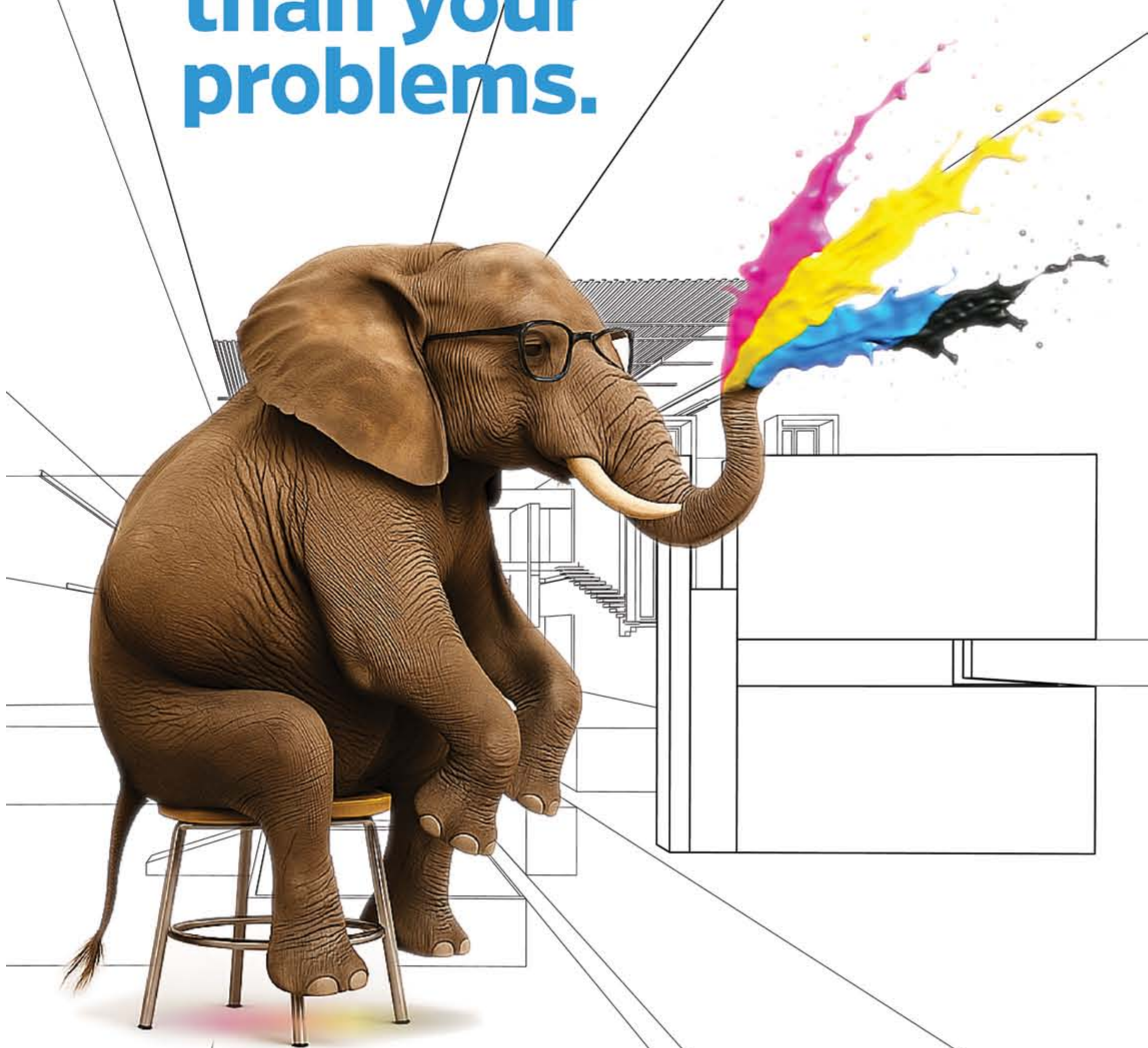


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**UPCOMING MATCHES**



IVORY COAST
30 June **VS** 9:00pm

NORWAY

FRANCE
1 July **VS** 1:00am

SWEDEN

MEXICO
1 July **VS** 5:00am

ECUADOR



For Hyundai Enquiries
80050003

HM, FRENCH PRESIDENT GRACE SIGNING OF 12 AGREEMENTS, MUSCAT METRO PROJECT

The pacts underscore the strength of Omani-French relations and open new avenues for cooperation between the two nations



PARIS: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and President Emmanuel Macron of the French Republic, graced at the Élysée Palace in Paris on Monday the signing of 12 agreements, Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and declarations of intent between Oman and the French Republic.

An agreement on the training of Omani medical specialists was signed between the Ministry of Health and the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. It was signed on behalf of the Sultanate of Oman by Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, and on behalf of France by Jean-Noël Barrot, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs.

A Memorandum of Understanding was also signed in the fields of logistics, ports, and the Muscat Metro project, between the Ministry of Transport, Com-

munications and Information Technology and the French Ministry of Transport. It was signed for Oman by Anwar bin Hilal Al Jabri, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, and for France by Philippe Tabarot, Minister of Transport.

As part of efforts to boost economic cooperation, a memorandum of understanding on investment promotion was inked between the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and the French ministry responsible for foreign trade and economic attractiveness. It was signed for Oman by Anwar bin Hilal Al Jabri, Minister of

Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, and for France by Nicolas Forissier, Minister Delegate for Foreign Trade and Economic Attractiveness.

In the civil aviation sector, a memorandum of understanding on air transport was signed between the Civil Aviation Authority and the French Ministry of Transport. The signatories were Anwar bin Hilal Al Jabri, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and Philippe Tabarot, Minister of Transport.

The two sides also signed a declaration of intent for co-operation in the space sector, between the Foreign Ministry

and the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. It was signed for Oman by Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister and for France by Jean-Noël Barrot, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs.

In the cultural domain, a declaration of intent concerning the "Maison de la France" was signed between the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism and the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. It was signed for Oman by Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister and for France by Jean-Noël Barrot, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs. **>A4**

COMMUNIQUE

Oman, France emphasise importance of developing investment relations

PARIS: The Sultanate of Oman and the French Republic have emphasised the importance of developing investment relations between the two countries, highlighting the need to increase mutual investment in each country's productive sectors. This was stated in the joint communique issued at the conclusion of the official visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to the French Republic.

The full text of the communique reads as follows:

"On 29 June 2026 His Majesty Haitham bin Tarik, Sultan of Oman, paid an official visit to France at the invitation of President Emmanuel Macron of the French Republic.

This first visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham to France reflects the long-standing and trustworthy bilateral relationship between France and the Sultanate of Oman, established in the late 19th century, when the French consulate opened in Muscat in 1894. **>A4**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

MARKET

Oman LNG celebrates first cargo shipment

1 Oman LNG marked a significant milestone with the arrival and loading of the LNG carrier 'Muscat LNG', as the vessel departs with its first LNG cargo to international markets. **>B1**

OMAN

Indian Embassy revises passport fees

2 The Embassy of India in Muscat has announced revised fees for passport and consular services, with the new rates coming into effect from July 1, 2026. The total cost of reissuing a 36-page ordinary passport has been set at OMR 53,750. **>A6**

OMAN

Oman-Iran Committee holds first meeting

3 The Joint Oman-Iran Committee on the Strait of Hormuz held its first meeting in Muscat on Monday to exchange views on the future management of the strait and related issues. **>A6**



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Municipal Council of Muscat Governorate held its meeting yesterday, chaired by HH Sayyid Bilarab bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of State and Governor of Muscat. See report on **>A7**

REVIEWED RELATIONS

Sayyid Theyazin receives US Ambassador



MUSCAT: HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, received yesterday Ana Escrogima, Ambassador of the United States of America (USA) to the Sultanate of Oman. During the meeting, they reviewed the relations of friendship and cooperation between the Sultanate of Oman and the United States of America, and discussed ways to enhance them in various fields, including economic and investment aspects, in addition to exchanging views on a number of topics of common interest.

The meeting was attended by Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Abdullah Al Hinai, Ambassador-at-large at the Foreign Ministry, and Ya'arub bin Abdullah Al Yaarubi, Secretary-General of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs. — **ONA**

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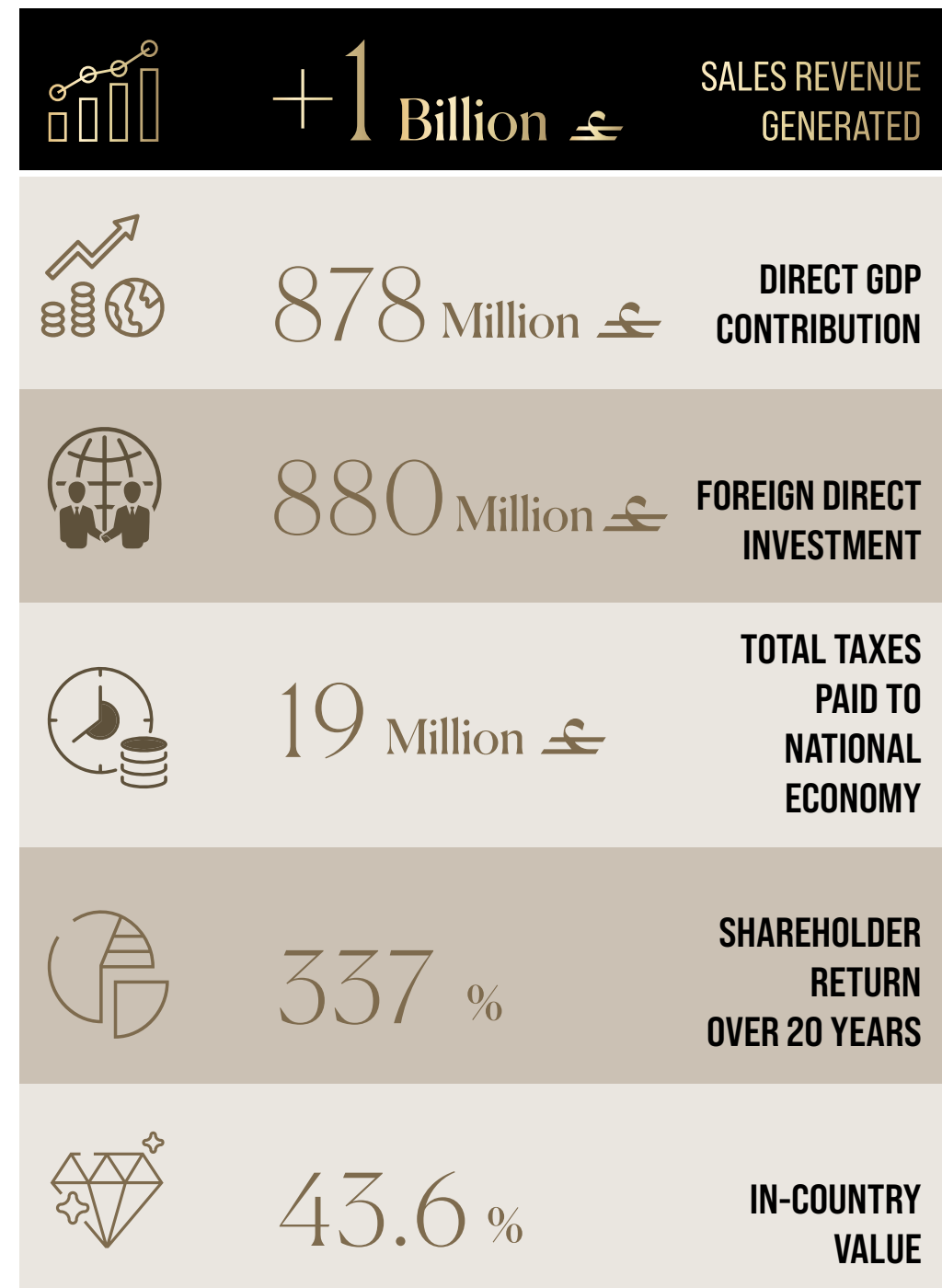
2026

“ We will continue the March of development, building on what has been achieved and moving forward with firm determination. ”

HIS MAJESTY SULTAN HAITHAM BIN TARIQ

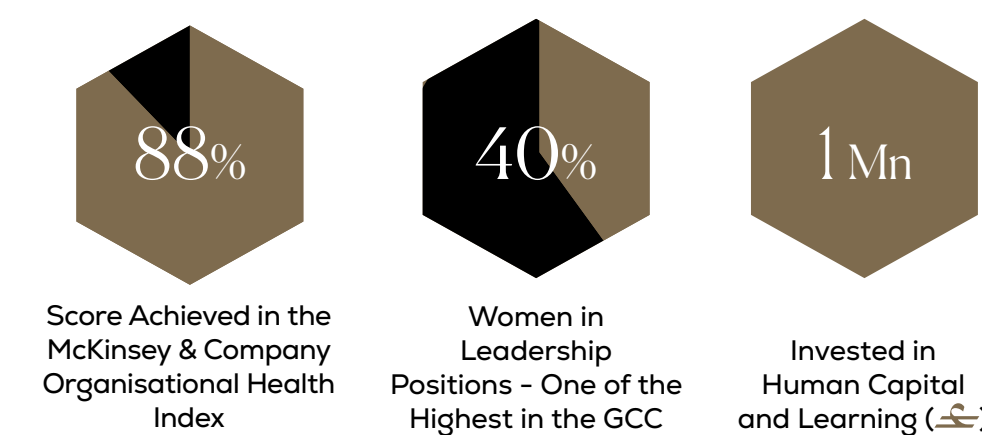
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACT

More than a residential community and leisure destination, Al Mouj Muscat is a catalyst for economic growth and development, making substantial contributions to economic diversification and private-sector growth. Its impact is clearly visible in the scale of activity it generates and value it brings across the economy.



