

Over 137,000 tourists visited Oman via cruise ships and yachts in 2025

The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism affirmed its continued efforts, in partnership with relevant entities, to develop the cruise ship and yacht sector in Oman

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism announced that the number of tourists who visited the Sultanate of Oman via cruise ships and yachts in 2025 reached 137,330.

The Ministry affirmed its continued efforts, in partnership with relevant entities, to develop the cruise ship and yacht sector.

This includes facilitating the attraction of international cruise ships and yachts, and working to increase tourist numbers from target markets, thereby enhancing the Sultanate of Oman's position as a distinguished maritime destination in the region.

The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism is working on developing policies and strategic plans for the sector in cooperation with relevant authorities to modernise and improve facilities at seaports.

The Ministry is collaborating with a consulting firm to prepare a comprehensive strategic study for the cruise ship and yacht sector.

This study aims to strengthen the sector's position and solidify its role within the priorities of economic diversification.



It involves a comprehensive assessment of the current situation at the regulatory, operational, and competitive levels, and the formulation of a future vision supported by a clear implementation roadmap.

The consulting firm is currently implementing a range of initiatives, including developing and upgrading the port and marina system, improving coordination among stakeholders, enhancing the economic returns from cruise ship visits, and developing joint incentive programmes with public and private sector partners to strengthen the attractiveness of Omani ports as key regional destinations for cruise ships and yachts.

The Ministry is also studying operational and promotional alternatives and intensifying direct communication with international cruise lines to ensure the continued inclusion of Omani ports in their itineraries. This includes developing competitive incentives and improving the visitor experience at the ports, in line with global developments in the sector.

The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism confirmed that the current 2025/2026 season will see the return of the passenger exchange for the cruise ship Vasco da Gama, which is scheduled to arrive at Salalah Port on March 24, 2026, and the continuation of the cruise ship Celestial to Khasab Port with five visits.

The first visit of the cruise ship Aroya to Khasab port has been received. The ship will visit Sultan Qaboos port. It is expected that during the 2025/2026 season, the ship will make (11) visits to Khasab port and (5) visits to Sultan Qaboos port. — **ONA**

GOVERNORATE OF NORTH AL BATINAH



Al Suwaiq Industrial City phase one tender floated

AL SUWAIQ: The Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) announced the floating of the tender to implement the infrastructure and facilities for phase 1 of Al Suwaiq Industrial City in the Governorate of North Al Batinah.

Hamood Al Balushi, Assistant Director General of Al Suwaiq Industrial City, said that Phase 1 development covers an area of five million square metres and comprises the construction of internal roads, water, electricity, and sewage networks, as well as other essential infrastructure and facilities. The tender also includes establishing several greenhouse units for the implementation of advanced agri-tech solutions, with the aim of supporting food security and promoting agricultural investments alongside related industries.

Al Balushi highlighted that, despite the city still being in its infrastructure preparation phase, Al Suwaiq Industrial City received more than 14 investment applications in 2025 across diverse sectors, including food, marble, plastics, and building materials. Two of these projects have already been localised, covering a total area exceeding 6,800 sqm with a combined investment value of OMR400,000.

The city's management continues to review the remaining applications in preparation for their localisation in the upcoming phase.

He added that Madayn offers exceptional incentives to investors in Al Suwaiq Industrial City, including a two-year rental exemption, followed by a 50% rent



reduction for the subsequent three years. These incentives aim to position Al Suwaiq Industrial City as an attractive destination for local and foreign investments, particularly given the availability of modern infrastructure and streamlined government services provided by Madayn.

It is worthwhile to mention that Madayn has conducted studies to identify investment opportunities aligned with the economic diversification strategy and Oman Vision 2040. Al Suwaiq Industrial City aims at attracting quality investments in key sectors, including petrochemicals, food sector, modern agriculture, energy and supporting technologies, recycling and environmental industries, light and medium industries, pharmaceuticals, technology and innovation, heavy industries, and logistics.

Al Suwaiq Industrial City stands as a key addition to the Oman's network of industrial cities, offering attractive investment opportunities, competitive incentives, and advanced infrastructure. The city will generate both direct and indirect job opportunities, empower entrepreneurs to launch innovative projects, and support the growth of non-oil revenues. — **ONA**

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FOREIGN MINISTRY

Oman stands with Kuwait in maritime border dispute

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman's Foreign Ministry has expressed deep concern over the coordinates lists and map deposited by the Republic of Iraq with the United Nations, stating that they infringe upon the sovereignty of the State of Kuwait over its maritime areas and established maritime elevations.

The ministry has affirmed Oman's solidarity with Kuwait regarding its sovereignty over all its maritime zones and water features.

It also called on Iraq to take into account the historical and fraternal relations between the two



countries, as well as the principles of good neighbourliness and international law.

The Sultanate further stressed the importance of adhering to the provisions of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, in addition to respecting the bilateral understandings, agreements, and memoranda of understanding concluded between the two brotherly nations.

Archaeological site of Salut: An extraordinary cultural treasure

The Bisya and Salut site in Bahla embodies criteria of outstanding universal value, representing a unique and exceptional global artistic masterpiece



BAHLA: The archaeological oasis of Bisya and Salut, nestled between the banks of Wadi Saifam and Wadi Bahla in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate, constitutes an extraordinary cultural treasure, with archaeological evidence spanning from the Bronze Age through the Iron Age and into the Islamic era, representing an organised human settlement of profound historical importance.

Ibtisam Abdullah Al Maamari, Director of the World Heritage Department at the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, told Oman News Agency that the Bisya and Salut site in the Wilayat of Bahla embodies criteria of outstanding universal value, representing a unique and exceptional global artistic masterpiece. The site eloquently expresses human creativity, reflects a significant exchange of human values, bears witness to enduring cultural traditions, and occupies a landscape of remarkable natural beauty encompassing environments rich in biodiversity.

She further elaborated that the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, is actively working to enhance the representation of Oman's historical sites on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The nation is currently in the advanced stages of preparing the nomination file for the Bisya and Salut site, to be submitted under the title "Salut: An Iron Age Set-

tlement." The designated expert tasked with preparing the dossier will concurrently develop a comprehensive site management plan to accompany the nomination submission. The endeavour is expected to require approximately two years of concerted effort and strategic planning until its culmination.

Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Tamimi, Director of the Bisya and Salut Archaeological Site Department, affirmed the exceptional richness of the site, first documented in 1973. Archaeological missions have been conducting excavations since the early 1980s, with a succession of international teams contributing to its exploration. Presently, the Italian mission from the University of Milan is engaged in excavating the archaeological tombs at Bisya, seeking to unravel the mysteries enshrouding these ancient burial structures. Concurrently, a mission from the Sorbonne University in France is conducting excavations at the archaeological sites of "Fal" and "Al-Dhabi." Both missions are diligently working to determine the chronology of the sites under investigation, complete previous excavation efforts, and develop a comprehensive vision and deeper understanding of these archaeological expanses, whose habitation traces back to the late fourth millennium BC.

Al Tamimi highlighted the ongoing endeavours of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, channelled through the Bisya and Salut Visitor Center, to introduce and promote

this historical site. Since its inauguration in February 2023 until the close of December 2025, the site has welcomed over 16,400 visitors, encompassing citizens, residents, and international tourists.

Promotional initiatives include an annual programme of events executed in collaboration with the local community, with dedicated outdoor spaces allocated for hosting diverse activities. These include programs organized by Omani Women's Association branches, sports teams affiliated with Bahla Club, civil society institutions, and community libraries. Among the events realized are poetry evenings, productive family exhibitions, children's activities, and art exhibitions, fostering community engagement and cultural enrichment.

He further elaborated that the Visitor Center at the Bisya and Salut archaeological complex features comprehensive exhibition panels delineating the history of archaeological investigation in the region, diverse patterns of human settlement, typological classifications of ancient tombs, and the commercial networks that connected this civilization with neighboring polities. The center annually welcomes a cohort of scholars and researchers who independently visit the site to pursue scientific inquiry across multiple disciplines, thereby advancing the Ministry's ongoing mandate of archaeological survey and documentation. — **ONA**

Full story @ timesofoman.com/oman

SAYYID BADR, IRAQI DEPUTY PM AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF IRAQ HOLD TELEPHONIC CALL

A telephone call was held between Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister and Dr. Fuad Hussein, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, to consult on current developments in the region. During the call, both sides emphasised the importance of adhering to the principles of international law and respecting the sovereignty of states. They stressed the necessity of addressing disputes through peaceful means and constructive dialogue, contributing to the consolidation of security and stability, and achieving the aspirations of the region's peoples for development and prosperity. — **ONA**



MUNICIPALITY DEPARTMENT

Unauthorised food production operation in the Wilayat of Musannah dismantled

MUSCAT: The South Al Batinah Municipality has successfully dismantled an unauthorised food production operation in Musannah.

In a coordinated effort with the Public Prosecution and the Royal Oman Police, the Musannah Municipality Department carried out a raid on a private residential

house that was being used as an illegal bakery.

The site was found to be manufacturing samosas in bulk without the required commercial licenses or adherence to national health standards.

