

A large, stylized number '51' in a light blue color. Inside the '5' is a small circular logo featuring a stylized 'S' and the text 'Society of Professional Engineers' and 'American Institute of Chemical Engineers'. Below the '51' is the text 'YEARS OF LEGACY' in a bold, sans-serif font.

Founded 1975 · Volume 51 No. 2 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group



The maximum loan amount is  15,000. Terms and conditions apply.



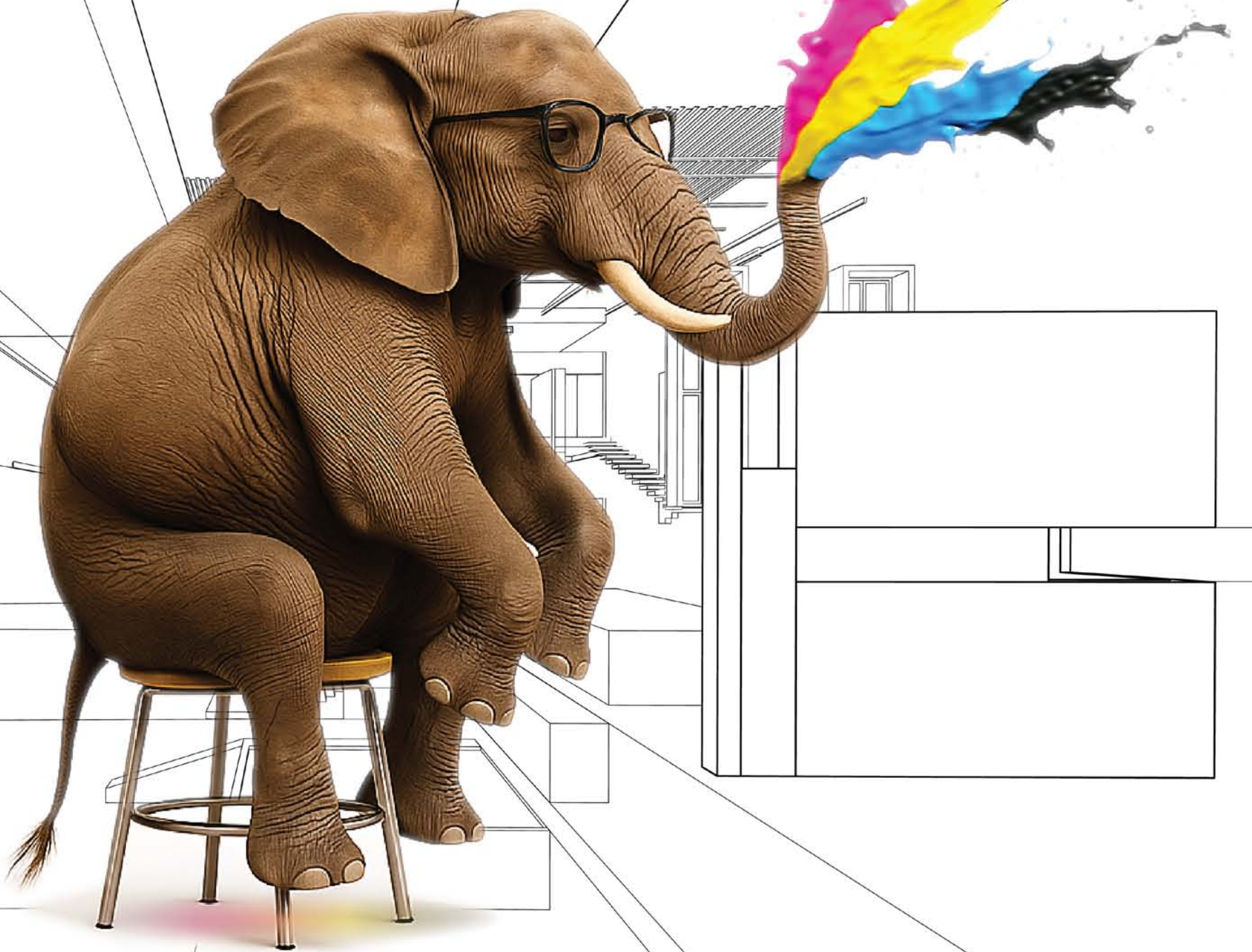
Bank Muscat. Better Everyday.



In an era defined by instant information and digital noise, *Times of Oman* has remained committed to credibility, balance and responsibility. Its guiding

As it turned 51 on Monday, *Times of Oman* stands not merely as a publication, but as a staple of Omani culture - rooted in the past, responsive to the present, and ready for the future.

We make your Business bigger than your problems.



We get you ahead on

- Booth production
- Event conceptualisation
- Event management

Wait, there's more

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

MUSANDAM MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Proposals to improve key services reviewed

KHASAB: The Municipal Council of Musandam Governorate on Tuesday held its second meeting of the year during which it discussed proposals aimed at improving services and enhancing activities in the field of economy, tourism and housing in the governorate of Musandam.

The meeting discussed a proposal to expand Mahas Industrial City (Madayn) in the Wilayat of Khasab. The project will contribute to supporting investment, promoting economic activity and generating employment opportunities for the people of the governorate. The meeting also discussed a request to expand the residential plan in the Wilayat of Khasab to keep pace with ongoing urban expansion and meet the housing needs of citizens.

In addition, the meeting looked into proposals to enhance the level of services and infrastructure in the Wilayat of Dibba.

Municipal Council also studied proposals to develop commercial



areas in the Wilayat of Khasab and a proposal to introduce street lighting in Al Nakhl area in the Wilayat of Madha, besides developing investment in the field of tourism by establishing kiosks in a manner that enhances the attractiveness of natural sites, supports the local tourism sector and provides new business opportunities for the local community.

The Municipal Council expressed its keenness to work in coordination with the authorities concerned to achieve sustainable development in the Governorate of Musandam in line with the government's vision to upgrade the quality of life and maximize gains from economic and tourism assets that abound in the Governorate. — **ONA**

NORTH AL BATINAH MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Major development projects discussed

SOHAR: The Municipal Council of North Al Batinah Governorate on Tuesday held a meeting during which it discussed development and service projects and related requests from the governorate's wilayats.

The Municipal Council discussed the development of Al Murair Park in the Wilayat of Shinas, a proposal to establish a service area in the village of Mashin in the Wilayat of Al Khabourah and an initiative to plant drought resistant trees to enhance environmental sustainability.

The meeting, chaired by North Al Batinah Governor Mohammed Suleiman Al Kindi, reviewed recommendations made by the



Governorate Development Committee and the Social Affairs Committee on means of unifying efforts among the committees concerned to achieve the objectives of the next stage of development.

The Municipal Council also discussed replies from government departments about recommendations that the Council proposed for the development of the Governorate. — **ONA**

Honouring the architects of future generations on Omani Teacher's Day

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik accords profound and sustained attention to teachers, ensuring comprehensive support for the educational process



MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman on Tuesday commemorated Omani Teacher's Day, observed annually on 24th of February, in a celebration that reaffirms the teaching profession's indispensable role in shaping generations and advancing the eternal values of knowledge and learning throughout the nation.

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik accords profound and sustained attention to teachers, ensuring comprehensive support for the educational process, continuously developing pedagogical tools and methodologies, and strategically positioning the sector to keep pace with rapid technological transformations, including the thoughtful integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and advanced technologies within the learning environment.

HH the Honourable Lady As-sayida Ahd Abdullah Hamad Al Busaidi, Spouse of His Majesty the Sultan has emphasised the teacher's exalted and foundational status as the bedrock upon which nations build their renaissance and

an essential pillar without which progress and development cannot be sustained.

The annual observance of Omani Teacher's Day represents both grateful appreciation and formal

recognition of the profession's noble and multifaceted mission, which transcends mere knowledge transmission to encompass the holistic formation of character, the careful cultivation of values,

and the systematic development of students' critical and creative thinking capacities. This comprehensive approach extends to the strategic employment of modern technologies—including smart classrooms, interactive learning applications, and virtual reality techniques—in enhancing educational quality and motivating students toward engaged, effective, and lifelong learning.

According to official statistics, the number of educators in the Sultanate of Oman has reached 57,741, comprising 13,950 male teachers and 43,791 female teachers, achieving an Omanisation rate of 87.6 percent. This remarkable figure reflects profound and abiding confidence in national competencies and their vital, transformative role in advancing the educational system to ever-greater heights of excellence. — **ONA**





5-7 MARCH 2026
7:00 PM ONWARDS



DONGFENG

PRESENTS



OMAN AUTO FEST

MEET YOUR DREAM CAR

Oman Auto Fest 2026 brings together the world's most exciting premium sedans, powerful SUVs, smart EVs and advanced hybrids, all under one roof.





ACTIVE OMAN
(Oman Automobile Association, Muscat)

For partnership opportunities, contact:

Sanjeev Rana
✉ sanjeev@mmg.om
☎ +968 97221630

Syed Amir Saleem
✉ syed.amir@mmg.om
☎ +968 78471944



FREE ENTRY



TEST DRIVE



GAMES



FOOD

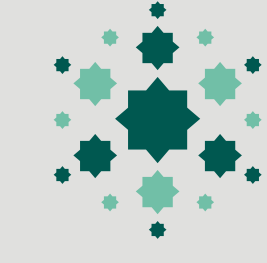


FUN ACTIVITIES



OMAN AUTO FEST

FO,LOW US



ظفار الإسلامي
DHOFAR ISLAMIC

EXPLORE NEW HORIZONS
with profit rates starting from

3.49%

on auto financing.



www.dhofarislamic.com

24775777

*Terms and Conditions Apply.

Omani-Kuwaiti relations receive full support from the wise leaderships of His Majesty and Emir of Kuwait

The relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the State of Kuwait represent a high level of cooperation across various levels, particularly in the economic field. This cooperation ensures mutual benefits for both countries and their peoples

MUSCAT: The State of Kuwait celebrates its National Day on Wednesday (25 February) of every year. This year's celebration comes as Kuwait recorded an exceptional developmental milestone during the year 2025, reflecting the wise vision of Sheikh Mishal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait, in building a prosperous state that advances steadily toward the future, based on solid economic strength, humanitarian and diplomatic leadership, and a growing global status.

The relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the State of



HM greets Emir of Kuwait

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq has sent a cable of greetings to Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait on his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his heartfelt sentiments and best wishes of good health, happiness and wellbeing to Sheikh Meshal. His Majesty also prayed to Allah the Almighty for the return of this occasion on Sheikh Meshal and the people of Kuwait at a time they realize aspirations of further progress and prosperity. — **ONA**

Kuwait represent a high level of cooperation across various levels, particularly in the economic field. This cooperation ensures mutual benefits for both countries and their peoples.

The bilateral Omani-Kuwaiti relations receive continuous support from the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq and Sheikh Mishal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait.

Sovereign wealth funds

The publication "State of Kuwait: Deep-Rooted Foundations and Steps Toward the Future," issued by the Statistical Centre for the Arab Countries of the Gulf, highlights Kuwait's achievement of unprecedented financial and investment surpluses, supported by the

strength of its sovereign wealth funds, whose assets exceeded one trillion US dollars, along with the banking sector's assets surpassing 100 billion Kuwaiti dinars an indicator of the resilience of the financial system and the confidence international institutions place in the national economy.

The report also notes that the Kuwait Stock Exchange recorded gains exceeding 9.6 billion Kuwaiti dinars, reinforcing the attractiveness of the investment environment and the rising confidence of regional and international investors. Kuwait additionally achieved a historic milestone by ranking 19th globally in the National Brand Value Index, with the value of Kuwaiti brands representing about 9% of GDP one of the highest ratios worldwide.

In the innovation sphere, Kuwait placed among the world's top

ten in the Global Innovation Index (GII 2025), supported by advances in digital infrastructure and progress across key pillars, including 5G technologies, mobile internet speed, government digitalisation, efficiency of the digital workforce, and the credit ratings for the state remained within the high category with a stable outlook, further consolidating Kuwait's global economic position.

High-impact achievements

The year 2025 also witnessed a series of high-impact achievements, most notably performing the longest-distance transcontinental robotic surgery as a global medical milestone, reaching the highest daily gas production rate in 90 years from the "Jaza Off-shore Field," and recording exceptional archaeological discoveries

on Failaka Island that reaffirm the depth of Kuwaiti civilisation. The same period saw notable progress in civil aviation as a regional model for security and safety, alongside the development of public health laboratories in line with the highest international standards.

Kuwait also strengthened its status as a global hub for humanitarian work, sustaining its pioneering role in relief and international assistance so that humanitarian action has become a constant pillar of its national identity and global diplomacy.

Diplomatically, Kuwait achieved a milestone by registering its first global United Nations resolution in its name within fields related to innovation, reinforcing its presence on the international stage.

Kuwait further celebrated its position as a cornerstone of the

Gulf Cooperation Council's journey over 45 years, having hosted eight historic Kuwaiti summits that produced a legacy of economic and regulatory decisions advancing Gulf integration, including steps toward establishing the GCC common market, strengthening financial market integration, adopting unified environmental and logistics systems, and supporting broader Arab economic development. — **ONA**



CHANGAN

CS35 PLUS Limited

This Ramadan is all about peace of mind

Easy to own with low monthly installments.



ظفار 2026 MY

1.4L Turbo Engine, 156 hp, 7-speed DCT

EMI OMR 110* for 6 years

RAMADAN OFFERS

- FREE SERVICE 4 YEARS / 75,000 KMS*
- FREE INSURANCE*
- FREE REGISTRATION*
- VAT (5%) INCLUSIVE IN VEHICLE PRICE
- FREE WINDOW TINTING**

Terms and conditions apply. Offer valid from 9th February to 8th April 2026 on all models purchased through the CHANGAN Showroom Retail Offer. # Whichever is earlier. Periodic Maintenance Service only. Offer includes only 10,000 kms service intervals. 3 years / 55,000 kms is applicable only to the Alvin and EADO. All other models will get 4 years / 75,000 kms. #For 1st year, Oman & UAE only. **For 1st year only. *Window tinting is offered as a complimentary gift for customers purchasing the EADOPlus, CS35Plus, CS75Plus & CS95 Royal model variant only. **Super Warranty - 6 Years / 250,000 kms - Applicable Alvin, EADO, EADOPlus, CS35Plus, CS75Plus & CS95 only, whichever is earlier. *Easy Monthly Installment is calculated based on 20% down payment for 6 years loan tenure. Subject to credit approvals from Banks only. Applicable to vehicles purchased for personal use. Images shown are for illustrative purposes only. Specifications may vary as per the model variant. To generate an inquiry, customers are required to visit the CHANGAN showroom to test drive their preferred model and to obtain full details regarding vehicle pricing and applicable offers.

Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment LLC

800 50800 9662 8909

www.changanoman.com

Qurum 94641010, Mawaleh 97888180, Nizwa 96628940

Sohar 95351200, Salalah 96629050, Ibbi 96628930, Barka 96629010, Sur 96628920

REVIEW MEETING



Al Dhahirah Municipal Council discusses major service, tourism projects

IBRI: Al Dhahirah Municipal Council yesterday held a meeting during which it discussed ways of developing municipal services, tourism projects and modern housing mechanisms in the wilayats of the Governorate.

The meeting was held under the auspices of Tahir Mabkhout Al Junaibi, Governor of Al Dhahirah Governorate.

The meeting reviewed various service and development issues that include a proposal to beautify the centres of the governorate's wilayats, a proposal to establish a hiking trail in one of the governorate's villages (to enhance its tourism potential) and a study to establish a unified platform for



receiving applications to establish more internal road projects within the governorate.

The meeting also included a presentation by a specialised team from Muscat Municipality

introducing the "E'tamad" platform, which aims to streamline the licensing process for service projects and achieve digital transformation in this area.



YOUTH CENTRE LAUNCHES 2026 RAMADAN PROGRAMME PACKAGE

The programmes, to be held at Muscat Grand Mall, target the age group of 15-34 years. The initiative forms part of efforts to develop young people’s skills and help them make optimum use of their free time

MUSCAT: The Youth Centre has announced the launch of a 2026 comprehensive package of training programmes during the holy month of Ramadan. The programmes, to be held at Muscat Grand Mall, target the age group of 15-34 years. The initiative forms part of efforts to develop young people’s skills and help them make optimum use of their free time. The package is set to benefit at least 1,000 young men and women through a variety of programmes that combine profes-

sional development in different fields, innovation and the promotion of cultural identity and social responsibility. The initiative seeks to groom a generation that is more capable of meeting the demands of the future. It includes an introduction to the arts of Arabic calligraphy, sports reporting skills covering the basic features of commentary, the promotion of values of teamwork and sportsmanship and the introduction of “3D Concrete Printing” concepts that focus on



architectural and structural design related to modern technology. The package also includes a programme dedicated to developing the skills of the blind, notably on the use of artificial intelligence technologies and applications that contribute to facilitating movement, reading texts and dealing with smart devices that promote independence.

In the field of digitised communication, the Youth Centre introduces three specialised programmes: A “Digital Advertising Campaign Management” programme, a “Data Analysis using Power BI” programme and a “Virtual Youth Academy” programme. The “Digital Advertising Campaign Management” programme provides the participants with



skills in managing advertisements across Meta platforms. This programme helps the participants learn the skills of campaign development mechanisms, identify goals and target groups, manage budgets, analyze performance and measure outcomes. The “Data Analysis using Power BI” programme focuses on developing digital data analysis skills, while the “Virtual Youth Academy” programme is implemented via LinkedIn platform to enhance self-learning and professional development skills. The package concludes with a “Ramadan Youth Gathering” that includes a group Iftar and a ceremony for the felicitation of winners in recreational and sports activities. – **ONA**

IFTAR RECIPE BY ONEZA TABISH



HEALTHY BANANA PANCAKES

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 large overripe banana
- 2 large eggs
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour

METHOD:

- Whisk eggs and banana in bowl until no banana chunks remain. Whisk in flour until batter is thick and smooth.
- Spray frying pan with oil and turn stove to medium heat. Pour a small circle of batter on pan.
- When pancake begins to bubble, flip over to other side and cook until done.
- Repeat with rest of the batter.

AROUND THE WORLD

Musaharati performance held during holy month of Ramadan in Doha



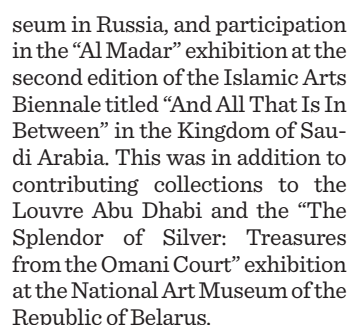
Traditional Ramadan Musaharati performers walk along the waterfront at the Old Doha Port during the holy month of Ramadan in Doha. - **Xinhua**

MUSCAT: During its annual media briefing held yesterday in Muscat, the National Museum reviewed its harvest of achievements for the year 2025 and unveiled a package of cultural projects and initiatives scheduled for implementation during 2026.

He noted that during 2025, the museum completed a series of achievements that strengthened its position as an effective bridge for cultural and museum-based communication between the Sultanate of Oman and various local, regional, and international institutions.

Furthermore, he mentioned that the museum, in cooperation with the Embassy of the Russian Federation, organised a celebration marking the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries, which included an exhibition of historical photographs and the launch of the Russian "Musical Seasons." During the same year, the "Omani-Japanese Relations Corner" was opened, and the documentary film "Madera" was launched in cooperation with the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman in Tokyo.

Notable international exhibitions included the Oman Hall at the Nairobi National Museum in the Republic of Kenya, the Oman Hall at the State Hermitage Mu-



The Russian Seasons festivities also featured prominently, including an exhibition of historical photographs celebrating 40 years of diplomatic ties, the "Russia and the Middle East: International Relations and Cultural Influences."

He further noted the museum's participation in several international events, such as the Islamic Arts Biennale in Jeddah, Expo Osaka 2025 in Japan, the International Council of Museums General Conference (ICOM Dubai 2025), and the Museums + Heritage Show in London.

By the end of December 2025, the total number of visitors and beneficiaries of the Learning Center's activities and the museum's various halls exceeded 131,000. For the second consecutive year, the museum was honored as one of the best service-providing outlets in Muscat within the institutional excellence system. Digital service enhancements included the launch of the "Audio Guide" service in Arabic and English, featuring specialized options for persons with disabilities, to enrich the visitor experience through explanations of selected galleries and collections. In the realm of digital transformation, the museum hosted the "Barmajan" hackathon organised by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, which was recognised as the world's longest government digital transformation hackathon and the largest multi-site hackathon lesson.

Full story @ timesofoman.com/oman

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME - GROUP AND PARENT COMPANY				
	Group		Parent Company	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
INCOME				
Revenue from contracts with customers	3,028,864	2,506,676	1,579,858	1,441,230
Operating costs	(3,302,712)	(3,316,110)	(1,641,386)	(1,613,677)
Gross loss	(273,848)	(809,434)	(61,528)	(172,447)
Release of deferred Government grant	6,668	6,668	6,668	6,668
Other income	9,439	6,702	7,927	1,615
Finance charges (net)	(334,147)	(303,585)	(39,455)	(75,630)
	(318,040)	(290,215)	(24,860)	(67,347)
Loss for the year from operations	(591,888)	(1,099,649)	(86,388)	(239,794)
Impairment loss on subsidiary	--	--	(450,474)	(952,038)
Net loss and total comprehensive income for the year	(591,888)	(1,099,649)	(536,862)	(1,191,832)
Basic earnings per share	(0.011)	(0.021)	(0.010)	(0.023)

Award Categories:

We are, and will remain, by Ukraine’s side, says French President Macron

Macron noted that Europe had mobilised EUR170 billion in financial, military, humanitarian and energy assistance for Ukraine



PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron on Tuesday affirmed support for Ukraine, marking four years since Russia launched its full-scale invasion and describing the conflict as a “war of aggression chosen by Russia.”

In a post on X, Macron said, “Four years ago, Europe awoke to the sound of Russian bombs falling on Ukraine”, recalling, “four years of a war of aggression chosen by Russia, in blatant defiance of international law, of a people’s sovereignty, and of human life. Four years of cities struck, of schools and hospitals destroyed, of energy infrastructure methodically targeted to plunge families into cold and terror.”

He said the war had resulted in “15,000 Ukrainian civilians killed” and condemned what he described as “violence, rape, torture, war crimes, and terror,” as well as the deportation of thousands of Ukrainian children.

“Four years of shattered lives--violence, rape, torture, war crimes, and terror.Four years, and thousands of Ukrainian children

torn from their land and their families. And yet, for four years, Ukraine has held firm and resisted,” he said.

Macron argued that Russia had failed to achieve its strategic objectives. “While the Kremlin promised to conquer Ukraine in a matter of days, only 1% of Ukrainian territory has been taken since the front stabilized in November 2022. Last month, Ukraine even regained ground”, he said.

Highlighting the human cost for Moscow, the French President claimed that “More than 1.2 million Russian soldiers have been wounded or killed--the highest number of Russian combat casualties since the Second World War.”

He further alleged that Russia was recruiting individuals from the African continent to fight on the Ukrainian front,” often with no prior training whatsoever.”

Calling the war a “triple failure for Russia: military, economic, and strategic,” Macron said it had strengthened NATO and galvanised European unity.

“Because Ukraine is the first

line of defence of our continent, France and Europe stand resolutely by its side,” he said.

Macron noted that Europe had mobilised EUR170 billion in financial, military, humanitarian and energy assistance for Ukraine. He also referred to a EUR90 billion loan agreed at the December European Council to provide Kyiv with predictable funding over the next two years.

“There is no justification for calling this into question. We must now deliver on it,” he said, adding that deliveries of equipment and ammunition, training, strengthened air defences, and counter-drone capabilities would continue.

Macron stressed that sanctions against Russia and action against its “shadow fleet” would also be maintained.

“Because there can be no peace without security--and because our security is being decided in Ukraine--we will continue our engagement within the Coalition of the Willing,” he said, referring to coordination efforts among

Ukraine’s allies.

Recalling a meeting in Paris on January 6, Macron said strong convergence had been built with the United States on future security guarantees for Ukraine, and that further discussions would ensure European interests are taken into account in shaping the continent’s future security architecture.

“To the women and men of Ukraine: we think of you with deep emotion. Of your families who have endured so much, of your children, of all those who keep resisting under the strikes,” Macron said.

“We are, and will remain, by Ukraine’s side,” the French President said.

“We have defended our independence, we have not lost our statehood”; Zelenskyy Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Tuesday marked four years since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, declaring that Kyiv has preserved its independence and thwarted Moscow’s initial objectives.

In a post on X, Zelenskyy said, “Today marks exactly four years since Putin started his three-day push to take Kyiv. And that says a great deal about our resistance, about how Ukraine has fought all this time,” referring to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

He added, “Behind those words stand millions of our people, immense courage, incredibly hard work, endurance, and the long path Ukraine has been pursuing since February 24.”

Reflecting on the trajectory of the conflict, the Ukrainian leader asserted that despite the prolonged and devastating war, the country has safeguarded its sovereignty.



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

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

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

ON TWO-DAY VISIT

Shehbaz Sharif arrives in Qatar



DOHA: Pakistan Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday arrived in Qatar on a two-day official visit at the invitation of the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

The PM was received at the King Hamad International Airport in Doha by Qatar’s Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Mohammed bin Abdulaziz Al-Khulaifi, Pakistan’s ambassador to Qatar, Muhammad Amir, and diplomatic staff.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar, and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, Tariq Fatemi, are also ac-

companying the Prime Minister.

During his visit to Qatar, the Prime Minister will hold bilateral meetings with the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, to discuss enhancing co-operation in the areas of economic and energy partnership, and people-to-people exchanges. The two sides will also discuss ways to further advance cooperation in the areas of trade, investment, infrastructure development, and manpower export.

The PM’s visit reflects the deep brotherly ties between the two countries and highlights their shared commitment to further strengthen multilateral cooperation. **-APP**

Port of Salalah ميناء صلالة

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to present the Annual Report of Salalah Port Services, together with the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Operational Overview

Safety is the Company’s licence to operate. 2025 was a safe year for Port of Salalah. The Company has successfully completed the audit of the 2025 financial statements. The Company continues to invest in systems, processes and training to manage operational risks. All incidents during the year were thoroughly investigated and corrective actions were taken.

During 2025, the container terminal handled 4.3 million TEUs (2024: 3.3 million TEUs). The Company saw the successful start of the Gemini Cooperation between Maersk and Hapag Lloyd whereby Salalah is a global hub for the network. Maersk’s contribution to the total business remained stable throughout the year.

The Port of Salalah’s General Cargo segment handled 26.4 million tons in 2025, compared to 22.6 million tons in 2024, representing a 17% increase. This overall growth was driven primarily by higher dry bulk volumes, particularly limestone and gypsum. I am pleased to note that this was a record high general cargo volume ever handled by Port of Salalah.

The Company remains focused on continuous improvement initiatives aimed at maintaining a worldclass terminal with consistent productivity and efficiency levels.

Financial Overview

The consolidated revenue from operations for 2025 is recorded at OMR 89.4 million an increase of 28% compared to previous year. Consolidated EBITDA is recorded at OMR 27.8 million which corresponds to an EBITDA margin of 31%, up from OMR 15.6 million and a margin of 22% in 2024. Consolidated Net Profit for the year 2025 is recorded at OMR 7.3 million, compared to OMR 2.3 million in the prior year.

During 2025, the company distributed 10 baiza per share annual dividend pertaining to the year 2024. Taking into account the Company’s capital expenditure plans—including equipment lifecycle requirements, ongoing port enhancement initiatives, growth ambitions, the fixed lease obligations for the CT upgrade, and prevailing volatility in global trade, the Board of Directors is pleased to recommend the distribution of a dividend of 15 baiza per share on the paid-up equity share capital of the company, resulting in a total cash distribution of OMR 2.698 million for the year 2025.

Dividend history for the last 5 years

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Dividend %	20%	25%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Cash Outlay (OMR'000)	3,597	4,496	1,798	1,798	1,798	1,798

Employee Development

Our people are fundamental to the Company’s success. To remain competitive and at the forefront of the industry, the organization must continuously enhance its capabilities through ongoing education in procedures, technologies, and global best practices. Accordingly, the Company continues to invest in workforce training and development, with a strong focus on Omanization and the upskilling of local talent, ensuring that national competencies progress in line with operational and strategic requirements.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

Port of Salalah strongly believes in a CSR program that aligns with the pillars of sustainability and volunteerism, forming an integral part of our business philosophy. The company has invested OMR 0.10 million in CSR initiatives during 2025 contributing to the development of the Dhofar region and supporting community segments requiring assistance. The Company’s CSR program is guided by a commitment to positively impact the local region while benefiting broader communities in need.

COMMERCIAL

Container Terminal

Although volumes in 2025 were below capacity, the team maintained operational efficiency throughout the year. This maintains customer confidence in what Salalah can provide in terms of level of service.