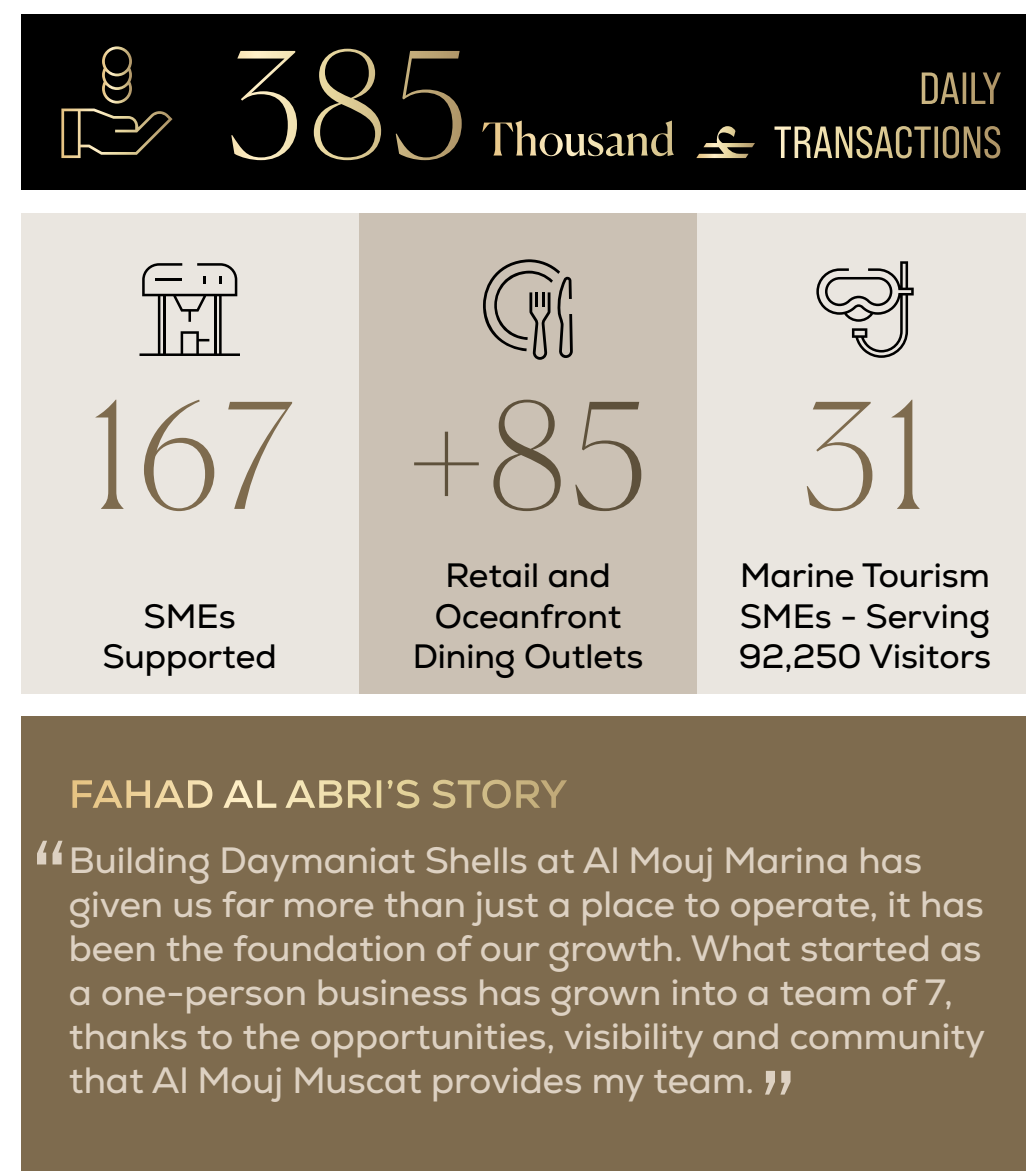
CAPACITY BUILDING

Al Mouj Muscat has created quality jobs, built specialist capability and developed a generation of Omani talent with the experience, expertise and confidence to contribute to large-scale projects across the country.



ENTERPRISE ECOSYSTEM

A long-standing champion of entrepreneurship, this forward-looking community gives SMEs and new businesses the setting, support and network needed to grow.



CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE AND INNOVATION

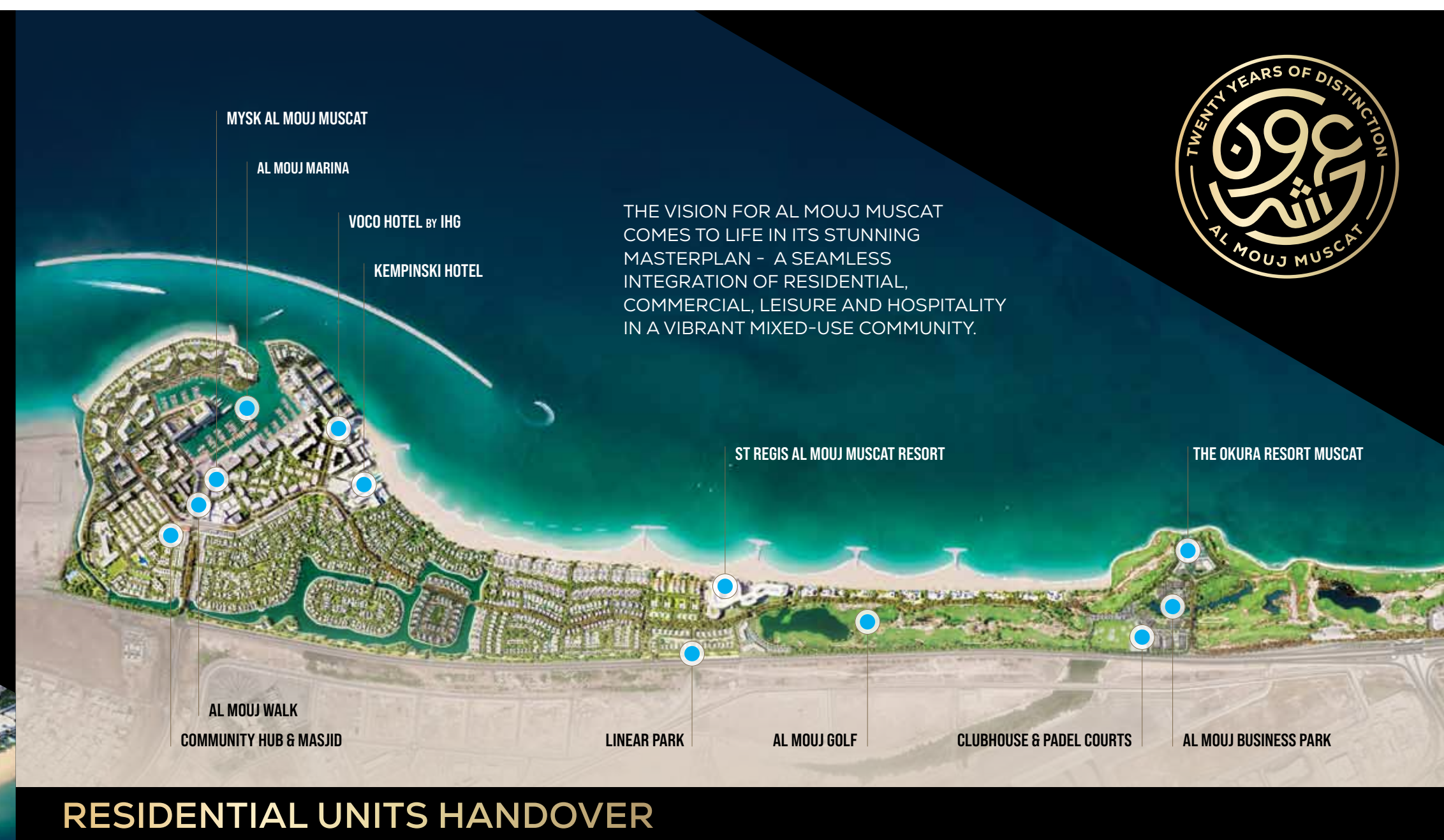
Customer experience is a strategic priority at Al Mouj Muscat with integrated digital innovation and technology platforms enhancing engagement for residents, visitors and investors.

94%
RESIDENT SATISFACTION RATE

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

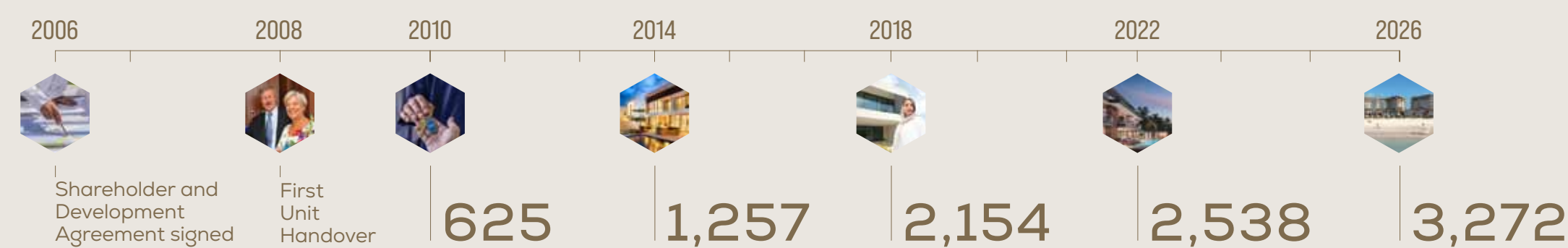
An impressive awards portfolio is testament to the community's on-going pursuit of excellence.

70 LOCAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AWARDS



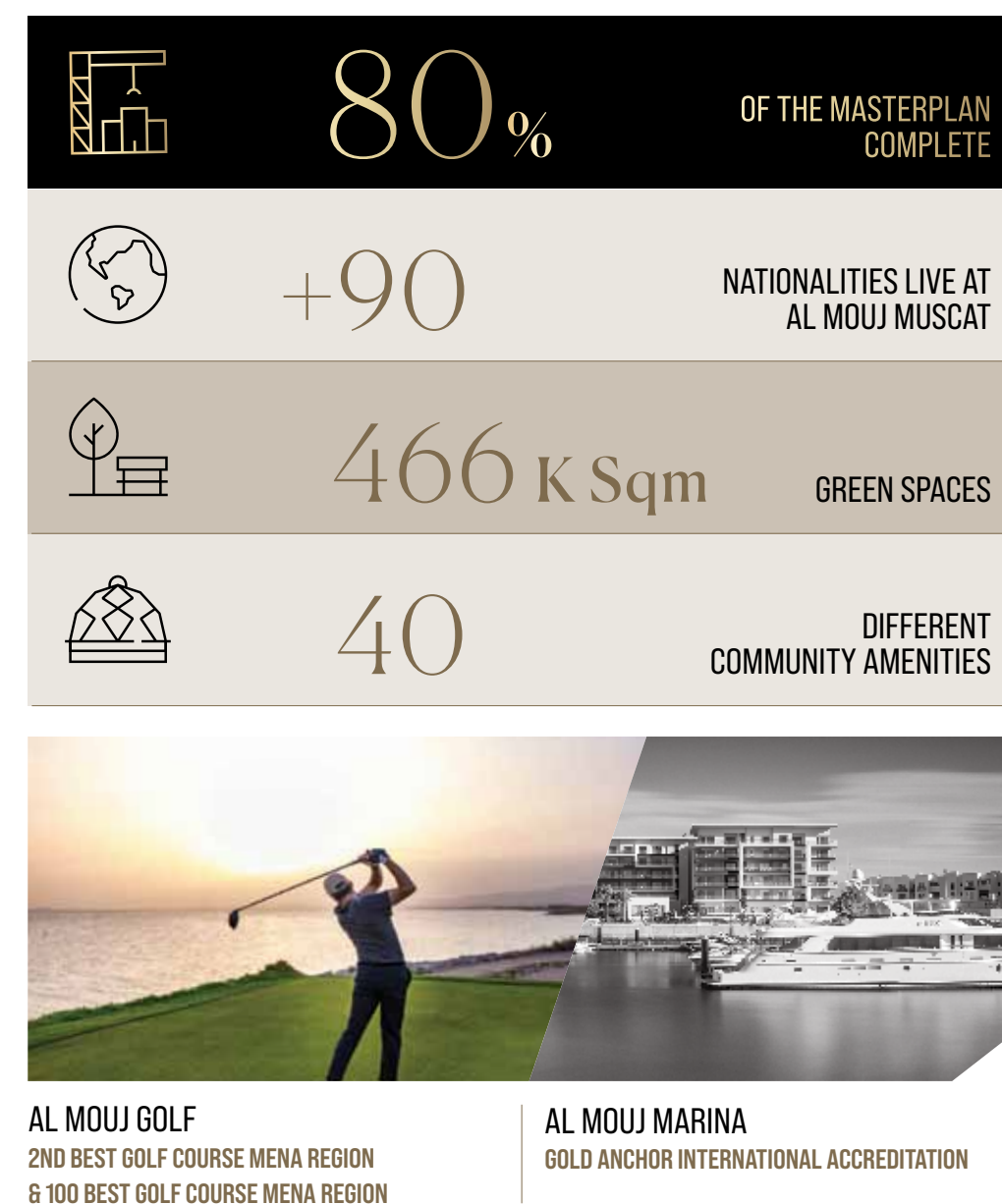
THE VISION FOR AL MOUJ MUSCAT COMES TO LIFE IN ITS STUNNING MASTERPLAN - A SEAMLESS INTEGRATION OF RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY IN A VIBRANT MIXED-USE COMMUNITY.

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French President receives HM the Sultan

PARIS: President Emmanuel Macron of the French Republic received His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on Monday at the Elysée Palace in the French capital, Paris. President Macron welcomed His Majesty the Sultan and his accompanying delegation as esteemed guests of the French Republic. Upon His Majesty's arrival at the forecourt of the French Republican Palace, the Guard of Honour gave a military salute to His Majesty, while martial musical pieces were performed. His Majesty then proceeded to inspect the Guard of Honour.

Thereafter, His Majesty the Sultan shook hands with senior French dignitaries present to receive him, while the French President shook hands with the members of the official delegation accompanying His Majesty. Afterward, commemorative gifts were exchanged between His Majesty the Sultan and the

French President, followed by a commemorative photograph to mark the occasion of the visit.

His Majesty the Sultan and the French President then held a bilateral meeting, during which they discussed a range of political and economic issues and files of mutual interest to both countries. The meeting also addressed the most significant current developments and evolving situations on the regional and international arenas, as well as their implications across various levels.

Both leaders emphasised the importance of deepening bilateral cooperation and expanding the horizons of the strategic partnership between their countries, through greater investment flows, increased economic and commercial exchange and the exploring new avenues for collaboration – thereby fostering sustainable economic development and realising their mutual interests. **-OMA**

IN PARIS

HM, French President grace Business Forum

PARIS: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, accompanied by President Emmanuel Macron of the French Republic, graced the Omani-Franco Business Forum in Paris on Monday, held as part of His Majesty's official visit to the French Republic.

During the forum, His Majesty the Sultan commended the sustained growth and development of the economic and investment partnership between the two friendly nations across diverse sectors, reaffirming the importance of intensifying joint efforts to explore new investment opportunities that would lead to the establishment of promising collaborative ventures.

His Majesty said, "I am happy to be here in Paris. It has been a great day today. We have talked about so many things that concern Oman and France, and the rest of the world."

His Majesty added "I am very delighted to be your guest with a beautiful gathering here, from both sides of Oman and France. What we have signed today are bigger than anything else we have done in the past couple of years."

His Majesty expressed his appreciation for the remarks made by the French President during the meeting, in which he identified promising areas for cooperation. He affirmed that the French side's openness to strengthening its partnership with the Sultanate of Oman has been met with a warm welcome from both His Majesty and the accompanying delegation.

His Majesty emphasised that the Sultanate of Oman welcomes all French business partners and looks forward to a greater presence of Omani investments in the French Republic in the coming period. He expressed his confidence that the Omani investment team will be diligent in seizing investment opportunities wherever they may arise.

The forum was organised by the Omani Chamber of Com-

merce and Industry (OCCI) and the Business France, in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and the Omani Investment Authority (OIA), with the aim of strengthening cooperative and partnership relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the French Republic.

The forum witnessed the signing of a number of agreements and memoranda of understanding, reflecting the growing economic and investment partnership between the two countries. These encompassed the fields of energy, industry, automotive, education, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, technology, aviation, space, renewable energy and the perfume industry.

In the space sector, Omani spacecraft company "Etlaq" signed an agreement with French firm "Latitude" to collaborate on launching light rockets from the "Etlaq" spacecraft in the Sultanate of Oman, while MBsat inked a memorandum of understanding with "Telespazio" to provide ground station operation solutions and satellite services.