South Al Batinah Municipality said in a statement: "In coordina-

tion with the Public Prosecution and the ROP, the Musannah Municipality Department conducted a raid on a residential house operating illegally as a samosa bakery under unsanitary conditions. (903) kg of food products were seized and destroyed, and the necessary legal measures were taken."

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SUNSET OF SOLIDARITY: MUTTRAH’S DAILY IFTAR UNITES A THOUSAND HEARTS



Organised collectively by several community groups and well-wishers - including the Kerala Muslim Cultural Centre (KMCC) - the initiative brings together labourers, shopkeepers, employers, and residents in a shared moment of breaking the fast

MUSCAT: As the sun sinks into the Sea of Oman waters, casting a golden glow across the Muttrah Corniche, a remarkable scene of solidarity unfolds each evening near Muttrah Souq. Long rows of mats are laid out, cartons of dates and water are stacked high, and volunteers move briskly to prepare for the daily Iftar gathering that has become a defining feature of Ramadan in the area.

Organised collectively by several community groups and well-wishers - including the Kerala Muslim Cultural Centre (KMCC) - the initiative brings together labourers, shopkeepers, employers, and residents in a shared moment of breaking the fast.

Hundreds of people are served each evening, reflecting both the

scale and spirit of the effort. Preparations begin hours in advance. Volunteers arrange simple but nourishing meals of dates, fruits, water, juices and deep-fried savories, ensuring everything is ready before the call to prayer.

Many beneficiaries are low-income workers from nearby commercial establishments who might otherwise break their fast alone. For them, the gathering offers not just sustenance, but a sense of belonging.

Running throughout the holy month, the daily Iftar in Muttrah stands as a testament to Oman's enduring culture of generosity - a quiet, consistent act of community care that captures the true essence of Ramadan.



Photos by: Puroshothaman K

IFTAR RECIPE BY ONEZA TABISH



LENTIL BULGUR PULAO WITH POTATOES

INGREDIENTS:

- 1/2 cup bulgur, soaked and drained
- 1/4 cup red lentils, soaked and drained
- 1 1/2 cup vegetable stock
- 1 tbsp oil
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 1 tomato, finely chopped

- 1 tbsp grated garlic
- 1 large potato, cubed
- 1 tsp chilli powder
- 1/2 tsp cumin powder
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 tbsp fresh lemon juice

METHOD:

- Heat oil in a pot, add onions

and saute till mushy. Add garlic and saute till aromatic.

- Add tomatoes and cook till they soften.
- Season with salt, pepper, chilli powder and cumin powder. Stir well till flavours combine.
- Add lentils with 1/2 cup stock and cook till lentils are

half done.

- Gradually stir in bulgur and potatoes with remaining stock, cover and cook for about 10 minutes.
- Add lemon juice and continue to cook on low heat till pulao is done and potatoes are completely cooked.
- Serve hot.

Ministry of Health’s total budget nears OMR1bn for current year

Dr. Hilal Ali Al Sabti, Minister of Health, affirmed that the sector continues to strengthen an integrated healthcare system providing preventive, curative and rehabilitative services across all governorates



MUSCAT: Ministry of Health officials highlighted significant improvements in healthcare services, digital transformation, infrastructure expansion and medical localization during a media briefing held in Muscat, aligning achievements with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

Dr. Hilal Ali Al Sabti, Minister of Health, affirmed that the sector continues to strengthen an integrated healthcare system providing preventive, curative and rehabilitative services across all governorates.

Reducing waiting times and expanding specialised care

Addressing hospital waiting lists, the Minister said the Ministry is expanding same-day surgeries and enhancing specialised operations at Royal Hospital and Khoula Hospital, while empowering governorate-level institutions to deliver specialized services under unified quality standards.

Health indicators showed notable improvements in 2025:

- Genetics clinic waiting times reduced from 8 weeks to 3 weeks (62%)
- Endocrinology from 6 weeks to 2 weeks (67%)
- Chemotherapy from 4 weeks to 10 days (60%)
- Emergency department waiting times reduced by up to 40%

The Ministry also performed six complex epilepsy surgeries in one week locally — procedures previously referred abroad — reflecting ongoing efforts to localize advanced medical services.

Historic medical achievements

Dr. Said Harib Al Lamki, Under-secretary of the Ministry of Health for Health Affairs, described 2025 as a pivotal year marked by the first successful heart transplant in Oman at the Royal Hospital, alongside:

- 38 kidney transplants
- 16 liver transplants
- 113 corneal transplants
- Introduction of neuromicro-

surgery techniques

- First artificial cervical disc replacement
- Over 120 complex spinal surgeries in six months

The transplantation of the first artificial heart (HeartMate 3) and the separation of conjoined twins were also among landmark achievements.

Digital transformation and virtual health expansion

Healthcare digitalisation accelerated significantly:

- Pharmacy waiting times reduced from 40 to 15 minutes via QR code system
- 45,000 virtual consultations conducted (target: 70,000)
- 65% of facilities connected to PACS/Shifa system (target: 90%)
- AI-based retinal screening examined over 25,000 diabetic patients

The National Centre for Virtual Health introduced remote radiology and second medical opinion services in hematology and coagulation specialties.

The “Shifa” National Health Record app saw major upgrades, including 50% interface enhancement and 90% API improvements, with integration into private institutions.

Infrastructure and equity in healthcare

To improve equitable access, cardiac catheterization units were activated in Sohar, Nizwa and Sur. New hospitals opened in Suwaiq, Khasab and Al Mazunah, reducing emergency overcrowding by 30–40%.

More than 11 infrastructure projects were completed in 2025, including the Central Public Health Laboratory, while over 15 projects are underway for 2026–2027. Future plans include establishing national specialised centres such as:

- National Centre for Women’s and Child Health in Sultan Haitham City
- National Centre for Ophthalmology
- National Rehabilitation Centre



- National Genome Programme
- Al Seeb Referral Hospital

Health indicators and preventive efforts

Results of the 2025 National Survey of Non-Communicable Diseases revealed:

- 93.1% of adults have at least one risk factor
- 64.7% overweight or obese
- 28.8% hypertension prevalence
- 13.4% diabetes prevalence

- 27.9% insufficient physical activity

Oman also received recognition from the World Health Organization for food products being free of trans fats.

Pharmaceutical security and localisation

Drug evaluation periods were reduced from 180 to 90 days. Prices of 227 medicines were cut in 2025, bringing total reduced products since 2021 to 591, with average reductions of 27%.

Local pharmaceutical manufacturing expanded to 20 operational factories, with 18 more under construction. Purchases from national companies increased by 150%, generating savings of 27.4 million Omani riyals.

Budget and workforce growth

The Ministry’s 2026 budget reached approximately one billion Omani riyals. Unified medicine and medical supply tenders rose to OMR202 million for 2025–2026.

The health workforce grew 17% from 37,732 employees in 2021

to 44,298 in 2025. Omanisation reached 71.4%, particularly in nursing and medical support roles. Governance and quality initiatives

The Ministry launched:

- “One-Stop Shop” service streamlining project
- Omani Accreditation System for healthcare quality
- “Aman” electronic adverse event reporting system

Nineteen hospitals and seven health centres gained international recognition as patient-safety institutions under WHO initiatives.

Officials affirmed that the Eleventh Five-Year Development Plan (2026–2030) will focus on institutional implementation, AI-driven predictive tools, infrastructure upgrades, service price unification studies, and expanded electronic integration via the Gov.om portal.

The Ministry emphasised that building national medical capacity, localising advanced services, and strengthening governance remain central to achieving a flexible, sustainable and globally competitive health system under Oman Vision 2040. — **DNA**

CIVIL DEFENCE AND AMBULANCE AUTHORITY



One person injured as truck overturns, catches fire in Izki

IZKI Firefighting teams from the Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority responded swiftly to a truck rollover accident in the Wilayat of Izki in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate after the vehicle caught fire.

According to officials, the accident occurred when the truck



overturned, leading to a blaze that required immediate intervention. Emergency crews arrived at the

scene and successfully brought the fire under control, preventing it from spreading further.

One person was injured in the incident. Paramedics at the scene provided emergency medical assistance before transferring the injured individual to the hospital for further treatment.

Authorities have not yet disclosed the cause of the accident.



Royal Oman Police

ANNOUNCEMENT

Public Online Auction to Sell Used ROP Vehicles

The Royal Oman Police - Directorate of Public Relations and Security Information – announces a public online auction through the ROP Auctions Platform to sell used ROP vehicles and jet skis (water bikes) via the website (www.rop.mzadcom.om), starting from Sunday, 08 March 2026 for one day.

The vehicles and jet skis displayed for sale may be inspected during the period from 03 to 05 March 2026 from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Vehicle Detention Yard at the Directorate General of Transport at the Airport Heights.

Bidders must abide by the following terms and conditions:

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

Putin 'has already started' WWII after invasion of Ukraine: Zelenskyy

Zelenskyy's remarks come a day ahead of the fourth anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, which began on February 24, 2022



KYIV: With nearly four years passed since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Monday stated that he believes Russian President Vladimir Putin "has already started" World War III following Moscow's invasion, stressing that Kyiv is acting as a frontline to prevent the conflict from escalating globally.

In a series of posts on X summarising his recent interview with the BBC, Zelenskyy said that there are differing opinions on whether the war in Ukraine

amounts to a third world war but stressed that, in his view, the process has already begun.

