuing coordination and the exchange of expertise, as well as enhancing technical and investment partnerships to serve shared interests and support sustainable development.

They expressed their aspiration to open new horizons for cooperation that will yield mutual benefits for the two countries. -ONA

بنك دحفار
BankDhofar



MESSI

Lionel Messi,
Official Mastercard Ambassador

Visit bankdhofar.com

Limited-edition
Messi Mastercard.

Get your branded card
only in 2026

Get your card today
For more information



FIFA World Cup 2026 final fever spills into Monday morning



With the title clash ending around 1.45am on Monday, many offices reported late attendance as football enthusiasts arrived behind schedule or worked remotely after spending the night at malls

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Football fans across Oman chose passion over punctuality on Monday morning after staying up late to watch the FIFA World Cup 2026 final between Spain and Argentina.

With the title clash ending around 1.45am on Monday, many offices reported late attendance as football enthusiasts arrived behind schedule or worked remotely

after spending the night at malls, restaurants, cafés, hotels, sports clubs, and other fan zones.

The final transformed venues across Muscat into lively gathering spots, with giant screens, packed seating areas, and an electric atmosphere as supporters cheered every pass, tackle, and goal.

Friends and families stayed out well past midnight, celebrating the conclusion of a month-long football festival.

Several hotels that organised special viewing events remained busy until the early hours of Monday, with fans lingering to discuss the match long after the final whistle.

Sheraton Oman reported a full house, while other venues said turnout exceeded expectations. “We were completely sold out on Sunday night,” said Rejin Thomas, Hotel Manager at Sheraton Oman.

Social media platforms were flooded with photos and videos of jubilant fans, victory celebrations, and friendly banter between supporters of the two finalists.

Impact on attendance

Employers across different sectors acknowledged that the World Cup final had an impact on attendance, with some companies allowing flexible reporting times or remote work arrangements for employees who had stayed up to watch football’s biggest match.

For football lovers in Oman,



however, the lack of sleep was a small price to pay for witnessing history unfold.

As conversations in offices, cafés, and schools shifted from work to football on Monday morning, it became clear that the beautiful game had once again united fans across nationalities and turned the start of the working week into an extension of the World Cup celebration.

“I was very sleepy at work on Monday because I only got to bed around 3am, but there was no way I was going to miss the World Cup final,” said Ahmed Al Balushi, an Omani football enthusiast who watched the match with friends at a café in Al Khuwair.

“The atmosphere was unbelievable. Every tackle and every chance had the entire place reacting together. Even people supporting different teams congratulated each other after the match.”

Indian expatriate Rahul Sharma, who watched the final at a restaurant in Muscat, said he had informed his office in advance that he might report late.

“We planned this weeks ago.

We gathered with friends from India, Spain, Argentina, Egypt, and Oman. Some wore Argentina jerseys while others wore Spain colours, but it didn’t matter which team we supported because everyone simply wanted to enjoy a great football final.”

He added that football has a unique ability to unite people. “By the end of the game, complete strangers were taking photos together. That’s what the World Cup is all about.”

Corporate offices also felt the impact of the late-night final, with several employees admitting they struggled to wake up after getting only a few hours of sleep. “I survived on coffee today,” laughed Priya, an accountant in Muscat.

“The match finished late as it went to the extra time, and everyone in our office was talking about football instead of work during the morning.”

For many citizens and residents, the World Cup final marked the perfect conclusion to a month-long football festival that captivated fans across Oman.

Although normal routines gradually returned by Monday afternoon, conversations about Spain’s triumph, memorable goals, and standout performances continued in offices, cafés, and schools, proving once again that football remains the world’s most powerful sporting language.

NEW WORLD CHAMPIONS

The Pitch and the Polls: How the 2026 World Cup Final Mirrored a Divided World



<FROM A1 For one hundred twenty minutes, the world witnessed a tactical masterclass that heavily echoed Spain’s historic 2010 World Cup victory against the Netherlands. They controlled the tempo, suffocated their opponents’ creativity, and dictated the rhythm of the game with flawless precision. Argentina, despite their pedigree, had no answers for the relentless Spanish press and fluid passing.

Spain proved that you can carry the moral weight of global expectations and still deliver perfection on the pitch.

The New Team of the World

The 2026 World Cup final proved that the “spirit of the game” is no longer just about kicking a ball—it is about what a country stands for when the world is watching.

By alignment of principle and sheer athletic dominance, Spain has captured the imagination of a new generation of fans. They are no longer just champions of Europe or champions of the world; they are the team of the global collective conscience.

Congratulations, Spain. Viva España.

ARGENTINA FANS IN TEARS

Spanish community delighted

<FROM A1 For Spanish expatriate Carlos, the night became one of the most memorable moments since moving to Oman.

“When the final whistle blew, everyone wearing Spain’s colours jumped up together. It was emotional because we had waited years for another World Cup title,” he said.

Fernandez also praised the sporting spirit displayed by fans in Oman.

“There were Argentina supporters all around us, but everything remained respectful. People celebrated together despite supporting different teams.”

For Argentina supporters, however, the result brought heartbreak. Argentine expatriate Sofia admitted the defeat was painful but said reaching the final was still a remarkable achievement. “Of course we wanted to defend our title, but Spain de-

served the victory. It hurts, but that’s football. We are proud of the way Argentina fought until the very end,” she said.

Many Argentine fans were left in tears as their hopes of retaining the World Cup slipped away. Yet despite the disappointment, they applauded their team’s effort and congratulated Spain on a deserved victory.

One of the most touching moments came after the final whistle. While emotions ran high across the pitch, Lionel Messi embraced Spain’s teenage star Lamine Yamal in the centre circle.

Messi congratulated the youngster on winning his first World Cup, while Yamal offered words of comfort to the Argentine legend following the defeat—a gesture that quickly became one of the defining images of the final and a reminder of the mutual respect that exists at the highest level of the game.

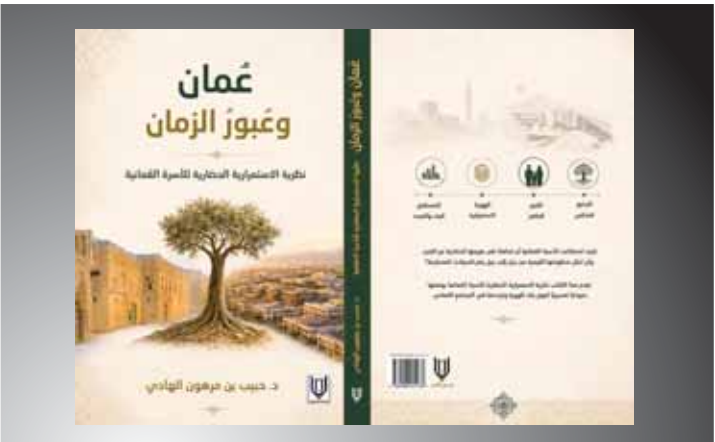
NATIONAL CHARACTER

Book explores how Omani family has preserved its national identity

MUSCAT: Dr. Habib bin Marhoun Al Hadi has published a new scholarly work titled “Oman and the Passage of Time: The Theory of Civilisational Continuity of the Omani Family,” a 427-page volume that presents an intellectual and scholarly framework rooted in the distinctiveness of the Omani experience.

The book explores how the Omani family has sustained its role in preserving national identity, transmitting values and belonging across generations, and reinforcing its position as a cornerstone of social development and civilisational sustainability.

The book poses a central question: how has the Omani family maintained its civilisational continuity over centuries, despite the rapid political, economic, social,



cultural and technological transformations that Oman has witnessed?

It offers scientifically grounded answers based on years of research

combining historical study, civilisational analysis, field research and theory-building.

The theory defines civilisational continuity as a dynamic process

involving the reproduction of values, identity and collective memory in ways that adapt to change — not merely the preservation of cultural heritage.

The family is seen as an active institution in preserving national character and balancing authenticity with renewal.

The work goes beyond theory, offering an explanatory model, a proposed system of national indicators, and a vision for a national observatory to monitor family, childhood and civilisational continuity.

This is intended to support national policies and programmes aligned with Oman Vision 2040 in the areas of national identity, social development and human development.

The book is organised into eight

chapters, covering the concept and theoretical framework of civilisational continuity, its historical roots in the Omani experience, the role of social institutions, the family as the primary incubator of values and identity, and the impact of social, cultural and digital transitions.

The final chapters present field study findings, the theory itself, and a forward-looking vision for civilisational sustainability.

Dr. Al Hadi said the book is the result of a research journey spanning years, born from a question about how Omani society has preserved its civilisational continuity despite profound historical transformations.

The findings showed the family to be the most influential institution in preserving national

identity, transmitting values, safeguarding social memory and reproducing Omani character generation after generation.

He added that the book views civilisational continuity as a society’s ability to preserve its essence while reproducing it in ways that align with changing circumstances, balancing authenticity with renewal and identity with openness. It offers not only a scientific theory but also an explanatory model, a system of indicators and an institutional vision for future studies and national policies on family, childhood and human development.

Published by Luban Publishing House, the book adds to Dr. Al Hadi’s body of work in Omani history, educational thought, civilisational studies and scientific research. **ONA**

Oral literature lives on in Oman’s visual arts: A modern reimagining of the Omani narrative

Omani artists draw from tangible and intangible heritage, re-employing traditional architecture, natural landscapes, crafts and oral memory in modern ways

MUSCAT: Oral literature in the Sultanate of Oman was never merely a means of storytelling; it was a living memory that preserved the details of people and place, passing wisdom, emotion and identity from generation to generation.

As visual arts evolved, the Omani narrative took on new, deeper forms. The photographic image began capturing the spirit of popular storytelling; cinema became a vibrant space for tales, myths and collective memory; and visual art reimagined heritage symbols in a contemporary language that carries both human and aesthetic depth.

These creative fields now affirm the capacity of Omani visual language to serve as a living extension of oral tradition, while preserving authenticity, identity and cultural openness.

Visual artist Naila Hamad Al Maamari said Omani visual art has not merely documented heritage but has re-produced it as a living cultural material capable of being reformulated within a contemporary visual discourse. This has been achieved by transforming heritage symbols and oral memory from descriptive elements into artistic components that engage with identity and modernity.

She added that Omani artists draw from tangible and intangible heritage, re-employing traditional architecture, natural landscapes, crafts and oral memory in modern ways. Mud-brick houses, forts, towers, ornate wooden doors, sea, mountain and desert have become visual vocabulary symbolising historical continuity and human connection. Islamic ornaments, dagger-making, silverwork, weaving, pottery, calligraphy, folk tales, myths and proverbs have been woven into abstract and modern compositions. Heritage, she said, is no longer presented as a closed past but as a dynamic element reinterpreted through the contemporary artist’s vision.

She also stressed the balance between cultural identity and global openness. Omani visual art has drawn on global movements — abstraction, expressionism, surrealism and conceptual art — while keeping local symbols present. Artists have developed techniques and materials, including multimedia and digital printing, without abandoning cultural reference. They have moved from reproduction to interpretation, re-reading heritage through a philosophical and aesthetic lens that reflects contemporary questions. Participation in international exhibitions and biennials has allowed Omani artists to engage with global trends while maintaining a distinctive cultural voice, preserving Omani environmental, heritage and Islamic elements even when using the latest artistic methods.

Cultural identity is not a barrier to modernity but a source of creativity, said visual artist Naila Al Maamari. Omani artists have succeeded in transforming heritage into a global visual language that transcends cultural boundaries while retaining its distinct Omani character. Visual art in Oman has thus become a model of creative interaction between authenticity and contemporaneity, where popular memory coexists with modern techniques and heritage becomes a space for aesthetic and



intellectual production.

She noted that Omani visual art has re-produced heritage symbols and oral memory through contemporary visions, making heritage a source of creativity rather than mere documentation. It has balanced Omani cultural identity with openness to global aesthetics by employing modern methods while preserving local references — building a visual discourse that combines authenticity and modernity and giving Omani art a distinguished presence regionally and internationally.

Photographer Zeyad Khalfan Al Maashari said his goal from the start was for the Omani image to go beyond visual documentation and become a means of preserving memory, conveying emotion and narrating the human story before the place. He focused on building images with narrative value, so that viewers feel they are living their details and reading inherited

stories through them.

He believes Omani identity is not merely traditional attire or historical landmarks, but a daily life filled with human details — the wrinkles of a fisherman’s face weathered by the sea, the hand of a farmer touching a palm trunk, a child running through ancient alleyways. These small details give the image its soul and preserve a time that may change but is held for future generations.