In aviation, "Ankaa Space and Technologies" signed an agreement with French company "Thales" as the main contractor on the Omani side for the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), covering the supply, installation and operation of a new generation of air traffic control radar systems.

In transport, Al Hashar Group signed an agreement with French group "Renault" to distribute Renault vehicles in Oman, while Mohsin Haider Darwish Group concluded a commercial agreement with "Michelin" to supply tyres to the Omani market.

In energy and industry, the National Energy and Engineering Company signed an agreement with French group "Sagemcom" to assemble smart electricity meters in Russeil Industrial City.

Full story | www.timesofoman.com



IN HONOUR OF HM, MACRON HOSTS LUNCHEON

In honour of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, President Emmanuel Macron of the French Republic, hosted an official luncheon at the Elysée Palace in Paris. The luncheon was attended by the official delegation accompanying His Majesty the Sultan, as well as a number of senior French officials.

-OMA

ENERGY PROJECTS

HM, French President grace signing of 12 agreements, Muscat Metro project

In the education sector, a declaration of intent on French-language instruction was signed, with Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister signing for Oman and Jean-Noël Barrot, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, signing for France.

In the water sector, an agreement on water network management in Greater Muscat was signed between, on the Omani side, Omani Investment Authority, Nama Water Services, and the National Energy Centre, and on the French side, SUEZ Group and the National Trading Company. It was signed for Oman by Qais bin Saud Al Zakwani, CEO of Nama Water Services and Abdullah bin Rashid Al Badi, CEO of the National Energy Centre, and for France by Xavier Girre, CEO of SUEZ Group, and

Tony Giorgio, CEO of the National Trading Company.

In the transport and logistics field, a master terms agreement was signed for a joint venture to develop and operate a multipurpose terminal, between ASYAD Group and France's CMA CGM Group.

It was signed for Oman by Abdulrahman bin Salim Al Hatmi, CEO of ASYAD Group, and for France by Rodolphe Saadé, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the CMA CGM Group.

Additionally, a contract was signed for the first phase of the Al Kamil and Al Wafi Solar Power Plant project, with a capacity of 500 megawatts, between Nama Power and Water Procurement Company and France's EDF Renewables. It was signed for Oman by Ahmed bin Salim Al Abri,

CEO of Nama Power and Water Procurement Company, and for France by Béatrice Buffon became Executive Vice-President of EDF Renewables.

In line with the push toward renewable energy projects, an agreement was signed for the Wadi Dayqah Dam pumped-storage hydropower project, between the Authority for Public Services Regulation and France's EDF Group. It was signed for Oman by Abdul-salam bin Mohammed Al Murshidi, Chairman of Omani Investment Authority, and for France by Béatrice Buffon became Executive Vice-President of EDF Renewables.

The signing ceremony was concluded with the signing of a strategic partnership agreement between Omani Investment Authority, Station 11, and Station F,

to launch a programme enabling Omani startups to explore and expand into French and European markets. The agreement was signed for Oman by Al-Mu'tasim bin Salim Al Sariri, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Station 11, and for France by Eloi Peyrache, Dean of HEC Paris, and Roxanne Varza, Director General of Station F.

These agreements, memoranda of understanding and the declarations of intent come within the framework of the official visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to the French Republic. They reflect the strength of Omani-French relations and further advance the avenues of cooperation and partnership between the two nations across a wide range of sectors. **-OMA**



Oman, France emphasise importance of developing investment relations

His Majesty the Sultan and the French President held an official discussion session during which they commended the intensification of the bilateral contacts over the last year at all levels and emphasised their shared commitment to strengthening their comprehensive and forward-looking bilateral partnership in a variety of areas.

They welcomed the positive outcomes of the first strategic dialogue that took place in Paris on 14 April 2026 and of recent ministerial visits, including of the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs to Muscat on 1 May, which resulted in tangible progress in political, economic, defence and cultural areas.

His Majesty the Sultan and the French President opened the Franco-Omani business forum, which brought together more than 60 French and Omani companies. This event helped strengthen business relations between the two countries and led to the signing of major economic contracts in the fields of renewable energy, water, and aerospace.

Both sides commended the dynamism of the bilateral economic relations and expressed their wish to expand them further by enhancing bilateral trade and facilitating trade flows between the Sultanate of Oman and France. They reiterated their joint commitment to implementing projects of mutual interest, based on the long-standing presence of French companies in the Sultanate of Oman.

The two sides emphasised the importance of developing investment relations between the two countries, highlighting the need to increase mutual investment in each country's productive sectors. This would be achieved through partnership opportunities provided by the Oman Vision 2040 and France 2030, particularly in the areas of renewable energy, hydrogen, maritime infrastructure, logistics, information technology, transportation, tourism, culture and the space industry.

In this context, both sides welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Investment Promotion, agreeing to leverage it as a key executive instrument to operationalise these ambitions and facilitate concrete investment flows.

His Majesty the Sultan and the French President also reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening their cooperation in the strategic sectors of civil aviation and space. To this end, they stressed the importance of signing a technical cooperation agreement between the French Directorate General of Civil Aviation and the Omani Civil Aviation Authority, a letter of intent and a memorandum of understanding on transports including cooperation in urban transport and metro system.

France welcomes also the partnership established between Omani and Airbus for the construction of Oman's first satellite and the partnership between CMA-CGM and Asyad Group to expand and integrate its logistics networks around the ports of Oman as well as the recently signed partnership between Oman and Suez for water management in the Greater Muscat, and the first milestone reached by EDF and Oman in developing pumped hydrostorage capacities in Oman.

The two sides praised the cultural cooperation between the two countries and reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening Omani-French cultural and academic ties. They welcomed in this regard the signature of several agreements aimed at boosting collaboration in the cultural, scientific and academic sectors, including student and research mobility, archaeology, museology and health.

As far as the educational cooperation is concerned, they agreed that efforts will be made to increase the enrolment of all students who meet the admission requirements of the International French School of Muscat, in accordance with the procedures and regulations approved by the



Ministry of Education in the Sultanate of Oman.

They also stressed the importance to increase student mobility to France within the framework of joint academic cooperation projects, including the establishment of a jointly funded mechanism involving public and private higher education institutions from both countries, the promotion of collaborative research projects, the development of dual-degree programmes, and the expansion of existing scholarship programmes for Omani students pursuing short and long-term studies in France, in line with the priorities of Oman Vision 2040.

They highlighted the importance of strengthening the teaching of the French language in the Sultanate of Oman through the expansion of the French language pilot programme in Omani public schools, the professional development of Omani French-language teachers, and the promotion of literary and academic translation as a means of fostering cultural and educational exchange.

They also welcomed the long-standing partnership between the Ministry of Education of the Sultanate of Oman and the Omani-French Centre in Muscat, which promotes educational and cultural cooperation between the two countries. They further acknowledged the Centre's contribution to the teaching of French in Omani schools, the provision of language training opportunities, and the organization of student mobility initiatives, including the annual summer school programme in France for Omani students.

In the museum sector, they agreed to strengthen the exchange of expertise relating to the museum sector and to continue the joint efforts to open the Omani-French museum (Bait Faransa) "Maison de la France," showcasing the longstanding historical relations between the two countries.

In the archaeology sector, they agreed to cooperate jointly in scientific research and to promote outcomes through academic publications in both France and the Sultanate of Oman.

As for scientific cooperation, both sides emphasized the importance of enhancing scientific cooperation in the field of Humanities through the activities of the French Research Centre of the Arabian Peninsula (CEFREA) office in the Sultanate of Oman.

His Majesty the Sultan and the French President discussed bilateral cooperation in the field of defence and security. They lauded the quality of the bilateral military cooperation, particularly the integration of French equipped forces, as well as conducting regular joint exercise of all forces and visits by French warships to different ports in Oman.

They stressed their joint commitment to enhancing their collaboration in key strategic areas, particularly maritime security and the fight against illicit trafficking.

In line with France's constant dedication to preserve maritime security and freedom of navigation in the region, including through the multinational naval deployments, the two sides committed to strengthening their cooperation in maritime intelligence, maritime surveillance, and the safeguarding of trade routes.

They agreed to finalise the work initiated in 2022 on the Agreement on the Exchange and Reciprocal Protection of Classified and Protected Information in the Field of Defence. They also agreed to finalise the agreement on information exchange between their respective military intelligence departments.

As for the regional and international landscape, the two leaders reaffirmed their unwavering commitment to sustained coordination and the intensification of joint efforts aimed at contributing to international peace and security. They underscored the imperative of supporting de-escalation across the region, advancing conflict prevention, and countering various forms of terrorism, as well as combating the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In addition, they highlighted the critical importance of securing maritime routes and ensuring the freedom and safety of navigation in accordance with international law.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter and to multilateralism. They also underlined their commitment to the norms of international law, international humanitarian law and international maritime law. In particular, they reaffirmed their commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea which remains the legal framework for governing maritime spaces, including the Strait of Hormuz and the Sea of Oman.

The two sides reaffirmed their unwavering commitment to dialogue and diplomacy as means to resolve the crisis in the region, commending the constructive role of both countries in this regard, and highlighted the need to restore regional stability and security. They welcomed the Memorandum of Understanding agreed between the United States and Iran and their support to the ongoing negotiations aimed at reaching a long-term diplomatic settlement.

France welcomed Oman's mediation on the nuclear issue as well as Oman's efforts to resolve the crisis in the Strait of Hormuz. Oman welcomes France's efforts to support a swift resumption of traffic in the Strait of Hormuz.

They emphasized the impor-

portance of reopening the Strait of Hormuz, and reaffirmed their commitment to free, unconditional, and unrestricted navigation, including the right of transit passage in accordance with the law of the sea. Both parties agreed to work collaboratively with all stakeholders to support freedom of navigation going forward.

They reiterated that lasting peace in the region can only be realized through a fair, comprehensive settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, based on the internationally agreed parameters. They reaffirmed in this regard their support for the implementation of the Two-State solution and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, and for the establishment of an independent, sovereign, viable and democratic State of Palestine living side by side in peace and security with the State of Israel.

Both sides stressed the need to implement the New York Declaration for the implementation of the Two-State solution endorsed by 142 States in 2025 as well as the Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict and the provisions of UN Security Council 2803 in its entirety, including the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid in the Gaza Strip and maintenance of the ceasefire, in good faith and without delay.

Both parties reaffirmed their full support for the Presidential Leadership Council of the Republic of Yemen. They also agreed on the great importance of supporting all UN and regional efforts to achieve an inclusive and comprehensive solution to the Yemeni crisis. They recognized the strategic importance of the Red Sea regional stability for the global economy and the related importance of freedom of navigation as an international requirement.

Both sides expressed support for the effort toward the achievement of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine, in accordance with international law and the principles of the United Nations Charter. They reiterated the need to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of states.

The Sultanate of Oman and the French Republic expressed their firm belief that their historical ties, shared commitment to international law and constructive dialogue between their authorities provide a solid basis for an ambitious, enduring and strengthened partnership.

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik expressed his warm thanks to President Emmanuel Macron and the people of France for the friendly welcome and generous hospitality extended to His Majesty and his accompanying delegation during their visit to France. His Majesty also extended an invitation to President Macron to visit Oman. **-OMA**

His Majesty accorded official reception at Les Invalides

PARIS: An official reception ceremony was held at Les Invalides "The House of Invalids" in Paris yesterday for His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, on the occasion of His Majesty's official visit to the French Republic.

As the motorcade of His Majesty the Sultan departed towards the palace courtyard, it was escorted by a group of motorbike outriders from the French Republican Guard. Upon His Majesty's arrival at the square of Les Invalides, he was received by Jean-Noël Barrot, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs and General Loïc Mizon, Military Governor of Paris. The Commander of the Guard of Honour then gave a military salute, asking for His Majesty's permission to commence the official reception protocols.

Thereafter, the Omani Royal Anthem and the French National Anthem were played. His Majesty then proceeded to inspect the Guard of Honour, after which he shook hands with senior French government dignitaries present to receive him. In turn, the French Minister greeted the official delegation accompanying His Majesty the Sultan. **-OMA**



EN ROUTE TO UK

HM The Sultan concludes visit



PARIS: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik left Paris on Monday, concluding his visit to the French Republic, en route to the United Kingdom on a private visit.

His Majesty was seen off by Nicolas Porciser, Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Attractiveness; Nabil Hajaoui, Ambassador of the French Republic to the Sultanate of Oman; Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Arami, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the French Republic; Anna bint Saleem Al Balushi, Permanent Delegate of the Sultanate of Oman to UNESCO; and a number of senior French

military officers and members of the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman in the French Republic.

His Majesty the Sultan sent a cable of profound gratitude and appreciation to the French President, expressing his deep thankfulness for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to him and his accompanying delegation throughout the visit. His Majesty further extended his sincere wishes of continued health and well-being for the French President, and enduring progress and prosperity for the friendly French people. **-OMA**

BILATERAL RELATIONS

Sayyid Shihab meets French Minister of Armed Forces

PARIS: HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, met on Monday at the Élysée Palace with Catherine Vautrin, Minister of the Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs of the French Republic.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the official visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to the French Republic.

During the meeting, both sides reviewed the advanced bilateral relations binding the Sultanate of Oman and the French Republic. Discussions addressed a number of matters of mutual interest, with particular emphasis on existing military cooperation between the two countries' Ministries of Defence.

The talks also explored av-

enues for further developing and strengthening this partnership in a manner that advances shared interests and supports the aspirations of the leaderships of both nations towards deeper collaboration and coordination.

The meeting was attended by General Vincent Guiraud, Chief of the Military Staff of the French Republic. -**ONA**

NAJD FARMS

Shura panel reviews farmers' demands

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Food and Water Security Committee of the Shura Council held its ninth regular meeting of the Third Annual Sitting (2025-2026) to review issues related to agricultural sustainability and food security in the Sultanate of Oman.

Chaired by Abdullah Al Malik Al Shuhi, the committee examined a letter from the Omani Ag-

ricultural Association in Dhofar Governorate concerning the situation of Najd Farms.

The letter outlined key challenges facing farmers and proposed measures to strengthen the sustainability and productivity of agricultural activities in the region.

The committee stressed the importance of addressing the issues raised, particularly calls to reduce farm usufruct fees and

take into account the circumstances of local farmers when setting such charges.

Members noted that balancing agricultural investment requirements with support for local farmers would help sustain farming activities and contribute to Oman's food security goals.

The meeting forms part of the committee's ongoing efforts to monitor challenges affecting the agricultural sector. -**ONA**

NEW RATES

Indian Embassy revises passport, consular service fees from July 1

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Embassy of India in Muscat has announced revised fees for passport and consular services, with the new rates coming into effect from July 1, 2026.

Under the revised fee structure, the total cost of reissuing a 36-page ordinary passport has been set at OMR 53,750, while a 60-page jumbo passport will cost OMR 72,600.

The fee for reissuing a lost or damaged 36-page passport has been fixed at OMR 100,700, while applicants seeking a replacement 60-page passport will pay OMR 119,500.