"There are different views on World War III. I believe Putin has already started it. The question is: how much territory can he seize, and how to stop him? Not to prevent Russia from winning, but because Russia wants to impose its own world and change people's lives, which they like and choose for themselves. That is why I believe, and have long believed, that Putin has already started this war. And we are preventing him from turning this into a broader,

full-scale World War III. Today, we are the outpost stopping Putin,” the Ukrainian President wrote in his post.

His remarks come a day ahead of the fourth anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, which began on February 24, 2022.

Zelenskyy emphasised that strengthening Ukraine's air defence capabilities remains one of the most pressing challenges and expressed disappointment that international partners have not yet granted licences that would allow Ukraine to produce advanced air defence systems domestically.

"Air defence is the most challenging issue today. Unfortunately, partners have not yet granted licenses that would allow us to produce, for example, Patriot systems ourselves, or at least manufacture missiles for the systems we already have. So far, we have not achieved success in this," he stated, referring to the US-made MIM-104 Patriot system.

Calling for greater support, Zelenskyy underscored the importance of securing Ukraine's airspace to protect civilians and ensure economic stability amid the ongoing conflict. -DW

Russia hits Odesa, Kharkiv and Zaporizhzhia regions

MOSCOW: Russia launched missile and drone attacks across Ukraine overnight, impacting the Odesa, Kharkiv and Zaporizhzhia regions.

Oleg Kiper, the governor of the southwestern Odesa region, said two people were killed and three wounded after industrial, energy and civil infrastructure was targeted by Russian drones.

A Russian drone attack also killed one man and injured another in the eastern city of Zaporizhzhia, according to Ivan Fedorov, the head of the Zaporizhzhia region. Russia occupies much of the south-eastern Zaporizhzhia region.

Ihor Terekhov, the mayor of the eastern city of Kharkiv, said the Kholodnohirskiy District was targeted by missiles. However there haven't been any reports of casualties after

the Kharkiv attack

The assault comes one day before the fourth anniversary of Russia's invasion, which began on February 24, 2022.

Hungary to block EU sanctions package

Hungary wants to block a 20th EU sanctions package on Russia due to a damaged pipeline. EU sanctions packages have to be approved by all 27 countries in the bloc.

The Druzhba pipeline transports oil from Russia through Ukraine and onward to EU countries such as Hungary and Slovakia.

The pipeline was damaged by a Russian attack in January. Hungary and Slovakia have both accused Ukraine of delaying repairs on the pipeline due to political reasons.

-DW

WORKERS' PARTY OF KOREA

Kim reelected as ruling party chief



PYONGYANG: Supreme leader of North Korea Kim Jong Un was reelected as general secretary of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) at the ongoing party congress, with state media highlighting his leadership in rapidly advancing the country's nuclear-based war deterrence, Yonhap News Agency reported, citing Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

According to the North Korean state media, KCNA, on Monday, "The Ninth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) decides to elect Kim Jong-un as general secretary of the WPK ... for the development of the WPK and the prosperity of the state," citing the "unshakeable" support of party members, citizens, and soldiers.

KCNA stated that the decision was made on Sunday, the fourth day of the multi-day congress, which typically outlines key policy goals for the next five years, including economic, defence, and diplomatic strategies. Party regulations mandate the election of the general secretary at a party congress, Yonhap News Agency reported.

The Congress credited Kim with building “the revolutionary armed forces capable of coping with any threat of aggression on

their own initiative and fully prepared for any form of war," adding that "the war deterrence of the country with the nuclear forces as its pivot has been radically improved and our state has dynamically advanced in the orbit of prosperity ... despite the stern challenges of history," Yonhap News Agency reported.

Party secretary Ri Il-hwan, speaking at the congress, praised Kim for realising “the dream and ideal for prosperity” and said, “Only Kim Jong-un can guide the trend of gigantic transformation of our cause put on an orbit of leap forward to a steady upturn without halt.”

He further noted that North Korea had successfully defied sanctions and become a “formidable” force recognised by adversaries. The KCNA also reported that the congress adopted revised party rules, though details were not disclosed.

The congress additionally elected new members to the party's central committee. Notably absent from the list were several senior officials, including Choe Ryong-hae, signalling a possible generational shift in leadership, Yonhap News Agency reported.

-ANI



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TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

TENDER ADVERTISEMENT NO.08/2026

Competitive Tenders are invited from suitably qualified vendors for the following.

Tender No	Tender Description	Tender Fee (RO)	Tender documents available from	Last date of Tender Collection	Last date of Tender Submission
ISAS/Tend/070/2026	General Insurance Policies of the School	10/-	25-02-2026	04-03-2026	10-03-2026
ISAS/Tend/071/2026	Supply of Annual Stationery	10/-	25-02-2026	04-03-2026	10-03-2026
ISAS/Tend/072/2026	Printing of Certificates, Letter Heads and Envelops	10/-	25-02-2026	04-03-2026	10-03-2026
ISAS/Tend/073/2026	Roof water proofing and Expansion Joint Treatment	10/-	25-02-2026	04-03-2026	10-03-2026

Mode of Tender fee payments and collection of Tender documents

- Direct remittance of the tender fee at the School's Office or Bank Transfer to Indian School Al Seeb – Bank A/C No. 0307-00139946-0011 with Fask Muscat (A copy of transaction receipt MUST be sent to the e-mail : om@indianschoolseeb.com with the Company Name and Tender Number). The tender document will be provided via e-mail.
- For any queries regarding the tenders, please write to om@indianschoolseeb.com
- Tender Enquiries are permitted between 8 AM to 1.00 PM on all working days.

The tenders are to be addressed to

The Head, Purchase Sub Committee, Indian School Al Seeb,

and submitted in a plain sealed envelope, indicating the tender reference without showing any identity of the company and must be dropped only in the School Tender Box.

JAZEERA STEEL

حديد الجزيرة

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT - 31 DECEMBER 2025

Dear Shareholders,

By the grace, assistance, and direction of the Almighty God and in a period of renewed renaissance under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq, it gives me pleasure on behalf of the Board of Directors of Al Jazeera Steel Products Co. SAOG, to invite you all to the 28th Annual General Meeting of the Company and to present the Annual Report for the company, Audited Financial Statement and Auditors Report for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Key points of 2025 Operational Performance

The company performed strongly in 2025, with a significant rise in net profits of 30% year on year. Sales volume for the year has increased by 9% over the previous year, despite challenges. This has been achieved by increased focus on profitability and optimizing sales, inventory management and cost control. The company could capitalize on the booming construction sector in the GCC region, mainly in Oman, and rest of the GCC.

The company focused on the health and safety of its employees as a paramount concern and continues to do everything possible to ensure that employees can work in a safe and secure environment.

The year 2025 was marked by major tariff and non-tariff barriers being introduced across various geographies across the world. China's domestic steel use is normalizing as its economy matures, with projections suggesting a gradual annual decline over the next decade. As a result, sizable volumes of Chinese steel produced are being exported. 2025 saw the highest ever Chinese steel exports, and predominantly into our GCC region. European domestic steel consumption is currently experiencing weakness and uncertainty, with volumes below pre-pandemic levels. Key trends show fluctuating apparent consumption, mirroring overall demand, with domestic deliveries down, and high import market shares persisting despite recent slight drops.

As the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) introduced by the European Union (EU) enters a definitive phase in 2026, the company has been working closely with suppliers and other partners in the supply chain on decarbonization to ensure a low carbon footprint of our products.

The GCC steel sector however remained a bright spot driven by major construction activities undertaken by the key economies of GCC. After a record year of project awards in 2024 at 314 Bln USD, 2025 saw a slight dip with 218 Bln USD, however, the projects announced in 2024 awaited to execution mode, leading to a strong drive in steel demand. The GCC economies remained robust and expected to continue to perform well in the coming years.

The Company has successfully undergone the certification process and the surveillance audit for American Petroleum Institute (API) Monogram and is now fully capable of producing line pipes for the Oil and Gas segment. The company also went through rigorous audits conducted by Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) Oman and qualified for supplies to PDO for API electric resistance welded pipes.

The Company continues to invest in human resources and provides training to its employees to develop their skills at various levels. Local employment is encouraged, and we have achieved 44% Omanization in our workforce. Recently the company successfully completed annual sports events aimed at encouraging teamwork and improving employee motivation.

Despite the multiple challenges faced, the company with its consistent operations, optimizing sales and smarter procurement could and the year with a net profit of RO 10.137 million which represents a 30% jump year on year. This is commendable especially considering numerous unexpected challenges faced by the team.

Particulars	Group			Parent		
	Jan-Dec 2025	Jan-Dec 2024	Change %	Jan-Dec 2025	Jan-Dec 2024	Change %
Production quantity in MT	489,380	452,357	8%	489,380	452,357	8%
Sales quantity in MT	520,682	476,789	9%	521,664	479,500	9%
Sales Value in RO	150,456,244	146,685,336	3%	149,316,519	145,864,579	2%
Net Profit in RO	9,576,833	7,090,156	35%	10,132,598	7,767,025	30%

Looking Ahead

It is expected that GDP growth in the GCC is expected to be at 4.4% in 2026, out of which GCC oil sectors forecasted expand by 6.1% in 2026. The UAE's real estate sector is on track to surge to USD 132 Bln by 2030, growing at a compound annual rate of 8.06%, according to new projections from market. Hence demand for construction products is expected to grow continuously in the coming years.