Al Maashari employs light, shadow, composition and colour in service of the story, not just visual beauty. Soft lighting evokes calmness and nostalgia, shadows reflect the depth of human experience, and composition guides the viewer’s eye toward the most expressive element. Choosing the right moment is essential; an authentic moment carries emotions that dozens of artificial shots may fail to convey.

He highlighted the relationship

between people and their environment — sea, mountains, desert and agricultural oases — as a key aspect of the image. The environment is not a backdrop but a partner in shaping identity and story, integrated into the frame as part of the visual narrative.

He explained that an image succeeds in telling a story when it sparks the viewer’s curiosity, prompting questions: Who is this person? What is the story behind this moment? The image then becomes like an open page of a novel, completed by the viewer’s imagination and emotions. When the viewer senses the scent of the place and hears in their imagination the sound of the sea, the rustle of palm fronds or footsteps in ancient alleyways, the image has transcended vision to become a complete sensory and human experience.

A successful photograph is not merely one that conveys a scene

as it is, but one that preserves the memory of society, documents its values, and gives the Omani people a lasting visual presence that remains alive in the heart and mind, said photographer Zeyad Khalfan Al Maashari.

Filmmaker Abdullah Mohammed Al Maliki said Omani cinema has begun to transform folk tales from spoken narrative into a visual experience, though the process is still in its early stages. Omani cinema, still relatively young, has yet to produce a large body of work that fully reflects its oral heritage. Yet it has made important attempts that put place, memory and humanity at the heart of visual storytelling.

In films such as “Al Boom” by Khalid Al Zedjali, the sea appears not as a beautiful backdrop but as memory tied to livelihood, waiting and social change. Some works have approached Bedouin, mountain and coastal environments, presenting dialects, clothing and customs as part of character and identity. A glance, silence, the movement of a boat, the sound of wind or sea become storytelling tools as significant as words, he said.

The value of cinema, Al Maliki added, lies in re-presenting heritage in a language understood by new generations and global audiences. Folk proverbs, myths and tales should not be relics but human meanings — fear, loss, courage, connection to land — that make Omani identity accessible without losing its distinctiveness.

The challenge, he said, is ensuring identity does not become mere decoration. Depth comes when the story is rooted in local memory and the image serves meaning, not just embellishment. Omani cinema has taken an important step but needs more courage, production and engagement

with tales as living material.

Storyteller Thamna Houbais Al Jandal said the folk tale does not age; it renews itself, adapting to each era. It was told under moonlight, in gatherings, on radio, and today through image, cinema, painting and digital platforms. Whatever the medium, the human being remains its first and last purpose.

The Omani storyteller, she said, was never merely a narrator but a guardian of popular memory, carrying history, morals and the scent of frankincense, sea and mountain. The tale preserved what books could not, planting values with simplicity.

Thamna sees visual language not as a rival to the tale but as its natural extension. A short film may condense an idea that requires pages; a single image may convey emotions words cannot describe. The success of visual work lies not in beauty alone but in truth.

She explained that when Omani artists draw on heritage, dialect, clothing and environment, they are not presenting beautiful scenes but creating a living memory, giving heritage wings to carry it to new generations.

Today’s generations live in a world of images, she said. It is wise to address them in their own language, but not at the cost of losing spirit and identity. The goal is not to change the tale but to present it with contemporary creativity. If its core values — tolerance, generosity, courage and belonging — are preserved, the tale will remain alive, not only in memory but in hearts.

She concluded that Omani visual language should not merely display heritage as a beautiful past but present it with renewed spirit — seen in films, experienced in photographs and contemplated in paintings. -ONA

The Movers Oman Wins Best Brand in Customer Experience Award in Packers & Movers Category



The Movers Oman was felicitated with the “Times of Oman Best Brand in Customer Experience (CX) Award in Packers & Movers Category” at the Oman CX Awards 2026. The awards presentation was co-located with Times of Oman CX Forum 2026, held at Hotel Kempinski, Muscat. The premier event was attended by over 325+ CX leaders across sectors in Oman.

The Movers Oman has consistently demonstrated a strong commitment to customer experience by delivering reliable, efficient, and professional relocation services for individuals, families, and businesses across the Sultanate. With expertise spanning local and international moving, packing, storage, and logistics solutions, the company has earned the trust of customers through its focus on quality, care, and seamless service delivery.

With a customer-centric approach that places convenience, transparency, and peace of mind at the heart of every relocation, The Movers Oman

combines experienced professionals, modern equipment, and tailored moving solutions to ensure every move is handled with precision and care. Its dedication to responsive customer support, timely execution, and the safe handling of belongings has established the company as a preferred relocation partner in Oman.

By continuously investing in operational excellence, skilled personnel, and innovative relocation solutions, The Movers Oman continues to set benchmarks in customer experience within the packers and movers industry. Its unwavering commitment to professionalism, reliability, and customer satisfaction reinforces its position as one of Oman’s most trusted moving and relocation service providers.

The Best Brand in Customer Experience (CX) Awards are instituted by Times of Oman, in collaboration with Muscat Media Group, Gulf Leaders Circle and TEvents. They are presented to the leading brands that are ahead of the curve in

Co-located with:

Infoline PRESENTS

OMAN CX 2026 FORUM

Customer Experience Beyond Imagination

POWERED BY Ford LINCOLN

STRATEGIC PARTNER

تادوم

For more information, contact: 78471944/97221630

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

His Majesty congratulates Andy Burnham on his appointment

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of congratulations to Andy Burnham on the occasion of his appointment as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

In the cable, His Majesty expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes for UK Premier’s continued health, happiness and success in his new role, and for the continued progress and prosperity of the friendly British people.

His Majesty also expressed his hope for the further strengthening of cooperative and friendly relations between the two countries, in a manner that serves the greater good and mutual interests of both countries’ peoples. -ONA



AT HM’S BEHEST

Sayyid Shihab bids farewell to Nepalese ambassador

MUSCAT: At the behest of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, received in his office at Al Murtafaa Camp on Monday Dornath Aryal, Ambassador of the Republic of Nepal to the Sultanate of Oman, to bid him farewell at the end of his tour of duty.

The Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs expressed his thanks to the Nepalese Ambassador for the efforts he exerted to enhance bilateral relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Nepal, wishing him continued success.

Furthermore, the Nepalese Ambassador expressed his gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik for the support he received during his tenure in the Sultanate of Oman, which facilitated the performance of his duties.



He wished His Majesty abundant health and a long life, and the Sultanate of Oman further progress and prosperity under His Majesty’s wise leadership. -ONA

ENVIRONMENT AUTHORITY

EA launches campaign to plant 4mn seeds in Dhofar

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Environment Authority in Dhofar Governorate is implementing a large-scale environmental campaign to plant 4 million seeds of native trees in the governorate’s mountains. This initiative is part of its ongoing efforts to develop vegetation cover, combat desertification, enhance biodiversity, and restore natural ecosystems.

The campaign is taking place from July 20 to 30, in cooperation with Dhofar Municipality and the “Awareness” initiative team, with active participation from members of the local community. It covers the Wilayats of Mirbat, Taqah, Salalah, Rakhyut, and Dhalkut.

Hatem bin Salem Al Mahri, Director of the Vegetation Development Department at the Directorate General of Environment in Dhofar Governorate, stated that this is the fifth consecutive year for the campaign.

He noted that choosing the Dhofar Khareef season provides optimal conditions for germination and early growth, thanks to



the abundant rainfall and dense fog, which contribute to increasing the chances of seed germination and growth during their early stages.

Al Mahri explained that the season’s humidity helps seedlings develop a strong root system, enabling them to withstand subsequent periods of drought.

He added that trees also play a role in stabilising the soil, reducing erosion, and maintaining its fertility, thus supporting the sustainability of vegetation cover.

Al Mahri further stated that the campaign aims to plant several

native species contributing to the restoration of natural habitats, enhancing plant diversity, and providing food sources and suitable environments for various living organisms.

He noted that the participation of government institutions, volunteers, and community members in implementing the campaign reflects the importance of community partnership in protecting the environment, preserving natural resources, and supporting national efforts aimed at achieving environmental sustainability.

TAMPHERED PRODUCTS

CPA seizes over 17,000 expired cosmetic products

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Consumer Protection Authority (CPA) has seized more than 17,000 expired and tampered cosmetic products during an inspection campaign in Muscat Governorate, uncovering a major case of commercial fraud involving altered expiry dates.

The operation, carried out by the CPA’s Department of Commercial Fraud Control, resulted in the confiscation of 17,236 cosmetic products, including 15,753 items with altered expiry dates

and 1,483 expired products that were prepared for sale.

According to the authority, inspectors immediately seized the products and referred the case for legal action. The commercial establishment involved was ordered to close by the Public Prosecution pending the completion of legal proceedings.

In a statement on Monday, the CPA said the inspection campaign forms part of its ongoing efforts to protect consumers and combat fraudulent commercial practices that pose risks to public

health. The authority confirmed that all seized products have been secured and that legal measures are being taken against those responsible in accordance with Omani laws and regulations.

The CPA urged consumers to exercise caution when purchasing cosmetics and personal care products by checking expiry dates, packaging integrity and product labels before use. It also encouraged the public to report suspected violations through its consumer hotline and official communication channels.



وزارة التنمية الاجتماعية
Ministry of Social Development



Tender Announcement

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

Tender No.	Tender Subject	Grade	Last date for obtainment of tender document	Last date for tender submission	Tender Document Price (non-retundable)	
					Small and Medium companies	Local companies
343/2026	Consultancy Services (Design and Supervision) for the Construction of the Autism Spectrum Disorder and Rehabilitation Center at Al Dakhiliyah Governorate (Nizwa)	Companies specialized in the field of Civil Engineering Consulting Architectural Engineering Consulting Quantity Surveying and Surveying Services Project Management Consulting Electrical Engineering Consulting Mechanical Engineering Consulting Interior Design Consulting Landscape Design Consulting Safety and Fire Prevention Engineering Consulting with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board with first or second degree	Monday 10-08-2026 02:00 PM	Sunday 30-08-2026 10:00 AM	10 R.O	25 R.O

❖ Specialized Companies, registered with the Tender Board may obtain the Tender documents at theTender Board e-tendering digital portal link (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>) , On Tuesday 21/07/2026

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

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

www.mosd.gov.om



Forum focuses on marine forecasting

It aims to review best operational practices in using satellite data to support marine forecasting, early warning

MUSCAT: The activities of the “Forecasting Ports” forum, organised by the Civil Aviation Authority and the Center of Excellence for Satellite Applications, began on Monday via videoconferencing. The three-day event involves the participation of specialists



in meteorology and marine sciences, as well as weather and climate researchers from countries across the Middle East, Africa, and Europe.

The forum aims to enhance in-

ternational cooperation and the exchange of expertise in marine forecasting and satellite applications. It also aims to review best operational practices in using satellite data to support marine fore-

casting, early warning, navigation safety, and climate services.

Additionally, the forum highlights the importance of building a professional network between forecasting centers and the Centers of Excellence affiliated with the World Meteorological Organization. This contributes to capacity building, fostering knowledge sharing, and supporting regional cooperation in this field.

This forum comes as part of the Civil Aviation Authority’s efforts to consolidate the Sultanate of Oman’s position as a regional center of excellence for satellite applications and meteorology, and to support national talents through the exchange of expertise and global best practices, thereby contributing to the development of aviation and marine services and upgrading the quality of weather forecasts. **-ONA**

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

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

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

CABLE

His Majesty greets King of Belgians

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to King Philippe Leopold Louis Marie, King of the Belgians, on his country’s National Day. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan lauded the strength of

the partnership and cooperation relations between the two countries.

His Majesty the Sultan also wished Belgium continued progress and prosperity, and the realization of further achievements at all levels. **-ONA**

KEY INDICATORS

Oman climbs six places to rank 49th globally in EPI

<FROM A1 The priority targets three key indicators: the Oman Water Index, the share of renewable energy in total consumption, and the Environmental Performance Index.

In the most recent EPI reading, Oman climbed six places to rank 49th globally out of 180 countries, up from 55th in 2024.

Oman also secured third place in the Middle East, second in the Arab world, and second among GCC states.

In sub-indicators, Oman ranked first globally in sustainable solid waste management, clean household fuel, sulphur dioxide emissions trends, species habitat and open-water trawling, and ninth in marine environment protection.

Oman aims to be among the top



40 countries by 2030 and to reach the top 20 by 2040, reflecting its commitment to environmental improvement, resource conservation and human well-being.

The progress results from national efforts by the Environment

Authority and relevant institutions, supported by a steering committee, technical teams and a dedicated team to ensure data quality and completeness.

International partnerships with index-responsible bodies and

global data providers helped track methodological updates, verify data and address gaps that could affect Oman’s ranking.