For minor applicants below 18 years of age, a fresh passport for a newborn child up to eight years of age will cost OMR 37,300, while the reissue of a 36-page passport has been priced at OMR 40,600. A 10-year validity passport for applicants aged 15 to 18 years will cost OMR 53,750. Reissuing a lost or



damaged passport for minors will cost OMR 87,600.

The Embassy has also revised charges for Tatkal (expedited) passport services. A Tatkal reissue of a 36-page passport will cost OMR 100,700, while a 60-page passport will cost OMR 119,500. Replacing lost or damaged passports under the Tatkal scheme will cost OMR 147,650 for a 36-page

passport and OMR 166,500 for a 60-page passport.

For minors applying under the Tatkal category, a 36-page passport will cost OMR 87,600, while the fee for replacing a lost or damaged passport has been fixed at OMR 134,500.

The fee for an Emergency Certificate has been set at OMR 12,500, while an Identity Certificate will cost OMR 25,600. Miscellaneous consular services, including Police Clearance Certificates (PCC), Global Entry Program (GEP) verification, Surrender Certificates and other passport-related certificates, will be charged OMR 21,800.

The Embassy clarified that, in addition to the Government of India service fee, applicants are required to pay an Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) fee of OMR 0,800 and an Outsourced Service Provider (OSP) fee of OMR 6,000, which are included in the total charges.

SECOND MEETING

CBO meeting

MUSCAT: The Board of Directors of the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) held on Monday its second meeting of 2026 at the bank's headquarters in Muscat.

The Board approved the general strategy of Oman Credit and Financial Information Centre. It approved the Islamic banking policy regarding the conversion of Islamic windows at conventional banks into independent Islamic banks.

FIRST MEETING

Oman-Iran panel on Strait of Hormuz

MUSCAT: The Joint Oman-Iran Committee on the Strait of Hormuz held its first meeting in Muscat yesterday to exchange views on the future management of the strait and related issues.

The Omani delegation was led by Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Abdullah

Al Hinai, Ambassador-at-Large at the Foreign Ministry, while the Iranian side was headed Kazem Gharibabadi, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs. The two sides discussed ways to strengthen coordination on matters concerning

the Strait of Hormuz in line with the mutual interests and sovereignty of both nations, reaffirming their commitment to international law. They also explored cooperation in navigation and maritime services, building on their status as the two littoral states of the strait.



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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@choueirigroup.com
CIRCULATION: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24818270, E-mail: circulation@timesofoman.com

Lincoln Wins Best Brand in Customer Experience Award in Luxury SUV Category



LINCOLN, distributed by Arabian Car Marketing Company in Oman, was felicitated with the 'Times of Oman Best Brand in Customer Experience (CX) Award in Luxury SUV Category' at the Times of Oman CX Awards 2026. The awards presentation was co-located with Times of Oman CX Forum 2026, held at Hotel Kempinski, Muscat. The premier event was attended by over 325+ CX leaders across sectors in Oman.

Lincoln has consistently demonstrated a strong commitment to customer experience by delivering a portfolio of luxury SUVs that seamlessly combine refined craftsmanship, advanced technology, comfort, and performance.

Through acclaimed models such as the Navigator, Aviator, Nautilus, Corsair and more, Lincoln continues to redefine luxury mobility while creating memorable ownership experiences for customers across the Sultanate. With a customer-centric philosophy built around effortless ownership, personalized service, and premium vehicle experiences, Lincoln places customer satisfaction

at the heart of its brand. Its focus on innovative technology, sophisticated design, connected services, and comprehensive after-sales support has helped strengthen customer trust and loyalty while reinforcing its reputation as a leading luxury automotive brand.

By continuously enhancing its luxury SUV lineup and ownership experience, Lincoln continues to set benchmarks in customer experience within the premium automotive segment. Its ability to combine elegance, innovation, comfort, and service excellence has positioned the brand as a preferred choice among discerning customers seeking uncompromising luxury and performance.

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

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وزارة النقل والاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات
Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology



إعلان مناقصة
Tender Notice

The Internal Tenders Committee at the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology invites for the Following Tender:

TENDER NUMBER	TENDER NAME	DATE OF PUBLISHING	LAST DATE TO PURCHASE TENDER DOCUMENT	SUBMISSION DATE	COMPANIES WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THIS TENDER	DOCUMENT PRICE
(91/2026/ MTCIT)	Comprehensive security assessment for MTCIT-IT infrastructure	29-06-2026	13-07-2026	02-08-2026	SMEs COMPANIES AND REGISTERED WITH THE PROJECT, TENDERS AND LOCAL CONTENT AUTHORITY (ALL GRADES)	(10/- ر.ع.) TEN OMANI RIALS (SMEs) NON-REFUNDABLE

Interested Companies registered with the Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority may obtain Tender documents from the E-Tendering website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> against non-refundable payment as mentioned above for each set of documents. Tenders should be submitted online on given website

CORRESPONDANCE:

1. Tender Inquiry: All correspondence pertaining to the TENDER Inquiry must be online at e-Tendering System. (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>)

2. E-Tendering System Inquiry: All correspondence pertaining to the e-Tendering System technical support must be directed to the following helpdesk email address and phone number:

Tel: +968 24402200 e-mail: etenderhd@ptlc.gov.om



@mtcitoman www.mtcit.gov.om

Internal Tenders Committee



Muscat Gases Company SAOG
PO Box 11, PC 124, Rusayl, Sultanate of Oman.
Tel: 22526900, Email: info@muscatgas.com

VEHICLE FOR SALE

Muscat Gases Company SAOG announces the sale of Vehicle in its branch located in Rusayl Industrial Area @ Street No. 16 as follows:

S.N	Item	Model
1	Maserati Quattroporte	2017

Those wishing to buy must visit the company's branch and submit bids according to the company's document in a sealed envelope with red wax. The value of the document is 15 OMR.

- Fees to be deposit to company account OAB : 3117-802000-300
- Bids are deposited in a closed box located at the head office.
- The deadline for receiving bids is on July 01, 2026 at 4 pm.
- The bids will be sorted on July 06, 2026.

For serious buyers, please call 22526900/ 99249076 during official working days from 8 am in until 4 pm.

24 HOURS OF SPA

Mid-race collision ends Al Harthy’s Spa challenge

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman’s Ahmad Al Harthy’s challenge in the Crowd-Strike 24 Hours of Spa came to a frustrating end after 12 hours when contact from another car forced the Oman Racing by Century Motorsport BMW M4 GT3 EVO into retirement.

The No.42 BMW had shown strong pace throughout the week-end after qualifying fourth in the Bronze Cup, with Al Harthy and team-mates Calan Williams, Javier Sagraera and Pedro Ebrahim battling back impressively despite suffering damage in an opening-lap incident that was no fault of their own.

Ebrahim took the start of the race, having got away cleanly all looked fair and square. Drama then ensued out of Turn 11 when several cars made contact, spearing left and right, and while the Brazilian tried to thread through the middle of the trouble the BMW sustained damage due to debris and the concertina effect.

Pitting for repairs, Ebrahim – who had moved up from fourth in the Bronze Cup to second – rejoined the race but soon had further issue with the replacement bonnet, forcing the car into the pits.

After a dramatic first 50 minutes, the BMW emerged from the pit garage with Al Harthy behind the wheel. The Omani quickly got



up to speed but eight laps down handed to Sagraera into hour three. The team mounted an impressive recovery and climbed to 11th in class before their race ended prematurely following another collision.

“It’s always a pleasure and an honour to represent Oman at the biggest GT3 race in the world,” said Al Harthy.

“Lap one, which had nothing to do with us, caught us with debris and the compression of cars in front meant damage. We had to change the front bumper, bonnet and other components, but the team did a magnificent job to get us back out with such little time spent in the pits.”

Despite the setback, Al Harthy said the team never gave up and continued pushing throughout

one of the toughest editions of the endurance classic.

“We always knew it was going to be a big battle uphill, but we kept climbing and kept pushing. I’m really happy with my pace this weekend and with everybody in the team.

“Sometimes motor racing is tough, and that’s what reminds us how competitive it is and what an honour it is when you do stand on the podium.”

The Omani driver praised the collective effort of his team, particularly in extreme conditions, and chose to focus on the positives despite the disappointing outcome.

“Everybody in the team has learnt from this weekend and it will make everyone stronger. It was one of the hottest races we have ever competed in and, on track, none of us put a foot wrong. Unfortunately, in the 12th hour, another car caused us to retire with damage.”

“We take away all of the positives we showed – good pace and great teamwork – and I want to thank all of my team-mates, the entire team and all of my amazing partners for their incredible support.”

Al Harthy and Oman Racing by Century Motorsport will now turn their attention to round four of the GT World Challenge Europe Endurance Cup at Germany’s Nürburgring circuit on August 29-30.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Municipal Council discusses Social Development Plan



MUSCAT: The Municipal Council of Muscat Governorate held its meeting yesterday, chaired by HH Sayyid Bilarab bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of State and Governor of Muscat.

The Council addressed the annual plan of the Ministry of Social Development for the year 2026 and the regulatory framework for the governance of Muscat Municipality’s competencies regarding lease contracts and licenses for practicing commercial activities.

Dr. Laila bint Ahmed Al Najjar, Minister of Social Development, reviewed the plan’s priorities and strategic directions.

This comes within the framework of national orientations aimed at enhancing the social development system and achieving the targets of Oman Vision 2040.

The plan focused on developing the social work system and elevating the quality of services provided to various segments of society.

This is achieved by adopting a developmental approach that places individuals, families, and society at the forefront of its priorities, grounded in the principles of welfare, empowerment, and sustainability.

The Minister of Social Development also touched upon the pillars of the plan, which aim to enhance institutional integration and expand the scope of partnership with various sectors. The plan seeks to align social programs and initiatives with national priorities and developmental plans, alongside developing social services and programs and raising their efficiency. This contributes to consolidating the values of social justice and community solidarity, as well as enhancing family stability and social cohesion.

Within the framework of following up on regulatory issues related to organising the urban environment, the Council was briefed on

a presentation by Muscat Municipality regarding the regulatory framework for the governance of the municipality’s competencies concerning lease contracts and commercial activity licenses in residential buildings.

This aims to enhance the efficiency of urban regulation and preserve the residential character of neighbourhoods, thereby striking a balance between public interest requirements and the rights of commercial activity owners.

The presentation included a review of the legal and regulatory foundations of the proposed framework and the motives that necessitated establishing clear controls for exercising this competency. This takes into consideration the potential impacts that some commercial activities may have on public tranquility, safety, health, and the environment, along with regulatory procedures that ensure fairness and transparency. - **ONA**

DURING 2025

290,918 passports issued in Oman

MUSCAT: Statistical data issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) showed that 81,630 new Omani identity cards were issued and as many as 290,918 new and renewed Omani passports were processed during 2025. A total of 42,354 identity cards were issued for males and 39,276 were issued for females.

North Al Batinah Governorate topped the list of governorates in terms of number of new personal identity cards issued (a total of 18,597), followed by Muscat (14,726), Al Dakhiliyah (10,661) and Al Wusta (547). Muscat Governorate saw the largest number of passports processed (a total of 76,484 passports), followed by North Al Bati-

nah Governorate (56,111 passports), Al Dakhiliyah Governorate (33,616 passports) and Al Wusta Governorate (1,797 passports). Data points to a steady decline in the number of passports issued over the past three years. The total number of passports in 2023 stood at 431,211. The number went down to 310,913 in 2024 and dropped to 290,918 in 2025. - **ONA**

Tender Notice

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

Tender No.	Description of Project	Eligibility	Tender Fee (RO)	Last Date of Distribution of Tender Documents	Bid Submission Date
OWW/T/10023/2026	Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Operational Support of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Systems (AQMS)	Local Companies registered with Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority specialized in the works mentioned	R.O 50/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	14/07/2026	28/07/2026
OW/T/10016/2026	Supply, Installation and Testing of Internal Lining System in Barka Reservoirs (1,2,3 & 4)	Local Companies registered with Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority specialized in the works mentioned	R.O 1000/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	14/07/2026	28/07/2026
OW/T/10019/2026	Construct new pipeline 800 mm in Barka Wilayat in South Al Batinah Governorate	Local Companies registered with Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority specialized in the works mentioned	R.O 250/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	14/07/2026	28/07/2026
OW/T/10022/2026	Transporting (273 M3 per day) of drinking water from Al Sahmi TFS in Saham to Wadi Al Maghar & Ad Dawhiher villages in Wilayat Al Khaboora in AL Batinah North	Local Companies registered with Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority specialized in the works mentioned	50/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	14/07/2026	28/07/2026
OW/T/10023/2026	Transporting (272 to 300 m³/daily) of drinking water from Mowailh Main TFS to Wadi Al-Bidi Tanks in Sohar in North Batinah Governorate	Local Companies registered with Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority specialized in the works mentioned	50/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	14/07/2026	28/07/2026
OW/T/10024/2026	Transporting (183 M3 per day) of drinking water from AL Mawalin TFS in Sohar to Al khad village in Wilayat Sohar in AL Batinah North quantities	Local Companies registered with Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority specialized in the works mentioned	100/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	14/07/2026	28/07/2026
OW/T/10025/2026	Transporting (200–250 m³ per day) of drinking water from the Al Sahmi TFS in Saham and the Al Sarhat Tanker Filling Station in Al Khabourah to Khadra Al Makatim, Siklat, Al Qalla, and Al Safaa in Wilayat Al Khabourah, Al Batinah North Governorate.	Local Companies registered with Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority specialized in the works mentioned	100/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	14/07/2026	28/07/2026
OW/T/10026/2026	Asphalt Works for Access Road to Mahdha Reservoir in Wilayat Mahdha	Local Companies registered with Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority specialized in the works mentioned	R.O 50/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	14/07/2026	28/07/2026
OWW/T/10029/2026	Construction of Lagoon at Niyabat Hafeet in Al Buraimi	Local Companies registered with Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority specialized in the works mentioned	R.O 50/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	14/07/2026	28/07/2026

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



Recall



Recall Date: 30 June 2026

RECALL CAMPAIGN FOR MITSUBISHI MONTERO

Brand of Commodity
Montero

Year of Production
2024

Number of Affected Commodities
39

Recall consequence

There is a possibility that the automatic transmission oil cooler tube could interfere with the engine oil filter bracket due to the incorrect shape of the tube. This interference may cause the tube to be damaged and result in an oil leak.

Recall Action

Replace the automatic transmission oil cooler tube.



To verify the serial number of the goods, those affected please visit the recalls website and earnings by scanning the response code



For more information, please call 24 500 500 or 24 500 502 from Sunday to Thursday between 08:00 am to 17:30 pm.

Consumer Protection Authority

IN PARIS

HM The Sultan visits UNESCO headquarters

Paris: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik visited the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in the French capital, Paris yesterday, as part of His Majesty's official visit to the French Republic.

Upon His Majesty's arrival at the Organization's headquarters, he was received by Dr. Khaled El-Enany, Director-General of UNESCO; Dr. Madiha bint Ahmed Al Shaibani, Minister of Education; Amina bint Salem Al Balushi, Oman's Permanent Delegate to the UNESCO; and a number of senior officials of the Organization, who welcomed His Majesty and conveyed their profound honour at receiving this gracious visit.

Subsequently, His Majesty viewed the "Oman and UNESCO" exhibition, which showcases the enduring collaboration between the Sultanate of Oman and the Organization, together with the notable achievements realised in the fields of culture, education and heritage.