General Cargo Terminal

Against all challenges, the General Cargo Terminal managed to achieve record volume of 26.4 million metric tons. The volume was driven mainly by dry bulk (gypsum and limestone) where the demand remains on a growth trajectory. The Company is committed to service levels towards customers and in this regard continues to work on improving resources, productivity and efficiencies.

New Businesses

The team has worked on new business opportunities value-adding services. MoU’s signed for proposed green fuel storage and handling facility by Salalah Horizon and another one for a grain storage facility. New value-added services were added, including dry container repair, twist lock repair, and reefer parts storage.

Efforts have been made to explore anchoring opportunity for tuna handling business supported by Maersk network connectivity. This business will utilize both container and general cargo terminals.

Outlook

The Port of Salalah is strategically well-positioned to overcome regional geopolitical challenges and disruptions to shipping routes. The competitive advantage of the Container Terminal in terms of location, productivity and efficiency is critically important to the success of Port of Salalah.

Global container volume growth for 2026 is projected to be around 4%, with our key customers expected to grow in line with the market. The situation in the Red Sea remains uncertain and a cautious return to the Red Sea/Suez is anticipated to have a positive impact on Salalah’s container handling volumes. With the container upgrade now completed, the terminal is fully equipped to accommodate the Gemini Network—the global vesselsharing alliance between Maersk and HapagLloyd—further strengthening Salalah’s position as a strategic transshipment hub. This is solidified by Salalah’s performance throughout 2025 towards our Gemini customers.

General cargo volumes are projected to remain steady, with dry bulk commodities—particularly limestone and gypsum—continuing to serve as key growth drivers. Strong demand from construction and manufacturing sectors in India and Southeast Asia is expected to support and sustain these export levels. The introduction of “Minerals Trading Company”, which is owned by Mineral Development Oman as the sole exporter of Gypsum in Oman by June 2026 is expected to bring changes to the value chain and the team is working closely with all parties to ensure a smooth transition.

Additional growth is anticipated in breakbulk cargo and CFS. As a result, total cargo volumes are expected to surpass 2025 levels by yearend.

Overall, the Port of Salalah is wellpositioned for continued growth, leveraging its operational efficiency, expanded capacity, and strategic shipping partnerships to strengthen its role as a key regional hub.

The Company is engaged in discussion with the government of Oman on extending the concession which is due to expire 2028 November 1st.

Conclusion

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the shareholders of the company, I record the sincere appreciation and gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, for his strategic vision, leadership, and his continued support. I also thank our customers; investors and the members of the government we collaborate with.

Lastly, I would like to record our sincere appreciation for the contributions of our employees in achieving the strong performance delivered in 2025. Our continued growth was made possible through their hard work, solidarity, cooperation, and unwavering support.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,

Braik Musallam Al Amri
Chairman of Board of Directors,
Salalah Port Services Co. SAOG
18th February 2026

AUDITED CONSOLIDATED AND PARENT STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF 31ST DECEMBER 2025

Parent Company		Consolidated		Parent Company		Consolidated	
2024	2025	2024	2025	2025	2024	2025	2024
US \$ '000	US \$ '000	US \$ '000	US \$ '000	OMR'000	OMR'000	OMR'000	OMR'000
ASSETS							
Non-current assets							
168,493	143,718	168,631	143,828	55,278	64,807	55,320	64,860
58,583	37,429	58,627	37,461	14,394	22,531	14,406	22,548
2,596	3,629	2,596	3,629	1,396	998	1,396	998
546	546	-	-	210	210	-	-
49,400	-	49,400	-	-	19,000	-	19,000
279,618	185,322	279,254	184,918	71,278	107,546	71,122	107,406
Current assets							
6,251	8,244	6,251	8,244	3,171	2,404	3,171	2,404
13,596	5,851	13,596	5,851	2,250	5,229	2,250	5,229
16,048	22,018	16,048	22,018	8,469	6,172	8,469	6,172
14,612	16,967	14,612	16,967	6,525	5,619	6,525	5,619
25,601	72,398	25,601	72,398	27,846	9,846	27,846	9,846
5,552	53,744	5,552	53,744	20,671	2,136	20,671	2,136
81,660	179,222	81,660	179,222	68,932	31,406	68,932	31,406
361,278	364,544	360,914	364,140	140,210	138,952	140,054	138,812
TOTAL ASSETS							
EQUITY							
46,758	46,758	46,758	46,758	17,984	17,984	17,984	17,984
7,666	7,666	7,666	7,666	2,949	2,949	2,949	2,949
15,584	15,584	15,681	15,691	5,994	5,994	6,035	6,031
126,607	140,801	127,006	141,296	54,154	48,698	54,345	48,849
196,615	210,809	197,111	211,411	81,081	75,625	81,313	75,813
LIABILITIES							
Non Current Liabilities							
57,662	37,290	57,697	37,315	14,342	22,177	14,353	22,192
13,634	14,366	13,634	14,366	5,525	5,244	5,525	5,244
6,830	3,200	6,818	3,185	1,231	2,627	1,225	2,622
78,126	54,856	78,149	54,866	21,098	30,048	21,103	30,058
Current Liabilities							
11,837	16,001	11,849	16,014	6,154	4,553	6,159	4,557
71,050	75,913	70,139	74,865	29,198	27,323	28,793	26,975
3,650	6,965	3,666	6,984	2,679	1,403	2,686	1,409
86,537	98,879	85,654	97,863	38,031	33,279	37,638	32,941
164,663	153,735	163,803	152,729	59,129	63,327	58,741	62,999
361,278	364,544	360,914	364,140	140,210	138,952	140,054	138,812
1,095	1,172	1,097	1,176	0.451	0.421	0.452	0.422

AUDITED CONSOLIDATED AND PARENT STATEMENT OF INCOME FOR THE PERIOD 31ST DECEMBER 2025

Parent Company		Consolidated		Parent Company		Consolidated	
2024	2025	2024	2025	2025	2024	2025	2024
US \$ '000	US \$ '000	US \$ '000	US \$ '000	OMR'000	OMR'000	OMR'000	OMR'000
181,790	232,259	181,958	232,421	89,325	69,919	89,390	69,984
(133,067)	(151,284)	(133,075)	(151,297)	(58,187)	(51,179)	(58,192)	(51,182)
(22,067)	(35,019)	(22,113)	(35,062)	(13,468)	(8,486)	(13,485)	(8,504)
(22,281)	(23,630)	(22,291)	(23,637)	(9,088)	(8,571)	(9,090)	(8,575)
(175)	(10)	(175)	(10)	(4)	(68)	(4)	(68)
1,131	1,164	1,131	1,164	448	435	448	435
5,331	23,480	5,435	23,579	9,026	2,050	9,067	2,090
4,617	4,151	4,617	4,151	1,597	1,776	1,597	1,776
(3,052)	(5,398)	(3,055)	(5,401)	(2,076)	(1,174)	(2,077)	(1,175)
6,896	22,233	6,997	22,329	8,547	2,652	8,587	2,691
(1,114)	(3,363)	(1,130)	(3,363)	(1,293)	(428)	(1,293)	(434)
5,782	18,870	5,867	18,966	7,254	2,224	7,294	2,257
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5,782	18,870	5,867	18,966	7,254	2,224	7,294	2,257
5,782	18,870	5,867	18,966	7,254	2,224	7,294	2,257
5,782	18,870	5,867	18,966	7,254	2,224	7,294	2,257
0.031	0.105	0.034	0.105	0.040	0.012	0.041	0.013

The complete accounts of the company will be delivered or sent by mail to any shareholder who requests them, in either Arabic or English as requested, within seven days of receipt of the request.

GCC Secretary General Al Budaiwi in India to boost economic integration

Indian Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said discussions for an FTA with the Gulf Cooperation Council have been going on for nearly two decades



NEW DELHI: Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Jasem Mohammad Al Budaiwi arrived in India and received

a warm welcome from the Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Randhir Jaiswal. In a post on X, MEA Spokesperson Jaiswal wrote, “Warm welcome to Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council Mr. Jasem Mohammad Al Budaiwi @jasembudaiwi on his arrival in New Delhi. His visit will further deepen the historic and strong India-GCC ties. @GCCSG” The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is a regional political and economic alliance established in 1981. It consists of six member states: Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, and Bahrain. The GCC aims to promote economic integration, political cooperation, and regional security among its members. It has established a customs union and a common market to

facilitate trade and movement of citizens. The organisation also coordinates defence policies and infrastructure projects. Headquartered in Riyadh, the GCC plays a significant role in shaping economic and diplomatic relations within the Gulf region. India and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member countries signed the Terms of Reference for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) earlier in February in the national capital. Chief Negotiator for GCC, Raja Al Marzouki, highlighted the importance of the proposed free trade agreement, noting that globalisation is under attack. “So it’s a message. It’s a signal for the whole group, for the whole globe, and it’s important for us at this time to try to be more cooperative, to avoid any risk that our global economy facing as a result

of uncertainty,” he said. He welcomed the Indian side to hold the first round of negotiations in Riyadh. He said that it will “be a pleasure to host you there.” In his address at the signing ceremony, Indian Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said discussions for an FTA with the Gulf Cooperation Council have been going on for nearly two decades. “Two trading partners who have been trading amongst each other for over 5000 years. It is most appropriate that we now enter into a much stronger and robust trading arrangement, which will enable greater free flow of goods, services, bring predictability and stability to policy, help encourage greater degree of investments and take our bilateral relations between the six nation GCC group and India to greater heights,” Piyush Goyal said. -ANI

EL MENCHO

25 National Guard troops killed in Mexico violence

MEXICO CITY: At least 25 members of Mexico’s National Guard were killed in violent clashes with criminal groups following a high-profile raid that eliminated one of the country’s most-wanted drug cartel leader Nemesio Oseguera Cervantes, also known as “El Mencho,” Al Jazeera reported. Security Secretary Omar Garcia Harfuch, addressing a joint press conference with President Claudia Sheinbaum, confirmed that the National Guard personnel lost their lives in six separate incidents across the western state of Jalisco. The violence erupted after security forces carried out an operation that resulted in the killing of Nemesio Oseguera, also known as “El Mencho”, the leader of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG). Garcia Harfuch said that 30 suspected criminals were also killed in Jalisco during the clashes, while four others died in neighbouring Michoacan. The deaths of the 25 National Guard members mark one of the deadliest episodes for Mexican security forces in recent years and underscore the intensity of the backlash from organised crime groups, Al Jazeera reported. “What is important now is to guarantee peace and security of all the population,” Mexican President Sheinbaum said, acknowledging the gravity of the situation but insisting that conditions had improved since Sunday’s operation and that the country “is calm.”



Following the raid, criminal groups launched retaliatory attacks, setting up more than 250 roadblocks across 20 states and engaging in gun battles with security forces. Residents in affected areas reported prolonged exchanges of fire. Defence Secretary Ricardo Trevilla announced that an additional 2,500 security personnel would be deployed to Jalisco to reinforce existing forces and stabilise the region. The killing of Oseguera comes amid increasing pressure from the United States for Mexico to intensify its crackdown on drug trafficking organisations. However, past

operations targeting cartel leaders have often led to power struggles and fresh outbreaks of violence, Al Jazeera reported. Authorities said that all roadblocks have now been cleared. Sheinbaum added that flights to and from Puerto Vallarta, a major tourist destination in Jalisco, are expected to resume shortly after temporary disruptions. Despite the heavy toll on security forces, the government maintained that efforts to dismantle organised crime networks would continue, with reinforcements and heightened security measures in place across affected regions. -ANI

DRUZHBA PIPELINE

Slovakia halts power supplies to Ukraine over Russian oil dispute

BERLIN: Slovakia has halted emergency electricity supplies to Ukraine amid an escalating dispute over the suspension of Russian oil deliveries through the Druzhba pipeline, Prime Minister Robert Fico announced on Monday. Fico said the move would remain in place until Kyiv restores oil transit to Slovakia via the Soviet-era Druzhba pipeline, which runs across Ukrainian territory. The announcement follows a warning he issued to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy over the weekend. “As of today, if the Ukrainian side turns to Slovakia with a request for assistance in stabilising the Ukrainian energy grid, such assistance will not be provided,” Fico said in a video message posted on X. He added that the suspension would be lifted “as soon as the transit of oil to Slovakia is restored,” warning that Bratislava could take further reciprocal steps if the issue remains unresolved. Fico also indicated that Slovakia would reconsider its previously supportive stance on Ukraine’s bid for European Union membership. The dispute centres on the Druzhba pipeline, which was shut down in late January after what Ukraine described as a Russian drone strike damaged infrastructure along the route. While Kyiv has said repair work is ongoing and that it is working to restore flows



as quickly as possible, Slovakia and neighbouring Hungary have blamed Ukraine for the prolonged disruption. Ukrainian grid operator Ukrenergo said it had not been officially notified of Slovakia’s decision, adding that the move would not affect the stability of Ukraine’s unified power system. The operator noted that the last request for emergency assistance from Slovakia was made more than a month ago and involved limited volumes, Al Jazeera reported. Fico described the halt in oil supplies as a “purely political decision aimed at blackmailing Slovakia over its international positions on the war in Ukraine.” He also criticised Ukraine’s earlier decision to stop Russian gas transit after a five-year agreement expired on January 1, 2025, claiming the move has cost Slovakia around 500 million euros annually.