The economic growth of the region remains Vision Documents of the 3 major economies of Oman, UAE and KSA which outlines increasing share of non-oil economy which in turn will boost further steel consumption.

We are pleased to inform that the company's Greenfield project of Medium Sections Mill in KIZAD in Abu Dhabi is coming up at good pace and is expected to go onstream by mid-2026 and will give us access to high growth GCC markets for our medium sections.

We remain optimistic about the future growth of our company and the region with the hope of continuing investments by the governments into the infrastructural sector and continuing international investments into this region.

Dividends:

The Board of Directors is pleased to recommend a cash dividend of Bz 40 for the year for every share held. The following table shows the dividend declared during the past years.

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Cash Dividend (in Baiza)	5	14	44	15	19	43

Internal Control Systems and their adequacy

The Company has proper and adequate systems of internal controls required to ensure that all assets are safeguarded and protected against unauthorized use or disposition and that all transactions are authorized and reported correctly. The internal control system is supplemented by an extensive program of internal audits, review by management documented policies, guidance, and procedures. The internal control system is designed to ensure that all data is reliable for preparing and maintaining financial statements.

The Company has an audit committee comprising of non-executive directors to review the audit work, which in turn is reviewed by the Board.

The greatest strength of your Company is the quality and spirit of its people. Also, it enjoys a good reputation in the market for its quality and dependability. Both these factors have contributed positively to its growth and development. I would like to record my appreciation and sincere gratitude to all the employees of Jazeera Steel, who toiled under very difficult conditions, making all efforts and have consistently produced positive results.

M/s KPMG the Company's Auditors have audited the accounts up to 31 December 2025 and their report is enclosed.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank all our stakeholders, Consisting of Management, the Union, Bankers, Suppliers, Customers, Muscat Stock Exchange and all our Shareholders for their support and cooperation, which in turn reflects their confidence in us.

Above all, we pay tribute to the visionary leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq as he leads Oman into a new era and vow to support all his endeavors to take Oman to greater heights of prosperity and development.

On Behalf of the Board

Amal Suhail Salim Bahwan

Chairperson

15th February 2026

Consolidated and Separate Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December

	Group		Parent Company	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
ASSETS				
Non-current assets				
Property, plant and equipment	61,066,925	35,188,707	21,832,365	21,509,139
Right-of-use assets	12,113,873	12,129,682	2,755,509	2,780,953
Intangible assets	181,621	245,821	180,002	245,821
Investment in a subsidiary	-	-	7,310,936	6,072,663
Deferred tax assets	-	223,328	-	77,273
Total non-current assets	73,362,419	47,787,538	32,078,812	30,685,849
Current assets				
Inventories	30,430,992	27,209,359	28,863,829	25,877,812
Trade and other receivables	36,153,141	38,071,198	34,139,311	35,916,061
Prepayments	436,087	420,725	343,756	291,921
Bank deposits	323,062	669,557	262,000	608,495
Cash and cash equivalents	6,934,398	7,182,785	6,004,853	6,516,915
Total current assets	74,277,680	73,553,624	69,613,749	69,211,104
Total assets	147,640,099	121,341,162	101,692,561	99,896,953
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Equity				
Share capital	12,489,796	12,489,796	12,489,796	12,489,796
Share premium	13,856,484	13,856,484	13,856,484	13,856,484
Legal reserve	4,166,344	4,166,344	4,163,266	4,163,266
Fair value reserve	-115,262	-	-	-
Retained earnings	30,965,691	26,191,144	31,277,951	26,139,333
Equity attributable to owners	61,363,053	56,703,768	61,787,497	56,648,879
Non-controlling interest	1,486,541	1,398,306	-	-
Total Equity	62,849,594	58,102,074	61,787,497	56,648,879
Non-current liabilities				
Bank borrowings	28,803,584	7,543,554	-	-
Employees' end of service benefits	2,723,399	2,759,104	2,572,763	2,672,674
Lease liabilities	13,837,622	13,457,617	3,126,342	3,065,418
Deferred tax liabilities	109,821	-	109,821	-
Site restoration provision	694,144	-	-	-
Derivative	133,771	-	-	-
Other long term liabilities	53,444	60,428	-	-
Total non-current liabilities	46,355,785	23,820,703	5,808,926	5,738,092
Current liabilities				
Trade and other payables	26,234,529	20,595,245	22,879,031	19,173,499
Bank borrowings	9,846,292	16,787,084	9,268,739	16,787,084
Derivative	27,587	-	-	-
Lease liabilities	617,251	687,357	250,080	205,654
Income tax payable	1,709,061	1,348,699	1,698,288	1,343,745
Total current liabilities	38,434,720	39,418,385	34,096,138	37,509,982
Total liabilities	84,790,505	63,239,088	39,905,064	43,248,074
Total equity and liabilities	147,640,099	121,341,162	101,692,561	99,896,953
Net assets per share	0.491	0.454	0.495	0.454

Consolidated and separate statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year ended 31 December

	Group		Parent	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
Revenue from contract with customers	150,456,244	146,685,336	149,316,519	145,864,579
Cost of revenue	(122,602,056)	(122,798,306)	(122,735,476)	(122,999,158)
Gross profit	27,854,188	23,887,030	26,581,043	22,865,421
Other income	259,629	2,367	259,629	464,085
	28,113,817	23,889,397	26,840,672	23,329,506
Expenses				
Selling and distribution expenses	(9,030,084)	(8,483,300)	(8,753,826)	(8,337,123)
General and administrative expenses	(6,546,851)	(5,829,171)	(5,266,685)	(4,771,148)
Other operating expenses	(38,433)	(25,102)	(26,748)	(25,102)
Release of expected credit losses on trade receivables	24,019	49,041	30,936	56,486
	(15,591,349)	(14,288,532)	(14,016,323)	(13,076,887)
Operating profit for the year	12,522,468	9,600,865	12,824,349	10,252,619
Finance expense	(1,184,530)	(1,320,871)	(1,098,611)	(1,224,255)
Finance income	225,427	111,127	225,427	111,127
Profit before tax for the year	11,563,365	8,391,121	11,951,165	9,139,491
Income tax expense	(1,986,532)	(1,300,965)	(1,818,567)	(1,372,466)
Profit for the year	9,576,833	7,090,156	10,132,598	7,767,025
Profit attributable to:				
Parent Company	9,772,575	7,131,223	10,132,598	7,767,025
Non-controlling interest	(195,742)	(41,067)	-	-
	9,576,833	7,090,156	10,132,598	7,767,025
Basic and diluted earnings per share attributable to shareholders of the Parent Company	0.078	0.057	0.081	0.062

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هاتف: (٩٦٨) ٢٦٧٥١٧٦٣ / ٤ / ٥، فاكس: (٩٦٨) ٢٦٧٥١٧٦٦

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SPORTS

Hetmyer hammers Zimbabwe

West Indies started their Super Eight journey with an NRR-boosting 107-run victory

MUMBAI: Zimbabwe's dream run at ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 turned nightmarish on Monday, as West Indies took apart their bowlers in their Super Eight game at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. Riding on incredible half-centuries by Shimron Hetmyer and Rovman Powell, the Caribbean team posted a total of 254/6, the highest team tally at this World Cup and the second highest in T20 World Cup history. Chasing a mammoth total, Zimbabwe crumbled to 147 to hand West Indies a 107-run win. It was another comprehensive performance from the former champions, who are growing in stature and confidence with every victory. They have now won five out of five matches and have launched the Super Eight phase in style. Zimbabwe had arrived at this



Super Eight clash, their first ever, on the back of a promising performance in the first phase. The African team defeated Australia and Sri Lanka in the group stage and were unbeaten in their first four matches. Electing to field first, Zimbabwe restricted West Indies to 55/2 in powerplay, they couldn't keep a lid on the power-packed batting lineup for too long. Hetmyer, who was given two lives, including one when was only on nine, made Zimbabwe pay

dearly. He brought up his 50 with a six off captain Sikandar Raza. The 19-ball half-century was the fastest by a West Indian batter in T20 World Cups and the joint fastest of this edition. A fiery knock of 85, off 34 balls and studded with seven fours and seven sixes, finally ended with Brian Bennett holding on to the catch on the boundary off Graeme Cremer. After a steady start, Rovman Powell (59) also shifted into high gear, scoring his 50 in 29 balls. The power-packed West Indies

breezed past milestones - Powell-Hetmyer brought up the joint fastest 100-run partnership in this World Cup and the team crossed the 150-mark inside 13 overs. The West Indies blitz continued even after Hetmyer and Powell were sent back. They hit a total of 19 sixes and 16 fours to bring up the first 250 of this World Cup. If Zimbabwe were going to complete the record chase, they needed a perfect start. But the scoreboard pressure was evident as they slipped to 20/3 inside



the first three overs. Matthew Forde provided the breakthrough with the wicket of Tadiwanashe Marumani, while Akeal Hosein knocked the top of off stump to dismiss Brian Bennett on the very next ball. It was the first time in this tournament that Bennett was out. Dion Myers (28) and Sikandar Raza (27) tried to give the Zimbabwe innings some momentum but did stay long enough to make a meaningful impact. It was the last-wicket partnership that helped the African team make some ground. Even with his team in dire trouble, Brad Evans didn't pull back the punches. He slammed five sixes and two fours on the way to

a 21-ball 43. The 44-run stand between Evans and Richard Ngarava wasn't just the highest for Zimbabwe on the day, it was the highest 10th-wicket partnership in T20 World Cups. Zimbabwe struggled especially against West Indian left-arm spinners Hosein and Gudakesh Motie. While Motie claimed 4/28, Hosien finished with 3/28. **Brief scores:** West Indies 254/6 (Shimron Hetmyer 85, Rovman Powell 59, Sherfane Rutherford 31; Richard Ngarava 2/47, Blessing Muzarabani 2/42) beat Zimbabwe 147 in 17.4 overs (Dion Myers 28, Brad Evans 43; Akeal Hosein 3/28, Gudakesh Motie 4/28, Matthew Forde 2/27). - Agencies