His Majesty then proceeded to the Organization's main hall, where the Director-General of UNESCO delivered an address of welcome, expressing his great delight and pride at His Majesty's visit and commending the civilisational and cultural role that the Sultanate of Oman plays in advancing the values of dialogue and mutual understanding among nations.

Following this, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik graciously delivered the following address:

"Your Excellency the Director-General of UNESCO,

Your Excellency the President of the Executive Board, Distinguished gathering

Peace, mercy and blessings of Allah be upon you.

It is our great honour to convey our sincere gratitude for the gracious welcome extended to us here at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and for the heartfelt sentiments expressed by His Excellency the Director-General in his address —



sentiments that eloquently attest to the depth of the historical ties binding the Sultanate of Oman and UNESCO.

We deem it a great honour to stand today within these venerable halls of an Organization that, throughout its illustrious history, has stood as one of the foremost pillars of global peace and a bridge-builder between civilisations, in faithful pursuit of its noble mission to serve all of humanity across the diverse domains of its endeavour.

This visit embodies the abiding approach of the Sultanate of Oman in upholding the international system, reinforcing the Organization's role in advancing shared human principles and values, affirming strategic partnership with the international community in promoting intercultural dialogue, entrenching a culture of understanding and coexistence, and advancing the pathways of sustainable development in service of the stability and prosperity of nations.

The Sultanate of Oman has steadfastly contributed to supporting UNESCO's mission and objectives since its accession to the Organization in 1972, guided by its conviction that the safeguarding of heritage, the advancement of knowledge, and investment in human capital are fundamental pillars for building the future. This commitment is reflected in our nation's preservation of its civilisational legacy, the inscription of a number of its cultural and natural sites on the World Heritage List, and the inclusion of several Omani personalities and historical events in the programme commemorating the 50th or 100th anniversaries of globally influential figures and events — a testament to the contribution of Omani civilisation to the human journey.

In furtherance of the Sultanate of Oman's dedication to safeguarding living heritage as a shared human memory and a bridge for dialogue and understanding among peoples, we are pleased to announce today the launch of the "UNESCO-Sultan Haitham Prize for Intangible Cultural Heritage," which will honour the efforts of institutions, organizations, centres, scientific and cultural institutes, and governmental and non-governmental bodies working in the field of intangible cultural heritage. This initiative builds upon our continued support for environmental conservation efforts, scientific research, and the advancement of

knowledge through the hosting of UNESCO-affiliated Chairs.

We further affirm the pivotal role of UNESCO in leading global efforts to achieve quality and inclusive education, empowering youth to contribute actively to development, entrenching the values of dialogue and understanding, encouraging their creative initiatives, and strengthening their role in leading community action.

In a world witnessing rapid and far-reaching transformations, the policies of the Sultanate of Oman align with UNESCO's efforts to establish ethical frameworks for artificial intelligence that safeguard human rights and dignity in the digital age, while simultaneously promoting media and information literacy to build more aware and cohesive societies.

The Sultanate of Oman firmly believes that addressing climate change is a collective responsibility requiring effective international partnerships and innovative solutions that balance development needs with environmental protection. Guided by this approach, our nation continues its efforts to achieve carbon neutrality through the expansion of renewable energy and green hydrogen projects, enhancing resource efficiency,

and supporting innovation in clean technologies.

Strengthening coexistence among religions and cultures has become a strategic imperative for achieving international security and peace. From this perspective, entrenching a culture of mutual respect, acceptance of the other, tolerance, openness to human diversity, and dialogue assumes central importance as the optimal path towards building a more stable and humane world — one governed by justice, where coexistence flourishes, and the values of sustainable peace are firmly rooted.

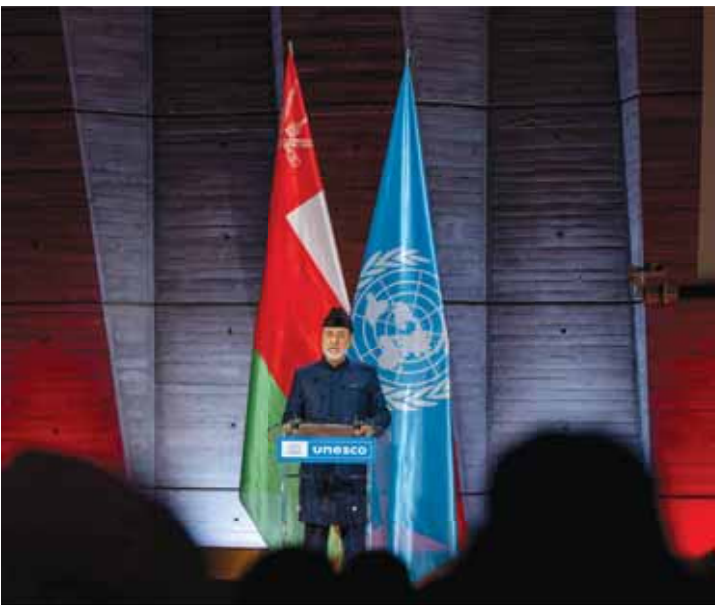
As we follow with keen interest the efforts of UNESCO in advancing its institutional performance, and enhancing its efficiency and effectiveness, we commend its ongoing endeavours in support of its core priorities that touch the present and future of humanity. We reaffirm the Sultanate of Oman's unwavering commitment to supporting UNESCO's noble mission, which aligns with Oman Vision 2040, and to working alongside the international community to strengthen the Organization's pivotal role in the fields of education, science, culture, and communication, thereby contributing to the consolidation of the foundations

of sustainable peace, the advancement of the values of tolerance and understanding, and the support of development and human prosperity in a more balanced, just, and stable world.

We express our profound pride in this esteemed international Organization, and extend our gratitude to His Excellency the Director-General and all those who work within it for their dedicated efforts in serving humanity. We wish the Organization continued success in fulfilling its mission and in sustaining its contributions to building a brighter future for all humanity."

Subsequently, His Majesty the Sultan graciously inscribed his signature in the Distinguished Visitors' Book at the Organization, conveying his sincere appreciation for the remarkable endeavours undertaken by the Organization in fostering the values of education, advancing learning, and safeguarding the world's cultural heritage.

At the conclusion of the visit, a commemorative gift was presented to His Majesty the Sultan. His Majesty, in turn, graciously bestowed upon the Organization a commemorative gift in the form of a replica of the Shabab Oman Vessel. - ONA





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For Test Drives & Bookings



Muscat
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90927420

OMAN OIL PRICE RISES
The price of Oman crude oil has increased, with prices for delivery by August 2026 reaching \$66.69. The price of Oman crude oil rose by \$2.21 from the price of Friday, which was \$64.48. -ONA

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER
The MSX index closed at 7466.71 points, up by 0.87% from previous close. The Shariah Index ended up by 0.47% at 592.69 points. Sharqiyah Desalination, up 8.75%, was the top gainer while, Al Suwadi Power, down 2.06%, was the top loser.

Oman LNG celebrates first cargo shipment aboard Muscat carrier

The deployment of Muscat LNG represents a strategic addition to Oman's LNG export capabilities and highlights continued national collaboration across the energy, maritime, and logistics sectors



MUSCAT: Oman LNG on Monday marked a significant milestone with the arrival and loading of the LNG carrier Muscat LNG, as the vessel departs with its first LNG cargo from Oman to international markets, reinforcing the Sultanate of Oman's role as a reliable global energy supplier.

The deployment of Muscat LNG, owned by Asyad Shipping, represents a strategic addition to Oman's LNG export capabilities and highlights continued national collaboration across the energy, maritime, and logistics sectors.

This milestone follows the recent naming of Muscat LNG, one of the latest LNG carriers built to the highest international standards of operational efficiency, safety, and environmental performance. The vessel is equipped with advanced dual-fuel propulsion systems and next-generation technologies aimed at reducing emissions and enhancing fuel efficiency, aligning with global energy transition goals.

The first cargo voyage underscores Oman LNG's commitment to delivering energy responsibly and reliably to global markets, while supporting the Sultanate's ambitions under Oman Vision 2040 to strengthen its position as a key player in energy supply chains and maritime logistics.

Commenting on this milestone, Hamad Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Chief Executive Officer of Oman LNG, said: "This first shipment aboard Muscat LNG marks an important milestone in our journey to continuously enhance Oman's LNG export capabilities. It reflects our strong collaboration with national partners, including Asyad Shipping, and our shared commitment to operational excellence, sustainability, and delivering reliable energy to the world." The successful deployment of Muscat LNG further demonstrates the strength of Oman's integrated energy ecosystem and its ability to adapt to evolving global energy demands, while advancing sustainable and efficient maritime transport solutions.

Oman LNG is a joint venture established in 1994 and is one of the Sultanate's flagship energy companies, producing and delivering liquefied natural gas (LNG) to global markets. The company plays a pivotal role in supporting Oman's economic diversification and energy sector development. The arrival of Muscat LNG marks the first of two LNG carriers expected at the Oman LNG terminal, with the second vessel scheduled to berth in July. These milestones underscore Oman's commitment to strengthening its integrated energy value chain by expanding national capabilities across LNG production, maritime transportation, and global delivery, supporting the objectives of Oman Vision 2040 to maximize value creation and reinforce the Sultanate's position as a leading energy and logistics hub. -ONA

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN

Oman's central bank issues treasury bills worth OMR69.5mn



MUSCAT: Oman's central bank raised OMR69.5 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Monday. The value of the allotted treasury bills include OMR38.5 million, for a maturity period of 91 days. The average accepted price reached OMR99.034 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR99.030 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 3.87347% and 3.91124%, respectively. Additionally, treasury bills amounting to OMR31 million, for a maturity period of 182 days was also issued.

The average accepted price reached OMR98.063 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR98.060 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 3.88403% and 3.96074%, 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 per cent 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

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Campaign Period: 1st May '26 to 12th July '26 on Lincoln models Nautilus, Navigator, Aviator and Corsair. Benefits applicable for all purchases except Government Organizations & Ministries, taxi, rent-a-car, driving school usage, companies or any form of commercial usage. **5 Years / 100,000 Kms covering 10 services at 10,000 Kms service interval based on normal operating conditions for Nautilus, Navigator, Aviator and Corsair.*** Complimentary 1 year Registration on all above models Nautilus, Navigator, Aviator and Corsair for private vehicles only. @ 5 Years / 100,000 Kms (whichever is earlier) Manufacturer's Warranty on Nautilus, Navigator, Aviator and Corsair. *Complimentary Accessories on Nautilus, Navigator, Aviator and Corsair. \$ Assured gift 3M Golden 7 Pack exclusive coverage on Nautilus, Navigator, Aviator and Corsair. This package includes 3M Color Stable Tint film (5Yr warranty), 3M Exterior Ceramic protection + 3M Door edges PPF + 5Y Mirror PPF + 3M Door handle cavity PPF. # Test Drive and Win (Raffle Draw) - One iPhone 17 on Nautilus, Navigator, Aviator and Corsair. ## Raffle Draw (Buy & Win) - 2 iPhone 17 on purchase of Nautilus, Navigator, Aviator and Corsair. Both raffle draws will be conducted on 12th August 2026. Vehicles may include dealer-installed items. For further details & to ascertain availability of stocks, please visit your nearest Lincoln showroom. Pictures and colours shown above are for illustrative purposes only.

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MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Sharqiyah Desalination, up 8.75%, was the top gainer while, Al Suwadi Power, down 2.06%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 7,466.71 points, up by 0.87% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.47% at 592.69 points. Sharqiyah Desalination, up 8.75%, was the top gainer while, Al Suwadi Power, down 2.06%, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded while Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 9743 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 53.52 million, with more than 181.71 million shares changing hands. Out of 68 traded securities, 32 advanced, 14 declined, and 22 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for RO 757K while foreign investors were net buyers for RO 383K, followed by domestic investors for RO 373K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 12,951.59 points, up 0.09%. Prices of Al Anwar Investment, Oman

United Insurance, Taageer Finance, Muscat Finance, Bank Dhofar were up by 3.66%, 2.77%, 2.56%, 1.52%, 0.99% respectively. Prices of Oman & Emirates Investment, Oman Arab Bank, Bank Nizwa, Al Omaniya Financial Services, DIDIC were down by 1.85%, 1.68%, 0.74%, 0.64%, 0.33% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 9,650.06 points, up 0.54%. Prices of Salalah Mills, Galfar Engineering, Raysut Cement, Al Maha Ceramics, Jazeera Steel Products were up by 8.33%, 7.98%, 4.97%, 3.70%, 1.46% respectively. Prices of Oman Packaging, Oman Flour Mills, Dhofar Cattle Feed were down by 2.01%, 0.54%, 0.51% respectively.

Services Index was up by 1.35% before closing at 3,045.00 points. Prices of Sharqiyah Desalination, SMN Power Holding, Phoenix Power, Al Maha Marketing, Oman Telecom were up by 8.75%, 6.70%, 5.37%, 4.35%, 3.99% respectively. Prices of Al Batinah Power, Ooredoo were down by 1.03%, 0.62% respectively— **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	7,466.88	7,409.93	7,466.71	7,402.65	64.06	0.87 %
FINANCIAL INDEX	12,967.70	12,905.48	12,951.59	12,939.77	11.82	0.09 %
Industry Index	9,654.86	9,597.77	9,650.06	9,597.77	52.29	0.54 %
Services Index	3,053.71	3,008.63	3,045.00	3,004.41	40.59	1.35 %
MSX Shariah Index	593.37	580.13	592.69	588.95	3.77	0.47 %
MSX TR INDEX	11,554.49	11,461.75	11,549.59	11,450.50	99.09	0.87 %
FINANCIAL TR IDX	15,911.18	15,834.83	15,891.40	15,876.90	14.50	0.09 %
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	12,365.42	12,292.30	12,359.27	12,292.30	66.97	0.54 %
SERVICES TR IDX	4,091.39	4,030.99	4,079.72	4,025.35	54.38	1.35 %
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
181,714,025	53,515,851	9,743	36,628,877,089	32	14	22	68