The European Union imposed a ban on most Russian oil imports in 2022 following Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine. However, the Druzhba pipeline was exempted to allow landlocked Central European countries time to secure alternative supplies. Meanwhile, the EU failed to agree on a fresh sanctions package against Russia ahead of the fourth anniversary of the conflict after Hungary, led by Prime Minister Viktor Orban, blocked the proposal. Hungary has also reportedly linked its support for further EU financial assistance to Ukraine to the reopening of the oil pipeline, Al Jazeera reported. According to Kyiv-based consultancy ExPro, Hungary and Slovakia accounted for 68 per cent of Ukraine’s imported electricity this month, though it remains unclear whether emergency supplies were included in that figure. -ANI

OVER PENDING DUES

Bangladesh bars SpiceJet from using its airspace

NEW DELHI: Budget Carrier SpiceJet said its operations remain unaffected after Bangladesh barred the airline from using its airspace over pending dues. The development comes as authorities in Bangladesh restricted the airline’s access, citing non-payment of outstanding charges. Responding to the reports, Spice-

Jet said it is in discussions with the concerned authorities. “We are in regular dialogue with the relevant authorities on operational and procedural matters, including navigation-related charges. These are routine industry issues, and we are working constructively towards an early resolution. Our flight operations

remain unaffected, and we continue to operate our scheduled services in line with regulatory requirements,” the airline said in a statement on Thursday. SpiceJet added that it is working towards resolving the matter at the earliest. Meanwhile, SpiceJet received a Memorandum of Understand-

ing (MoU) for the induction of 10 aircraft, marking another important step in the airline’s ongoing capacity expansion and network rebuilding efforts. This development follows the Board’s approval, announced last week, for a calibrated ramp-up of the fleet to 60 aircraft through a mix of wet and damp leases, along with the

phased return to service of existing grounded aircraft. SpiceJet’s recovery has gathered pace in recent months. The airline doubled its capacity in the last quarter, with Available Seat Kilometres (ASKMs) rising from around 55 crore to 105 crore, reflecting a sharp increase in network strength. -ANI

PASSENGERS RESCUED

Helicopter crashes in sea

ANDAMAN: A helicopter carrying seven people, including the crew members, crashed into the sea after it took off from Mayabunder in North and Middle Andaman district on Tuesday morning, and all of them were rescued, officials said. -ANI

RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN

Sad to read...: Lutyens’ great-grandson reacts after bust removed

NORTHUMBERLAND: Matt Ridley, great-grandson of Edwin Lutyens, expressed his sadness on Monday over the removal of Lutyens’ bust from Rashtrapati Bhavan, which was replaced by a bust of Chakravarti Rajagopalachari. Riddley, who is the great-grandson of Edwin Lutyens, the architect of the Rashtrapati Bhavan, said in a post on X, “Sad to read that the bust of Lutyens (my great-grandfather) is to be removed from the presidential palace he designed in Delhi. Here I am with it last year. I wondered at the time why his name had been removed from the plinth.” His remarks come as President Droupadi Murmu on Monday unveiled a bust of Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, the first and only Indian Governor General of independent India, at Rashtrapati

Bhavan. The bust of Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, situated at the Grand Open Staircase near Ashok Mandap, replaces the bust of Edwin Lutyens. **Vestiges of the colonial mindset** The President’s official handle on X posted, “This initiative is part of a series of steps being taken towards shedding the vestiges of the colonial mindset and embracing, with pride, the richness of India’s culture, heritage, timeless traditions and honouring those who served Bharat Mata with their extraordinary contributions.” Among the dignitaries present on the occasion were Vice President of India CP Radhakrishnan, Minister of Health and Family Welfare, and Chemicals and Fertilisers Jagat Prakash Nadda, Minister of External Affairs Sub-

rahmanyam Jaishankar, Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting L Murugan and family members of Rajaji. This comes after Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday announced that the “Rajaji Festival” will be celebrated in Rashtrapati Bhavan on Monday with the unveiling of the statue of Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, the first Indian Governor-General of independent India. During the 131st ‘Mann Ki Baat’ episode, PM Modi said that the nation is leaving the symbols of slavery behind and beginning to relate to the Indian culture. “During the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, I spoke of the ‘Panch-Pran’ from the Red Fort. One of them is freedom from the mentality of

slavery. Today, the country is leaving behind the symbols of slavery and has begun to value symbols related to Indian culture,” he said. C Rajaopalachari was born on December 10, 1878, in Madras Presidency. He was a lawyer and intellectual among many other things. He is regarded as an early political comrade of Mahatma Gandhi, who left his legal practice to join the Indian National Congress and later participated in various protests against the British Crown. Most popularly, Rajagopalachari agitated against the Rowlatt Act, non-cooperation, and the Civil Disobedience movement. He was elected to the Constituent Assembly from Madras on a Congress ticket. He was part of the sub-committee on minorities and was conferred with the Bharat Ratna in 1954. -ANI



Brook slams ton as England secure spot in semi-finals

England overcame nerves against Pakistan to win their Super 8 game by two wickets with five balls remaining

PALLEKELE: England became the first team to seal their semi-final spot at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 as they edged past Pakistan by two wickets in Kandy on Tuesday. England captain Harry Brook rose to the occasion, hoisting his first T20I hundred to guide his team to win. Chasing a modest target of 165, England looked in trouble at 58/4.



But Brook scored 100 off 51 deliveries, including ten fours and four sixes, as the former champions reached the finish line in 19.1 overs. Put into field, England made a strong start, reducing their rivals

to 27/2 inside the first four overs. Saim Ayub was undone by Jofra Archer's pace and bounce, while captain Salman Agha fell to left-arm spinner Liam Dawson. Farhan steadied the innings with a 46-run partnership with Babar Azam (25), and a 49-run stand with Fakhar Zaman (25). The first six of the Pakistan innings came in the 14th over when Farhan swept Will Jacks for a big hit. Farhan brought up his half-century in 37 balls and once again held the innings together. He finished with 63 off 45 balls, including seven fours and two sixes. Pakistan's attempts to accelerate towards the end were thwarted as they lost a clutch of wickets. Starting with Farhan, they slipped from 122/4 to 149/8. The English pacers were on target on Tuesday, as Archer and Overton finished with two wickets apiece. Dawson unsettled Pakistan, claiming 3/24 in his four overs. Defending an under-par score

in Pallekele, Shaheen Afridi gave Pakistan the perfect start by dismissing the in-form Phil Salt off the first ball of the innings. Dropped from the playing XI in the previous match, Afridi marked his return with a delivery that angled across the right-handed Salt, who nicked it to wicket-keeper Usman Khan. Afridi sent back Jos Buttler back in similar fashion, and then had Jacob Bethell miscue a shot square of the wicket, which Farhan caught superbly. England ended the powerplay at 53/3. Mystery spinner Usman Tariq struck on the first ball, having Tom Banton caught behind. After the early fall of wickets, Brook, who was promoted to No 3 in the line-up, steadied the innings with Sam Curran, forming a 45-run partnership. While he ran hard between the wickets, Brook also chose his moments well, punishing every loose ball that came his way. It was just the kind of common

sense batting England needed to dig out of trouble. Brook's 52-run partnership with Will Jacks took the game away from Pakistan. The England captain brought up his first T20I hundred in style, punching a six over cover and following it up with a four through mid-off. When Brook was dismissed, England were already on the brink of victory at 155/6. But they lost three wickets in the space of six runs, injecting some late drama into the match. Going into the last over, England needed three runs, with two wickets in hand. Archer avoided any more delay by pulling through mid-wicket for a four. **Brief scores:** Pakistan 164/9 (Sa-hibzada Farhan 63, Babar Azam 25, Fakhar Zaman 25; Jofra Archer 2/32, Jamie Overton 2/26, Liam Dawson 3/25) lost to England 166/8 in 19.1 overs (Harry Brook 100, Will Jacks 28; Shaheen Afridi 4/30, Mohammad Nawaz 2/26, Usman Tariq 2/31). - Agencies

TO JOIN TEAM IN MARCH

Afghanistan appoint Pybus to replace Trott as head coach



MUMBAI: The Afghanistan Cricket Board has appointed England-born Richard Pybus as the new head coach for their national team. He will helm across formats and join the team ahead of the white-ball series against Sri Lanka in the UAE next month. Pybus replaces Jonathan Trott, who departed after spending three years in the role following their T20 World Cup campaign. Pybus' own playing career was cut short by a spate of injuries - he only ever played one List A match, for Suffolk in 1986 - but he found success coaching teams around the world. He was Pakistan's head coach from 1999 to 2003, overseeing their run to the final of the 1999 ODI World Cup. He had a

short-lived tenure as Bangladesh's head coach in 2013 and also spent six years (2013 to 2019) working with the West Indies team: as their director of cricket, a high-performance expert, and finally, their head coach. He also had stints with Middlesex in English county cricket, as well as the Border and Titans in South Africa's domestic leagues. His past experience might be crucial to reviving Afghanistan's fortunes; they suffered a group-stage exit at the ongoing T20 World Cup, after losing their first two matches to New Zealand and South Africa respectively. He will join the team in March in UAE, where they will play Sri Lanka in three ODIs and three T20Is between March 13 to 25. - Agencies

FAMILY EMERGENCY

India's Rinku in doubt for Zimbabwe match

CHENNAI: India batter Rinku Singh has flown home due to a family emergency and is in doubt for the next clash against Zimbabwe on February 26 in Chennai. Rinku was not present at India's training session at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, while the rest of his team-mates were present at the nets on Tuesday evening. Rinku has had a lean tournament so far. After scores of 6, 1, 11* and 6* in the group-stage matches, he made a duck in India's 76-run defeat against South Africa in Ahmedabad. If Rinku is unavailable for the match against Zimbabwe, India's options on the bench are Sanju Samson and Axar Patel. If India bring in Samson it will lead to a shuffle in the batting order and if they pick Axar, he can slot in at No. 8, where Rinku bat-



ted against South Africa. After the match against Zimbabwe, India's last Super Eight fixture is opposite West Indies on March 1 in Kolkata. If India make the semi-final, that fixture will be played in Mumbai on March 5 in Mumbai, unless it is against Pakistan, in which case the match will be on March 4 in Colombo. - Agencies

THE LINCOLN RAMADAN

wish list

CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT OF DISTINGUISHED LUXURY.

Service**
5 YEAR / 100,000 km

Warranty®
5 YEAR / 100,000 km

Complimentary***
Registration

Raffle Draw
Test Drive & Win*
2 iPhone 17

Raffle Draw
Buy & Win**
1 iPhone 17 Air

Visit
Showroom Today!

Scan & Book a Test Drive Today

Arabian Car Marketing Co.LLC
C.R.No: 1052055
Call Us: Wattyayah: 92880658,99852253
Sohar: 99477913, Mawaleh: 99385022, Salalah: 93220476
www.linconoman.com

Campaign Period: 10th February 2026 to 9th April 2026 on Lincoln models Navigator, Nautilus & 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 and Corsair.** Complimentary 1 year Registration on all above models Navigator, Nautilus & Corsair for private vehicles only.@ 5 Years / 100,000 Kms (whichever is earlier) Manufacturer's Warranty on Nautilus, Navigator and Corsair.# Test Drive and Win (Raffle Draw) - 2 iPhone 17 on Navigator, Nautilus & Corsair.# # Raffle Draw (Buy & Win) - 1 iPhone 17 Air on purchase of Navigator, Nautilus & Corsair. Both raffle draws will be conducted on 26th April 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. Campaign will not be applicable for ministry and government deals/supplies.

LINCOLN

OMAN OIL PRICE RISES
The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by April 2026 reaching \$70.42, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 46 cents from the price of Monday, which was which was \$69.96. -**ONA**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER
The MSX index closed at 7,291.91 points, up by 1.60% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 1.05% at 643.49 points. Oman Packaging, up 6.51%, was the top gainer while, Liva Group, down 9.89%, was the top loser.

Oman's inflation rises by 1.4% in January

Data issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) revealed that the miscellaneous personal goods and services group led the increases with a significant rise of 13.2 percent

MUSCAT: The General Consumer Price Index (CPI) in the Sultanate of Oman recorded an increase of 1.4 percent in January 2026 compared to the same month in 2025, based on the 2018 base year. Data issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) revealed that the miscellaneous personal goods and services group led the increases with a significant rise of 13.2 percent. This was followed by the Restaurants and Hotels group at 5.9 percent, the Furniture, Household Equipment, and Routine Household Maintenance group at 2.6 percent, Education at 2.2 percent, Health at 1.7 percent, and Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages at 0.9 percent. Additionally, the Clothing and



Footwear group saw a slight increase of 0.1 percent, while the Transport group recorded a decrease of 0.3 percent. Meanwhile, prices remained stable with no change for the Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas, and Other Fuels group, Recreation and Culture, Tobacco, and Telecommunications. Regarding the Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages group in January 2026 compared to the corresponding month in 2025, prices for fruits rose by 5.2 percent, followed by sugar, jam, honey, and confec-

tionery at 3.3 percent. Meat as well as milk, cheese, and eggs both increased by 2.0 percent, while other food products rose by 1.7 percent. Oils and fats recorded an increase of 0.7 percent, non-alcoholic beverages rose by 0.5 percent, and bread and cereals increased by 0.4 percent. Conversely, the prices of fish dropped by 5.4 percent and vegetables decreased by 1.4 percent. At the regional level, Al Dhahirah Governorate recorded the highest inflation rate by the end of January 2026 compared to the

same period the previous year, with its index rising by 2.3 percent. The inflation rate also increased in Muscat Governorate by 1.9 percent, Al Buraimi by 1.8 percent, Al Dakhiliyah by 1.5 percent, and South Al Batinah by 1.3 percent. South Al Sharqiyah and Musandam governorates recorded an equal increase of 1.0 percent, while Dhofar and North Al Batinah both saw inflation rise by 0.4 percent. North Al Sharqiyah and Al Wusta governorates recorded the lowest joint inflation rate at 0.3 percent. -**ONA**

Workshop explores capacity building in climate finance

MUSCAT: Alizz Islamic Bank recently hosted the Climate Finance Capacity Building Workshop for Omani Banks at its head office. The high-level workshop was organised by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, alongside Oman Banking Association. The event brought together Chief Executive Officers of banks operating in the Sultanate of Oman, reflecting a unified commitment by the banking sector to advancing sustainable finance and supporting the nation's transition toward a low-carbon economy. The workshop addressed key themes including global climate finance trends, priority sectors relevant to Oman, climate-related risk management and international best practices. Led by IFC Climate Finance experts, the sessions provided practical insights and case studies to support banks in strengthening their climate-aligned portfolios and integrating sustainability into their core strategies. Hosting this landmark event reflects Alizz Islamic Bank's steadfast commitment to Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles. As a forward-looking

Islamic financial institution, the Bank has consistently aligned its strategy with sustainable development priorities and national objectives, including Oman's Net Zero 2050 ambitions and the Ministry of Finance's Sustainable Finance Framework. Commenting on the occasion, Ali Al Mani, Chief Executive Officer of Alizz Islamic Bank said: "Climate finance is no longer a niche segment it is a strategic imperative. At Alizz Islamic Bank, ESG is embedded in our values and business model. By hosting this workshop and convening all banking CEOs under one roof, we reaffirm our commitment to leading responsible finance, fostering collaboration and enabling sustainable economic growth in Oman." Alizz Islamic Bank continues to champion initiatives that promote sustainable investment, green financing solutions and responsible banking practices. Through strategic partnerships and knowledge-sharing platforms such as this workshop, the Bank aims to play a pivotal role in supporting projects that generate long-term environmental and social impact while delivering sustainable returns. - **ONA**



CORPORATE PHILOSOPHY



BankDhofar signs strategic sustainability partnership with Dhofar Municipality

MUSCAT: BankDhofar has signed a strategic partnership agreement with Dhofar Municipality, reinforcing its commitment to environmental sustainability and its active contribution to the goals of Oman Vision 2040, particularly in reducing carbon emissions and advancing green development. The agreement was signed on behalf of Dhofar Municipality by Dr. Ahmed bin Mohsin Al Ghassani, Chairman of the Municipality, and on behalf of BankDhofar by Ahmed bin Saeed Al Ibrahim, Chief Government Banking Officer. Sustainability forms a core pillar of BankDhofar's long-term strategy and corporate philosophy, alongside its role in supporting the economic and social development of the Sultanate. Through this partnership, the bank aims to further strengthen collaborative efforts that promote responsible

environmental practices and sustainable growth. BankDhofar continues to align its strategy with Oman Vision 2040 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by fostering innovation, expanding green financing initiatives, empowering local communities, and upholding strong governance standards. The bank views sustainability not merely as a compliance requirement, but as a driver of long-term value creation. As part of its environmental agenda, BankDhofar is implementing initiatives to improve resource efficiency across its operations. These include recycling and waste-sorting programs within its buildings, measures to reduce its carbon footprint, and enhanced energy-efficiency practices. The bank is also advancing efforts to support the circular economy while promoting a culture of environmental respon-

sibility across its workforce. Beyond internal operations, BankDhofar is expanding its support for environmentally focused projects through green financing solutions that promote energy efficiency, water conservation, and waste reduction. The bank believes that socially responsible banking has become an essential imperative in today's financial landscape, particularly as customers and investors increasingly prioritize environmental stewardship and sustainable practices. This partnership with Dhofar Municipality further strengthens BankDhofar's role as an active contributor to Oman's transition toward a low-carbon economy. By integrating sustainability into its strategy and operations, the bank continues to position itself at the forefront of responsible banking, aligned with national aspirations and global environmental trends.