The advancement reflects national policies in climate action, sustainable resource management, biodiversity conservation, air quality improvement, renewable energy expansion, circular economy promotion and sustainability initiatives aligned with Oman Vision 2040.

Key efforts include expanding air quality monitoring with 70 stations established in 2025, and leading a global trend to separate dust particles from industrial carbon dioxide in air quality measurements — distinguishing natural from industrial impacts. This contributed to Oman ranking first globally in sulphur dioxide emis-

sion reductions.

Oman has also developed waste management and circular economy systems, focusing on resource sustainability and value creation.

Initiatives include the second phase of an industrial waste treatment facility, identification and measurement of carbon dioxide sources, a reverse vending machine project to facilitate waste sorting and raise awareness, and strategic partnerships to produce recycled plastics.

A waste-to-energy project processing about 3,000 tonnes of municipal solid waste daily to generate 75-100 MW of electricity will significantly reduce landfill reliance by 2030, enhance resource efficiency, support the circular economy and strengthen renewable energy and sustainability targets.

This policy has raised recycling rates from about 11 to over 100, achieving 40 percent solid waste recovery.

In biodiversity, Oman continues efforts to breed and release endangered species, moving several from red and green lists to less threatened categories, alongside a national project to monitor species populations across natural habitats.

In climate change mitigation, Oman continues its path to carbon neutrality by 2050 through initiatives to reduce emissions by 33 percent by 2050, supported by environmental legislation, digital transformation of environmental services and integrated efforts that have strengthened national environmental performance.

-ONA

3RD EDITION

the origin

SHE GROWS. SHE LEADS.

26

AUGUST 26, 2026

JW MARRIOTT HOTEL MUSCAT

CELEBRATING WOMEN WHO LEAD

THE ORIGIN AWARDS 2026 celebrate outstanding women, organisations, and initiatives that are driving meaningful progress across communities, workplaces, and society. Honouring excellence across a wide range of industries—including business, government, healthcare, education, finance, technology, energy, media, entrepreneurship, arts, sports, and social impact—the awards recognise those whose leadership, innovation, and commitment are creating lasting change and inspiring future generations.

INDIVIDUAL CATEGORIES

- Lifetime Achievement
- Business Leader of the Year
- Entrepreneur of the Year
- SME of the Year
- CEO of the Year
- CFO of the Year
- CHRO of the Year
- Industry Leader of the Year
- Public Service Leader of the Year
- Digital Transformation Leader of the Year
- Young Corporate Leader of the Year (Under 35)

- Sports Icon of the Year
- Health and Wellness Icon of the Year
- Social Change Champion
- Marketing Leader of the Year

ORGANIZATIONS AND INITIATIVE CATEGORIES

- Excellence in Women in Leadership
- Excellence in Women-Centric Products and Services
- Excellence in Women Empowerment at Workplace
- Excellence in CSR Initiative for Women
- Excellence in Female Entrepreneurship Support

Co-located with The Origin Forum

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

PARTNERSHIPS AND AWARDS

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

SANJEEV RAHA: sanjeev@mmg.om | +968 97221630

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

SPEAKING OPPORTUNITIES

ROSANNA PAUL : rosanna@mmg.om | +968 93173774

SUPPORT PARTNERS

MOBILITY PARTNER

ORGANIZED BY

MEDIA PARTNERS

MANAGED BY

SCAN TO NOMINATE

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN

Oman’s central bank issues treasury bills worth OMR20mn

MUSCAT: Oman’s central bank raised OMR20 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Monday. The value of the allotted treasury bills include OMR0.7 million, for a maturity period of 28 days. The average accepted price reached OMR99.750 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR99.750 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 3.25893% and 3.26710%, respectively. Additionally, treasury bills amounting to to OMR16.3 million, for a maturity period of 91 days was also issued. The average accepted price reached OMR99.030 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at

OMR99.030 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 3.89066% and 3.92877%, respectively. Treasury bills amounting to OMR3 million for a maturity period of 182 days was also allotted. The average accepted price reached OMR98.080 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR98.080 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 3.85055% and 3.92593%, respectively. Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity

to invest their surplus funds. The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo). It may be noted that the interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 4.25% while the discount rate on the Treasury bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 4.75%. Furthermore, Treasury bills promote the local money market by creating a benchmark yield curve for short-term interest rates. Additionally, the Government may also resort to this instrument whenever felt necessary for financing its recurrent expenditures.

— ONA



Iran ‘counting down the minutes’ for US ground invasion: FM official

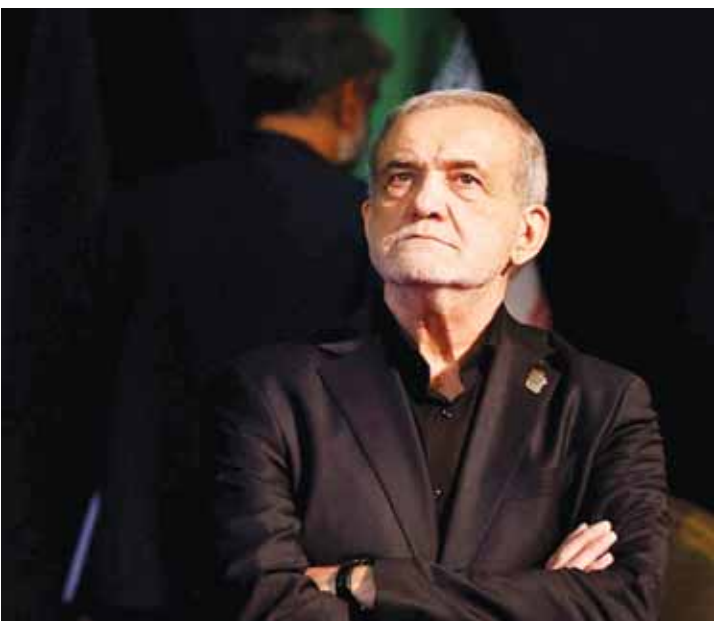
During a press briefing on Monday, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baghaei issued a stark warning, asserting that Iranian people are “counting down the minutes to welcome” American troops in the event of a ground assault

TEHRAN: Iran has warned the United States of the “consequences of any adventure” to seize the critical oil hub of Kharg Island, amid escalating threats of military action from US President Donald Trump. During a press briefing on Monday, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baghaei issued a stark warning, asserting that Iranian people are “counting down the minutes to welcome” American troops in the event of a ground assault. The spokesperson underscored that any aggressive manoeuvres by the US military would trigger an aggressive backlash. “They will face the repercussions. There are numerous people in those very regions who are eagerly awaiting their arrival,” Baghaei stated. Situated 55 kilometres off the coast of Bushehr province, Kharg Island functions as the anchor of



Iran’s energy sector. The facility dictates approximately 90 per cent of the nation’s crude oil exports, utilising deep-water maritime lanes designed to accommodate ultra-large crude carriers. The diplomatic friction escalates as President Trump continues to signal a sharp intensification of US military posturing, which reportedly encompasses strategies to take control of the island. A recent report by The Wall Street Journal indicates that Washington is reviewing a broader offensive campaign against Tehran. The outlined military options reportedly span from heavy airstrikes to potential ground operations targeting vital Iranian infrastructure. These operational plans include the tactical seizure of Kharg Island, alongside precision strikes on the fortified Pickaxe Mountain complex, a subterranean facility believed to contain elements of Iran’s nuclear development project. Securing Kharg Island would grant the US total dominance over Iran’s premier economic lifeline, threatening to dismantle Tehran’s financial base.

“Iran is engaged in a full-scale war”: Pezeshkian says country must accept consequences Meanwhile, the Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Monday said that IrTeheran is engaged in a “full-scale war” with the United States, asserting that the conflict extends beyond military strikes and warning that the country must accept the consequences of its resistance while continuing to defend its national interests. Addressing a meeting of Iran’s Supreme Judicial Council, Pezeshkian said, “The reality is that today the Islamic Republic of Iran is engaged in a full-scale war. Today’s war is not simply a war of missiles; the enemy has come to the conclusion that it cannot force the Iranian nation to surrender through military attacks.” According to Iran’s ISNA news agency, the President said the economy and people’s livelihoods had become the principal arena of confrontation with the country’s “enemies”. Honouring those killed in “recent imposed war”, Pezeshkian said their deaths placed a respon-



sibility on the country’s leadership to continue pursuing “the dignity, independence, and progress of Islamic Iran.” Referring to Iran’s domestic and external challenges, he said, “The enemies of this nation are trying with all their might to block our paths of progress and movement through various channels and prevent the Islamic Republic of Iran from continuing its path with dignity, authority, and pride. They do not want an independent, powerful, and successful country to be formed in this region.” “Therefore, we must confront the enemy’s conspiracies and simultaneously resolve our internal problems. Managing these complexities is undoubtedly not an easy task,” he added. The President said unity and collective decision-making were essential to overcoming the country’s current challenges. He said, “Therefore, above all, we need unity, understanding, a common language, and a common vision.” Pezeshkian also defended Iran’s negotiating position, saying the country had not compromised its core interests during recent talks.

“The fact is that in none of the fourteen clauses of that understanding did we retreat from our rights, principles, national interests, revolutionary values, and beliefs. Not only were no concessions made against the country’s interests, but upon careful examination of the provisions of the agreement, a major part of the achievements have been in favour of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and practically no clause can be found that has created a unilateral benefit for the American side,” he said. While reaffirming Iran’s commitment to defending its interests, the President acknowledged that the country would have to bear the costs of that course. “We have stood our ground in defending the country and the interests of the nation, and we have no doubts about this path, but at the same time, we must be realistic and accept the natural consequences of this steadfastness,” he said. Pezeshkian also pointed to co-operation among former electoral rivals as an example of national unity, saying, “Ghalibaf and Zakeri were our rivals in the presiden-

tial election, but today everyone is helping the government in the process of governing the country, and we sincerely appreciate this cooperation.” He said, “The most important need of the country is to maintain unity, cohesion, empathy, and common language among all elements of the system, and the government will do its utmost to strengthen this convergence.” Meanwhile, Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, in a post on X, questioned US military deployments in the region. “Americans keep bringing new military equipment to the region and claim they’re after stopping the war. They’ve bet on our intelligence being as brief as their own IQ,” Ghalibaf said. “We’ve reached the stage of mastery in recognising these American games, and on that basis, we’ve prepared ourselves. Actions must confirm claims, not contradict them,” he added. Earlier, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei on Monday revealed that Washington has recently transmitted messages to Tehran via third-party intermediaries, even as heavy fighting persists between the two factions. Addressing a news conference in Tehran, the spokesperson confirmed the backchannel communications but refrained from disclosing specifics regarding the diplomatic notes. “We have been informed by mediators. We have received messages, without going into details, but the main point is that the diplomatic apparatus has been active in recent days and ideas have been conveyed to us by certain mediators,” the Foreign Ministry spokesman said. Baghaei firmly pinned the blame for the current military flare-up on Washington, asserting that the responsibility for the recent escalation lies with the US.