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, JUNE 29

SN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PUR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	50,797	9,908	15	0.195	0.207	0.194	0.207	0.194	0.013	6.701	0.207	0.194	0.204	0.100	41,324,569
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	484,265	122,136	67	0.242	0.255	0.242	0.255	0.242	0.013	5.372	0.255	0.255	0.266	0.100	372,963,372
OM0000003000	AI MAHA PETROLEUM PRODS MKRTNG	10,899	12,743	12	1.148	1.200	1.148	1.200	1.150	0.050	4.348	1.200	1.200	1.200	0.100	82,800,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	1,808,007	2,428,348	344	1.810	1.365	1.305	1.357	1.305	0.052	3.985	1.357	1.357	1.175	0.100	1,017,750,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	577,890	97,861	34	0.188	0.171	0.186	0.170	0.184	0.006	3.659	0.170	0.170	0.170	0.100	50,753,998
OM0000001097	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	458,117	150,119	13	0.330	0.335	0.325	0.334	0.325	0.009	2.769	0.334	0.325	0.334	0.100	35,070,000
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	9,375,379	3,637,648	227	0.381	0.394	0.379	0.389	0.380	0.009	2.368	0.389	0.388	0.389	0.100	299,607,800
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	269,844	234,005	473	0.828	0.835	0.828	0.835	0.823	0.012	1.458	0.835	0.830	0.835	0.100	104,288,797
OM0000009072	QO GAS NETWORKS	30,888,022	6,767,161	1,826	0.219	0.221	0.218	0.220	0.217	0.003	1.382	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.100	952,737,262
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	157,340	32,231	159	0.205	0.205	0.201	0.205	0.203	0.002	0.985	0.205	0.201	0.205	0.100	623,158,699
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	143,741	79,118	27	0.550	0.555	0.550	0.555	0.550	0.005	0.909	0.555	0.555	0.553	0.100	183,634,354
OM00000009759	QO EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	10,282,051	4,567,139	1,282	0.443	0.447	0.443	0.447	0.443	0.004	0.903	0.447	0.447	0.447	0.010	3,576,000,000
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	28,841	3,464	7	0.120	0.121	0.120	0.121	0.120	0.001	0.833	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.100	21,175,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	6,061,800	3,000,540	5	0.500	0.500	0.495	0.499	0.495	0.004	0.808	0.499	0.495	0.499	0.100	811,347,231
OM00000010120	ASYAD SHIPPING	930,200	262,072	469	0.284	0.284	0.279	0.282	0.280	0.002	0.714	0.282	0.252	0.282	0.000	1,468,865,887
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	1,478,542	258,782	45	0.175	0.177	0.175	0.176	0.175	0.001	0.571	0.176	0.170	0.180	0.010	176,000,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	38,050,723	15,429,153	1,443	0.408	0.410	0.404	0.409	0.407	0.002	0.491	0.409	0.410	0.409	0.100	3,070,116,398
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	5,600	18,086	52	3.230	3.235	3.225	3.225	3.220	0.005	0.155	3.235	3.235	3.235	0.100	289,282,500
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	3,479	1,440	6	0.414	0.414	0.414	0.414	0.414	0.000	0.000	0.414	0.414	0.455	0.100	20,841,744
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO.	378,887	38,706	28	0.101	0.104	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.000	0.000	0.101	0.101	0.104	0.100	0,900,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	16,865	5,206	5	0.308	0.309	0.308	0.309	0.309	0.000	0.000	0.309	0.307	0.309	0.100	73,050,690
OM00000002398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	42,846,143	8,236,638	1,282	0.193	0.194	0.191	0.193	0.193	0.000	0.000	0.193	0.193	0.193	0.100	1,277,128,530
OM0000004735	SEMDORIB SALALAH	20,272	5,264	9	0.258	0.260	0.258	0.258	0.258	0.000	0.000	0.258	0.258	0.271	0.100	246,879,563
OM0000009938	QO BASE INDUSTRIES (SPT)	25,596,339	6,196,976	1,184	0.243	0.244	0.241	0.242	0.242	0.000	0.000	0.242	0.218	0.242	0.040	837,198,796
OM00000001215	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	85,823	28,765	9	0.301	0.301	0.295	0.300	0.301	0.001	0.332	0.300	0.290	0.303	0.100	60,000,000
OM0000001509	DHOFAR INTL DEVELOPMENT & INVEST	100,415	29,308	16	0.290	0.298	0.290	0.298	0.299	0.001	0.334	0.298	0.290	0.295	0.100	147,824,730
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	12,698	4,126	10	0.325	0.327	0.323	0.323	0.325	0.002	0.615	0.327	0.327	0.327	0.100	210,254,986
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FINANCIAL SERVICES	50,000	7,750	2	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.001	0.641	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.100	48,889,635
OM00000004420	BANK NIZWA	2,855,659	385,970	107	0.137	0.137	0.135	0.135	0.136	0.001	0.735	0.135	0.135	0.136	0.100	301,988,659
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	13,000	2,496	2	0.192	0.192	0.192	0.192	0.194	0.002	1.031	0.192	0.190	0.202	0.100	128,578,387
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	225,630	35,841	32	0.162	0.162	0.156	0.159	0.162	0.003	1.852	0.159	0.157	0.159	0.100	19,378,125
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	142,809	27,172	14	0.194	0.194	0.190	0.190	0.194	0.004	2.062	0.190	0.190	0.194	0.100	135,737,205
Total		32			173,420,846	52,106,163	0.186									

Parallel Market

OM0000004669	SHARQIYAH DESALINATION	3,040	529	4	0.175	0.175	0.170	0.174	0.160	0.014	8.750	0.174	0.160	0.174	0.100	17,017,576
OM0000001889	SALALAH MILLS	2,466	1,595	3	0.625	0.650	0.625	0.650	0.600	0.050	8.333	0.650	0.640	0.000	0.100	40,600,992
OM0000003821	GALFAR ENG & CONTRACTING	1,004,682	175,939	58	0.183	0.179	0.183	0.176	0.183	0.013	7.975	0.176	0.176	0.179	0.100	35,725,614
OM0000005205	ALMAHA CERAMICS	247,281	67,847	14	0.268	0.280	0.268	0.280	0.270	0.010	3.704	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.100	15,400,000
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	6,000	558	2	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.090	0.003	3.333	0.093	0.090	0.099	0.100	14,466,187
OM0000003281	TAAGEER FINANCE	55,000	6,550	4	0.119	0.120	0.119	0.120	0.117	0.003	2.564	0.120	0.106	0.119	0.100	34,042,894
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	100,000	6,700	4	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.066	0.001	1.515	0.067	0.066	0.072	0.100	20,578,874
OM0000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	7,600	1,582	3	0.208	0.210	0.208	0.210	0.208	0.002	0.962	0.210	0.210	0.000	0.100	3,886,018
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	314,460	35,430	34	0.111	0.114	0.111	0.112	0.111	0.001	0.901	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.100	9,520,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	1,592,271	238,826	75	0.150	0.150	0.149	0.150	0.149	0.001	0.671	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.100	33,000,000
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	122,881	21,517	15	0.177	0.178	0.175	0.178	0.177	0.001	0.565	0.178	0.177	0.177	0.100	105,275,765
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	52,823	7,835	11	0.148	0.149	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.000	0.000	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.100	4,440,000
OM0000001426	OMAN REFRESHMENT	1,531	1,837	1	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.200	0.000	0.000	1.200	1.200	1.220	0.100	60,000,000
OM0000001896	MUSCAT INSURANCE	2,500	1,455	1	0.582	0.582	0.582	0.582	0.582	0.000	0.000	0.582	0.580	0.600	1.000	5,416,577
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	30,000	990	6	0.033	0.033	0.033	0.033	0.033	0.000	0.000	0.033	0.030	0.033	0.100	2,800,000
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	250	18	1	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.000	0.000	0.072	0.072	0.074	0.100	1,512,000
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	30	23	1	0.772	0.772	0.772	0.772	0.772	0.000	0.000	0.772	0.695	0.772	0.100	73,340,000
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	145,883	11,959	12	0.082	0.082	0.081	0.082	0.082	0.000	0.000	0.082	0.074	0.082	0.100	18,223,680
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	16,362	1,113	3	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.000	0.000	0.068	0.067	0.068	0.100	13,600,000
OM0000009569	JABAL REIF	25,211	2,623	6	0.105	0.105	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.000	0.000	0.104	0.104	0.105	0.100	18,096,000
OM0000001301	DHOFAR FLOORS AND INVESTMENT	2,508,659	491,697	1	0.196	0.196	0.196	0.196	0.197	-0.001	-0.548	0.196	0.196	0.196	0.100	38,744,677
OM0000004010	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	20,500	11,316	4	0.552	0.552	0.552	0.552	0.555	-0.003	-0.541	0.552	0.500	0.588	0.100	9,851,350
OM0000001862	OMAN RETAIL FUND	1,000	400	3	1.000	1.000	1.002	1.000	-0.008	-0.078	-0.992	1.002	1.000	1.000	0.100	2,979,332
OM0000008447	OMAN RETT FUND	252,310	9,269	9	0.108	0.108	0.107	0.108	0.108	0.000	0.000	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.100	89,650,000
OM0000005028	OMAN ARAB BANK	71,000	16,467	212	0.237	0.237	0.234	0.234	0.238	-0.004	-1.981	0.234	0.234	0.236	0.100	48,645,140
OM0000001608	OMAN PACKAGING	2,540	485	2	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.199	-0.004	-2.010	0.195	0.183	0.195	0.100	6,324,993
Total		26	7,225,680	1,284,311	489											



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Contact: **94274470**
Email: azamca7@gmail.com

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Email : shabeer_shaik2000@yahoo.com

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Contact : **92813310**

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

ADMINISTRATION

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

ADMINISTRATION

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

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

ENGINEER

Civil Engineer with 10 yrs GCC experience having valid visa and D/L seeks placement contact : +968 79585378, Email ID: vineeshv35@gmail.com

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

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

IT

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

MANAGER

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

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

PURCHASE/ PROCUREMENT

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

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Eustaquio secures Canada last-16 ticket

The co-hosts edged past South Africa 1-0 in World Cup's first knockout match on Stephen Eustaquio's late goal

INGLEWOOD: A nerry 1-0 win for co-hosts Canada over South Africa at Los Angeles Stadium booked their ticket into the last-16 stage of the FIFA World Cup on Sunday. Right after Canada finished their first knockout match victory in a World Cup, coach Jesse Marsch huddled his players on the grass of a stadium still in pandemonium and spoke from his heart — shouted, actually. “You guys are Canadian heroes today!” Marsch declared. “Canadian heroes for the future children of this country who play this sport. The sport has a big future because of you guys. You should be so proud of who you are. You should be so

proud of this game. You never lost belief. You went after it, point after point, moment after moment. You are Canadian heroes!” Stephen Eustaquio’s dramatic late goal inspired Marsch to Ted Lasso levels of earnestness, and he didn’t care who knew it. Football has never been the main event on Canada’s busy sports calendar, and Les Rouges are playing in only their third World Cup this summer. But Marsch realised this landmark 1-0 win over South Africa on Sunday is the type of achievement that can seize an entire nation’s attention for a generation. “We could have made life a little easier on ourselves if we would



have made a play earlier when we had some big chances,” Marsch said. “But obviously the timing of the goal means the win is incredibly dramatic, and I think the effect it will have in Canada, and the inspiring of people, will be immense.” After 90-plus minutes of frustration and failure to break down cagey South Africa at SoFi Stadium, Canada made history in an instant when Alistair Johnston’s

long pass into the box was cleared directly into the path of Eustaquio. The midfielder who plays professionally at nearby Los Angeles FC coolly chested it down and blasted it off the bounce into the bottom corner of Ronwen Williams’ net before sprinting away to celebrate with Canada’s bench in the second minute of second-half stoppage time. Canada, who sit 30th in the most

recent FIFA world rankings, advanced to face the Netherlands or Morocco in Houston on Saturday. After playing their first three group matches in Toronto and Vancouver, Canada missed the chance to also make this bit of history at home when they lost 2-1 to Switzerland last Wednesday and got sent on the road for the knockout rounds. But Marsch’s plucky team responded by winning this tournament’s first round of 32 match and reaching the round of 16 for the first time in its three trips to the World Cup. After finishing second in their respective groups, both South Africa and Canada were playing for their nations’ first knockout victories at a World Cup when they opened knockout play with the only match of the day. Canada got a boost in the 75th minute when star defender Alphonso Davies came on for his first World Cup action. The playmaking Bayern Munich defender missed group play after injuring his ham-

string last month for the third time this year, but finally returned in the same stadium where he tore a knee ligament in March 2025 in CONCACAF Nations League play. Davies immediately made the best pass of the day to set up Promise David for a golden chance, but the forward hit it wide. The game then bogged down again — but Eustaquio made sure Canada avoided extra time. “Steph is one of the most reliable people on the team, and he understands what we’re trying to achieve as a group, and understands how to manage moments in games, and how to be a leader, a true leader,” Marsch said. “It was good to see him, in that moment, just being in the moment and thinking about the best way to strike the ball to give it the best chance to go in. Really composed and really well-executed.” Williams made five saves for South Africa, who played with remarkable heart while hanging in until the final moments in search of another historic win. - Agencies



I felt that everybody shot with me, says Canada goal scorer



SOUTH AFRICA COACH

‘We look back on World Cup with happiness’



INGLEWOOD: South Africa may be out but they are not down. Bafana Bafana’s exit from the FIFA World Cup 2026 came in cruel circumstances after Stephen Eustaquio secured a last-gasp victory for Canada in their Round of 32 clash on Sunday. Nonetheless, after the team recovered from an opening defeat to Mexico to draw with Czech Republic and then defeat South Korea to reach the knockout stages of the global showpiece for the first time, they are leaving with their heads held high. “It was a difficult game but I knew beforehand [it would be so] because I analysed the opponent. They have two important [traits]: power and speed. We hoped we had an answer for that but it was not always the fact,” South Africa coach Hugo Broos said. “You saw situations in the game that we could not follow and the duels, man against man, we lost sometimes or most of the time. We have to work on power and speed in South Africa. “I don’t have complaints about the mentality but I think we can look back on this tournament with happiness because we got to the second round. I don’t think anybody expected that before the tournament.” South Africa’s performances at the World Cup were even more impressive as it was their first global finals since 2010. “It is sore now because we wanted to win today. It’s a disappointment, it’s very quiet in the dressing room at the moment. But on the other side we have to be honest, we did very well for our first time in the World Cup after 26 years. We achieved the second round.” Aged 74, Broos says he will look back on at the tournament with real fondness. “For me, it was a very nice thing to do as a coach again. We did it very well.” - Agencies

CRITICISED BY PRESIDENT

South Korea coach Hong quits after team’s exit

GUADALUPE: South Korea coach Hong Myung-bo resigned on Sunday after the team’s quick elimination from the World Cup drew harsh condemnation from the country’s president, who called the coach “incapable” and ordered a complete review of the national team programme. South Korea won their opening match against Czech Republic, then lost their next two Group A matches to South Africa and Mexico.



South Korea hoped they would qualify for the next round as one of the third-place teams to advance in this year’s expanded tournament. That ended when Congo defeated Uzbekistan 3-1 on Saturday. The quick exit for a team that expected to advance left the national team programme in turmoil and drew a sharp rebuke from President Lee Jae Myung. He leveled pointed criticism at the coach. “As a former honorary professional football club chairman and, at heart, a member of the Red Devils, I feel not just surprise but deep bewilderment at this unexpected result,” the president said. The president criticised the national team structure and oversight, and the coach’s appointment in the first place. “Once again, it has been proven that personnel decisions determine everything. If loyalty and factionalism are valued over competence and an incapable

person is appointed as a leader, the outcome is as predictable as fire,” the president said. Hong, 57, announced his resignation with an apology to Korean fans before the team left its base camp in Mexico, where South Korea had played all three of its group matches. Hong was in his second stint with the national team. He was the coach at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil when South Korea also failed to advance past the group stage. “To all of the Korean people who love and support our national team, I would like to genuinely apologise. Today, I’d like to announce that I will step down as the national team head coach,” Hong said. “As the head coach, no explanation can supersede the ultimate result. I could not bring the result that our people had expected.