OWN YOUR LUXURY RESIDENCES AT LUMA

VILLAS | TOWNHOUSES | APARTMENTS

3%
Registration
Waiver

Golden
Visa

Flexible
Payment Plans

Furnished

+968 24857070 / 98589993
muscatbay.com

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Oman Packaging, up 6.51%, was the top gainer while, Liva Group, down 9.89%, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 7,291.91 points, up by 1.60% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 1.05% at 643.49 points. Oman Packaging, up 6.51%, was the top gainer while, Liva Group, down 9.89%, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 5389 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 79.5 million, with more than 266 million shares changing hands. Out of 79 traded securities, 39 advanced, 12 declined, and 28 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net buyers for RO 8475K while domestic investors were net sellers for RO 6891K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 1584K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 12,418.24 points, up 0.95%. Prices of Muscat Finance, DIDIC, Oman Arab Bank, Taageer Finance, United Finance were up by 3.75%, 3.20%, 2.53%, 2.36%, 2.30% respectively. Prices of Liva Group, Al Madina Investments, Takaful Oman, Bank Dhofar, Ahli Bank were down by 9.89%, 2.44%, 1.32%, 0.99%, 0.98% respectively.



Industrial Index closed at 9,520.13 points, up 0.26%. Prices of Oman Packaging, Raysut Cement, Gulf International Chemicals, Oman Cement, Oman Flour Mills were up by 6.51%, 1.47%, 1.19%, 1.00%, 1.00% respectively. Prices of Al Anwar Ceramics, Galfar Engineering, Gulf Mushroom Products, Oman Chlorine were down by 1.05%, 0.94%, 0.91%, 0.87% respectively.

Services Index was up by 1.68% before closing at 2,839.17 points. Prices of OQ Gas Networks, SMN Power Holding, Abraj Energy, Oman Telecom, Barka Desalination were up by 4.89%, 3.33%, 2.58%, 2.50%, 2.50% respectively. Prices of Dhofar Generating were down by 2.27% respectively.

— United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	12,430.47	7,182.61	7,291.91	7,176.76	115.15	1.60
FINANCIAL INDEX	12,430.47	12,307.26	12,418.24	12,300.99	117.26	0.95
Industry Index	9,556.15	9,503.62	9,520.13	9,495.09	25.04	0.26
Services Index	2,847.24	2,792.26	2,839.17	2,792.26	46.91	1.68
MSX Shariah Index	644.54	637.34	643.49	636.77	6.72	1.05
MSX TR INDEX	10,990.34	10,795.87	10,960.14	10,787.07	173.07	1.60
FINANCIAL TR IDX	14,767.83	14,621.45	14,753.31	14,614.00	139.30	0.95
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	11,781.91	11,717.14	11,737.49	11,706.62	30.87	0.26
SERVICES TR IDX	3,713.01	3,641.31	3,702.48	3,641.31	61.17	1.68
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,209.68	1,209.68	1,209.68	1,209.68	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
266,008,937	79,498,743	5,389	36,020,443,905	39	12	28	79

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

ISN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PRE VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000000072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	35,912,111	8,290,608	744	0.225	0.237	0.225	0.236	0.225	0.011	4.889	0.236	0.236	0.238	0.100	1,022,027,245
OM0000000894	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	2,137,124	932,115	234	0.427	0.439	0.427	0.438	0.427	0.011	2.576	0.438	0.438	0.438	0.100	337,347,600
OM0000000306	OMAN TELECOM	8,113,349	10,223,738	289	1.240	1.280	1.239	1.270	1.239	0.031	2.502	1.270	1.270	1.270	0.100	952,500,000
OM0000000274	UNITED FINANCE	1,144,328	102,148	71	0.089	0.091	0.088	0.089	0.087	0.002	2.239	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.100	31,895,330
OM0000000420	BANK NIZWA	5,171,882	797,494	180	0.153	0.157	0.152	0.154	0.151	0.003	1.987	0.154	0.154	0.154	0.100	344,480,707
OM0000000398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	103,638,849	22,817,237	813	0.220	0.224	0.218	0.223	0.219	0.004	1.826	0.223	0.223	0.220	0.100	1,475,645,918
OM00000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	152,357	44,043	10	0.285	0.292	0.285	0.290	0.285	0.005	1.754	0.290	0.286	0.293	0.100	58,000,000
OM0000000224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	842,314	367,453	71	0.385	0.392	0.385	0.391	0.385	0.006	1.558	0.391	0.386	0.393	0.100	22,921,000
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	26,820	10,859	7	0.402	0.405	0.402	0.405	0.400	0.005	1.250	0.405	0.405	0.405	0.100	40,500,000
OM00000003968	OOREDOO	1,102,761	373,043	39	0.336	0.342	0.336	0.340	0.336	0.004	1.190	0.340	0.340	0.343	0.100	221,321,038
OM00000007796	BANK MUSCAT	26,272,553	11,088,458	318	0.420	0.426	0.420	0.424	0.420	0.004	0.852	0.424	0.425	0.424	0.100	318,712,354
OM00000001707	OMAN CARBLES INDUSTRY	97,811	283,991	8	2.900	2.930	2.900	2.930	2.905	0.025	0.861	2.930	3.155	2.930	0.100	262,821,000
OM00000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO	112,144	13,750	11	0.123	0.123	0.121	0.121	0.120	0.001	0.833	0.121	0.121	0.129	0.100	10,890,000
OM00000003661	VOITAMP ENERGY	66,141	120,650	24	1.810	1.830	1.810	1.815	1.800	0.015	0.833	1.815	1.815	1.900	0.100	169,907,889
OM00000001533	OMINVEST	216,152	85,967	26	0.398	0.400	0.396	0.400	0.398	0.002	0.503	0.400	0.395	0.401	0.100	374,284,638
OM00000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	145,342	55,897	37	0.385	0.385	0.383	0.385	0.384	0.001	0.260	0.385	0.383	0.385	0.100	625,989,347
OM00000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	190,513	47,598	30	0.248	0.250	0.248	0.250	0.250	0.000	0.000	0.250	0.250	0.254	0.100	10,710,748
OM00000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	2,205,873	302,844	252	0.136	0.140	0.135	0.136	0.136	0.000	0.000	0.136	0.136	0.136	0.100	23,800,000
OM00000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	25,410	4,180	13	0.164	0.165	0.164	0.165	0.165	0.000	0.000	0.165	0.162	0.177	0.100	111,356,426
OM00000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	38,000	6,232	5	0.164	0.164	0.164	0.164	0.164	0.000	0.000	0.164	0.164	0.165	0.100	117,162,640
OM00000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	2,640,725	499,716	24	0.192	0.192	0.188	0.188	0.190	-0.002	-1.053	0.188	0.188	0.188	0.100	41,360,000
Total		190,253,169	56,437,722	3,216												

Parallel Market

OM00000001608	OMAN PACKAGING	1,519	267	4	0.174	0.180	0.174	0.180	0.169	0.011	6.509	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.100	5,838,455	
OM00000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	359,247	29,735	23	0.083	0.083	0.081	0.083	0.080	0.003	3.750	0.083	0.083	0.082	0.083	0.100	25,493,141
OM00000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	374,894	91,618	38	0.240	0.248	0.240	0.248	0.240	0.008	3.333	0.248	0.248	0.248	0.100	48,509,629	
OM00000001509	DHOFAH INTL DEVT & INVESTMENT	1,417,797	411,175	34	0.295	0.300	0.290	0.290	0.281	0.009	3.203	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.100	143,556,281	
OM00000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	142,947	28,898	8	0.200	0.203	0.200	0.203	0.198	0.005	2.525	0.203	0.203	0.198	0.203	0.100	406,556,897
OM00000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	20,000	3,280	2	0.164	0.164	0.164	0.164	0.160	0.004	2.500	0.164	0.162	0.164	0.100	12,385,608	
OM00000003281	TAGEER FINANCE	718,913	91,342	5	0.127	0.130	0.127	0.130	0.127	0.003	2.362	0.130	0.127	0.131	0.100	36,299,018	
OM00000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	26,842,894	12,350,266	478	0.450	0.468	0.450	0.460	0.450	0.010	2.222	0.460	0.460	0.405	0.100	3,880,000,000	
OM00000005953	PHOENIX POWER	5,937,902	967,348	74	0.162	0.166	0.162	0.165	0.162	0.003	1.852	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.100	241,329,241	
OM00000002648	OMAN FINANCE	11,700	2,631	3	0.223	0.225	0.223	0.225	0.222	0.004	1.810	0.225	0.223	0.226	0.100	136,828,471	
OM00000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	84,800	11,754	11	0.138	0.139	0.138	0.139	0.137	0.002	1.460	0.139	0.130	0.140	0.100	41,498,857	
OM00000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	71,122	24,833	9	0.345	0.350	0.345	0.350	0.345	0.005	1.449	0.350	0.350	0.355	0.100	24,636,500	
OM00000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	186,480	15,736	27	0.084	0.086	0.083	0.085	0.084	0.001	1.190	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.100	1,783,000	
OM00000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	186,320	17,075	13	0.091	0.092	0.091	0.092	0.090	0.001	1.099	0.092	0.088	0.092	0.100	14,310,637	
OM00000001160	NATIONAL GAS	143,693	13,270	14	0.093	0.093	0.092	0.093	0.092	0.001	1.087	0.093	0.092	0.093	0.100	7,905,000	
OM00000001749	OMAN CEMENT	338,077	170,606	23	0.500	0.507	0.499	0.505	0.500	0.005	1.000	0.507	0.507	0.507	0.100	167,990,719	
OM00000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	13,500	37,550	7	0.518	0.518	0.507	0.507	0.502	0.005	0.996	0.507	0.507	0.518	0.100	83,845,125	
OM00000001132	OMAN NATIONAL ENGG & INVESTMENT	86,156	13,865	12	0.160	0.163	0.160	0.163	0.162	0.001	0.617	0.163	0.161	0.163	0.100	24,450,000	
OM00000002077	AL OMANYIA FINANCIAL SERVICES	10,000	1,900	2	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.189	0.001	0.529	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.100	59,829,231	
OM00000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	2,525	548	2	0.217	0.217	0.217	0.217	0.216	0.001	0.463	0.217	0.214	0.217	0.100	3,624,335	
OM00000001020	OMAN CHROMITE	257	861	1	3.700	3.700	3.700	3.700	3.700	0.000	0.000	3.700	3.700	0.000	1.000	12,210,000	
OM00000001178	MUSCAT GASES	16,650	817	2	0.121	0.123	0.121	0.123	0.123	0.000	0.000	0.123	0.123	0.123	0.100	3,690,000	
OM00000001384	FINANCIAL SERVICES	31,278	3,431	8	0.105	0.110	0.105	0.110	0.110	0.000	0.000	0.110	0.106	0.110	0.100	2,200,000	
OM00000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO	22,400	2,464	3	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.000	0.000	0.110	0.106	0.121	0.100	13,406,250	
OM00000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	30	24	1	0.810	0.810	0.810	0.810	0.810	0.000	0.000	0.810	0.780	0.815	0.100	76,950,000	
OM00000002872	OMAN OIL MARKETING	4,400	4,840	3	1.100	1.100	1.100	1.100	1.100	0.000	0.000	1.100	0.000	1.100	0.100	67,402,500	
OM00000002880	OMAN EDUCATION & TRAINING INVT	494	774	1	1.600	1.600	1.600	1.600	1.600	0.000	0.000	1.600	1.556	1.600	0.100	112,450,000	
OM00000003000	AI MAHA PETROLEUM PRODS MKRTNG	1,181	1,335	3	1.150	1.150	1.150	1.150	1.150	0.000	0.000	1.150	1.035	1.175	0.100	79,350,000	
OM00000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	30,885	5,185	7	0.168	0.169	0.167	0.167	0.167	0.000	0.000	0.167	0.167	0.167	0.178	0.100	26,720,000
OM00000004735	SEMBOORJ SALAH	12,050	2,651	6	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.000	0.000	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.100	21,005,828
OM00000007874	OMAN REAL ESTATE	5,598	4	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.000	0.000	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.100	1,000,000
OM00000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	5,202	2	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.000	0.000	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.102	0.100	67,191,255
OM00000008848	THE PEARL REIF	11,852	2,299	6	0.194	0.194	0.194	0.194	0.194	0.000	0.000	0.194	0.193	0.193	0.211	0.100	114,738,755
OM00000009569	JABAL REIF	26,100	3,527	9	0.103	0.104	0.103	0.104	0.104	0.000	0.000	0.104	0.103	0.104	0.103	0.100	18,996,000
OM00000009958	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SP2)	34,445,459	5,901,856	560	0.222	0.224	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.020	0.000	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.040	761,087,000
OM00000002457	ASTAL SHIPPING	8,756,295	2,944,307	428	0.232	0.232	0.228	0.232	0.228	0.020	0.000	0.232	0.230	0.230	0.230	0.010	11,521,000
OM00000002341	OMAN CHLORINE	8,559	1,958	2	0.228	0.229	0.228	0.229	0.231	-0.002	-0.866	0.229	0.228	0.229	0.229	0.100	16,908,121
OM00000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	100,350	43,731	12	0.439	0.439	0.435	0.435	0.435	-0.004	-0.911	0.435	0.435	0.435	0.438	0.100	17,575,527
OM00000002200	AHLI BANK	12,473	247	2	0.201	0.203	0.198	0.203	0.205	-0.002	-0.976	0.203	0.200	0.200	0.203	0.100	54,940,800
OM00000002545	ALINBAH DHOFAH	1,991,734	398,358	230	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.000	0.000	0.205	0.199	0.199	0.205	0.100	25,555,555
OM00000007676	TAKAFLU OMAN	5,272	2	0.076	0.076	0.075	0.075	0.076	-0.001	-1.316	-0.075	0.073	0.073	0.080	0.100	18,750,000	
OM00000007047	DHOFAH GENERATING	5,100	439	2	0.090	0.090	0.086	0.086	0.088	-0.002	-2.273	0.086	0.087	0.090	0.100	19,112,640	
OM00000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	279,737	11,205	17	0.041	0.042	0.040	0.040	0.041	-0.001	-2.439	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.045	0.100	3,400,000
OM00000004689	SHARQAH DESALINATION	1,500	261	1	0.174	0.174	0.174	0.174	0.180	-0.006	-3.635	0.174	-0.175	0.175	0.175	0.100	17,017,576
OM00000007043	LIVA GROUP	2,968	0	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.000	0.000	0.240	0.237	0.237	0.237	0.356	356
Total	45	75,052,265	22,740,460	2,106													



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

CONNEC

PRINT EDITION

WWW.TIMESOFOMAN.COM
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026

PLACE YOUR ADVT HERE

Email to : amcoman@choueirigroup.com





RENT



CARGO



VACANCY



RENT OR SALE?