SUPER EIGHT: DEFEAT AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

Skipper Suryakumar predicts India to bounce back at T20 World Cup

AHMEDABAD: India captain Suryakumar Yadav believes his side can bounce back quickly from their loss to South Africa and earn a place in the knockout stages of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup. India suffered their first defeat of the T20 World Cup and ended a winning streak of 12 matches when they were beaten by the Proteas by 76 runs in their Super Eight Ahmedabad on Sunday and now face a stiff task to defend the title they won in Barbados in 2024. Suryakumar's side will now most likely need victories against Zimbabwe and the West Indies in their remaining Super Eight fixtures to qualify for the semi-finals. Just one win may also be enough to progress if the Proteas remain unbeaten during the phase.



India's next opponent is Zimbabwe in Chennai on Thursday and Suryakumar does not think his team needs to change much to regain winning form. "Hopefully bat well, bowl well

and field well," a blunt Suryakumar said when asked about what India need to do well for the remainder of the tournament. "That's it. We'll try to keep it simple. Play the same brand of

cricket which we want to play and nothing changes and I think we'll come back strong." While India aren't expected to change much ahead of fixtures against Zimbabwe and the West Indies, one concern for the side is the ongoing form of No.1 ranked T20I batter Abhishek Sharma who was once again dismissed cheaply for just 14 against the Proteas. The left-hander was one of three players to be dismissed inside the powerplay as India stumbled in response to South Africa's total of 187/7. Suryakumar rued the loss of early wickets during the run chase. "Sometimes you've got to think, if you're chasing 180-185, you can't win the game in the power-

play, but you might lose the game in the powerplay," the India captain reflected. "We lost too many wickets in the powerplay. And then we couldn't have small partnerships, which we wanted to have for chasing 180-185. "But then that's part of the game. We learnt it, we'll sit back and then come back stronger." David Miller was the star of the show for South Africa, with the veteran batter contributing 63 from just 35 deliveries to claim the Player of the Match award and ensure the Proteas made a perfect start to the Super Eights phase. It has Miller confident the Proteas can go one step better than their runners up finish behind India at the 2024 T20 World Cup

and the experienced left-hander suggested everyone in his team has the same belief. "(Today proves) that they (India) are beatable," Miller said post-match. "India come with as I mentioned an incredible team, but I think for us in a tournament like this, it's about making sure that we do, as I said, I keep going back to the simple things and making sure that we stay in our lane as a player and do the job and get the job done. "We're a mature team. A lot of guys have played together and played a lot of cricket for South Africa and that goes a long way under pressure. So I think it's just staying in your lane, making sure that you get the job done and keep wanting more." - Agencies

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TECH-DRIVEN RECYCLING
Operated by the internet recycling firm Lovere, the smart bin is one of 870 units deployed across nearly 400 residential communities in Hangzhou's Xihu District since its July 2024 pilot launch.

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER
The MSX index closed at 7,176.76 points, down by -0.56% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -0.55% at 636.77 points. Raysut Cement, up 5.43%, was the top gainer while, Oman United Insurance, down 6.54%, was the top loser.

Treasury bills worth OMR33mn issued

The average accepted price reached OMR99.044 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR99.040 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 3.83353% and 3.87053%, respectively



OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR99.040 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 3.83353% and 3.87053%, respectively. Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed

commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds. The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo). It may be noted that the interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 4.25% while the discount

rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 4.75%. Furthermore, Treasury Bills promote the local money market by creating a benchmark yield curve for short-term interest rates. Additionally, the Government may also resort to this instrument whenever felt necessary for financing its recurrent expenditures. -OMA

SUPPORT

BankDhofar serves as gold sponsor of 'Atta 28' exhibition in support of SMEs

MUSCAT: Reinforcing its longstanding commitment to social responsibility and community development, BankDhofar served as the gold sponsor of the 28th edition of the annual "Atta" exhibition, organised by the Omani charitable association Dar Al Atta'a at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre from 19 to 22 February. The "Atta 2026" exhibition continues to play a vital role in supporting Dar Al Atta'a's initiatives by strengthening its funding base while providing a valuable marketing platform for small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The event contributes to the economic empowerment of entrepreneurs, promotes sustainability, and fosters a culture of giving and social solidarity within the community. Proceeds from the exhibition will be directed toward providing Eid clothing for 5,000 children from underprivileged families registered with the association,



underscoring the exhibition's humanitarian mission and tangible social impact. Commenting on the bank's sponsorship, Said bin Juma Al Busaidi, Head of Marketing & Corporate Communications at BankDhofar, said: "Social responsibility is a core pillar of BankDhofar's values. We are committed to supporting initiatives that generate positive and sustainable social

impact. Through our participation in meaningful community activities and events, we continue to strengthen our role in supporting individuals and empowering SMEs to expand their reach locally and internationally." He added: "We are proud to be the Gold Sponsor of an event that embodies the spirit of generosity and social support. At BankDhofar, we believe in initiatives that

drive positive change for society and the national economy. Our dedicated booth at the exhibition also enabled us to showcase our products and services, including digital banking solutions, personal finance, savings products, and exclusive offers." BankDhofar remains a key supporter of Oman's SME sector in alignment with Oman Vision 2040, recognizing SMEs as a backbone of the national economy and a driver of economic diversification and job creation. As one of Oman's leading financial institutions, BankDhofar offers a comprehensive suite of innovative banking solutions for individuals and businesses. Through its network of more than 145 branches and advanced digital banking platforms, the bank continues to deliver tailored financial services while contributing to the Sultanate's economic and social sustainability.

CRUDE

Oil prices decline amid US-Iran nuclear talks, fresh tariff uncertainties

SINGAPORE: Oil prices fell by approximately 1 percent yesterday, pressured by the prospect of a third round of nuclear negotiations between the United States and Iran, compounded by mounting uncertainty surrounding global economic growth and fuel demand following the announcement of new US tariff increases. Brent crude futures declined by 75 cents, or 1.05 percent, settling at \$71.01 per barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate crude futures dropped 74 cents, or 1.11 percent, to \$65.74 per barrel. US President Donald Trump announced on Saturday that he would increase a temporary tariff from 10 percent to 15 percent on imports entering the United States from all countries—the maximum level permitted under existing legislation—following a Supreme Court ruling that invalidated his previous tariff programme. **Gold climbs to 3-week high** Gold climbed to a three-week high yesterday as uncertainty stoked by the US Supreme Court's decision to strike down a vast swathe of President Donald Trump's tariffs.



Spot gold climbed 1.2% to USD 5,163.60 per ounce, its highest in three weeks. US gold futures for April delivery were up 2% at USD 5,184.90. Regarding other precious metals, spot silver climbed 3.1% to USD 87.10 per ounce, its highest level in more than two weeks. Spot platinum edged 1.2% higher to USD 2,182.60 per ounce, while palladium slipped 0.5% to USD 1,753.75.

Dollar falls The US dollar fell yesterday as traders assessed the US Supreme Court's decision to cancel the tar-

iffs imposed by US President Donald Trump, which was seen as a factor supporting global growth. The euro rose 0.4 percent to reach USD 1.1820, and the British pound also climbed by 0.3 percent to USD 1.3516 during the Asian trading session, which was relatively quiet due to a holiday in Japan and Lunar New Year celebrations in China. In contrast, the dollar retreated 0.4 percent against the Japanese yen to reach JPY 154.40, and the New Zealand dollar recorded a slight increase, while the Australian dollar edged lower to USD 0.7070. -OMA

NATIONAL STOCK EXCHANGE

Pace of new investors joining stock market slows amid tariff shocks

MUMBAI: The pace of investors joining the stock markets has slowed recently due to tariff-related shocks and global headwinds, even as the overall investor base continued to expand, as highlighted by a report by the National Stock Exchange (NSE). According to the report, around 177 lakh investors joined the stock markets in January 2026, taking the total registered investor base on NSE to 12.7 crore as of January 2026. The exchange had earlier crossed the 12-crore milestone in September 2025, reflecting continued growth in investor participation. Over the longer term, the investor base has seen significant expansion. Between financial year 2020 and financial year 2026, till January, the number of registered investors has grown more than four times, recording a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 27.3 per cent. However, the report pointed out that the latest addition of 1 crore investors took about eight months, compared to five to six months required for each of the previous additions.