All responsibilities are with me,” Hong said. “Today, I step down as the national team head coach. However, my heart for Korean football will remain the same. I will now support the Korea national team to regain the trust and love of our people.” South Korea are a regular at the World Cup with 11 consecutive appearances, and was a semifinalist when it was co-host of the tournament in 2002. President Lee called for the national Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism to review the national team and its failures. “I sincerely apologise to the public for the deep disappointment caused by this absurd situation. We will move swiftly to reform sports administration to ensure this does not happen again,” Lee said. - Agencies

SALAH SUFFERING HAMSTRING STRAIN

Egypt injury worries mount before Australia clash

SEATTLE: Egypt made history at the FIFA World Cup 2026 by reaching the knockout stages for the first time ever after an impressive, unbeaten group-stage campaign that confirmed their place among the tournament’s elite. Despite the celebratory mood after that unprecedented achievement, concern gripped both Egypt’s squad and supporters after three key players were forced off injured during the 1-1 draw with Iran in their final group-stage match. The first blow came when Nice defender Mohamed Abdelmonem suffered an early injury and left the pitch in tears. His exit shocked fans, especially as it was his first World Cup appearance, having recently returned from a lengthy absence caused by a torn anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in his knee. Things got worse for Egypt as captain Mohamed Salah departed Lumen Field in pain in the 57th minute, having asked the coaching staff to take him off. Finally, team-mate Ahmed Fattouh sustained a serious injury that also forced him out of the match. The Egyptian Football Association subsequently released an official statement, saying: “Scans carried out on Egypt captain Mohamed Salah confirm that he is suffering from a hamstring strain, for which he has begun treatment.” The statement added: “Regard-

Egypt are preparing for their Round of 32 meeting with Australia at Dallas Stadium on July 3, as the Pharaohs look to continue their historic journey

ing Ahmed Fattouh’s injury, he is suffering from a hamstring tear, making it difficult for him to recover in time for the Round of 32 match against Australia at the FIFA World Cup 2026, while Mohamed Abdelmonem has suffered severe ankle bruising and is being readied for the game.” Fattouh’s presence against Australia now appears highly unlikely, leaving the coaching staff, led by Hossam Hassan, needing to ready a suitable replacement. The medical team, meanwhile, are racing against time to get Abdelmonem ready and avoid him being sidelined again so soon after his return. For Mohamed Salah, Egypt hope an intensive rehabilitation programme will be enough to get him on the pitch. Egypt are preparing for their Round of 32 meeting with Australia at Dallas Stadium on July 3, as the Pharaohs look to continue their historic journey at the FIFA World Cup. - Agencies



STEVE CLARKE

Easy decision to stand down after elimination, says Scotland boss

CHARLOTTE: Scotland head coach Steve Clarke said on Sunday that it was an easy decision to step down because he always planned to depart if they did not qualify for the World Cup knock-out stages. The 62-year-old told his players on Saturday night, at their hotel in Charlotte, that he was ending his seven-year reign after it was confirmed that the Scots had failed to get out of a group containing Brazil, Morocco and Haiti. The shock announcement came exactly a month after he signed a new four-year contract that would have incorporated Euro 2028 and the 2030 World Cup. The Scottish Football Association released a statement on its own on YouTube, and the former head coach — heavily criticised in some quarters following back-to-back defeats by Morocco and Brazil — said he was leaving “just because that’s the feel”. “What I wanted to make sure was that when I felt it was time to step away, it was time to step away,” he said. “Signing the contract before [the World Cup] was a case of trying to give a little bit of comfort to the players knowing that we could continue the journey. “I always had in my head that, if we didn’t come out of the group, which is something that we’ve tried to do across three tournaments now, I always had in my head that if that didn’t happen then



it was probably the right time to step away. “Obviously if we’d managed to get that extra point and got out of the group then I’d probably have stayed on and tried to do another tournament.” Asked if it was an easy decision, a philosophical Clarke said: “In some respects it was easy because I already had in my head what I wanted to achieve as a head coach. I’d also ticked all the boxes. “I wanted to go to a major tournament with my country. I did that with the Euros. The first Euros [in 2021] was a little bit not the Euros because it was Covid affected. “The second Euros was great. The tournament didn’t go as we wanted, but getting to Germany was fantastic. My lifelong ambition was to do a World Cup with my country. I’ve done that, so not a bad time to step aside.” - Agencies

SPORTS/WORLD

NZ crush England by 160 runs to seal series win

Skipper Ben Stokes' England career ends with defeat at Trent Bridge on Monday

LONDON: Ben Stokes' storied England career ended in a series defeat by New Zealand, who wrapped up the third and deciding Test on the final day at Trent Bridge in Nottingham on Monday. The day after captain Stokes announced this Test would be his last, England's 160-run loss at Trent Bridge - and a 2-1 series reverse - highlighted the mess they now find themselves in. In the aftermath of the Stokes news on Sunday, England slumped to a self-inflicted 103-4 by the close of day four, leaving their chances of chasing 373 on Monday feeling inevitable. Any sense of a prolonged fight was extinguished in the fourth over of the day when Emilio Gay departed and, crucially, Joe Root was run out by an extraordinary direct hit from Henry Nicholls. Jamie Smith and Gus Atkinson at least staved off humiliation with a battling stand of 75, ended



when Atkinson was out just before lunch. Smith completed only his second half-century in 11 months, but Josh Tongue was the victim of another sublime New Zealand direct hit, this time by Mitchell Santner, before Smith was caught at long-off to leave England 212 all out. It means New Zealand, heavily depleted by injuries, earned a famous series win, only their fourth in this country. The Black Caps were the last visiting team to win a series here, in 2021, and now they are the first tourists to win a series of three or more Tests in this country in 14 years. For Stokes, a four-year captaincy reign ends with his first home defeat, and a 15-year inter-

national career ends with England in chaos. This was their seventh defeat in nine Tests, and extends a run without a series win stretching back to 2024. In a congested calendar, England begin a white-ball series against India on Wednesday, but a swift return to action will not stop questions over whether further management change is required. This was anything but a fitting end to the career of an England great. Stokes has been synonymous with huge moments, a never-say-die attitude and making crowds believe anything is possible. The only thing that seemed possible on Monday was a heavy England loss. Entry to Trent Bridge was

free, yet the ground was only half full, probably because Stokes' involvement in the match was already over and England were all but beaten. England's batting was chaotic on Sunday evening, explained by a desire to put a dent in the target. The recklessness of the fourth evening was made more baffling by the orthodox manner in which England went about their business on Monday. In truth, the game was up 19 deliveries into the day. Gay edged Nathan Smith behind and, four balls later, Root responded to a call for a single from Jamie Smith, only to be left short at the striker's end by Nicholls' sensational sloop and throw from point. England keeper Smith dug in, supported by Surrey teammate Atkinson. The ball skidded, spat and turned, but the eighth-wicket pair survived until Santner skipped one into Atkinson's back pad. Smith lost Jofra Archer after lunch, completed his half-century, then Tongue left himself open to Santner's direct hit. In the next over, Smith holed out. **Brief scores:** New Zealand 438 (Conway 157, Latham 151; Stokes 4-70) & 288-9 decl. (Mitchell 100*, Ravindra 94; Archer 4-53) beat England 354 (Duckett 113, Bethell 74; Smith 4-91) & 212 (Smith 60; Foulkes 3-42). - Agencies

FIRST TEST: DAY FOUR

Roach's 300th wicket headlines West Indies victory over Sri Lanka

NORTH SOUND: Kemar Roach rampaged his way to his 300th Test wicket, Jayden Seales, Shamar Joseph, and Alzarri Joseph all bowled menacing spells, and West Indies blasted Sri Lanka out for 101, completing a behemoth innings-and-217-run victory on the fourth day of the first Test on Sunday. Roach's 300th wicket was the ninth of Sri Lanka's innings, Asitha Fernando's stumps being clattered by a full one speared in from wide of the crease. He was mobbed by team-mates who seemed to take even more delight in his milestone than him, and was later presented a West Indies Test shirt with the No. 300 on it to commemorate the occasion. He is the first West Indies bowler since Curtly Ambrose to the milestone. Among fast bowlers, only Courtney Walsh, Ambrose, and Malcolm Marshall have more wickets for West Indies than him. Sri Lanka were woeful with the bat, playing like a team fatigued from 160.5 overs in the field on days two and three. Dinesh Chandimal was the only batter who managed even some semblance of resistance, batting out 60 balls for his 43. No other batter in the top six managed a double figure score. After Roach opened the day's wicket-taking in the first over, swinging a ball into Nishan Ma-



dushka's pads, Seales struck in his own first over, getting Kasun Rajitha to edge to the cordon. Soon after, Shamar Joseph struck twice, ping-pong Kamindu Mendis' off-stump, before ping-pong Dhananjaya de Silva's front pad to catch him lbw. Alzarri got a ball to leave Kusal Mendis and then, had the next one jag back into Kusal, who had also let the ball hit his off-stump uninterrupted. Sri Lanka went to lunch at 81 for 6 and it only took West Indies 6.1 further overs to remove the remaining batters. Roach struck twice in two overs to get to his 300th, and after some strong words exchanged with Lahiru Kumara and Sonal Dinusha, Seales took the final wicket to complete a stunning victory. **Brief scores:** West Indies 626/9 decl. (Jango 233, Chase 194, Rathnayaka 5-124) beat Sri Lanka 308 (De Silva 120, Chandimal 54, Greaves 3-39) & 101 (Chandimal 43, Roach 4-51, Seales 3-14) by an innings and 217 runs. - Agencies

PLANNED TRANSITION



Wilson replaces Malan as Ireland head coach

BELFAST: Heinrich Malan has stood down as head coach of Ireland's men's cricket team, less than 24 hours after the historic Twenty20 series win over world champions India. He will be replaced by former Ireland international Gary Wilson. Wilson made 292 international appearances as a player and will become the Irish-born head coach

of Ireland's men since John Wills in 1994. The 40-year-old, who retired in 2020, had been an assistant coach with Ireland in 2022. Malan has left as part of what Cricket Ireland says is a "planned transition", and Wilson will be in place for a five-game ODI series with Afghanistan in August. South Africa's Malan, 45, was

in charge of Ireland since 2022 and his final game was a dramatic one-run victory over India to clinch the T20 series on Sunday in Belfast, which followed a first-ever victory over the world champions in any format on Friday. Other highlights of Malan's tenure include victory over England in the T20 World Cup in 2022 in Melbourne and a first-ever

Test victory over Afghanistan two years later. Malan also led Ireland to a first Test win on home soil when they beat Zimbabwe in Belfast in 2024. His contract was set to run into early 2027, and he will work alongside Wilson for a "smooth transition" ahead of the ODI series with Afghanistan. - Agencies

More than 1,300 deaths linked to Europe heatwave, WHO says

Right now 150 million people are living under extreme heat, hundreds have died, schools are shut, grids are buckling," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said



GENEVA: More than 1,300 excess deaths have been recorded across Europe since June 21 linked to high temperatures, World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on social media platform X. "Right now 150 million people are living under extreme heat, hundreds have died, schools are shut, grids are buckling," Tedros said on X. He warned that "heat stress is often called the 'silent killer' - and European homes, workplaces and schools were not built for these temperatures". Europe is the fastest-warming continent on Earth, heating at twice the global average, Tedros noted. "Driven by climate change and global warming, the phenomenon of the 'once-in-a-generation' heatwave is now occurring" nearly annually, he said. The WHO is working with its members and partners to ad-

dress the health threats posed by extreme heat through focusing on preparedness, prevention and stronger health system responses. Tedros called on European countries to "implement heat health action plans" as part of the broader agenda to protect health against climate change. Separately, the WHO has published practical tips for keeping cool during extreme heat on its website. The guidance recommends staying out of the heat by avoiding outdoor activity during the hottest time of day, staying in the shade, and spending two to three hours daily in a cool place. To keep homes cool, the WHO advises using night air to cool down homes after dark, closing windows and covering them with blinds during the day when outdoor temperatures are higher than indoors, and turning off as many electrical devices as possible. The guidance also warns that

electric fans should only be used when temperatures are below 40 degrees Celsius -- in temperatures above 40 degrees Celsius, fans will heat the body. If using air conditioning, the WHO recommends setting the thermostat to 27 degrees Celsius and turning on an electric fan, which will make the room feel 4 degrees Celsius cooler and can save up to 70 percent on electricity bills for cooling. To keep the body cool and hydrated, the WHO suggests wearing light and loose-fitting clothing, taking cool showers, wetting skin with a damp cloth or spray, and drinking water regularly -- at least one cup per hour and two to three litres per day. The guidance also emphasises checking in regularly with vulnerable people, especially those over 65 and those with heart, lung or kidney conditions, disabilities, or living alone. The WHO also warns people

never to leave children or animals in parked vehicles, to avoid direct sun exposure during peak hours, and never to cover an infant stroller with dry fabric -- which makes it hotter inside -- but instead use a wet, thin cloth and re-wet as necessary. **Germany logs yet another heat record at 41.7 C** For the third consecutive day, the DWD German Weather Service has reported a record temperature measurement. Sunday's new high mark was recorded in the small rural settlement of Coschen in Brandenburg. The hottest temperatures have moved east in recent days and now sit over states like Brandenburg and Saxony. The provisional measurement, which is still subject to a check from the DWD, stood at 41.7 degrees Celsius, or just over 107 degrees Fahrenheit. On Saturday, a reading of 41.5 degrees Celsius was recorded in



Drewitz in Saxony-Anhalt, and that figure was matched again on Sunday in Bad Muskau in Saxony on the Polish border. On Friday, the first provisional record temperature, 41.3 degrees Celsius in the western city of Saarbrücken, kicked off the wave of new entries. **Leipzig halts trams after heat melts asphalt** No trams will run in Germany's eastern city of Leipzig until early on Monday morning. The soaring temperatures have melted asphalt and otherwise damaged the tracks and points in multiple locations around the city. The Leipzig Transport Authority (LVB) initially suspended services until late on Saturday night, but subsequently extended the stoppage throughout the weekend. The heat has caused the joint sealant for asphalt and concrete in points and tracks to run and clump

together. The company said it was not currently safe for trains to operate. Buses were still running largely according to schedule in the city of well over half a million people southwest of Berlin. From Denmark to Switzerland and the Czech Republic, national records have been broken across Europe on Saturday as the continent continues to swelter in a heatwave. In Denmark, the Danish Meteorological Institute reported a new record of 37 degrees Celsius (98.6 degrees Fahrenheit) in Odum, north of the country's second-largest city Aarhus -- the warmest day since records began in 1874. In Switzerland, a record of 38.8 C was chalked in Basel, where the borders of Switzerland, France, and Germany meet. In the Czech Republic, Dok-sany, north of Prague, hit 40.6 degrees Celsius, the highest temperature recorded in the country. - Agencies



Omani companies target global buyers at Tanzania trade fair

The exhibition serves as a strategic platform to engage with investors from around the world, particularly from East Africa, while showcasing Oman’s investment environment and the advanced infrastructure, logistics, and operational services available across Madayn’s industrial cities