— ANI

US VICE-PRESIDENT

JD and Usha Vance welcome their fourth child

WASHINGTON DC: US Vice-President JD Vance and his wife, second lady Usha, welcomed their fourth child on Sunday. He made the announcement in a post on X. He said, “We are excited to announce that our baby boy, Alec Neel Vance, was born this morning. Usha and the baby are happy and healthy, and our kids are overjoyed to meet their little brother.” Vance thanked the military doctors and staff members of Walter Reed Medical Center and the White House Medical Unit in his post on X. The couple who have been married since 2014, also have two older sons -- Ewan, age 9, and Vivek, 6 -- and daughter Mirabel, age 4. CBS news reported that this marks the first time in modern history that the nation’s second family had a child while in office. According to the outlet, the last known instance was 156 years ago when Schuyler Colfax Jr. -- serving as vice president to Ulysses S. Grant -- and his wife Ellen had their son, Schuyler Colfax III, in 1870. — ANI

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

Panama voices support for India’s permanent seat

NEW DELHI: Panama on Monday expressed strong support for reforms of global governance institutions, saying the current international order no longer reflects present-day realities and backing India’s bid for a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). In an exclusive interview with ANI, Panama’s Foreign Minister Javier Eduardo Martinez-Acha Vasquez said India, as the world’s largest democracy and an emerging superpower, deserves a greater role in global decision-making. “Today’s world doesn’t reflect the circumstances of 80 years ago. India is an emerging superpower, is the biggest democracy in the world, and in our opinion, the world governance needs transformation to reflect the reality of today’s world,” the minister said. He said Panama strongly supports India’s inclusion as a permanent member of the UNSC. “So, we see with good feelings and with strong support that India could become part of the Security Council,” he said. The minister also advocated broader reforms to make the United Nations more representative, saying Latin America and the Caribbean should also have a permanent seat on the Security Council. “We need to balance, we need to create equilibrium in the United Nations. We do also support that Latin America and the Caribbean could hold a permanent seat in the Security Council of the United Nations. That could promote more dialogue and more balanced conversations of different inter-



national issues,” he said. He added that expanding representation would enable the UN to respond more effectively to global crises. “The world could be more represented in the United Nations, and the world could be more responsive to different crises because you could have input from different regions. That’s what we need. The world is complicated today; we face different tensions, different conflicts, and without

any change in the global governance, I think solutions will be difficult to achieve,” he said. Asked about India’s candidature for a non-permanent UNSC seat for the 2028-29 term, the Panamanian Foreign Minister said his country would honour its existing international commitments before taking a decision. “We need to see the commitments of the previous government because my President and my country have always behaved in a very serious manner. We do see India with a lot of positive energy, but we need to follow our international commitments,” he said. On counter-terrorism cooperation, the minister reiterated Panama’s support for India’s position of zero tolerance towards terrorism. “There is no justification for terrorism--no religious justification, no political justification--and we stand next to India. We need to collaborate to mitigate the risk of terrorism,” he said. He also cautioned against the nexus between terrorism and organised crime. “Terrorism could also partner with narco-

trafficking, and that’s a very dangerous combination. So, even though we are far away, we could engage in cooperation in terms of security and intelligence to mitigate the risk of terrorism and narco-trafficking,” he added. Responding to a question on Venezuela, Martinez-Acha said Panama continues to support a democratic resolution to the country’s political crisis. “As you know, my government, my President, recognised Edmundo Gonzalez as the President-elect. But there is a reality now in Venezuela after January 3rd,” he said. He expressed hope that regional diplomacy would help restore democratic governance in Venezuela. “We hope that we could work with the USA and with many other countries around the region in Latin America to help Venezuela find a democratic path toward free and very, very transparent elections in the near future. We hope that Venezuela can rule itself in a democratic platform and be part of the international community very soon,” the Panamanian Foreign Minister said.

— ANI

SPORTS

Al Zubair and Tuck impress with second and fifth places in France

The Omani-British pair came up with a podium finish in Saturday's International GT Open race at France's Paul Ricard circuit before charging from 12th place on the grid to finish fifth

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's Al Faisal Al Zubair and British teammate Ben Tuck delivered an impressive weekend in the International GT Open at France's Paul Ricard circuit, steering the Al-Manar by Dragon Racing Ferrari 296 GT3 EVO to second place on Saturday before fighting from 12th on the grid to finish fifth in Sunday's race.

After qualifying second for Saturday's opening 70-minute race, the duo maintained their strong pace throughout to secure the runner-up spot, finishing just 1.069 seconds behind the winning ZRS Motorsport Porsche of Pietro Armanni and Alex Fontana.

Team Motopark's Mercedes pairing of Christian Mansell and Maximilian Götz completed the podium.

The fifth-place finish in Sunday's one-hour race came after

Al Zubair qualified 12th overall and eighth among the Pro runners in a tightly contested session where less than a second separated the fastest 13 cars.

Despite a regional power outage that disrupted preparations and a challenging start in dirty air, the Al-Manar by Dragon Racing pairing climbed steadily through the field to secure another valuable points finish.

"It was a very positive weekend and one we should be particularly proud of after Misano, where we struggled a little," said Al Zubair.

"To come here, qualify second and finish second overall was fantastic. We had a very competitive car yesterday and there are a lot of positives we can take away from the weekend to Monza, which is a longer race. It is important that we are comfortable with the car.

"I am very happy with the way it all went. I felt qualifying this



morning was a little unfair after we had a major electrical power outage at the circuit that affected the whole region. Starting at the back was difficult in dirty air, and the Ferrari is known not to be the best car in those conditions.

"But to finish P5 today after a podium and P2 yesterday, and so close to a win, was very positive. We carry no handicap into the next race and, with Monza's long straights, we hope to have the

straight-line speed to challenge manufacturers like BMW and Mercedes. Motivation is high and we proved here that we can put the Dragon car on the overall podium."

The Al-Manar by Dragon Racing team had shown encouraging pace from the outset. The Ferrari finished fifth in Friday's opening free practice session among the 30-car field before another productive run in the afternoon session, where Team Motopark's

Mercedes set the fastest Pro time. Tuck then produced an outstanding lap of 2min 02.153sec in the first qualifying session to top the Pro standings and secure second on the overall grid for Saturday's race.

After Tuck's opening stint, Al Zubair took over and the pair held second to the chequered flag to secure one of their strongest results of the season.

On Sunday, Elite Motorsport's

Ferrari pairing of Tom Emson and Tom Lebbon claimed victory ahead of a Team Motopark Mercedes and the ZRS Motorsport Porsche, while Al Zubair and Tuck completed an impressive recovery drive to finish fifth.

The International GT Open season resumes at Monza, Italy, on September 25-27, where Al Zubair and Tuck will look to build on their encouraging Paul Ricard performance.

FORMER CAPTAIN

England football legend Kevin Keegan passes away at 75



LONDON: Former England captain and manager Kevin Keegan has died at the age of 75, seven weeks after he revealed he had been diagnosed with stage four cancer, his family confirmed on Monday.

One of English football's most decorated players, Keegan enjoyed spells at Scunthorpe United, Liverpool, Hamburg, Southampton and Newcastle during an illustrious playing career. He later went on to manage Newcastle, Fulham, England and Manchester City.

Keegan revealed he had stage four cancer in June, which is the most advanced stage of cancer.

A statement on behalf of the Keegan family said he was "surrounded by his wife and daughters in his final moments". "Kevin, a double Ballon d'Or winner, was a much loved husband, father and grandfather," it continued.

Newcastle United paid tribute, describing Keegan as "one of the most iconic, influential and deeply loved figures in our club's history".

Liverpool, for whom Keegan played for between 1971 and 1977, said Keegan's "indomitable spirit and remarkable contribution will be forever etched in our history and his legacy will live on".

England and Manchester City

both offered their condolences to the Keegan family, with the latter crediting their former manager with establishing them as a Premier League club.

As a player, Keegan won major honours with Liverpool, claiming three league titles, the European Cup, two UEFA Cups and the FA Cup over a six-year spell. He helped Hamburg win the Bundesliga and won back-to-back Ballons d'Or in 1978 and 1979. He remains one of only four English players to have won the award to date.

On the international stage, Keegan scored 21 goals in 63 games for England between 1972 and

1982, and went on to manage them from February 1999 until October 2000.

Keegan is one of the most transformational figures in Newcastle's history - the mastermind behind 'The Entertainers', who challenged for the Premier League title in 1996.

Keegan guided the club to promotion to the Premier League in 1992-93 before leading them to second place in 1995-96. He led England to Euro 2000 before resigning in October following a World Cup qualifying defeat by Germany.

Keegan managed City from 2001 to 2005, then returned to Newcastle for an eight-month spell in 2008.



TERRITORY



EXPLORER



BRONCO



MUSTANG MACH-E



EXPEDITION

STEAL DEALS

FLASH SALE

(on selected models)*

3 DAYS ONLY

JULY 21-23, 2026

Walk-in to avail never before deals.

 **Showroom Timing**
8:30 AM – 8:30 PM

Three days. Five iconic models. Countless reasons to drive home a Ford. The Ford Flash Sale is back in Oman, and it's bigger than ever. For three days only, we are presenting an exceptional opportunity to secure our most sought-after lineup with exclusive, limited-time pricing. From the off-road ready Bronco Big Bend to the future-focused all-electric Mustang Mach-E and the reliable comfort of the Explorer, Everest and Territory, we have the right vehicle waiting for you. Join us at any Ford showroom from July 21st to July 23rd to experience these icons firsthand and secure your deal before the clock runs out.



For enquiries visit our showrooms / get in touch with us today:

MUSCAT	MAWALEH	SOHAR	SALALAH
99327422 / 98959452	99385022	99477913	91197531



24579711

Arabian Car Marketing Co. LLC C.R.No:1052055

Like us on



www.fordoman.com



Take a test drive today!

*Terms & Conditions Apply

OIL TOPS \$90
Oil prices surged three percent yesterday, with Brent crude climbing above \$90 a barrel as attacks between the US and Iran in the Middle East disrupted energy shipments.

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER
The MSX index closed at 7,152.35 points, down by -3.44% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -2.08% at 578.66 points. A'Saffa Foods, up 7.86%, was the top gainer while, Oman & Emirates Investment, down 9.30%, was the top loser.

Energy, minerals expo to focus on investment and sustainable growth

The event is in pursuance of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals's efforts to enhance communication with society, business partners and the media, with the prime objective of highlighting the role of the vital sector in supporting the national economy, achieving in-country value (ICV) and sustainable opportunities for investment to back pillars of future development in Oman

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Energy and Minerals will organise a 13-day event titled "Energy and minerals exhibition and media forum for sectors of energy and minerals 2026" in the Wilayat of Salalah, Governorate of Dhofar, from 25 July.

The opening ceremony will be held under the auspices of HH Sayyid Marwan bin Turki Al Said, Governor of Dhofar. The event is in pursuance of the ministry's efforts to enhance communication with society, business partners and the media, with the



prime objective of highlighting the role of the vital sector in supporting the national economy, achieving in-country value (ICV) and sustainable opportunities for in-

vestment to back pillars of future development in Oman.

The event will take place in Ateen Square in the Wilayat of Salalah on the sidelines of Dhofar

Khareef (monsoon) season programmes. It aims to offer interactive knowledge and showcase educational experiences in the interest of members of the pub-

lic who will get an opportunity to learn about the history of oil and the contribution of sources of traditional and renewable energy and minerals to daily life.

The event will also highlight the significance of the oil and energy sector to the national economy, sustainable development and investment. The exhibition comprises seven basic interactive pavilions, titled "100 years of oil production in Oman"; "Energy in our lives"; "The future of energy"; "Omani minerals"; "Energy and minerals"; "Digital transition" and "Social responsibility".

The exhibition also includes a wing for children that showcases educational experiences, interactive games and competitions.

A media forum to be held as part of the event will bring together an elite group of journalists, media professionals, content designers and corporate communications experts who will elaborate on topics related to the sectors of oil and gas, minerals, sustainability and zero neutrality, renewable energy and hydrogen and investment. -ONA

DIGITAL PAYMENTS PLATFORM

India, Spain push UPI-Bizum link to boost cross-border digital payments



BARCELONA: India and Spain have agreed to accelerate technical discussions on linking India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) with Spain's Bizum digital payments platform, marking another step in New Delhi's efforts to expand the global reach of its digital payments ecosystem.

The agreement was reached during Commerce and Industry

Minister Piyush Goyal's recent visit to Spain, where both countries explored ways to strengthen economic cooperation, increase investment flows and facilitate the movement of skilled professionals.

According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, officials agreed to fast-track technical discussions to enable interoperability between UPI and Bizum, a move

expected to make cross-border digital transactions more seamless for businesses and consumers.

Beyond digital payments, India and Spain identified significant opportunities to deepen collaboration across sectors including automobiles, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, textiles, renewable energy, tourism and infrastructure.

During his visit to Brussels,

Goyal also raised the issue of listing Indian ship recycling yards and proposed launching an India-European Union dialogue on skills, education and talent mobility.

The discussions additionally covered negotiations on the India-EU Investment Protection Agreement and Geographical Indications Agreement, cooperation on the Carbon Border Adjustment Mecha-

nism (CBAM), regulatory simplification, market access for agricultural products, duty derogation for Basmati rice and steel scrap.

The minister also met the leadership of KONE and Nokia, urging both companies to expand their manufacturing, research and development, exports and digital infrastructure investments in India.

-ONA

MADAYN-BE'AH



Workshop organised to promote industrial waste management

MUSCAT: The Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn), in cooperation with Oman Environmental Services Holding Company "be'ah", organised a workshop on "Industrial Waste Management".

The workshop aims to promote industrial waste recycling, explore best practices and solutions that create promising investment opportunities, generate economic value, enhance resource efficiency and reinforce innovation in sustainable waste management solutions.

Bringing together experts, specialists and investors from the industrial sector, the workshop highlighted best practices and investment opportunities in industrial waste management. The workshop reflects the shared

commitment of Madayn and be'ah to advancing sustainable development in the Sultanate of Oman and strengthening public-private partnerships.