This slowdown is largely attributed to tariff-related shocks and other global headwinds witnessed over the past year. It stated "The latest 1 crore addition came in about 8 months versus 5-6 months for each previous additions largely due to tariff-related shocks and other global headwinds in the past year". The addition of 177 lakh investors in January represents a robust month-on-month expansion of 13 per cent. This is also the third-highest sequential increase in investor registrations in the financial year 2025-26 after July and December. The report further noted that

the total number of unique client codes or investor accounts registered with the exchange also crossed the 25-crore mark (250 million) on February 12, 2026. However, NSE clarified that the number of trading accounts is higher than the number of unique investors, as individuals may maintain accounts with multiple brokers. Despite this moderation, NSE highlighted that the structural deepening of the investor base remains strong. This growth has been supported by improved access to capital markets and various financial literacy initiatives aimed at increasing investor awareness and participation. -ANI

REPORT



India healthcare sector growth to strengthen over next 3 years on new drug launches

NEW DELHI: The domestic healthcare sector is expected to see stronger growth over the next three years, supported by new drug launches, while earnings from the US generics business are likely to remain flat for most companies, according to a report by Systematix Research. The report stated that growth in India's domestic medicines market is expected to strengthen on the back of GLP-1 drug launches, with growth projected in the high single-digit range over the next three years. This is expected to support the overall expansion of Indian pharmaceutical companies, especially those with a strong presence in the domestic market. It stated, "Over the next 3 years, we expect India branded formulation growth to strengthen on back of GLP-1 launches (high single digit)." However, the outlook for the US generics segment remains cautious. The report noted that earnings contribution from the US generics space will at best remain flat for most companies, reflecting continued competitive pressures in the market. At the same time, biosimilar drug launches are expected to create additional growth opportunities for Indian companies in the US. However, the report highlighted that whether these opportunities translate into meaningful profitability remains uncertain due to competitive challenges.

The report stated that companies with larger exposure to branded and innovative drug portfolios are better positioned for future growth. It added that companies making targeted investments in biosimilars with less crowded pipelines and maintaining strong balance sheets are likely to remain more resilient. The report further noted that the Indian healthcare sector delivered better-than-expected performance in the third quarter of the financial year 2025-26, though the overall trend remained in line with expectations. During the quarter, US sales positively surprised as the pace of erosion in high-value products was lower than anticipated. Domestic growth in India was also slightly better compared to the previous quarters, indicating steady demand in the local market. In addition, emerging markets' growth was supported by strong currency-led tailwinds, which helped improve overall performance during the quarter. However, prices of active pharmaceutical ingredients (API), which are key raw materials used in drug manufacturing, continued to remain under pressure. Overall, the report highlighted that while challenges remain in the US generics segment, new drug launches, steady domestic growth, and emerging opportunities in biosimilars are expected to support the long-term outlook of India's healthcare sector. -ANI

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Raysut Cement, up 5.43%, was the top gainer while, Oman United Insurance, down 6.54%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 7,176.76 points, down by -0.56% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -0.55% at 636.77 points. Raysut Cement, up 5.43%, was the top gainer while, Oman United Insurance, down 6.54%, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of shares traded while Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of turnover. A total number of 4580 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 54.85 million, with more than 160.58 million shares changing hands. Out of 73 traded securities, 21 advanced, 32 declined, and 20 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for RO 95K while foreign investors were net buyers for RO 67K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 27K worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 12,300.99 points, down -0.37%. Prices of Al Madina Takaful, Ahli Bank, Al Batinah Develop-

ment Company, Bank Muscat, Al Omaniya Financial Services were up by 3.03%, 1.99%, 1.33%, 0.72%, 0.53% respectively. Prices of Oman United Insurance, DID-IC, Al Sharqia Investment, Bank Nizwa, Takaful Oman were down by 6.54%, 4.75%, 4.00%, 3.21%, 2.56% respectively. Industrial Index closed at 9,495.09 points, down -0.05%. Prices of Raysut Cement, Oman Refreshment, Galfar Engineering, Al Anwar Ceramics, Oman Cement were up by 5.43%, 2.96%, 1.92%, 1.06%, 1.01% respectively. Prices of Jazeera Steel Products, Oman Cables Industry, Al Maha Ceramics were down by 0.95%, 0.85%, 0.35% respectively. Services Index was down by -0.52% before closing at 2,792.26 points. Prices of Shell Oman Marketing, Sembcorp Salalah, Ooredoo were up by 1.25%, 0.92%, 0.60% respectively. Prices of OQ Exploration & Production, Barka Desalination, Abraj Energy, Phoenix Power, Al Suwadi Power were down by 2.81%, 2.44%, 1.84%, 1.82%, 1.21% respectively. — **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	7,259.42	7,166.51	7,176.76	7,217.35	-40.59	-0.56
FINANCIAL INDEX	12,459.40	12,272.40	12,300.99	12,346.25	-45.27	-0.37
Industry Index	9,541.12	9,432.79	9,495.09	9,499.93	-4.84	-0.05
Services Index	2,819.12	2,786.95	2,792.26	2,806.84	-14.58	-0.52
MSX Shariah Index	644.03	633.66	636.77	640.28	-3.51	-0.55
MSX TR INDEX	10,911.32	10,771.66	10,787.07	10,848.08	-61.01	-0.56
FINANCIAL TR IDX	14,802.21	14,580.04	14,614.00	14,667.78	-53.78	-0.37
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	11,763.38	11,629.81	11,706.62	11,712.59	-5.97	-0.05
SERVICES TR IDX	3,676.34	3,634.40	3,641.31	3,660.33	-19.01	-0.52
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
160,584,278	54,850,766	4,580	35,782,492,692	21	32	20	73

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (IND)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PUR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	2,356,626	315,673	81	0.133	0.136	0.131	0.136	0.132	0.004	3.030	0.136	0.136	0.136	0.100	23,800,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	725,656	137,265	46	0.188	0.190	0.188	0.190	0.188	0.002	1.064	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.100	41,800,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	33,954,745	14,167,118	253	0.018	0.020	0.016	0.020	0.017	0.003	0.719	0.020	0.016	0.020	0.100	3,152,686,766
OM0000003968	OQAD SHIPPING	695,971	230,087	35	0.228	0.232	0.227	0.230	0.224	0.002	1.522	0.230	0.230	0.230	0.000	1,198,011,184
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	456,440	174,967	31	0.384	0.384	0.383	0.384	0.383	0.001	0.261	0.384	0.384	0.384	0.100	624,363,400
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	50,000	4,350	4	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.000	0.000	0.087	0.086	0.088	0.100	30,983,075
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	72,666	57,701	5	0.795	0.795	0.794	0.795	0.795	0.000	0.000	0.795	0.790	0.825	0.100	95,400,000
OM0000002234	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	2,185,463	847,457	130	0.386	0.392	0.384	0.385	0.385	0.000	0.000	0.385	0.385	0.388	0.100	91,077,550
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	28,658	51,727	16	1.810	1.810	1.800	1.800	1.800	0.000	0.000	1.810	1.800	1.810	0.100	168,503,692
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	7047,021	8,743,179	193	1.241	1.242	1.237	1.239	1.240	-0.001	-0.081	1.239	1.239	1.239	0.100	929,250,000
OM0000003672	OQ GAS NETWORK	9,132,965	2,076,227	488	0.227	0.230	0.225	0.225	0.226	-0.001	-0.442	0.225	0.211	0.225	0.100	974,380,382
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	42,147,140	9,302,924	514	0.222	0.224	0.218	0.219	0.220	-0.001	-0.455	0.219	0.219	0.219	0.100	1,449,176,933
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	266,952	43,885	31	0.165	0.165	0.163	0.165	0.166	-0.001	-0.602	0.165	0.160	0.165	0.100	111,356,426
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	18,255	53,335	6	2.930	2.930	2.900	2.905	2.930	-0.025	-0.853	2.905	2.860	2.975	0.100	260,578,500
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	10,789	4,542	4	0.942	0.942	0.940	0.940	0.940	-0.002	-0.948	0.940	0.940	0.938	0.100	117,404,062
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	452,397	113,592	56	0.253	0.253	0.250	0.250	0.253	-0.003	-1.186	0.250	0.249	0.250	0.100	10,710,748
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	570,089	93,508	21	0.166	0.166	0.163	0.164	0.166	-0.002	-1.205	0.164	0.163	0.164	0.100	117,162,640
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	50,381	20,186	20	0.403	0.404	0.398	0.398	0.404	-0.006	-1.485	0.398	0.398	0.398	0.100	372,412,215
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	427,883	122,157	31	0.288	0.291	0.285	0.285	0.290	-0.005	-1.724	0.285	0.285	0.291	0.100	57,000,000
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	9184,393	4,008,033	365	0.436	0.444	0.426	0.427	0.435	-0.008	-1.839	0.427	0.427	0.427	0.100	328,875,400
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	2,351,593	447,662	167	0.156	0.158	0.150	0.151	0.156	-0.005	-3.205	0.151	0.151	0.151	0.100	337,779,908
OM0000003440	AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO	314,416	37,794	26	0.121	0.121	0.118	0.120	0.125	-0.005	-4.000	0.120	0.118	0.125	0.100	10,800,000
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	291,744	119,455	33	0.017	0.019	0.010	0.040	0.028	-0.028	-6.542	0.040	0.398	0.400	0.100	40,000,000
Total		113,370,263	41,178,073	2,648												