DAR ES SALAAM: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the supervisory team for promoting Omani products “OPEX”, has commenced its participation in the Golden Jubilee edition of the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair “SabaSaba 2026” in Tanzania. The exhibition brings together 3,891 exhibitors from more than 23 countries, including over 430 international participants. The Sultanate of Oman’s pavilion features 24 companies and entities from both the public and private sectors, representing a diverse range of industrial, commercial and service sectors that highlight the strength and variety of Oman’s production base. The event serves as a strategic platform for national companies to display their prod-

ucts and services to global investors and importers. Dr. Rashid Al Alawi, Director of Investment at the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn), stated that the participation is part of the OPEX team’s ongoing efforts to support and empower Omani companies by providing opportunities to participate in international exhibitions and expand their presence in regional and international markets. “Madayn’s participation in international economic events extends beyond promoting investment opportunities within its industrial cities to highlighting the success stories of its localised companies, and showcasing the integrated services and investment incentives Madayn offers,”



Al Alawi noted. He added that the exhibition serves as a strategic platform to engage with investors from around the world, particularly from East Africa, while showcasing Oman’s investment environment and the advanced infrastructure, logistics, and operational services available across Madayn’s industrial cities. “Participation in such events directly supports efforts to enhance industrial investment, broaden the investor base, and contribute to national economic development in line with Oman Vision 2040.” Saleh Al Balushi, Director of the CEO’s Office at Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), said that OCCI’s participation as part of the OPEX team reflects its continued efforts to strengthen the

presence of Oman’s private sector in regional and international markets and create new avenues for trade and investment cooperation with East African countries. “The OCCI’s presence within the Omani pavilion demonstrates its commitment to supporting Omani companies by enabling them to explore promising investment and commercial opportunities and establish strategic partnerships that contribute to increasing Omani exports and enhancing the competitiveness of national products in overseas markets,” Al Balushi pointed out. He added, “SabaSaba is one of East Africa’s leading trade exhibitions, providing a vital platform for direct engagement with investors and business leaders,

and for gaining valuable insights into the requirements of target markets. These efforts contribute to strengthening economic and trade ties between the Sultanate of Oman, the United Republic of Tanzania, and the neighbouring countries.” Madyan Al Balushi, Head of Export Development at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, highlighted the event’s significance in strengthening trade and investment ties with East African nations. “This is a key opportunity to promote Oman’s attractive investment environment and its advanced logistics and industrial capabilities. Our focus is on demonstrating the quality, standard compliance, and competitive packaging of Omani prod-

ucts, while supporting the SMEs in building sustainable commercial partnerships,” he stated, noting that the OPEX team model is a testament to institutional integration in supporting exports, strengthening the competitiveness of Omani products, and reinforcing Oman’s position as a regional industrial, commercial, and logistics hub. Khalfan Al Khatri, Assistant Director of Marketing and Events Department at the SMEs Development Authority “Riyada”, emphasised that the participation supports national efforts to strengthen the international presence of Omani products and services while creating new export opportunities for the SMEs. “Riyada prioritises supporting SMEs in international exhibitions, as these are strategic platforms for entrepreneurs to promote their services and identify market requirements. The SabaSaba fair provides a promising gateway for Omani SMEs to explore the African market, find new partners and distributors, and scale their businesses. Moreover, Riyada remains committed to working with its partners to provide SMEs with the support and opportunities needed to expand into international markets, helping Omani products reach global markets while advancing Oman’s economic diversification agenda and boosting non-oil exports,” Al Khatri elaborated. -ONA

URBAN TRANSPORT

Shura Committee reviews Mwasalat plans to ease traffic congestion in Muscat

MUSCAT: The Services and Public Utilities Committee of the Shura Council hosted Eng. Badr Mohammed Al Nadabi, Chief Executive Officer of the National Transport Company of Oman (Mwasalat), as part of its study on reducing traffic congestion in Muscat Governorate through the development of a sustainable urban transport system. The meeting, chaired by Dr. Hamoud Ahmed Al Yahyai, reviewed the progress of the Public Transport Strategy 2040 and the implementation of the Bus Transport Strategic Plan (2015–2040), along with the master plan for public transport stations across the Sultanate of Oman. Al Nadabi outlined Mwasalat’s expansion plans to strengthen connectivity between the wilayats and governorates of Muscat and reduce traffic congestion. He also reviewed the destinations currently served by the company’s public transport network. The committee was informed that Mwasalat has transported more than 74 million passengers since 2015. The network currently includes 930 bus stops on city routes and 450 stops on intercity routes. The presentation also compared the strategic plan’s targets with achievements made during the short- and medium-term implementation phases for urban, intercity and international bus services.

Al Nadabi highlighted several projects being coordinated with the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology to improve traffic flow and enhance public transport services. He also outlined smart initiatives aimed at increasing operational efficiency, promoting environmental sustainability and encouraging greater use of public transport instead of private vehicles. The meeting reviewed operational challenges facing the company, including delays in implementing dedicated bus and emergency lanes, the absence of bus signal priority at traffic intersections, the need to redesign traffic signals and provide bus bays, and the misuse of bus stops by private vehicles. Committee members stressed the importance of improving public transport services, developing future transport stations as integrated mobility hubs, strengthening public awareness campaigns, and enhancing coordination among relevant authorities to deliver sustainable solutions to Muscat’s traffic congestion. The committee noted that it has held a series of consultations with relevant stakeholders and will continue its study to formulate practical recommendations aimed at improving public transport services and easing congestion across Muscat Governorate.

MEETINGS

Oman hosts GCC talks on electrical and renewable energy standards

MUSCAT: The deliberations of three specialised Gulf technical committees commenced on Monday in Muscat, hosted by the Sultanate of Oman and running until 2 July. These committees are tasked with the development and harmonisation of standardisation specifications for the electrical, electronics, and renewable energy sectors. This hosting initiative underscores Oman’s pivotal role in supporting the Gulf standardisation ecosystem and enhancing technical integration among the GCC countries. These meetings come at a time of rapid transformation within the electrical and renewable energy sectors, driven by the global shift toward a green economy and the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Consequently, the continuous updating of standardisation specifications has become imperative to enhance product safety, improve energy efficiency, foster innovation, and bolster consumer and investor confidence. The meetings encompass the work of the Gulf Technical Committee for Electrical and Electronic Specifications (TC03), the Gulf Technical Committee for Specifications of Electrical Power Generation, Transmission, and Distribution Equipment (TC09), and the Gulf Technical Committee for Renewable Energy and Energy Storage Systems (TC13). Participating delegations include representatives from the



GCC member states and the Republic of Yemen, alongside specialists from the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, Nama Electricity Distribution Company, the Electricity Distribution Code Review Council, and a number of private-sector enterprises operating in these fields. During their sessions, the committees will deliberate on draft standardisation projects outlined in the 2026 Gulf Unified Plan, and examine technical observations submitted by member states. These discussions aim to produce unified Gulf standards that keep pace with global technological advancements, strengthen product safety, elevate energy efficiency, and accelerate the transition toward renewable energy sources. Dr. Jihad Jabr Al Busaidi, Director of the Specifications Department at the Directorate General of Specifications and Metrology, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, stated: “The Sultanate of Oman’s hosting

of these meetings reaffirms the confidence placed in it by fellow member states, and reflects our firm commitment to contributing to the evolution of the Gulf standardisation framework—thereby serving industrial development and enhancing the competitive edge of the GCC economies.” She added that the gatherings represent a valuable opportunity to deepen technical cooperation, facilitate the exchange of expertise among specialists, and align shared priorities in the electrical and renewable energy domains. This, she noted, will help build a more resilient and sustainable standards framework capable of adapting to global technological shifts. Dr. Al Busaidi further explained that, under the 2026 Gulf Standardisation Plan, Oman is leading the development of 77 unified Gulf standard projects—of which approximately 85 percent have been completed to date. Among these is the draft standard for “Wind energy generation systems – Part (15-

1): Site suitability conditions for wind power plants,” which is set to support the expansion of renewable energy projects and enhance the reliability of investments within this sector. She also highlighted that national technical expertise is actively engaged in reviewing and providing technical opinions on over 225 additional draft Gulf standards prepared by other member states—part of Oman’s broader efforts to contribute to a unified Gulf standardisation system that aligns with international best practices. Standards and specifications are gaining heightened significance amidst the ongoing transitions in the electricity and energy sectors and the growing adoption of green economy applications. Their role is critical in raising product and service quality, optimising energy efficiency, enabling innovation, and facilitating intra-regional trade—all of which align with the strategic objectives of Oman Vision 2040 to diversify the economy, empower national industry, and attract foreign investment. -ONA The outcomes of these meetings are anticipated to deliver a substantial boost to the Gulf standardisation journey, further strengthening a standards framework that is both agile and sustainable—capable of responding to technological disruptions and realising the GCC’s shared aspirations for a more integrated and prosperous economic future. -ONA

REMARKABLE GROWTH

More than 75,000 French tourists visited Oman during 2025

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman is pressing ahead with steps to consolidate its tourism standing as a global destination that attracts visitors from all over the world, thanks to the country’s natural diversity and cultural richness. According to statistics from the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, the number of French tourists to Oman saw a remarkable growth of 25 percent during 2025, to a total of 77,000 as against the figures of 2024. The number of French tourists who visited the Oman during the first quarter of 2026 stood at more than 24,600—an increase of 10 percent over the number of French tourists registered during the corresponding period in 2025. Khulood Salim Al Kaabi, Head of the European and American Markets Department at the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, attributed the growth in number of French

tourist to the success of promotional efforts made by the Ministry in the French market. Khulood added that the Oman boasts a positive image and a solid reputation among French tourists. This standing gains further significance due to Oman’s stability and security, she said, noting that this is coupled with the country’s approach to international peace and openness that enhanced its appeal as a reliable and preferred tourist destination for visitors from all over the world. As part of efforts to develop national competencies, Khulood Al Kaabi said that, acting in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Heritage and Culture conducted a 5-month training programme to hone the skills of French-speaking tourist guides as part of its efforts to improve the quality of tourism services. She added that over 350 French



tourism companies received guidance about Oman’s culture last year as part of an ongoing programme designed to familiarize tourists with the competitive advantages of the Oman, said Khulood Al Amri. She pointed out that Oman Air operates between four and five weekly flights between Charles de

Gaulle International Airport and Muscat International Airport—further consolidating air links with the French market. On the cultural heritage side, Ibtisam Abdullah Al Maamari, Director of the World Heritage Department at the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, said that Oman ratified 5 of the 6 UNESCO

conventions on cultural heritage. She added that Oman served as a member of the World Heritage Committee during the years 1989–1995, 2001–2005 and 2019–2023. Ibtisam explained that five Omani sites were included on the World Heritage List: Bahla Fort, the archaeological sites in Bat, Al Khutm-Al Ain site, the Land of Frankincense site, Aflaj irrigation system and the historic city of Qalhat. Ibtisam noted that the Oman’s tentative list currently includes many sites nominated for future incorporation in the World Heritage List include Al Rustaq Castle, Al Hazm Fort, the Daymaniyat Islands Nature Reserve, Jabal Samhan Nature Reserve, the Wetlands Reserve (in Al Wusta Governorate), the archaeological cultural landscape site of Wahda, Siya and Sallout, Ras Al Hadd Reserve and Ras Al Jinz Archaeological Site (a mixed-purpose site).

Over the past few decades, Oman contributed effectively to UNESCO’s initiatives on the Maritime Silk Road, said Ibtisam, noting Royal Yacht (Fulk Assalama) was used in the pioneering expedition organized by UNESCO between 1990 and 1991—an initiative aimed at highlighting the historical role of the Silk Road as a bridge for dialogue and cultural exchange between peoples. Ibtisam observed that the Sultan Haitham Award for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage was an international trophy that supported the ongoing partnership between the UNESCO and the Sultanate of Oman. This award, she said, was launched with the prime objective of felicitating the efforts and institutions that make considerable contributions to the protection, preservation and promotion of intangible cultural heritage at a global level. -ONA

ROUND-UP

Bank Muscat strengthens partnership with Oman Football Association as main sponsor of National Football Team

In accordance with this strategic partnership, the national team will be provided with the financial and logistical support required to strengthen their preparations for upcoming international competitions, particularly the AFC Asian Cup, ensuring the highest standards of technical readiness and professionalism



MUSCAT: In a step that underscores its leading role in supporting the sports and youth sector and contributing to the development of Oman's football ecosystem in line with national aspirations and strategic plans, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, has announced the enhancement of its partnership with the Oman Football Association (OFA), becoming the Main Sponsor of the Oman Football National Team.

This partnership aligns with Bank Muscat's mission of supporting key sectors that contribute to the nation's development and reaffirms its longstanding commitment to social responsibility and investment in human and sporting capital. In accordance with this strategic partnership, the national team will be provided with the financial and logistical support required to strengthen their preparations for upcoming international competitions, particularly the AFC Asian Cup, ensuring the highest standards of technical readiness and professionalism.

At a ceremony organized by Bank Muscat at its Head Office in Airport Heights, attended by representatives from the Bank and the Oman Football Association, members of the national team's technical and administrative employees, as well as media representatives and journalists, Sheikh Yousuf Al Farsi, Deputy CEO of Operations at Bank Muscat expressed her delight at strengthening the partnership with the OFA, stat-



ing: "This partnership represents a long-term investment in empowering Omani football talent and serves as a model for effective collaboration between financial institutions and the sports sector. It reflects our shared ambition to build a brighter future for Omani sport and enhance its presence on the international stage. The an-

nouncement of this partnership is a continuation of Bank Muscat's longstanding commitment to supporting the sports and youth sector in the Sultanate of Oman. It also forms part of the Bank's broader social responsibility agenda as a leading financial institution. We firmly believe in the vital role that sport plays in fostering national

pride and belonging, while helping to develop a generation of creative and capable young people who contribute meaningfully to the nation's progress."

From his side, Mohammed Suleiman Al Yahmadi, General Secretary at Oman Football Association, highlighted the significance of the partnership, say-

ing: "We are delighted that Bank Muscat has further strengthened its partnership with the Oman Football Association by becoming the Main Sponsor of our National Team. The Bank has consistently demonstrated its commitment to supporting Oman's development journey and national priorities.

"There is no doubt that this

partnership will contribute significantly to the efficient implementation of the Association's plans and programmes for the national team, ultimately enhancing its performance and competitiveness in forthcoming continental and international tournaments. Such partnerships will continue to open new avenues of collaboration that support the growth of Omani football and help realize the ambitions of the nation and its fans to see Oman competing successfully for regional and international honours.

Bank Muscat has built a distinguished track record in supporting sports and youth development for over four decades by launching various initiatives and programmes. Among its flagship initiatives is the "Green Sports" programme, which supports local sports teams by developing infrastructure such as natural and artificial turf pitches, lighting systems, and water desalination facilities. Through this programme, the Bank has helped establish and upgrade numerous sports facilities across the Sultanate, benefiting over 77,000 participants from 223 community teams. The Bank also remains actively engaged in national initiatives aimed at empowering youth and promoting community development, driven by its belief in nurturing future generations and contributing to a more prosperous society. It continues to expand its strategic partnerships to support comprehensive development and enhance Oman's position across various sectors.

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Ford Genuine Parts are specifically engineered to integrate seamlessly with Ford vehicles, making them the ideal choice for every model

lessly with Ford vehicles, making them the ideal choice for every model. Unlike non-genuine alternatives that may offer short-term savings but compromise on performance and safety, Ford Genuine Parts are built to last. They help reduce wear and tear while maintaining your vehicle's efficiency for years.

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