Through this workshop, Madayn and be'ah aim to enhance the management and handling of industrial waste in line with national efforts for environment protection and sustainable development. The workshop also aims at regulating and developing mechanisms for managing industrial and hazardous waste generated from industrial activities within Madayn's industrial cities.

Moreover, the workshop comes as part of the cooperation programme signed between Madayn and be'ah, which aims to develop an integrated waste management system across the industrial cit-

ies in line with approved environmental standards.

The programme is also designed to increase recycling rates, reduce waste sent to landfills, enhance environmental compliance among industrial units, ensure adherence to regulations and legislations, and reduce carbon emissions through the implementation of innovative solutions, including material and energy recovery from waste.

This cooperation programme represents a significant step towards supporting the circular economy and contributing to the sustainable development goals, particularly amid the growing global environmental challenges and the increasing significance of sustainable practices within the industrial sector. -ONA



JINDAL STEEL OMAN sets global benchmark in DRI production



In May 2026, the plant produced 185,710 tons of DRI in a single month, running at 249.6 tonnes per hour. That beats its own previous best of 183,629 tons, set just two months earlier in March 2026. Midrex Technologies, the original equipment manufacturer behind the plant's shaft furnace design, has confirmed this as the highest monthly output ever recorded among similar 6.5-metre shaft furnace DRI modules anywhere in the world.

The daily numbers are just as impressive. On 22nd May 2026, the plant produced 6,113 tons in a single day, running at 254.7 tonnes per hour. This edges past the earlier record of 6,075 tons, achieved on 29th April 2026.

But the real story may be one of consistency, not just peaks. From 4th January to 11th July 2026, the



Sohar, Oman - Jindal Steel Oman's Direct Reduced Iron (DRI) plant has hit a new global high, and the numbers tell quite a story."

plant ran continuously for 188 days without a single trip or shutdown. That's ten days longer than its previous best streak of 178 days, recorded between August 2022 and February 2023.

According to Midrex, Jindal Steel Oman's Sohar facility now stands as a benchmark for all

6.5-metre shaft furnaces globally, delivering output 33% higher than its original design capacity of 1.5 million tons over 8,000 operating hours.

Plant officials say the achievement didn't come from any single breakthrough, but from sustained discipline. The 188-day uninterrupted run, they note, has proven to be the most effective maintenance strategy the plant has adopted. High efficiency, reliability, standardised operations, and a culture of proactive problem-solving all played a part, backed by a team that worked as one system rather than isolated departments.

For Jindal Steel Oman, the milestone adds to a growing list of records at the Sohar site, and reinforces the plant's standing among the world's most efficient DRI operations.

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

A'Saffa Foods, up 7.86%, was the top gainer while, Oman & Emirates Investment, down 9.30%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 7,152.35 points, down by -3.44% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -2.08% at 578.66 points. A'Saffa Foods, up 7.86%, was the top gainer while, Oman & Emirates Investment, down 9.30%, was the top loser. Shares of Omifco were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 7290 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 18.4 million, with more than 74.48 million shares changing hands. Out of 72 traded securities, 5 advanced, 52 declined, and 15 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net sellers for RO 2731K while GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for RO 1749K, followed by domestic investors for RO 983K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at

12,551.95 points, down -2.90%. Prices of were up by respectively. Prices of Oman & Emirates Investment, Sohar International Bank, Muscat Finance, DIDIC, Al Omaniya Financial Services were down by 9.30%, 7.82%, 7.81%, 6.69%, 6.25% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 9,355.08 points, down -1.15%. Prices of A'Saffa Foods, Galfar Engineering were up by 7.86%, 0.64% respectively. Prices of Al Hassan Engineering, Al Anwar Ceramics, Voltamp Energy, Ray-sut Cement, Salalah Mills were down by 16.67%, 5.04%, 1.79%, 1.67%, 1.47% respectively.

Services Index was down by -2.62% before closing at 2,893.05 points. Prices of Majan College, Sohar Power were up by 2.27%, 0.41% respectively. Prices of National Gas, Al Batinah Power, OQ Gas Networks, Al Suwadi Power, Phoenix Power were down by 6.48%, 6.25%, 5.88%, 4.02%, 3.92% respectively.— **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS															
MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE															
INDICES															
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%									
MSX 30 INDEX	7,431.47	7,110.90	7,152.35	7,407.09	-254.74	-3.44									
FINANCIAL INDEX	12,941.14	12,508.98	12,551.95	12,927.05	-375.10	-2.90									
Industry Index	9,488.71	9,332.76	9,355.08	9,464.32	-109.23	-1.15									
Services Index	2,977.33	2,884.94	2,893.05	2,970.98	-77.92	-2.62									
MSX Shariah Index	592.60	575.46	578.66	590.94	-12.29	-2.08									
MSX TR INDEX	11,497.35	11,001.38	11,065.51	11,458.63	-394.12	-3.44									
FINANCIAL TR IDX	15,379.13	15,010.45	15,431.97	15,893.14	-461.17	-2.90									
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	12,152.63	11,952.90	11,981.49	12,121.39	-139.90	-1.15									
SERVICES TR IDX	3,989.06	3,865.28	3,876.15	3,980.55	-104.40	-2.62									
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								
74,482,942	18,399,807	7,290	37,317,855,767	5	52	15	72								
SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, JULY 20															
SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST RD	LAST OFFER	P/B VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM0000002804 ASAFFA FOODS	200	151	1	0.755	0.755	0.755	0.755	0.700	0.055	7.87	0.755	0.755	0.100	90,600,000	
OM0000001707 OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	5,648	18,619	7	3.300	3.300	3.285	3.285	3.285	0.000	0.00	3.285	3.285	0.100	295,561,500	
OM0000003141 BAKRA WATER AND POWER	190	17	1	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.000	0.00	0.165	0.165	0.170	26,400,000	
OM0000003968 OOREDOO	1,371,920	452,714	30	0.330	0.332	0.329	0.329	0.330	-0.001	-0.30	0.329	0.329	0.329	0.100	214,160,652
OM0000003224 RENAISSANCE SERVICES	11,412	3,373	7	0.296	0.296	0.294	0.296	0.297	-0.001	-0.37	0.294	0.294	0.296	0.100	69,977,360
OM0000003125 GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	38,797	10,940	9	0.275	0.289	0.275	0.288	0.290	-0.002	-0.60	0.288	0.275	0.289	0.100	57,600,000
OM0000002176 JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	6,700	5,668	5	0.848	0.848	0.844	0.844	0.850	-0.006	-0.70	0.844	0.844	0.849	0.100	105,413,878
OM0000002287 GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	1,474	616	2	0.420	0.420	0.417	0.417	0.420	-0.003	-0.71	0.417	0.414	0.420	0.100	20,992,771
OM0000004735 SEMBROP SALALAH	619,470	156,963	35	0.255	0.255	0.253	0.253	0.255	-0.002	-0.78	0.253	0.253	0.254	0.100	241,506,703
OM0000001453 NATIONAL BANK OMAN	27,000	13,083	10	0.488	0.488	0.482	0.484	0.488	-0.004	-0.82	0.484	0.484	0.484	0.100	786,568,036
OM0000002572 OMAN OIL MARKETING	7,210	8,642	4	1.200	1.200	1.195	1.195	1.205	-0.010	-0.83	1.195	1.195	1.250	0.100	73,223,625
OM0000002440 AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO	15,833	1,563	6	0.100	0.100	0.096	0.099	0.100	-0.001	-1.00	0.099	0.096	0.099	0.100	8,910,000
OM0000004248 SMY POWER HOLDING	11,500	2,162	4	0.188	0.188	0.188	0.188	0.190	-0.002	-1.03	0.188	0.171	0.188	0.100	37,531,493
OM0000003026 OMAN TELECOM	1,164,172	1,609,494	136	1.388	1.388	1.366	1.374	1.389	-0.015	-1.08	1.374	1.389	1.374	0.100	1,030,500,000
OM0000004420 BANK NIZWA	921,728	128,169	37	0.140	0.140	0.137	0.139	0.141	-0.002	-1.48	0.139	0.137	0.139	0.100	310,936,471
OM0000007811 MUSANDAM POWER	500	165	1	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.335	-0.005	-1.49	0.330	0.330	0.000	0.100	23,228,700
OM0000006934 ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	615,638	227,461	181	0.373	0.373	0.366	0.366	0.372	-0.006	-1.63	0.366	0.365	0.403	0.100	281,835,200
OM0000004768 MADINA TAKAFUL	174,581	19,957	33	0.116	0.116	0.114	0.114	0.116	-0.002	-1.74	0.114	0.105	0.114	0.100	19,950,000
OM0000009759 QX EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	4,872,261	2,231,944	256	0.464	0.466	0.449	0.455	0.463	-0.008	-1.78	0.455	0.454	0.455	0.010	3,640,000,000
OM0000003661 VOLTAMP ENERGY	40,480	6,698	31	0.169	0.169	0.164	0.165	0.168	-0.003	-1.78	0.164	0.164	0.164	0.100	165,000,000
OM0000001087 OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	1,000	315	1	0.315	0.315	0.315	0.315	0.322	-0.007	-2.14	0.315	0.300	0.319	0.100	33,075,000
OM0000001533 OMINVEST	11,228	4,154	5	0.370	0.370	0.370	0.370	0.380	-0.010	-2.62	0.370	0.370	0.370	0.100	415,455,949
OM0000002549 BANK DHOFAR	276,500	61,519	136	0.226	0.226	0.217	0.220	0.226	-0.006	-2.65	0.220	0.217	0.220	0.100	668,755,677
OM0000002796 BANK MUSCAT	5,904,785	2,135,301	861	0.394	0.396	0.379	0.383	0.394	-0.011	-2.79	0.383	0.383	0.355	0.100	2,874,860,075
OM0000001772 ALANWAR INVESTMENT	36,525	6,209	7	0.170	0.170	0.170	0.170	0.175	-0.005	-2.87	0.170	0.170	0.175	0.100	52,276,618
OM0000001020 ASYAD SHIPPING	952,886	250,754	227	0.268	0.270	0.257	0.257	0.267	-0.010	-3.74	0.257	0.257	0.257	0.000	1,338,647,289
OM0000005983 PHOENIX POWER	701,738	174,549	38	0.253	0.253	0.243	0.245	0.255	-0.010	-3.92	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.100	358,337,338
OM0000004933 AL SUWADI POWER	210,557	35,755	36	0.173	0.173	0.167	0.167	0.174	-0.007	-4.02	0.167	0.166	0.167	0.100	119,305,859
OM0000009072 OQ GAS NETWORKS	15,766,652	3,078,707	1,603	0.204	0.205	0.188	0.192	0.204	-0.012	-5.82	0.192	0.190	0.192	0.100	831,479,793
OM0000002077 AL OMANITA FINANCIAL SERVICES	5,000	750	1	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	-0.010	-6.25	0.150	0.150	0.154	0.100	47,312,550
OM0000004925 ALBATINAH POWER	304,569	42	0.175	0.175	0.165	0.165	0.176	-0.011	-6.20	0.165	0.165	0.166	0.100	111,356,426	
OM0000001509 DHOFAR INTL DEVELOPMENT & INVEST	148,762	40,257	33	0.284	0.284	0.285	0.285	0.284	-0.019	-6.69	0.285	0.261	0.277	0.100	131,454,877
OM0000009906 QBASE INDUSTRIES (SP2)	8,955,420	2,102,573	1,292	0.248	0.248	0.225	0.229	0.247	-0.018	-7.28	0.229	0.226	0.229	0.040	792,223,405
OM0000003398 SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	11,866,979	2,011,983	1,002	0.179	0.180	0.163	0.165	0.179	-0.014	-7.82	0.165	0.163	0.165	0.100	1,266,540,036
OM0000002226 ALJAZEERA SERVICES	46,874	12,336	17	0.273	0.273	0.250	0.250	0.274	-0.024	-8.78	0.250	0.250	0.270	0.100	10,710,748
OM0000001881 OMAN EMIRATES HO	78,549	9,342	11	0.121	0.129	0.117	0.117	0.129	-0.012	-9.30	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.100	14,972,344
Total	36	54,775,741	14,874,211	6,248											
Parallel Market															
OM0000001897 MAJAN COLLEGE	3,700	466	5	0.125	0.135	0.124	0.135	0.132	0.003	2.27	0.135	0.120	0.134	0.100	13,365,000
OM0000003821 GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	11,225	1,790	7	0.162	0.162	0.157	0.157	0.156	-0.001	-0.61	0.157	0.156	0.157	0.100	31,888,872
OM0000003711 SOHAR POWER	700	172	2	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.244	-0.001	-0.41	0.245	0.245	0.268	0.100	4,900,000
OM0000003028 GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	5,000	350	1	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.069	0.069	0.000	0.00	0.070	0.070	0.075	0.100	1,440,000
OM0000002036 MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	620	136	1	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.000	0.00	0.220	0.205	0.220	0.100	4,071,066
OM0000002341 OMAN CHLORINE	464	74	2	0.161	0.161	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.000	0.00	0.160	0.161	0.160	0.100	11,441,415
OM0000002848 NATIONAL FINANCE	121,000	25,652	9	0.212	0.212	0.212	0.212	0.212	0.000	0.00	0.212	0.212	0.212	0.100	137,947,424
OM0000002911 FINANCIAL CORPORATION	100	10	1	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.00	0.100	0.090	0.105	0.100	7,002,996
OM0000004776 TAKAFUL OMAN	1,950	123	2	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.000	0.00	0.064	0.060	0.064	0.100	16,000,000
OM0000009979 OMAN QATAR INSURANCE	1,710	301	2	0.176	0.176	0.176	0.176	0.176	0.000	0.00	0.176	0.176	0.176	0.100	26,374,468
OM0000009569 JABAL REIF	349,538	36,029	13	0.103	0.104	0.103	0.104	0.104	0.000	0.					