PLACE YOUR
ADVT HERE

Email: amcoman@choueirigroup.com

DNV 2.7-1 OFFSHORE CONTAINERS, REEFER CONTAINER SALES & RENTALS

ISO CONTAINER SALES, CONVERSIONS & RENTALS



CONTAINER SOLUTIONS LLC

Po Box 522, Pc 322, Falaj Al Qabail, Sohar Free Zone, Oman
Tel: +968 9358 5556, +968 99508921, +968 26942610
FAX: 26942611, Email: sales@containersolutions.com.
www.containersolutions.com



PLACE YOUR ADVT HERE

Send your ad to: amcoman@choueirigroup.com



LOOKING FOR ENGINEERING JOB ?



Send your advt. to:
amcoman@choueirigroup.com

LOOKING FOR DRIVER JOB?



Send your advt. to:
amcoman@choueirigroup.com

JOB WANTED

DOCTOR

Indian female BDS Doctor, with 2 years experience in Insurance pre-authorization and medical approvals seeking suitable placement.

Contact : 97607069
Email : carolinelizabethjohn@gmail.com

DOCUMENT CONTROLLER

Experienced document controller seeking immediate placement in Oman. QA/QC, project coordination, skilled in EDMS, sharepoint, Aconex, and administrative support.

Contact: +971 585841339
Email: bajifazil@gmail.com

SALES & MARKETING

Seeking a suitable position in Sales & Marketing having 16 yrs of rich experience in Oman and 2 yrs in Africa in the field of Infrastructure, Construction, Building material and Industrial products having good contacts with clients /consultants. BE Mechanical Engineering, PGDM in Management. Holding Valid Oman D/L.

Contact: 94976056

MEDICAL

Pharmacist with 16 yrs exp. in retail & hospital pharmacy in Muscat & India. Previously registered with MOH, Oman with work License, NOC with D/L, currently in Muscat

Contact: 77336141
Email: confession.mercy@gmail.com

BUSINESS HEAD

Accomplished Indian management professional (Engg.+MBA). Extensive Marketing & Sales experience in consumer durables industry. Well networked with all channels /corporates of Oman seeking senior management opportunities.

Contact No.: 7708 8859

OFFICER

Banking - Credit & Risk

Indian lady-BTech Holder, Currently working at Nationalized Bank in India as Credit & Risk Officer Since 2011 looking suitable role in Oman

Mobile : 92652137 - Mailsibylbol@gmail.com

FINANCE

Senior Management Accountant/ Finance Manager

Indian male, MBA Finance, 20+ yrs Gulf experience in Accounting, Auditing, Oman VAT, Tax Assessment. Valid Oman Driving License. Available immediately.

Contact: 96987261 (Oman), +917418469385 (India)
Email: nrajan19742003@gmail.com

GENERAL MANAGER

Dynamic professional with 16+ yrs of progressive experience in financial strategy, business consulting/management, operational excellence, and growth leadership across Trading, Construction, RMC production, and MNCs company. Open to strategic senior management opportunities.

Contact: 92022786 or 97403883
Email: gm.seekers.2025@gmail.com

SALE



BIDDING EVENT FOR USED EQUIPMENT

Offering a wide selection of Used Equipment, including metals, cars and industrial parts. Serious buyers are invited to submit their best offers.

Contact :
Haitham Al Maawali
Workshop Administrator
Mobil+968 98243807
haitham.maawali@strabag.com
DEADLINE: 26.02.2026

JOB VACANCY

URGENTLY REQUIRED

Sales person for Building Materials with Valid Oman Driving License, Computer knowledge,

Enthusiastic & Young , Honest & Result Oriented with Minimum 2 Years Experience.

Send Email:
nvganatra27@gmail.com
narhit@omantel.net.om

VACANCY

TRUCK AUTO SPARE PARTS DIVISION

REQUIRED:
SALES MANAGER and STORE KEEPER

PRIORITY FOR EXPERIENCED

Interested candidates can send cv to:
hrrecruitmentautoparts@gmail.com

SERVICE

MAINTENANCE AND RENOVATION

Professional and Affordable

❖ Plumbing

❖ Electrical

❖ Civil Work

❖ Parking Sheds

❖ Tile Work

❖ CCTV Camera

❖ Waterproofing

Contact: 99454425

LOOKING FOR LOGISTIC JOB ?



Send your advt. to: amcoman@choueirigroup.com

JOB VACANCY

DRAUGHTSMAN

Urgently required AutoCAD Draughtsman with knowledge of Interior Design with minimum 2-5 yrs experience. Email: fareedadesign@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Accountant (CMA), own visa having 13 yrs Oman experience, can join immediately. Contact: 77336141

Indian (M) - 30 Accountant with overall exp 4yrs Valid DL. Contact: 78624277

Cost Accountant, B.Com with 15 yrs exp in Oman. Can join urgently, Contact: 7733 6141

Indian (M), 28, Accountant with overall exp. 3 yrs valid D/L. Contact: 78624277

Indian male Accountant. 10 yrs in muscat. D/L and NOC available. Contact: 79774800

Sri Lankan Accountant, reading CA. 3+yrs of experience. Expertise in accounting, audit, bookkeeping, VAT, finalization. Contact: +968 76297279

Accountant - Seeking suitable post. Contact : 90231803

Accounting professional with 19 yrs of extensive experience in finance and accounts in Oman urgently seeking a senior level accounting position... Contact: +968 78581435

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Indian male MBA finance, with 8 yrs of accounting experience seeks for as sr. acct's treasurer. NOC available & DL. contact : 72420067.

CA Inter qualified professional with 3 years of hands-on experience currently residing in Oman on family joining, open to full-time or part-time accounting opportunities.

Female software engineer full stack developer also expert in digital marketing with 7 yrs experience. Contact 74102443

Indian male, Bcom, MBA finance, 14 yrs of Oman and Indian experience, seeking suitable jobs in accounts. Have valid Oman D/L. Mob: 97436925.

Finance Manager, Indian, 26Yrs of experience, looking Job Change, Contact: 98006226

Looking for an accounts job with hands-on knowledge of tally and excel. dedicated and detail-oriented. Contact: +96896246456

Indian male Sr. Accountant (M.com with Finance) 17+yrs exp. in Oman with valid D/L. Contact: 91314540

Seeking a job opportunity with solid background of finance and accounts for more than 20 yrs of experience in Oman. Contact 92824146 / 94953826

Management, accounting operations & MIS reporting. Seeking a suitable managerial or senior accounting position. Contact: 78581435

B.Com, CA Articleship completed 28yrs experience in Muscat Oman. Expert in book keeping, vendor & bank reconciliation, seeking job. Contact : 99072361

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Accountant looking for job. Contact: 75024166

Highly skilled chief accountant looking for suitable position. Contact: 79888153

Indian male, MBA, 17 years experienced in key accounts, project sales, business development looking for suitable opportunities. Contact: 92790532

MBA Finance Senior accountant, 13-yrs GCC experience looking for a job upto finalization. Contact: 98869499

Accountant available immediate joiner, Indian male, B.Com, 10+ yrs exp (4 yrs Oman) Expert in Tally & Accounts Contact: 91417133

ADMINISTRATION

Indian (M) 29 yrs, MBA graduate with 4 yrs experience in operations, stores management, office administration, yard management, accounts, finance and graphic designing. Looking for suitable job. Contact: 78439875

Indian male, 4 yrs Oman experience in Oil & Gas (Sales & Logistics). Valid Oman D/L. Contact: 78992297

Experience Project Coordinator (8 years) – Civil. Cont: 90284233

Indian female, M.Sc. (Computer Science), overall 13+ yrs of experience in different administrative as well as project roles looking for suitable placement. Contact: 79166904/ 97498882

Project Manager (Civil) Indian, 18 yr GCC experience, valid D/L and transferable visa, can join immediately. Contact: 97723786

ARCHITECT

Architect, Interior Designer having more than 8+ yrs of experience with design and engineering consultants. Contact: 95759832, Email: ar.ahmedfaizal@gmail.com

IT

MCA graduate seeking a suitable job opportunity in Oman. Available in Muscat. Contact: 91488059

TECHNICIAN

Completed Bsc MLT (Medical Lab Technician), 2 yrs 3 months, experience, pearson vue Exam passed. Data Flow Positive. Seeking for job as lab technician. Contact No. 97394969/ 94967958. Mail: elizabethjifna@gmail.com

ENGINEER

Diploma in Electrical Engineering looking for Fire Fighting site supervisor/ suitable job. Contact: 95933453, Email: haquefaizan3786@gmail.com

Experienced Biomedical Engineer seeking opportunities in Oman. Presently in Oman & available for immediate joining. Email: asmathalipvl@gmail.com Contact: +968 72031225

T Support Engineer with more than 10 years of Oman experience looking for IT related jobs, holds valid Oman driving license. Mobile number: 91640716.

ENGINEER

Project Manager Civil seasoned professional with strong consultancy and construction expertise. Open for suitable opportunities. Contact: 93455363 | WA +966 56 373 2589 (WhatsApp)

Civil Engineer experience 20 yrs in telecom,motorola,ROP,mega buildings,roads and ministry project. Contact: 98921022

Looking for driver job. Contact: 72852929.

Looking for driver job have car also. Contact: 94942998

LOGISTICS

Indian male Graduate with 25 yrs of proven experience in Car rental, fleet Management & logistics. Currently seeking for Senior/middle management position. Contact: 92152334.

25 yrs, Indian male, BCom looking for job in Logistics and Store. Mob.: 75042502

Logistics Operations executive with 8 yrs experience, seeking a suitable position in Oman, Contact: 97869393

MANAGER

MEP construction manager, Gulf experience 28 years, Own visa, Oman DL. Mob No: 79809590

Accounting manager, Indian (M), 43 yrs, 18+ yrs in Oman, D/L & NOC. Contact: 76432203

MANAGER

Indian male, MBA. 12 yrs of experience as (branch manager & key accounts executive) looking for suitable position. Contact: 98132055

PURCHASE/ PROCUREMENT

Operations leader with 22 yrs experience in logistics, procurement, commercial administration, branch, warehouse, service and financial domains. Contact: 93451519Email:anirudhadt@gmail.com

Indian male procurement executive with 11 yrs of experience in Oman, holding Oman D/L available in Muscat for immediate joining. Contact: 92345877

Procurement engineer 19 yrs experience construction and trading. whatsapp:+96895839964

SALES/MARKETING

Indian, MBA, 20yrs of experience in Sales(FMCG/ retail) with D/L seeks suitable placement. Contact: 95548480

Indian male, 08 yrs experience having Oman D/L looking for suitable placement in Sales and Marketing. Contact: 94566786

MBA finance & marketing professional with expertise in Excel, Power BI, SAP, MIS reporting, banking operations, digital marketing, and operations. Seeking roles in Oman. Contact: 71857404 sreekuttannr84@gmail.com.

Trump refutes reports of top general advice to him against fight with Iran

This comes after media reports emerged that Daniel Caine cautioned President Donald Trump and senior American officials that a military campaign against Iran could carry serious risks

WASHINGTON DC : US President Donald Trump refuted media reports claiming that General Daniel Caine has cautioned Washington against the war with Iran.



In a post on Truth Social, Trump said that the stories are “100 per cent incorrect” as they do not attribute “his vast wealth of knowledge.” He added that Caine, like him, “would not like to see War” but is confident that it can be “easily won”. “Numerous stories from the

Fake News Media have been circulating stating that General Daniel Caine, sometimes referred to as Razin, is against us going to War with Iran. The story does not attribute this vast wealth of knowledge to anyone, and is 100% incorrect. General Caine, like all of us,

would like not to see War but, if a decision is made on going against Iran at a Military level, it is his opinion that it will be something easily won,” Trump said. “He has not spoken of not doing Iran, or even the fake limited strikes that I have been reading

about, he only knows one thing, how to WIN and, if he is told to do so, he will be leading the pack. Everything that has been written about a potential War with Iran has been written incorrectly, and purposefully so,” he added. Trump again warned Iran to come to terms with the US on the nuclear deal, and if they failed to do so, then “it will be a very bad day for that Country and, very sadly, its people.” “I am the one that makes the decision, I would rather have a Deal than not but, if we don’t make a Deal, it will be a very bad day for that Country and, very sadly, its people, because they are great and wonderful, and something like this should never have happened to them,” he said. This comes after media reports emerged that Daniel Caine cautioned President Donald Trump and senior American officials that a military campaign against Iran could carry serious risks, including the possibility of becoming entangled in a prolonged conflict. Meanwhile, the United States continues to strengthen its military presence in the region, sparking

concerns about a potential broader conflict with Iran. The New York Times reported that hundreds of servicemen have been transferred from the Al Udeid base in Qatar, according to information provided by Pentagon officials. Similar logistical shifts have been identified across a network of American facilities in Bahrain, the headquarters of the Navy’s 5th Fleet, as well as in Iraq, Syria, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and the United Arab Emirates. Government officials are reportedly apprehensive that the 30,000 to 40,000 US troops currently deployed within the region could serve as the primary target of the Islamic Republic in the event of an all-out war. Iran’s foreign minister Abbas Araghchi has said that he is likely to meet with a US delegation in Geneva on Thursday for the next round of talks over the country’s nuclear program. The two sides have already held two rounds of negotiations so far this month aimed at reaching a deal. -ANI

KILLING OF A FAR-RIGHT ACTIVIST

France to bar US envoy access to govt after missed summons

PARIS : France has moved to block access for United States Ambassador Charles Kushner after he failed to appear for a formal summons issued by the French Foreign Ministry over comments made by members of the Donald Trump administration regarding the killing of a far-right activist in Lyon, France 24 reported. French Foreign Ministry, in a statement, said Kushner “did not appear” after being summoned following remarks by US officials on a tragedy that occurred in France and concerned the country’s internal public debate. “In light of this apparent failure to grasp the basic requirements of the ambassadorial mission and the honour of representing one’s country, Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot has requested that he no longer be allowed direct access to members of the French government,” the ministry said. While Kushner will be barred from direct access to French government ministers, he will be



permitted to continue carrying out certain diplomatic responsibilities and maintain limited exchanges with officials. France 24, citing the diplomatic sources of UK based news agency, reported that the summons followed comments published by the US Embassy in France concerning the death of a 23-year-old right-wing activist, Quentin Deranque, who died of head injuries after violent clashes in Lyon on February 14. The violence occurred on the sidelines of a protest against a politician from the left-wing France Unbowed (LFI) party.