Parallel Market

OM0000001426	OMAN REFRESHMENT	150,018	208,525	2	1.390	1.390	1.390	1.390	1.350	0.040	2.963	1.390	1.390	1.390	0.100	69,500,000
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	2,400	492	1	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.201	0.004	1.990	0.205	0.000	0.203	0.100	354,894,066
OM0000001020	ASTAD SHIPPING	6,555,596	1,504,494	392	0.228	0.232	0.227	0.230	0.227	0.003	1.322	0.230	0.230	0.230	0.000	1,198,011,184
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	2,760	2,100	2	0.750	0.810	0.750	0.810	0.800	0.010	1.250	0.810	0.755	0.810	0.100	76,950,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	23,977	12,045	15	0.500	0.505	0.500	0.500	0.495	0.005	1.010	0.500	0.496	0.500	0.100	165,436,355
OM0000009569	JABAL REIF	54,182	5,601	7	0.103	0.104	0.103	0.104	0.103	0.001	0.971	0.104	0.103	0.104	0.100	18,696,000
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	24,966	10,889	6	0.438	0.439	0.435	0.439	0.435	0.004	0.920	0.439	0.430	0.439	0.100	20,091,185
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	179,424	39,152	26	0.218	0.220	0.218	0.220	0.218	0.002	0.917	0.220	0.219	0.221	0.100	210,005,829
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FINANCIAL SERVICES	327,742	61,941	2	0.188	0.189	0.188	0.189	0.188	0.001	0.532	0.189	0.188	0.190	0.100	59,613,814
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	539,500	109,463	247	0.201	0.205	0.201	0.202	0.201	0.001	0.498	0.202	0.198	0.202	0.100	614,039,303
OM0000001169	NATIONAL GAS	163,232	15,067	17	0.083	0.083	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.000	0.000	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.100	7,820,000
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	10,460	1,287	2	0.123	0.123	0.123	0.123	0.123	0.000	0.000	0.123	0.120	0.128	0.100	3,660,000
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	52,607	26,409	7	0.502	0.502	0.502	0.502	0.502	0.000	0.000	0.502	0.502	0.502	0.100	83,018,250
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO	3,000	330	1	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.000	0.000	0.110	0.106	0.110	0.100	13,406,250
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	109,751	15,172	13	0.140	0.140	0.136	0.137	0.137	0.000	0.000	0.137	0.135	0.150	0.100	40,001,752
OM0000001897	ALJAZIRA INVESTMENT	426	426	1	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.000	0.000	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.100	13,167,000
OM0000003028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	198,720	16,692	13	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.000	0.000	0.084	0.083	0.084	0.100	1,764,000
OM0000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	35,200	7,630	6	0.218	0.218	0.216	0.216	0.216	0.000	0.000	0.216	0.216	0.217	0.100	3,866,711
OM0000003000	AI MAHA PETROLEUM PRODS MRKTNG	450	518	1	1.150	1.150	1.150	1.150	1.150	0.000	0.000	1.150	1.150	1.250	0.100	79,350,000
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	40,998	6,847	7	0.167	0.167	0.166	0.166	0.167	0.000	0.000	0.167	0.167	0.167	0.100	26,720,000
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	46,608	11,102	11	0.240	0.240	0.237	0.240	0.240	0.000	0.000	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.100	47,912,544
OM0000004669	SHARQIAH DESALINATION	6,200	1,113	5	0.179	0.180	0.179	0.180	0.180	0.000	0.000	0.180	0.179	0.180	0.100	17,604,389
OM0000007043	LIVA GROUP	97,407	36,429	3	0.373	0.374	0.373	0.374	0.374	0.000	0.000	0.374	0.000	0.374	0.100	148,992,004
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	54,940	15,553	5	0.284	0.284	0.283	0.284	0.284	-0.001	-0.352	0.283	0.283	0.312	0.100	15,565,000
OM0000002648	MADAN COLLEGE	7,090	1,570	12	0.222	0.222	0.221	0.221	0.222	-0.001	-0.450	0.221	0.221	0.224	0.100	114,738,755
OM0000009908	QO BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	19,594,230	4,352,013	543	0.220	0.224	0.220	0.220	0.221	-0.001	-0.452	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.040	761,087,987
OM0000003281	TAGEER FINANCE	188,977	24,000	9	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.128	0.128	-0.001	-0.781	0.127	0.127	0.135	0.100	35,461,348
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	51,762	5,324	11	0.104	0.104	0.102	0.103	0.104	-0.001	-0.962	0.103	0.102	0.103	0.100	67,191,255
OM0000000744	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	14,765	6,803	11	0.092	0.092	0.091	0.091	0.092	-0.001	-1.087	-0.091	0.091	0.098	0.100	14,155,088
OM0000000788	OMUSCAT INVESTMENT	31,215	13,790	13	0.350	0.350	0.349	0.349	0.349	-0.001	-0.945	0.349	0.345	0.345	0.100	14,380,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	342,100	27,731	13	0.080	0.081	0.080	0.080	0.081	-0.001	-1.235	0.080	0.078	0.081	0.100	24,571,700
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	35,000	2,734	4	0.078	0.079	0.078	0.079	0.080	-0.001	-1.250	0.079	0.079	0.088	0.100	15,800,000
OM0000005863	PHOENIX POWER	199,670	32,498	34	0.165	0.165	0.160	0.162	0.165	-0.003	-1.818	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.100	238,941,437
OM0000000968	THE PEARL REEF	26,876	5,259	12	0.198	0.198	0.194	0.194	0.198	-0.004	-2.020	-0.194	0.194	0.194	0.100	114,738,755
OM0000000618	OMAXATA INSURANCE	18,850	9,712	13	0.188	0.188	0.187	0.188	0.188	-0.006	-0.918	0.188	0.188	0.188	0.100	14,380,000
OM0000000862	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	303,296	11,999	22	0.040	0.041	0.039	0.041	0.042	-0.001	-2.381	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.100	3,485,000
OM0000001720	BARKA DESALINATION	84,356	13,624	12	0.164	0.164	0.160	0.164	0.164	-0.004	-2.439	0.160	0.156	0.164	0.100	12,083,520
OM0000000478	TAKAFUL OMAN	215,712	6,16145	15	0.076	0.076	0.074	0.076	0.078	0.002	-2.564	0.076	0.074	0.074	0.100	19,000,000
OM0000000779	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	1,464,790	16,1545	345	0.463	0.463	0.448	0.450	0.463	-0.013	-2.808	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.003	600,000,000
OM0000000152	OMAN NATIONAL ENRG & INVESTMENT	122,087	12,086	73	0.129	0.129	0.128	0.129	0.129	-0.006	-0.918	0.129	0.129	0.129	0.100	13,167,000
OM0000001590	DHOFAR INTL DVNT & INVESTMENT	54,720	15,800	10	0.295	0.295	0.281	0.281	0.295	-0.014	-4.746	0.281	0.280	0.289	0.100	139,391,770
Total		41	43,508.178	13,412.097	1,922											



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Email : carolinelizabethjohn@gmail.com

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

FINANCE
Expat, M.com Iqwa (Inter) 25 yrs experience in finance, accounts, budget, tax , payroll, banking and MIS reports looking for senior position in finance and accounts. Available to join on short notice.
What's app: 0096895392251
Gmail: regi.lukose@gmail.com

MANAGER
Project Manager-MEP / Coordinator, seeking suitable placement. Electrical Engineering background having 25 yrs experience (Oman 18 yrs) in the construction field and tender estimation.
Mobile : 97007489

FINANCE
Dedicated Indian woman having 15+ years of experience in Finance and accounting,Tally ERP, SAP, MS Excel & Office proficiency seeking employment in Muscat. Hardworking and reliable. Ready to join immediately.
Contact:+968 95494566

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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

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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

Accountant looking for job. Contact: 75024166

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

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

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

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.

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

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

DRIVER

Looking for driver job. Contact: 72852929.

DRIVER

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:anirudhadat@gmail.com

PURCHASE/ PROCUREMENT

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.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Fahad (holder of Indian Passport Number:R9953418) Son of Neyamtulla having permanent residence in Railway Colony Brahmpura, M.I.T, Muzaffarpur, PIN: 842003, Bihar, India and presently residing in Salalah, Dhofar, Sultanate of Oman, tend to change my name from **Fahad (old name)** to **Syed Fahad (new name)** for all practical purpose. Any objection towards my name change may please be communicated to Embassy of India, Muscat, P.O.Box No.1727, Postal Code 112, Ruwi Sultanate of Oman.