ADVERTISE WITH US,
FIND THE RIGHT **CANDIDATES**
FOR YOUR COMPANY

CONNECT
PRINT EDITION

WWW.TIMESOFOMAN.COM
TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2026

**PLACE YOUR
ADVT HERE**
Email to : amcoman@
choueirigroup.com



RENT

CARGO

VACANCY


RENT OR SALE?
PLACE YOUR
ADVT HERE
Email: amcoman@choueirigroup.com


**CARGO MADE
SIMPLE**
Advertise with us
Send your advertisement to:
amcoman@choueirigroup.com

**PLACE
YOUR
ADVT HERE**
Send your ad to: amcoman@
choueirigroup.com



WJ Towell Group Company


**Quality car rentals
at competitive prices.**

- Fleet of 2,000 vehicles
- Choose from a wide range of brands & models
- PDO, OXY and BP spec vehicles available
- Attractive rates for short-term & long-term lease

Muscat 9679 0594 9679 0684 Sohar 9731 6218 9429 9325 www.orbit-oman.com



**REACH
EMPLOYERS
THROUGH
ADVERTISING**



Publish your ad with us today
Send your advertisement to
amcoman@choueirigroup.com

JOB VACANCY

URGENTLY REQUIRED

A reputed excellent grade company requires

MEP PROJECT MANAGER

DRAUGHTSMAN

Kindly forward their CV to
anishshams@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

FINANCE
Senior finance professional CA(Inter) MBA expertise dynamic and results-driven finance professional with over 20 yrs of progressive experience in financial leadership roles across multinational corporations in Oman. Holds a strong track record in strategic financial planning, etc.
Contact/WA: +968-95877725

ENGINEER
Diploma holder, experienced MEP engineer with 12yrs of expertise in electrical, mechanical and plumbing works, possesses a valid D/L. Looking for a suitable opportunity in Oman.
Contact, WA +968 79880602, +91 7200747471

FINANCE
An Indian CA with over 25 years of experience in manufacturing, retail and construction industry in accounting, banking arrangements, Tax, VAT, budgeting and cash flow management seeks managerial position.
CONTACT : 75156709

JOB VACANCY

AI ABRAR ENGINEERING LLC
REQUIRED URGENTLY

Reputed SME Subcontractors
Project: Hay Al Wafaa - Sultante Haitham City, Al Seeb

1) Concrete works including Formwork and Bar bending	5) False ceiling works
2) Plastering	6) Electrical works
3) Tile works	7) Plumbing works
4) Painting works	8) Landscaping works
	9) Marble fixing

Contact Person: Mr. Jawed Tariq,
Procurement Specialist - [Mob.: +968 9986 1679]

ENGINEER
MECHANICAL ENGINEER (Indian)
B.Tech with 14 yrs of Oman experience as an Estimation Engineer, specializing in steel sheet metal fabrication. Currently in India, available for immediate joining.
WA/Call: +968 95945230, +91 7356745478
Email: arungopalakrishnan85@yahoo.com

SUPPLY CHAIN
Indian, male, MBA with 17 yrs Oman experience in supply chain (procurement, warehousing & logistics) SAP knowledge, looking for suitable placement. Ready to join immediately.
Contact : 92813310

ADVERTISE WITH US
Send your advt. to: amcoman@choueirigroup.com

JOB VACANCY

**MECHANICAL/
TECHNICAL**

We are urgently looking for Pipeline X-Ray welders (V-Welding) with 5-7 years of experience. Send your CV to: salesdepartment@omanspeedyinternational.com. Contact/ WhatsApp: +968 99295161

SALES/MARKETING

Reputed company requires Sales Executives - 1 or 2 years experience in industrial sales with valid Driving licence. WhatsApp: 92294475 Email: imagmarkem@outlook.com

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Accountant in Oman seeks job. Contact 77336141

Accountant in Oman seeks a job. Contact : 92106856

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

ADMINISTRATION

Indian female, Exe secretary, HR, admin asst, coordinator. Contact: 92243552/ 91190552

ARCHITECT

Indian male, B.Arch (5 yrs) graduate, 1 yr experience in Architectural planning, conceptual & interior design, exterior facade design, drafting, and 3D visualization. Software certified, seeking suitable employment. Contact: 98503696.

DRIVER

Driver with 13 yrs experience looking for job in Muscat Contact 93381270, 79737474

**EDUCATION/
TRAINING**

TESOL/TEFL certified Montessori, kindergarten teacher seeking a position in a reputed school/ kindergarten. Currently in Oman on a family visa with a valid Oman D/L. Contact: 76963122. Email: sajiresmi@gmail.com

ENGINEER

Electrical Engineer (B.Tech) with more than 2 yrs of experience in Oman, seeking an opportunity in the Electrical or MEP field, valid Oman D/L and available to join immediately. Contact: 75220047 Email: harikrishnanmini@gmail.com

Cep electrical engineer seeks placement. Contact: 94768845

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

IT

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

AI & ML Engineer specializing in Data analysis seeks suitable employment in Oman. Available in Muscat. Contact: +968 98241468.

MANAGER

Business development & project management professional with 20+ yrs of experience in oil & gas trading, tendering, business systemization, planning, procurement and ISO QMS. possesses managerial and team lead skills. Contact 91799438

SALES/MARKETING

Indian male, BBA, 3 yrs gulf experience in Sales & logistics. Currently in Oman with valid D/L, seeks suitable position. Contact: +968 75103313. Email Basimismail008@gmail.com

Indian M(36) MBA with Oman 10 yrs exp in FMCG industry in Oman Contact 79755795

Indian male, BBA, 20 yrs experience in Sales & marketing in Oman, holding valid Oman D/L seeks suitable placement. Contact 93011232. Email: jitinjoshua920@gmail.com

CARGO AND LOGISTICS

**PROMOTE
YOUR
SERVICES
WITH US**



Send your advertisement to amcoman@choueirigroup.com



THE SPANISH CHAMPIONS — IN NUMBERS

- 790
Rodri staggeringly completed 790 passes, shattering his own record for the most ever registered by a player at a World Cup. The midfielder made 639 successful passes at Qatar 2022 to break the competition best Xavi had set at South Africa 2010 (589). Rodri's nearest challengers in North America were Pau Cubarsi (668) and Aymeric Laporte (608).
- 750
Spain defenders Marc Cucurella and Pau Cubarsi played 750 minutes — the joint-most among outfield players alongside Argentina midfielder Alexis Mac Allister.
- 58
Mikel Oyarzabal forced 58 turnovers — more than any other player. The 29-year-old forward was followed by Spain team-mate Pedro and Morocco's Neil El Aynaoui (both 51). Dani Olmo applied the most defensive pressures (305).
- 38
Spain's victory at New York New Jersey Stadium left them unbeaten in 38 matches — a new men's international record. Since a 1-0 loss to Colombia in March 2024, La Roja have won 29 and drawn nine games. Italy went 37 outings without defeat from 2018 to 21.
- 35
Lamine Yamel completed the most dribbles at this tournament (35). He was followed by France's Kylian Mbappe (20), Argentina's Lionel Messi (25), Brazil's Vinicius Junior (23) and Belgium's Jeremy Doku (21). Diego Maradona holds the record for the most successful take-ons in one edition (53 at Mexico 1986). Messi has the most this century (49 at Brazil 2014).
- 19
Lamine Yamel, at 19 years and six days, became the joint-fourth youngest player to win the World Cup. Only 19-year-old Italy defender Giuseppe Bergomi and 17-year-old Brazilian Pale and Ronaldo were younger. Bergomi was comically nicknamed 'The Uncle' because, despite his age, he had a thick moustache! Pau Cubarsi, at 19 years and 178 days, went seventh on the list, one place above Kylian Mbappe.
- 14
Spain scored 14 times at these finals. It was two more than their personal best for a World Cup, inspired by Emilio Butragueno in 1986, and six more than they managed in their title-winning campaign in 2010.
- 7
Spain charged to the title with seven successive victories. Only Brazil, with 11 from 2002 to '06, managed more consecutive wins.
- 5
Mikel Oyarzabal netted five times at this tournament, equalling the Spanish record for a World Cup. Emilio Butragueno got five goals at Mexico 1986 and David Villa followed suit at South Africa 2010.
- 2
Ferran Torres became only the second substitute to score the winner in the World Cup final after Mario Goetze for Germany in 2014. Overall, the Valencian was the fifth player to rise from the bench and bag in the future — the Netherlands' Dick Nanninga, Alessandro Altobelli of Italy and West Germany's Rudi Voller also did — with four curiously doing so against Argentina.
- 1
Spain conceded just one goal — the lowest ever let in during a World Cup-winning campaign. France in 1998, Italy in 2002 and Spain themselves in 2010 had leaked two.

SPAIN: CONTROL, COMPOSURE, CHAMPIONS



Once again unstoppable in the final, Spain took their command of the game to new heights to claim a second FIFA World Cup title

EAST RUTHERFORD: Four years ago, Argentina rode out countless storms en route to the title, eventually defeating France 4-2 on penalties after a breathtaking 3-3 draw in the final. This year's showpiece in New York New Jersey on Sunday saw La Albiceleste cede the throne to Spain, who claimed the crown by imposing order and maintaining constant control. Spain capped their North American campaign with a display of technical and tactical excellence in the final, shutting down the opposition attack more effectively than ever. After stifling France and their fearsome forwards in a 2-0 semi-final win, the European champions turned their attention to Lionel Messi & Co, who became the latest victims of La Roja's relentless march. The Argentines had scored at least two goals in each of their previous matches, but this time they were uncharacteristically quiet. Lionel Scaloni's men did not muster a single shot on target in 120 minutes, their only attempts coming in extra time and never truly troubling Unai Simon in the Spain goal. "We've got a wonderful team," said right-back Pedro Porro, speaking exclusively with FIFA. "We put up a great fight, right from the first minute. We've done that from the start against Cabo Verde, when we kept possession and created chances, but they just didn't go in." In a match where the stakes could not have been any higher, Spain never lost their way or their focus. They controlled the tempo without ever losing their composure, just as they had in their 1-0

win over Portugal in the last 16 and a 2-1 triumph over Belgium in the quarters, when the winning goal was slow to materialise. Aside from their technical dominance, the Spanish stayed remarkably calm at a time when doubt could easily have set in. "We stayed true to our style, I think that's obvious," continued Porro. Luis de la Fuente's side had laid the foundations for their North American campaign at Euro 2024 in Germany, but this time round their style of play also relied on lightning-fast counter-attacks with jet-heeled wingers Lamine Yamal and Nico Williams. They were perhaps more direct two years ago and were more willing to engage in open matches, conceding four goals in their four knockout matches. In North America, however, they remarkably shipped just a solitary goal, scored by Belgium's Charles De Ketelaere, an unprecedented feat in the history of the tournament. What has certainly changed over the past two years is the influence of the team's metronome Rodri, winner of the adidas Golden Ball for the tournament's best player. Holding the FIFA World Cup Trophy in his arms, the midfielder maestro explained to FIFA how Spain were able to dominate all of their opponents. "I think we're the team that handles the most game situations," he said. "Pressing, possession, counter-attacks, set pieces... I think that, in every aspect of football, Spain are the team that can control the game the best." When Rodri steps up the pace, so do Spain. When he chooses to disrupt the opposition's rhythm,

the whole team follows suit with remarkable composure, without ever losing their shape. La Roja's 2026 vintage is not content to simply dominate possession, however, as they also dictate what their opponents do when they have the ball. The newly crowned world champions were perhaps slightly less spectacular than they were two years ago, but this time they made control their greatest strength. "We knew we wouldn't concede a lot of goals," admitted Porro. "But we also knew that we had what it took to compete with anyone. In the end, we were rewarded with a wonderful prize." Four years ago, it was Argentina who emerged victorious from a storm in Qatar. This year, it was Spain who lifted the trophy by bringing a sense of calm back to proceedings. In a tournament that always seemed destined to be dominated by the teams with the strongest attacks, it was ultimately La Roja who carved out a path to the very top of the global game.