A diplomatic source told Reuters that the summons followed comments published by the US Embassy in France concerning the death of a 23-year-old right-wing activist, Quentin Deranque, who died of head injuries after violent clashes in Lyon on February 14. The violence occurred on the sidelines of a protest against a politician from the left-wing France Unbowed (LFI) party.

According to reports of France based news agency, Kushner sent a senior embassy official in his place, citing personal commitments. Kushner is the father of Jared Kushner, who is married to US President Donald Trump’s daughter, Ivanka Trump. The controversy escalated after US officials condemned what they described as “violent radical leftism” in connection with Deranque’s death. Sarah Rogers, the US State Department Undersecretary for Public Diplomacy, said the killing demonstrated “why we treat political violence - terrorism - so harshly,” adding on social media that resorting to killing over opinions amounted to opting “out of civilisation.” The US Embassy in France and the State Department’s Bureau of Counterterrorism also stated that they were monitoring the case and warned that “violent radical leftism is on the rise” and should be treated as a public safety threat. -ANI

PROPOSAL

Indian Cabinet’s nod to name change of Kerala to ‘Keralam’



NEW DELHI : The Indian Union Cabinet on Tuesday gave its approval to the proposal to change the name of Kerala to Keralam. Briefing reporters after a meeting of the Union Cabinet, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the Kerala Alteration of Name Bill will be sent to the state assembly for its approval. The decision comes ahead of the assembly polls in the state, slated for the first half of this year. “After approval of the Union Cabinet, the President of India will

refer a Bill, namely the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026, to the State Legislative Assembly of Kerala for expressing its views under the proviso to Article 3 of the Constitution of India,” Vaishnaw said. After receipt of the views of the State Legislative Assembly of Kerala, the Centre will take further action, and the recommendation of the President will be obtained for the introduction of the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026, for the alteration of the name of the state of Kerala as ‘Keralam’ in Parliament. -ANI

DIELLA

World’s first virtual minister Anila Bisha in Albania court

TIRANA: On September 11, 2025, Albanian actor Anila Bisha was sitting at home with her family, watching the live presentation of the country’s new cabinet by Edi Rama, prime minister of Albania. What followed took her completely by surprise: She saw herself appointed minister — not as a flesh-and-blood politician, but as an avatar. “Diella,” whom Rama introduced as the world’s first virtual minister, had Bisha’s face and voice. For the government, it was a bold display of technological innovation. For Bisha, an actor with a stage and screen career spanning almost 40 years, it was something else entirely. “I laughed about it with my family at first,” she told DW. “I did not understand the consequences that would follow.” What was presented as a symbol of digital modernity soon revealed a more complex reality. The image of a virtual minister portrayed Albania as a pioneer in the use of artificial intelligence in governance. But the spectacle masked unresolved questions that would eventually shift the debate from the cabinet to the courtroom. **From virtual assistant to ministerial role** Before she became a minister on screen, “Diella” was something far more simple. The avatar first appeared as a digital assistant on e-Albania, the government’s online portal, which is designed to guide citizens through public services. According to Bisha’s court filing,



she signed a contract in December 2024, allowing her image and voice to be used for that specific purpose for a period of one year. Then came the cabinet presentation where Albania was introduced to its new minister for artificial intelligence, who had the very same name, face and voice as the e-Albania digital assistant and, therefore, actor Anila Bisha. **The court must decide** Bisha says she was not informed that the avatar would take on a ministerial role. Her lawyer, Aranit Roshi, describes the contract she concluded as being limited in scope. “It was an exclusive object, an exclusive purpose. This means her image and voice could not be used for any other product,” he said. The government has dismissed the allegations. “In our view, the claim has no basis,” a government representative said in a statement,

adding that it is ultimately up to the court to decide who is right. **A case of personal data protection** Legal experts say the dispute is not primarily about copyright, but about personal data protection. “The essence of the case is the violation of personal data,” says Elton Peppo, associate professor at the Faculty of Law at the University of Tirana. Under Albanian law, which is fully aligned with EU data protection standards, a person’s image and voice qualify as personal data. “Any use beyond the duration or the agreed purpose of the contract constitutes a breach,” he explained to DW. Bisha has asked the Administrative Court to suspend the use of her image and voice until a final ruling is issued. A court hearing to decide on the temporary suspension is scheduled for February 23.

In her filing, she names the Council of Ministers, the National Agency for Information Society (AKSHI), the private company involved in producing the avatar, and Prime Minister Edi Rama as defendants. She is also seeking €1 million in moral damages. For months, Anila Bisha says, people have been addressing her in public as “Minister Diella.” The digital figure has begun to eclipse the person behind it. The overlap is no longer technical, but personal. **A form of identity duplication** Mark Marku, dean of the Faculty of History and Philology and lecturer at the Department of Journalism and Communication at the University of Tirana, describes such cases as a form of identity duplication. “Together with the image, you do not sell your personality,” he told DW, explaining that a person may license their likeness for a specific purpose, but that does not automatically transfer their beliefs, values or political positioning. “No one has the right to take someone’s identity and use it beyond what was agreed.” There is also a considerable difference between the role of the avatar and that of the minister: A digital assistant answers technical questions; a minister speaks for the state. After being appointed minister, “Diella” appeared on a large screen in Albania’s parliament to address lawmakers as minister for artificial intelligence.

She also featured at various public events inside and outside the country. The script may be written by others, but the face remains the same. Bisha says she sometimes feared what her digital double would say. “In some cases, such as in the Albanian parliament, I was worried,” she said. **Internationally celebrated innovation** Internationally, the project has been celebrated. In February 2026, “Diella” was selected from more than 1,500 submissions across over 100 countries to receive the Global Future Fit Seal at the World Governments Summit in Dubai — an award recognizing forward-looking government innovations. Technically, however, “Diella” remains a chatbot, a virtual assistant operating within defined parameters. IT expert Besmir Semanaj says there is no public evidence that the system has evolved into an autonomous AI decision-maker. “We still don’t know whether ‘Diella’ has been trained as an independent system,” he told DW. **Innovation under investigation** When presenting “Diella” as minister for artificial intelligence, Prime Minister Edi Rama promised a new era in which “public tenders will be 100% incorruptible, and every public fund 100% transparent.” In practice, however, the avatar is not a standalone innovation but

part of Albania’s state digital governance system. The system is overseen by the National Agency for Information Society (AKSHI), a public institution that manages the country’s digital government infrastructure (e-Albania), public databases, state IT systems and procurement processes. Hundreds of public services are delivered through the e-Albania portal, where the avatar was first deployed. In December 2025, Albania’s Special Court Against Corruption and Organized Crime (GJKKO) ordered precautionary measures — including house arrest — against senior AKSHI officials as part of an investigation by the Special Anti-Corruption Prosecution (SPAK) into alleged corruption and abuse of office. **Digital infrastructure** The case reportedly focuses on suspicions of irregularities in public tenders and procurement procedures related to digital infrastructure and service contracts. The investigation into AKSHI is legally separate from the lawsuit filed by Bisha over the use of her likeness. Yet, as media scholar Mark Marku argues, perception matters. If a system is introduced as a way to curb what he calls “homo corruptus” — the subjective human factor in public spending and tender procedures — then allegations concerning the institution managing that system inevitably affect the perceived credibility of that system and, therefore, such initiatives as “Diella.” -DW



WHY WE'RE BECOMING

Scientists report a rise in nature anxiety, or biophobia, warning that humans are losing touch with the natural world. Here's how to reconnect

DISCONNECTED



FROM NATURE



Strolling in a forest, nurturing a garden or even just looking at rolling green hills are interactions with nature that are often seen as a balm for the soul. There is even a word for the love of nature: biophilia. At the other end of the spectrum is biophobia — the fear of nature. It might traditionally be used to describe fear of large predators or phobias of spiders, snakes and other poisonous or dangerous creatures. But in recent years, researchers have been observing biophobia of entirely different proportions. A team at Sweden's Lund University analyzed almost 200 studies on the relationship between humans and nature. The result: our relationship with nature seems to be deteriorating.

Many humans no longer have everyday contact with nature
Johan Kjellberg Jensen from Lund University, who led the overview study, said it reveals a clear link between a negative relationship with nature and a growing trend toward urban living. And that could have impacts down the line, according to Jensen.

"Today, the majority of the world's population lives in cities, which means that future generations could be at increased risk of biophobia," he told DW. Science has been observing people's alienation from nature since the late 1970s. That's according to Berlin psychologist Dirk Stemper, whose research interests include anxiety management and personal development. This applies mainly to industrialised nations. "Children are increasingly growing up in highly sealed, non-natural environments and spend most of their time indoors and in digital environments," he said. "There is a lack of physical and sensory experiences, such as climbing, getting dirty or observing animals."

What happens when nature becomes unfamiliar?
But it is precisely these kinds of experiences that build familiarity with nature — familiarity that psychologist Lea Dohm says is important in terms of planetary stewardship. "The willingness to stand up for environmental, nature and climate protection is greater when we experience ourselves as connected to nature," said Dohm, who is a member of the German Alliance for Climate Change and Health (KLUG). Jensen added that the idea of soil being "dirty" and earthworms being "disgusting" can be passed down from one generation to the next. "If parents have negative attitudes towards nature, that can influence their children, which can then lead to a downward spiral of [less and less] closeness to nature," he said. Stemper adds that when children are repeatedly told to "be careful of ticks" or not to touch certain things, they are likely to view nature as a place of danger.

Helping people to reconnect with nature
Environmental educator Susanne Sigl has also experienced this. She works at Querwaldein, a non-profit organisation in the German city of Cologne aimed at instilling a positive relationship with nature in people, especially children. "When we ask children to collect long branches in the forest, some only touch them reluctantly, others even use a handkerchief and some don't touch them at all and don't bring any," she says. According to Sigl, many children won't touch pinecones or chestnuts, preferring to just look at them. They are even less likely to touch earthworms or harmless insects such as small beetles. The Lund University team also found that a fear of nature can even turn into hostility. There is research to back up the connection between biophobia and calls for the killing of certain predators such as bears, wolves or sharks.

How stories shape our view of the natural world
Our relationship with nature is also strongly determined by our culture and the stories we have heard about it. "In Central Europe, the forest used to be seen as a place of danger, wild animals, starvation, predators and magical threats," the psychologist Stemper pointed out. It was only with the cultural movement of Romanticism in the early 19th century that woodlands became places of longing in Germany. In the Romantic period — in the late 18th century to mid-19th century — many artists and writers focused on the individual's search for magical, supernatural or miraculous phenomena as a reaction to the rapid technological progress of the time. "Today, we are experiencing a kind of return of the fear of nature: not due to predators and wild animals, but to alienation, media frames and digital distraction," Stemper said. He added that digital media often portrays a distorted image of nature, a kind of "hyperreality" that blurs the boundaries between the original and the — mostly filtered — copy. As a result, "virtual nature experiences such as Instagram feeds or computer games have a more intense and 'real' effect than actual encounters with forests, meadows or animals," he explained.

Too little contact with nature harms our health
So why go into the real woods when the "safe" forest on Instagram looks so much nicer? Because it's good for us. "When we spend time in nature, it promotes our mental health," Dohm said. "Studies show that forests and nature alleviate ADHD symptoms, improve attention and concentration, reduce sensory problems and promote emotional regulation," Stemper added. But because biophobic people avoid nature, they miss out on all these health benefits. So what to do? Jensen says knowledge can help: the more people know about plants and animals and understand how nature works, the more they can appreciate them. And if the fear of natural hazards is actually justified, it helps to avoid risks, for example by protecting livestock from predators. Susanne Sigl says the best way to help children reestablish contact with nature is through play: "If children fall down while playing tag in the forest, hide behind a tree or crouch in the bushes, then touching branches is usually no longer a problem." - dw

Super-sub strikes again as Sesko gives Man United win at Everton



PREMIER LEAGUE

It was the third time in four games that the Slovenian striker scored after coming off the bench and secured points for his team

LONDON: Manchester United super-sub Benjamin Sesko scored 13 minutes after entering the field to give his side a 1-0 win over Everton in the Premier League on Monday. It was the third time in four

games that Sesko from Slovenia has scored after coming off the bench and secured points for United. "I believe in myself and so do the other players as well," Sesko told Sky Sports.

"They know what they are going to get when I arrive in the game. It's up to me to deliver of course." Thirteen days after Sesko struck deep in injury time to rescue a point at West Ham, the £73.7m forward applied a clinical first-time finish to a 71st-minute counter-attack that he had started deep in his own half. Sesko kept motoring after laying a pass off to Matheus Cunha. By the time Cunha had delivered a long pass to Bryan Mbeumo, the eager Sesko had outrun Everton's defence and was on hand to stroke home his eighth goal of the season



as he steered the ball past Jordan Pickford with aplomb. "It was a great finish," United interim coach Michael Carrick said. "It was a ruthless finish. I liked the way he put it away with real confidence. It was great play from Cunha and Mbeumo to set it up and we are dangerous on the break." Until then, defences had been on top, and the lack of attacking fluency was not helped by a heavy pitch that appeared to slow down both teams. In a game of few chances, James Tarkowski cleared off the line in the first half after an effort from Amad was half-saved

by Jordan Pickford. Visiting goalkeeper Senne Lammens denied teenager Harrison Armstrong, who had Everton's best attempt before Michael Keane let fly with a thunderous long-range effort eight minutes from time. The shot was heading towards the top left corner but Lammens was again alert, with the Belgium international tipping the ball over. The result took fourth-placed United three points clear of Chelsea and Liverpool. It also extended Carrick's unbeaten run to six games since he replaced Ruben Amorim on January 13.

The defeat was a blow to Everton's hopes of a place in next year's European competitions and left them languishing in ninth, behind Brentford and Bournemouth and eight points adrift of Chelsea and Liverpool. David Moyes' men have gone seven games without a win at their new Hill Dickinson Stadium. "Generally, we did very well in lots of bits," Moyes said. "We got done on the counter-attack, and they ran away and got the goal that was there. We put in a great effort to get the goal but lacked the quality to make it count." - Agencies

SPURS MANAGER AFTER ARSENAL LOSS



Tudor: Tottenham can still avoid relegation

LONDON: Manager Igor Tudor believes there is still enough time for his Tottenham Hotspur side to avoid relegation from the Premier League, provided they "stays humble". Spurs were overwhelmed 4-1 at home to league leader and arch-rival Arsenal in a lopsided north London derby, with Sunday's defeat leaving them 16th in the table and just four points above the bottom three. A woeful run of two league wins in 17 games under Thomas Frank

led to the Dane's sacking as Spurs manager earlier this month, with Tudor brought in to replicate the kind of mid-season recovery he managed with Italian sides Juventus and Lazio. Tottenham last played outside the English top flight in the 1977/78 season, and Tudor, following his first game in charge, insisted that they could avoid dropping down to the second tier this term. "Of course, there is enough time," Tudor said.

"I saw the passion, I saw the will, so I was not angry, because they wanted to do it, but then they were not able to do it in this moment, the things they needed to do. "I speak from day one at the club, I come here to resolve the problems." The 47-year-old Croat added: "Stay humble, that is the key for each of us and try to become what I said before - a team, a squad, a hard-working team. That is the only goal we have now in this moment." - Agencies



Liverpool boss Slot encouraged by Mac Allister's return to form

LONDON: Liverpool manager Arne Slot believes Alexis Mac Allister is regaining his best form following the attacking midfielder's last-gasp winning goal at Nottingham Forest. Mac Allister struck deep in added time at the City Ground on Sunday to secure a 1-0 win for the Premier League champion. The Argentina international sealed victory by pouncing on a loose ball from close range just minutes after he had a goal ruled

out by VAR. "I think what he needed is what he showed in the last six, seven or eight games - a run of games where he's getting back to the usual level that he showed so many times last season," said Slot. "And he had that level also in the first half of the season, but it went a bit with ups and downs, as the team went in terms of performances with ups and downs. "But I see much more consistency recently -- not only in Mac-

ca's performance but in the team performance and many individual performances. "But I think it's always nice for a player to score, especially if it's in extra time of extra time." The Dutch boss added: "We needed this goal, we needed that win to be on the right side of things once in a while because we've been so, so unlucky this season. "And for the first time, at least it felt to me for the first time, we've been a bit lucky this season." - Agencies

RACISM INCIDENT

Benfica's Prestianni gets provisional one-match ban after Vinicius incident

LONDON: Benfica's Gianluca Prestianni has received a provisional one-match suspension after Real Madrid's Vinicius Jr reported alleged racist abuse during last week's Champions League meeting. It means the Argentine winger is set to miss the second leg of the tie in Madrid on Wednesday. UEFA has imposed the ban on a provisional basis, pending the result of a full investigation by an ethics and disciplinary inspector. The European governing body said further punishment could be handed out once that investigation is completed. Vinicius told referee Francois Letexier that he had been racially abused by the Argentina winger during the first leg of their Champions League knockout phase play-off tie in Lisbon last Tuesday. Prestianni has denied racially abusing the Brazilian, and Benfica said they would appeal against the

decision despite the belief it is unlikely to have any "practical effect" before Wednesday's game. Last week's first leg was halted for 10 minutes after Vinicius alerted on-field official Letexier to the second-half incident, before he and his team-mates temporarily left the pitch. It came after Vinicius, 25, scored a stunning goal and then received a yellow card for his celebrations in front of the Benfica supporters. Benfica fans had reacted angrily to Vinicius celebrating his 50th-minute goal by dancing at the corner flag, throwing bottles and other objects toward the Madrid players. Prestianni then confronted Vinicius and said something while covering his mouth with his jersey. Prestianni insisted that Vinicius misunderstood what was said, while Benfica players after the match reportedly said the Argentine provoked the Brazil forward but never racially insulted him.



Benfica manager Jose Mourinho, who is suspended for the second leg following his sending off later in the match, was criticised for his post-match comments after

saying he believed that Vinicius had celebrated disrespectfully. Responding to the sanction, Benfica said it "regrets being deprived of the player while the pro-

cess is still under investigation". The club added it would launch an appeal "even though the deadlines in question are unlikely to have any practical effect on the second leg of the Champions League play-off." FIFA president Gianni Infantino said after the match he was "shocked and saddened to see the incident of alleged racism" and praised the referee for activating the anti-racism protocol. Kylian Mbappé was among the Madrid players who strongly defended Vinicius and posted on X: "Dance, Vini, and please never stop. They will never tell us what we have to do or not." The France star also said Prestianni should never play in the Champions League again.

UK police investigates racial abuse of four players The UK Police said on Monday that it was investigating "abhor-

rent" racist abuse directed online at four Premier League footballers last weekend. Wolves striker Tolu Arokodare and Sunderland midfielder Romaine Mundle were the latest players to be targeted on Sunday. Chelsea's Wesley Fofana and Burnley's Hannibal Mejbri suffered similar abuse on Saturday following a 1-1 draw between their clubs. Chief Constable Mark Roberts, the head of the UK Football Policing Unit (UKFPU), said Monday, "There is absolutely no place for racial abuse, either online or in person, and anyone who believes they can hide behind their keyboards should think again. "The UKFPU condemns this abhorrent behaviour, and we will ensure that, through our dedicated team of officers, we do everything possible to identify those responsible and bring them to justice." - Agencies

Near-perfect, not yet satisfied, says West Indies skipper Hope

The former world champions nearly broke the all-time men's T20 World Cup run total record on their way to a fifth-straight tournament win against Zimbabwe

MUMBAI: The unbeaten West Indies finished only six runs shy of Sri Lanka's all-time ICC Men's T20 World Cup run total record of 260/6 against Zimbabwe during their Super Eight match at Wankhede Stadium on Monday.

Shimron Hetmyer was immense, blasting a 19-ball half century on his way to 85 off 34 balls.

And their spin attack was just as impressive, suffocating Zimbabwe to snuff out any hope of a miracle run chase, helping the Windies complete a dominant 107-run win. But captain



tain Shai Hope, proud of his batting unit's efforts, is staying firmly grounded.

They're still at least a win away from securing their semi-finals spot and carry belief they can go all the way, having already achieved the ultimate prize in this tournament twice previously.

"When you get 250 plus on the board in a T20 game, then you must be happy as a batting unit," Hope told media post-game.

"And then with the ball being as clinical as we did in that, especially in the middle phase and powerplay ... I would call it more of a complete game for us but if you want to be picky there's always areas that you can improve.

"There's always ways and areas that you can find to improve."

The Windies' 254/6 was their highest total in a Men's T20 World Cup. But Hope has firmly shut down suggestions they're ready to



spend any time reflecting on that just yet.

"This is the stage of the tournament where you're more focused on playing your best cricket," he continued.

"If you do happen to get past those milestones, then you talk about it at the end and guys will congratulate each other. But it's definitely not at the forefront.

"You never go to bat thinking, OK, I want to score 275 or 350 in a

T20 game. It's just about getting as many runs as you can and putting the opposition under pressure. I think the first question, I just believe the way we've been playing, it certainly gives us a lot of confidence. You can't always say we've got to stay in the moment. Yes, we've played well to this stage, but again, we've got another game in a few days and we've got to make sure we turn up on that day again.

"So, great start, great confidence

booster. But those games are gone. We've got to look ahead now. We've got South Africa next, and then India after. So we've got to keep playing our best cricket. If we can get better, continue getting better. If we're doing well, continue doing it."

Their fast approaching blockbuster against South Africa in Ahmedabad will likely decide who tops Group 1 in the Super Eight stage. The winner will almost certainly clinch a spot in the final four.

ATP 500



Auger-Aliassime survives scare in Dubai first round

DUBAI: Top seed Felix Auger-Aliassime needed six match points before dispatching Zhang Zhizhen 6-3, 7-6 (7/4) in the first round of the ATP 500 event in Dubai on Monday. "I stopped counting at some point, it was getting too frustrating," said the Canadian.

"Having match points is the position you want to be in as a player, but it's weird how the mind plays a trick on you. How much further I am from losing than he is, he should be the one that's tight." Auger-Aliassime, the losing finalist in Dubai last season, has reached the final of his last two tournaments this season - winning in Montpellier before losing in Rotterdam.

He will next face Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard, whose big serve saved him in two tie-breaks as he beat Tunisian Moez Echargui 7-6 (7/3), 6-7 (3/7), 7-6 (7/4) for a first tour win since reaching the quarterfinals in

Auckland in January. Stan Wawrinka continued his farewell tour by beating Benjamin Hassan 7-5, 6-3, with Swiss Davis Cup and Olympic teammate Roger Federer, who won the Dubai event eight times, in the stands. It was Wawrinka's 10th tour-level win since turning 40, a record in the Open Era.

Meanwhile, Jack Draper returned to the ATP Tour after almost six months away with a 7-6 (10-8), 6-3 win over Quentin Halys in the first round.

Last August, the Briton withdrew ahead of the second round of the US Open. His only match since then was a straight-sets victory over Norwegian Viktor Durasovic in the Davis Cup on February 2.

"It feels so good to be out here competing in front of people," said Draper, who had climbed to No. 4 in the world rankings last June and is now at No. 12. - Agencies

CHANGE IN SCHEDULE

Sri Lanka could play T20 World Cup semi-final at home: ICC

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka could play their 2026 T20 World Cup semi-final at home, if they make it to that stage, depending on who they play against and who else qualifies.

If Sri Lanka are drawn to meet anyone other than India, and if Pakistan do not make the semi-finals, the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo will host the match in what appears to be a change to the ICC's original schedule announcement and the tournament playing conditions.

In a communication to all stakeholders after the Super Eight line-ups were finalised, the ICC confirmed the semi-finals logistics as follows:

"Semi-final 1 is a floating arrangement with the match to be held in either Colombo or Kolkata"

"If Pakistan qualify for the semi-finals, they will play in semi-final 1 in Colombo on 4 March"

"If Pakistan do not qualify for the semi-finals, but Sri Lanka do qualify and play anyone other than India, then Sri Lanka will play in semi-final 1 in Colombo."

The ICC also reiterated that in the event of neither Pakistan nor Sri Lanka qualifying, semi-final 1 will be played in Kolkata and semi-final 2 in Mumbai.

India, if they reach the semi-



finals, will play in Mumbai regardless of who they are drawn against unless they play Pakistan, in which case they will travel to Colombo.

If none of India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka qualify, the team that finishes first in Group 1 of the Super Eight will play the second-placed team from Group 2 in Kolkata, and the Group 2 winner will play the Group 1 runners-up in Mumbai. Sri Lanka and Pakistan

are both in Group 2 of the Super Eight, so there is no chance of a Sri Lanka vs Pakistan semi-final.

This marks a change - or at least a clarification - to the schedule that was announced in November, which made provision for Pakistan to play their semi-final and final in Sri Lanka but made no mention of what would happen if Sri Lanka reached the knockouts.

That release stated: "If Paki-

stan qualifies for the semi-finals, Colombo's R. Premadasa Stadium will replace Kolkata as the host of Semi-Final 1. Should Pakistan reach the final, that venue will also shift from Ahmedabad to Colombo.

If India and Pakistan meet in the semi-finals, that match will be staged in Colombo, while Mumbai will host Semi-Final 2 involving India if they face any team other than Pakistan." - Agencies

BOUT IN LOS ANGELES

Pacquiao and Mayweather agree professional rematch

LONDON: Boxing greats Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather have agreed a professional rematch in September.

Pacquiao, 47, and Mayweather, 48, will fight at Sphere in Las Vegas on Saturday, 19 September, with the bout live on Netflix.

Former world champion Mayweather announced he would come out of retirement for a fourth time last week.

It will be the American's first professional bout since beating mixed martial arts fighter Conor McGregor with a 10th-round technical knockout in 2017.

Filipino Pacquiao retired from the sport to focus on his political career in 2021 but returned to the ring last July to fight WBC welterweight champion Mario Barrios, who retained his title after a draw.

Mayweather and Pacquiao first met in 2015, in what was billed as the 'Fight of the Century' and remains the richest in boxing history.

It was Mayweather who emerged victorious, beating Pacquiao via a wide unanimous decision in Las Vegas.



It is not yet known over how many rounds or at what weight class the rematch will be contested. Pacquiao, winner of 12 world titles across eight weight classes,

said: "Floyd and I gave the world what remains the biggest fight in boxing history.

"The fans have waited long enough. They deserve this re-

match. "I want Floyd to live with the one loss on his professional record and always remember who gave it to him."

Mayweather, who turns 49 on

Tuesday, said: "I already fought and beat Manny once. This time will be the same result."

Mayweather has won all 50 of his professional fights, with 27

coming by knockout. He has had a string of exhibition bouts since retiring in 2017 and is scheduled to face Mike Tyson this year.

That is set to be former undisputed world heavyweight champion Tyson's first fight since the American ended his 19-year retirement in November in a controversial defeat by YouTuber-turned-boxer Jake Paul.

Announcing the end of his retirement on Saturday, Mayweather said: "From my upcoming Mike Tyson event to my next professional fight afterwards: no-one will generate a bigger gate, have a larger global broadcast audience and generate more money with each event than my events."

Pacquiao, who has 62 wins from his 73 bouts, said in October that the pair were close to agreeing a rematch - but added it was dependent on he and Mayweather being able to "understand each other".

Their previous meeting in 2015 generated a record 4.6 million pay-per-view buys and a record live gate of \$72m at the MGM Grand Garden Arena. - Agencies



RAMADAN MUBARAK

KAFTAN DRESS
OMR

10

max

FOR THE NEW YOU

maxfashion.com



DOWNLOAD OUR APP