Prize money Spain and Argentina will receive the biggest ever payout as champion and runner-up of FIFA World Cup 2026. Luis de la Fuente's side will take home a prize pot of US\$560 million apart from the coveted World Cup trophy for its tournament win. This is the highest amount ever awarded to a World Cup winner. Runners-up Argentina will receive US\$33 million while third-placed England will get US\$29 million. France, who finished fourth will receive US\$27 million. The teams that were eliminated in the quarters will get US\$19mm. - Agencies



GOAL-SCORER Torres overcomes doubt to become hero

EAST RUTHERFORD: The FIFA World Cup 2026 was the longest global showpiece ever, spanning 104 matches. For Ferran Torres, it felt even longer. He had to wait until the 106th minute of the final match for his moment to arrive, but he delivered, scoring the goal that helped crown Spain as World Cup winners for the second time in their history. Torres started Spain's opening match against Cabo Verde, a disappointing 0-0 draw. He lost his starting spot for the following game against Saudi Arabia, a 4-0 victory which kickstarted La Roja's World Cup campaign. Spain won comfortably, but the image that remained was of a frustrated Torres, who scored a goal in stoppage time that was called back for offside. The television cameras zoomed in on the substitute and the words on his lips were clearly legible: Let it be a goal, let it be a goal. It's not unusual for a striker to lament when a goal is disallowed, but the score was already 4-0 and that gesture spoke volumes. Things weren't going well for Torres; he wasn't quite on top form. The goalless draw against Cabo Verde had taken its toll, as he lost his place in the starting line-up for good. When he came on against Saudi Arabia, he failed to find his rhythm; the football was flowing for his teammates, but not for him. The Barcelona forward has a keen eye for goal, but can be frustrated by poor runs of form and missing clear chances. We now know that his tournament journey was well worth it. His extra-time final winner will forever remain etched in the memory of Spanish fans, and it was not his only contribution to this tournament. Torres was instrumental in the last-gasp victory against Portugal.

Spain were heading for extra time when the ball fell to him and he found the net. Ferran Torres, whose clinical finish put his team's fears to rest and sent Spain through to the quarter-finals. "The goal is the least of it — all I want right now is to grab that [World] Cup and squeeze it as hard as I can," said Torres to the cameras just after the match had finished. "It's the dream of the 47 million of us who were on the pitch today. We deserved it and we gave it our all." In that interview, Torres didn't let his difficult days pass him by; in the midst of the celebrations, he reflected on his less-than-ideal start to the tournament: "In the end, it was a huge relief. I think I've faced a lot of criticism throughout the World Cup but I believe, as I've already said, that destiny is written. Thank God, He's always given me the strength to carry on and, in the end, as I say, God gives things to those who deserve them most."



Rodri, Cubarsi, Simon and Mbappe honoured

Following the conclusion of a thrilling FIFA World Cup 2026, FIFA handed out the tournament's individual awards.

Spain's Rodri, who was masterful in midfield across the eight matches for La Roja, took home the adidas Golden Ball Award for the tournament's best player, as Spain lifted the trophy for a second time. Despite just falling short of reaching a third successive final, France superstar Kylian Mbappe scored an astounding ten goals in just eight matches to collect the adidas Golden Boot Award.

Unai Simon of Spain was awarded the adidas Golden Glove Award after recording seven clean sheets in eight matches, including in the 1-0 extra-time final win over Argentina. Pau Cubarsi continued a superb start to his sparkling career with the FIFA Best Young Player Award, presented by Aramco, after playing a crucial role in the Spain defence that only conceded one goal during the tournament.

ADIDAS GOLDEN BALL
RODRI (SPAIN)
SILVER BALL
LIONEL MESSI (ARGENTINA)
BRONZE BALL
KYLIAN MBAPPE (FRANCE)

ADIDAS GOLDEN BOOT
KYLIAN MBAPPE (FRANCE)
SILVER BOOT
LIONEL MESSI (ARGENTINA)
BRONZE BOOT
JUDE BELLINGHAM (ENGLAND)

ADIDAS GOLDEN GLOVE
UNAI SIMON (SPAIN)

FIFA YOUNG PLAYER AWARD
PAU CUBARSI (SPAIN)

FIFA FAIR PLAY TROPHY
THE NETHERLANDS

Ugly scenes after the full-time whistle

EAST RUTHERFORD: Spain's celebrations after beating Argentina in the World Cup final took an ugly turn as players briefly clashed on the field after the final whistle. Video replays showed several players involved in a scuffle, including Argentina defender Leandro Paredes, who appeared to shove Spain's Eric Garcia by the throat. When Spain substitute Gavi jumped in to intervene, Paredes pushed him to the ground. Other players and Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni rushed in to deescalate the situation. It wasn't clear whether any of the players involved would be punished. FIFA didn't immediately reply to a request for comment. Argentina's players then kept their backs turned when Rodri was presented with the trophy by US president Donald Trump. - Agencies

IN TUCSON

10 injured in Arizona mass shooting

LOS ANGELES: Ten people, including the suspect, were injured in an overnight mass shooting Sunday in Tucson, the US state of Arizona, authorities said.

The shooting occurred around 2 a.m. local time (0900 GMT) on Sunday in a crowded area of downtown Tucson, the second-most populous city of Arizona, said officials with the Tucson Police Department.

Police officers patrolling the area heard gunshots and immediately ran towards the sound of the gunfire, local media reported, citing police. When the police arrived at the scene, they saw a man running away. Officers gave orders to the suspect several times before a uniformed officer shot him.

Officers treated victims at the scene before the Tucson Fire Department took them to a nearby hospital. "A suspect is in custody and multiple victims are being treated for critical injuries," the Tucson Police Department said in a post on X. "Last night, Tucson experienced another serious and senseless act of gun violence," Tucson Mayor Regina Romero said in a statement. The identities of the suspect and the victims were not released. The cause of the shooting and the current condition of the victims are unknown.

"I'm heartbroken to learn that nine people were shot early this morning in downtown Tucson," former US Rep. Gabby Giffords wrote in a statement Sunday in response to the attacks.

"Too many lives have been changed forever because of America's gun violence crisis, in my hometown and across the nation. Mark and I are grateful for the bravery of Tucson's first responders as we await more information and hold all those impacted in our hearts," added Giffords, who survived an assassination attempt in January 2011 when she was shot in the head at an event near Tucson, an attack that killed six people.

— Agencies

Andy Burnham takes office as 7th PM of UK in 10 years

His predecessor Keir Starmer announced that he was stepping aside in June after several Cabinet ministers resigned amid plummeting poll numbers and questions about his leadership

LONDON: Newly-minted Labour Party leader Andy Burnham has met with the UK's King Charles III on Monday, the traditional final step in becoming the country's head of government.

Burnham is the seventh British prime minister in the last 10 years since the UK voted to leave the European Union.

His predecessor Keir Starmer announced that he was stepping aside in June after several Cabinet ministers resigned amid plummeting poll numbers and questions about his leadership.

Former mayor of Greater Manchester, Burnham managed to win a risky special election in June in order to re-enter parliament.

The new prime minister is expected to deliver his first speech as leader after leaving Buckingham Palace.

For Burnham to officially become prime minister, Starmer had to formally tender his resignation to King Charles III.

In prepared remarks as he left 10 Downing Street, the outgoing leader highlighted his role in tak-



ing Labour from slumping poll numbers to a "landslide victory" two years ago.

"Britain is now stronger and fairer than it was two years ago," he said, claiming a better economy, shorter NHS wait times, and decreasing immigration.

Outgoing UK PM Keir Starmer wishes "success" to Andy Burnham as he passes baton

Outgoing UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Monday wished his successor, Andy Burnham, as he passed over the leadership of the country and the Labour Party to him.

In a poignant farewell address outside 10 Downing Street, Starmer placed his transition of power

at the centre of his departure. Starmer begins by saying he is about to offer his resignation to King Charles III and "close the book on my time as PM".

"My work is done," he said.

Reflecting on his political journey, Starmer looked back at his foundational achievement of reviving the Labour Party from its lowest point to a sweeping electoral triumph.

"In six and a half years, I took our party from a historic defeat in 2019, changed it so it was fit to face the country on a landslide general election victory in 2024," Starmer said.

He called it the "privilege of my life" to serve as prime minister and affirmed confidence that the country is "strong and fairer" than it was two years ago. But he says the thing he will take away, the "most humbling aspect" of the job, is the "front row seat you get to witness the greatest things of this country in action".

"We face a world now where our enemies will stop at nothing to divide us because of our val-

ues," he said.

Turning his attention to the incoming leader, he firmly solidified his backing for PM-designate Burnham, stating, "I wish him every success, he has my full support."

He thanks his wife and family and his team across the Labour Party, and everyone at No 10 and across the civil service. "Politics will always be a team sport," he says. "And I thank the British people for the opportunity to serve."

Starmer concludes his speech, stating, "I go with good grace, I go with a smile, and I go proud of everything we have achieved".

Following his speech, Starmer departed for Buckingham Palace, where he will be tendering his resignation to King Charles III and passing the baton to Andy Burnham.

Keir Starmer had announced his resignation from his position last month following mounting pressure from within the Labour Party.

Taking office in July 2024 after a historic landslide victory that ended 14 years of Conservative rule, Starmer's two-year tenure was marked by a push for institutional stability and major legislative overhauls.

Following his decision, the UK's governing Labour Party on Friday (local time) announced Andy Burnham as the newly elected leader, set to become the 59th prime minister, following outgoing PM Keir Starmer's decision to resign last month.

The announcement was made by Labour's National Executive Committee (NEC) chair Shabana Mahmood during a special party conference in London.

She stated that during the procedure of electing the next leader, "There was only one eligible nominated MP", calling the process, "hardly a nail-biter," announcing that he won 379 nominations.

— Agencies

CARRYING AT LEAST 133 PEOPLE



Dozens feared dead after ferry sinks off coast of Guyana

GEORGETOWN: Several people were feared dead after a ferry carrying more than 100 people capsized off the coast of Guyana, authorities said.

The ferry MV Barima left Guyana at the northeast corner of South America on Saturday afternoon, carrying at least 133 people for a trip from the capital Georgetown to Port Kaituma.

Public Works Minister Juan Edghill said that the list of people on board was not "a true reflection of the occupants on board," asking family members and loved ones to reach out to officials to create an official tally of those missing.

The inaccuracy in the list of passengers has created an additional challenge as authorities do not know how many people they are searching for.

Rescue operations underway

The rescue operations were launched after air traffic control received a distress call from the ferry around 11 p.m. local time on Saturday.

Rescue teams have so far saved 67 people. The rescued victims include 41 men, 11 women, six boys and nine girls, Prime Minister Mark Phillips said in a statement Sunday.

"The families of those rescued, as well as the relatives of all recorded passengers and crew members, have been engaged," Phillips said, adding that "the

captain and mate of the vessel, who were among those rescued, have returned to the area to assist with the search and rescue operation."

However, no survivors have been found since Sunday afternoon.

"Search and rescue is still in progress," Public Works Minister Edghill said. "So to the families that are out there wondering about their loved ones, we are doing everything that is humanly possible to find them."

What do we know about the cause of the incident?

Prime Minister Mark Phillips said investigators are looking into the incident, adding that two crew members were found to have tested positive for cannabis.

Phillips said that the vessel, which had had maintenance in 2024 and was due for an inspection later this year, reported a cargo weight of 268 tonnes out of a 284-ton-capacity.

It was licensed to carry more than 300 passengers and it was equipped with 250 life jackets, six inflatable life rafts and two rigid life rafts, according to the prime minister.

"Let me be absolutely clear: where negligence, misconduct or criminal wrongdoing is established, those responsible will face the full force of the law," Phillips said in a Sunday evening press conference.

— DW

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

United Nations commends Pakistan's Football for Mental Health initiative

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's pioneering Football for Mental Health initiative received high-level international recognition at the United Nations (UN), with global leaders applauding the Pakistan Football Federation's innovative use of football to promote mental health awareness, empower young people and drive positive social change.

Representing Pakistan at the UN's prestigious "One World, One Game, One Goal: Football as a Catalyst for Youth Mental Health and Well-being" forum, Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) President Syed Mohsen Gilani showcased the country's success story, earning widespread appreciation for transforming football into a powerful tool for youth well-being and community development.

The high-level event, jointly organised by the United Nations in Pakistan, the UN Youth Office and UNESCO, brought together government representatives, football administrators, athletes and youth advocates from Brazil, Indonesia, Nigeria, England and Pakistan to discuss how football can be harnessed to improve mental health, resilience, social inclusion and youth empowerment.

Addressing the forum, Gilani shared Pakistan's experience of implementing the Football for Mental Health initiative, high-



lighting how the programme has successfully used the game's universal appeal to create awareness about mental health and inspire positive change across communities.

"Using football as a tool for mental health did not just inspire us, it transformed us," Gilani said. "We have reached thousands of children across Pakistan with the message of mental health, trained more than 300 Youth Mental Health Ambassadors, and engaged over 80 current and former Pa-

kistan international footballers in this campaign. We believe the responsibility of a football federation goes beyond producing talented players, it is also about developing responsible, healthy and resilient citizens."

Launched in partnership with the United Nations in Pakistan and the UN Youth Office, the initiative has emerged as one of the Pakistan Football Federation's flagship social impact programmes, demonstrating how football can extend beyond the

pitch to deliver meaningful and measurable social change.

Gilani said the programme's greatest achievement was not only its success in Pakistan but also its potential to inspire international collaboration. "What excites me is not only what we have achieved but what we can accomplish together."

Pakistan has demonstrated that football can create real social impact, and we remain committed to expanding that impact through global partnerships," he said.

Representing the Government of Pakistan, Prime Minister's Youth Programme Chairman Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan reaffirmed the government's commitment to promoting football and sport as effective tools for healthy lifestyles, positive youth development and community engagement. During the event, he also highlighted Pakistan's contribution to world football by presenting the Trionda, the official FIFA World Cup match ball manufactured in Pakistan.

Pakistan's delegation also included Pakistan Women's National Futsal Team player Sibal Fawad Tariq, reflecting the growing role of athletes as ambassadors for mental health awareness and youth engagement.

— APP

FOR DROUGHT-HIT KARAMOJA REGION

Uganda launches emergency food aid

KAMPALA: Uganda on Monday launched an emergency food relief operation for the semi-arid northeastern region of Karamoja, as a prolonged dry spell has caused crop failure and food shortages.

Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja announced in the capital, Kampala, that 9.4 million kg of relief food, including maize flour and dry beans, will be distributed to 313,987 households across 480 parishes in the region's nine districts. According to a statement

from the Office of the Prime Minister, the intervention is intended to support communities affected by the prolonged dry spell, which has disrupted agricultural production, depleted household food stocks, and heightened the risk of food insecurity.

"The government stands with the people of Karamoja and will continue to mobilize the necessary resources to support their recovery and build resilience against future shocks," Nabbanja said.

She also urged all leaders and officials involved in the operation to ensure that the relief food reaches the intended beneficiaries.

The statement said the government remains committed to implementing long-term measures to strengthen communities' resilience to recurrent dry spells.

Earlier this month, the government reported that 16 people died from acute food shortages caused by the prolonged drought in the region. — Xinhua





LIFESTYLE

AI outperforms
conventional diagnosis
for certain
types of heart
attacks: Study

In patients who do not have an ST elevation, the cause of the chest pain can be less certain and further tests are needed to confirm if the MI is due to an occlusion



An artificial intelligence (AI)-based method for interpreting ECGs performed better than standard approaches in detecting occlusive myocardial infarction (MI), according to a study presented at ESC Acute CardioVascular Care 2026, the annual congress of the Association for Acute CardioVascular Care (ACVC), a branch of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC).

In patients with suspected acute coronary syndrome (ACS), a specific change on an ECG, called an ST elevation, is an indicator that the patient may have an occlusion in a coronary artery. This type of heart attack is known as an ST-elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) and it requires immediate percutaneous coronary intervention to restore the heart's blood flow. In patients who do not have an ST elevation, the cause of the chest pain can be less certain and further tests are needed to confirm if the MI is due to an occlusion.

Presenter, Doctor Federico Nani from Central Hospital Bolzano, Italy, explained: "Many patients without an ST elevation have an occlusive MI, but it can be

difficult for clinicians to quickly and accurately recognise this, leading to delays in providing emergency treatment. We investigated whether AI-based interpretation of the initial ECG could improve the accuracy of detecting occlusive MIs in the absence of an ST elevation to optimise patient management."

This single-centre prospective study included 1,490 patients who had symptoms suggestive of ACS but without an ST elevation on the initial ECG. The mean age was 63 years and 42 per cent were female. Clinicians interpreted the initial ECG, tested levels of the cardiac biomarker troponin, and performed coronary angiography, when required, to diagnose occlusive MI based on ESC Guidelines. In parallel, the initial ECG was interpreted by a smartphone-based CE-certified AI-ECG algorithm.

AI-based ECG interpretation ruled out occlusive MI in 1,382 patients and detected it in 108 patients (7 per cent). The AI-based method correctly identified obstructive MI in 84per cent of cases. Sensitivity was 77per cent, specificity was 99 per cent, and the negative predictive value was

98 per cent. There were 27 false negatives (2per cent) and 17 false positives (1per cent).

According to the standard diagnostic pathway, occlusive MI was ruled out in 1,207 patients based on troponin levels, and 283 patients underwent coronary angiography to confirm or exclude the diagnosis. Overall, human ECG-interpretation correctly identified occlusive MI in 42per cent of cases.

Doctor Nani concluded: "This simple, accessible AI-based approach demonstrated superior accuracy in identifying and excluding occlusive MI compared with conventional diagnostic pathways in patients without an ST elevation. The results of our single-centre study require further validation, but these findings suggest that AI ECG interpretation is a valuable addition to existing decision-making tools to improve early recognition and timely, effective treatment."

The power of AI to support the management of cardiovascular disease will be further explored as the spotlight theme of this year's annual ESC Congress, taking place from 28-31 August 2026 in Munich, Germany. - ANI

ROUND-UP

Versatile Toyota Land Cruiser SUV continues to set benchmark for premium off-road performance



Built to master every terrain with seamless confidence, the Land Cruiser reinforces its commanding presence in the Sultanate of Oman by pairing its rugged DNA with modern aesthetics and advanced driving technologies

MUSCAT: A true icon of Omani roads, the legendary Toyota Land Cruiser continues to set the benchmark for premium off-road performance and sophisticated engineering.

Earning a decades-long legacy of unmatched trust, this versatile SUV remains the vehicle of choice for those who demand absolute reliability. Built to master

every terrain with seamless confidence, the Land Cruiser reinforces its commanding presence in the Sultanate by pairing its rugged DNA with modern aesthetics and advanced driving technologies. The Land Cruiser strikes a perfect balance between bold styling and functional elegance, anchored by a new design radiator grille, striking LED headlamps with sequential indicators, and premium 20-inch alloy wheels. The exterior profile is further elevated by practical luxury, featuring chrome retractable power outer mirrors with integrated turn signals and a new hatch-type power back door complete with an auto/easy closure function and an effortless

kick sensor. At the rear, new design LED combination lamps leave a lasting impression, rounding out a vehicle that looks as powerful in the city as it does in the desert. Beneath the hood lies the heart of a champion: a 3.5-litre Twin-Turbo V6 engine that generates a massive 409 horsepower and 66.2 Kg-m of torque, effortlessly mated to an advanced 10-speed multi-mode automatic transmission. Drivers can customize their experience through an Integrated Sport Driving system offering five distinct modes plus a fully customizable setup. Backed by Multi-Terrain Select, Crawl Control with Turn Assist, Down Hill Assist Control and an Electronic Parking Brake,

the Land Cruiser conquers the most challenging terrains without compromising on a smooth, controlled ride. Inside, the cabin delivers an exquisite masterclass in space, luxury and technology. Occupants are treated to an immersive audio experience via a premium 14-speaker JBL sound system, anchored by a new 12.3-inch navigation system that integrates a Multi-Terrain Monitor with four cameras and a Panoramic View Monitor. Supreme comfort is guaranteed for all zones thanks to built-in seat air conditioning for both the front and second-row seats, anteroposterior adjustable front headrests, a wireless smartphone charger and new full-flat

power-folding third-row seats for seamless cargo adaptability. Safety remains entirely uncompromised, offering drivers absolute peace of mind through a comprehensive suite of driver-assist features. The leather steering wheel is equipped with a tactile Lane Departure Alert and vibration warning system, working alongside memory functions for the driver's seat, steering column and outer mirrors to ensure an optimized, secure driving position. Combining decades of trusted heritage with the absolute pinnacle of modern automotive engineering, the Land Cruiser continues to proudly reign as the definitive master of Omani terrain.

CYBERSECURITY & CLOUD CONFERENCE

Bank Muscat honoured with AI-led Digital Banking Leadership Award

MUSCAT: Reinforcing its leadership in leveraging advanced technologies to enhance banking services, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, has been awarded the AI-led Digital Banking Leadership title at the third edition of Cybersecurity & Cloud Conference 2026, recently organised by Muscat Daily at Intercity-Hotel Muscat, in the presence of Saleh Mohammed Al Zakwani, Chairman of Apex Media. The award was received on behalf of Bank Muscat by Afaf Ali Moosa, Assistant General Manager of Large Corporates at Bank Muscat, in the presence of senior officials, industry experts and specialists from the technology and cybersecurity sectors. The recognition acknowledges the Bank's continued efforts to leverage artificial intelligence to strengthen its digital banking services, develop innovative solutions that support digital transformation, and maintain the highest standards of security and reliability in serving customers. The conference featured a series of panel discussions addressing key topics related to the future of cybersecurity and digital transformation. Bank Muscat participated in a panel titled "Fintech Security, Fraud Prevention & Digital Trust," represented by Ahmed bin Khalfan Ambusaidi, Head of e-Channels Support. During the session, he highlighted the Bank's key practices and advanced technologies for enhancing the security of digital banking services, mitigating fraud risks, strengthening customer confidence in digital banking solutions, and promoting best practices for building a secure and sustainable digital financial ecosystem. On this occasion, Afaf Ali Moosa, Assistant General Manager of Large Corporates at Bank Muscat, expressed her pride in the achievement, noting: "The award reflects the Bank's ongoing commitment to investing in cutting-edge digital technologies, particularly artificial



intelligence solutions, to further enhance the customer experience, improve operational efficiency, and deliver faster, more convenient and more secure digital banking services. Bank Muscat places the highest priority on protecting customer data and safeguarding its systems against cyber threats. Over the past several years, the Bank has invested significantly in upgrading its systems for detecting suspicious activities, fraud and cyber threats, while continuously strengthening its cyber incident response capabilities. "These efforts are supported by the dedicated Information Security and Information Technology teams, who continue to safeguard customer data, manage risks and respond effectively to potential cyber incidents, thereby reinforcing a robust security environment. The Bank remains committed to conducting ongoing awareness campaigns aimed at enhancing cybersecurity awareness among both employees and customers, while continuing to adopt the latest technologies and advanced systems in support of the development of

Oman's banking sector." Bank Muscat is among the first banking institutions in the Sultanate of Oman to adopt a digital governance framework to strengthen its readiness in addressing evolving cyber challenges. This has further reinforced its position as a leading financial institution in secure financial technology and innovation. The Bank continues to build on this leadership by implementing the latest technological innovations to ensure customers enjoy secure, reliable and seamless banking experiences. Recognizing

the strategic role of information technology in enhancing its banking services, Bank Muscat continues to invest in technologies that improve operational efficiency through the automation of banking processes, reducing transaction processing times and increasing overall productivity. Advanced technologies also play a vital role in protecting customer data and financial transactions against cyber threats, thereby strengthening customer confidence. The Bank has implemented robust policies and procedures, supported by regular security audits and proactive risk assessments, to identify and address potential vulnerabilities across its systems and infrastructure. By deploying the latest cybersecurity technologies and advanced encryption solutions, customer data is securely protected both in transit and at rest. In addition, the Bank continuously enhances employee awareness through comprehensive training programmes that promote the adoption of cybersecurity best practices across all levels of the organisation. It also maintains well-defined incident response plans to ensure the swift and effective management of potential security threats. Through these integrated initiatives, Bank Muscat continues to demonstrate its commitment to the highest standards of data protection, cybersecurity and customer privacy.



TO CONTINUE
READING THE
FULL EDITION,
PLEASE
FOLLOW
OUR OFFICIAL
WHATSAPP
CHANNEL