EU urges US to honour its trade commitments

EU affirmed that it remains committed to protecting its interests and ensuring that its companies and exporters have fair treatment, predictability, and legal certainty

BRUSSELS: The European Union has demanded that Washington honour its trade commitment and provide “full clarity” after the US President announced 15 per cent global tariffs following the Supreme Court’s ruling to invalidate his previous tariffs under the In-



ternational Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA). In a statement EU requested clarity on the Trump administration’s intentions, stating that the current situation, referring to 15 per cent tariffs, is not “conducive to delivering ‘fair, balanced, and mutually beneficial’ transatlantic trade and investment, as agreed to by both sides and spelt out in the EU-US Joint Statement of August 2025.” “A deal is a deal. As the United States’ largest trading partner, the

EU expects the US to honour its commitments set out in the Joint Statement - just as the EU stands by its commitments,” the EU said in a statement. EU affirmed that it remains committed to protecting its interests and ensuring that its companies and exporters have fair treatment, predictability, and legal certainty. EU demanded that tariffs shouldn’t be increased beyond the previously agreed deal, which was set at 15 per cent for most EU

goods and zero tariffs on some products such as aircraft and spare parts. “EU products must continue to benefit from the most competitive treatment, with no increases in tariffs beyond the clear and all-inclusive ceiling previously agreed. Tariffs are taxes, driving up costs for both consumers and businesses, as recent studies clearly confirm,” they said. EU, further, expressed concern over unpredictable tariffs, which they believed “are inherently disruptive, undermining confidence and stability across global markets and creating further uncertainty across international supply chains.” “The Commission is in close and continuous contact with the US Administration. On Saturday, 21 February, EU Trade Commissioner Maros Sefcovic spoke with US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer and Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick,” the EU said. This comes after the US president announced temporary, across-the-board tariffs of 10%, which he then raised to 15 per cent a day later. -DW

SUPREME COURT RULING

China asks US to scrap its tariffs



BEIJING: Following a ruling by the US Supreme Court striking down most of Donald Trump’s sweeping tariff measures, a spokesperson for China’s Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) on Monday stated that China has consistently opposed unilateral tariff hikes in any form, The Global Times reported. Commenting on the ruling, China’s MOFCOM spokesperson said that the country has consistently opposed unilateral tariff increases in all forms and that there were no winners in a trade war, and protectionism leads nowhere. The spokesperson added that

the unilateral measures taken by the US, including the reciprocal and fentanyl-related tariffs, not only violate international trade and economic rules but also contravene US domestic law, failing to serve the interests of any party, The Global Times reported. “We have noted that the US is preparing to adopt alternative measures, such as trade investigations, in an attempt to maintain tariffs on its trading partners. China will closely monitor these developments and firmly safeguard its legitimate rights and interests,” the spokesperson said, as quoted by the Global Times. -ANI

VERY SPECIAL VISIT

Brazil President Lula da Silva hails ties with India

NEW DELHI : Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva described his current visit as having a “characteristic that is very special” while recalling how his 2005 trip to India fundamentally reshaped Brazil’s economic strategy. He highlighted the deep cultural and financial ties between the two nations, noting that India served as the inspiration for Brazil’s massive build-up of international hard currency reserves. Reflecting on that turning point, President Lula stated, “It was in India in 2005 that, for the very first time, I perceived the importance of having international hard currency reserves. I came here, my first trip, and India had accrued USD 100 billion in international hard currency reserves. I came back to Brazil convinced that we needed to build up our in-



ternational reserves, and we had to have an extra buffer.” The Brazilian President in his address to the India-Brazil Economic Forum in New Delhi, further explained the long-term impact of that policy shift, noting, “We managed to do that for the very first time. We left that position of debtors of the IMF to the creditors of the IMF. We accrued reserves of international hard currencies of USD 360 billion. That was the third or fourth largest international reserve in the world in those days.” **Cultural diplomacy** Linking economic cooperation with cultural diplomacy, the President expressed appreciation for the hospitality extended by his Indian hosts, which mirrored a gesture he had earlier arranged for

Prime Minister Narendra Modi. “I was surprised yesterday, at the State dinner and at lunch too. I don’t know if the Brazilian journalists remember this, but when Prime Minister Modi went to visit Brazil last year, we did research on the song that he preferred most. We went to São Paulo to try to find a singer who could sing the song that he enjoyed most. So we did a surprise for him at the Palacio da Alvorada in Brazil, and it was visible that he was touched by the song that we chose to play for him,” Lula remarked. He continued, “Yesterday I was surprised because during lunch we started to hear a song. I saw that that song had something to do with us. Then they played other songs from the Brazilian composers. They played Asa Branca.” Contextualising the visit within

Brazil’s broader diplomatic priorities, President Lula asserted, “We are closing a cycle of international trips that was within our strategy for this third term to reclaim the image and the negotiation power that Brazil had achieved in the world. Now we decided to recover and retrieve the Image of Brazil in the world.” Highlighting the outcomes of that strategy, President Lula stated, “It’s with great satisfaction that I can say to all of you that in just 3 years and 2 months of my term, we did more. We created 520 new markets for Brazilian goods. It’s much more than we could have imagined such a short time.” This is Lula’s fifth visit to India as President of Brazil. The visit comes seven months after the state visit of PM Modi to Brasilia on July 8, 2025. -ANI

ADVISORY ISSUED

Flights to Mexico cancelled amid violence after El Mencho’s killing



WASHINGTON DC: After violence hampered the flight operations over the killing of the leader of Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG), Nemesio “El Mencho” Oseguera Cervantes, the US has issued another advisory advising its citizens to shelter in place. US informed the citizens that domestic and international flights were cancelled in both Guadalajara and Puerto Vallarta. All taxis and ride shares are suspended in Puerto Vallarta. Some businesses have suspended operations. They directed the citizens to shelter in place, who are in the Jalisco State (including Puerto Vallarta, Chapala, and Guadalajara), Tamaulipas State (including Reynosa and other municipalities), areas of Michoacan State, Guerrero State, and Nuevo Leon State. They also directed US government staff at Consulate General Tijuana and all US government staff in Guerrero, Michoacan, and Quintana Roo states to shelter in place. US advised them take precautionary measures such as to avoid areas around law enforcement ac-

tivity, be aware of your surroundings, seek shelter and minimize unnecessary movements, monitor local media for updates, follow the directions of local authorities and in case of emergency, call 911, avoid crowds and keep family and friends advised of your location and well-being via phone, text, and social media. This comes after the leader of the powerful Jalisco New Generation Cartel, Nemesio “El Mencho” Oseguera Cervantes, was killed on Sunday following an operation led by Mexico’s military, the government announced. El Mencho, a former police officer, led the Jalisco New Generation Cartel, as it became one of the “most powerful and ruthless criminal organisations” inside Mexico, according to the US Drug Enforcement Agency. Security forces from several federal branches of Mexico’s military carried out the operation in the town of Tapalpa in the western state of Jalisco. CJNG members traded fire with the government forces, resulting in four gang members being killed at the scene, Mexico’s Secretariat

of National Defence said. Oseguera and two others were seriously injured and died as they were being transported via aircraft to Mexico City, according to the secretariat. Three Mexican military personnel were also injured in the operation and transferred to a hospital in Mexico City for treatment. The military operation triggered a series of violent events across the state of Jalisco, which is scheduled to host four matches of the 2026 World Cup in June, before spreading to other states such as Michoacan and Guanajuato. Suspected members of organised crime groups set buses on fire, blocked roads in the area, and clashed with authorities, Jalisco Governor Pablo Lemus Navarro reported. Oseguera was wanted by US authorities, who offered a bounty of up to USD 15 million for information leading to his arrest, CNN reported. The US Justice Department charged El Mencho in 2022 with leading the effort to manufacture and distribute fentanyl for importation into the US. -ANI

SECURITY SITUATION

Indefinite curfew imposed in Birgunj after clashes

PARSA: Following a clash between two youth groups on Sunday evening, an indefinite curfew has been imposed in four key areas of Birgunj Metropolitan City in Nepal’s Parsa district from Monday morning until further notice, authorities said. According to the Chief District Officer, the curfew was imposed under Section 6(a) of the Local Administration Act, 2028, which prohibits residents from moving around, gathering, rallying, demonstrating, holding meetings, or sieging within the designated areas, which include Bypass Road in the east, Sirsia River in the west, Gandak Chowk in the north, and Shankaracharya Gate in the south. “In view of the latest security situation, a curfew order has been issued from 9:45 am today, Febru-

ary 23, 2026, until further orders, in accordance with Section 6 (a) of the Local Administration Act, 2028, prohibiting anyone from moving around, gathering, rallying, demonstrating, meeting, or sieging within the following four forts within the Birgunj Metropolitan City area of Parsa district,” the notice read. Authorities clarified that essential movement will be allowed during the curfew, with exemptions including ambulances, fire engines, hearses, vehicles carrying health workers, media personnel, candidates for pre-scheduled university exams, employees at exam centres, tourist vehicles, vehicles of human rights and diplomatic missions, and air passengers travelling with valid tickets. Security personnel have been deployed to enforce the curfew

and facilitate the movement of exempted vehicles, according to local administration officials. Meanwhile, additional security forces have been deployed to districts outside the Kathmandu valley, especially the southern plains of Nepal, to maintain security across nearly 11 thousand polling stations, ahead of the national polls. **Peaceful election** More than 3 lakh security personnel, including police, army, election police and more, are tasked with ensuring a peaceful election process on March 5. At the Nepal Police Academy in Kathmandu, over three thousand police personnel boarded buses as they started off for assigned districts to maintain security for the March 5 election. -ANI





LIFESTYLE



EARLY SCREEN EXPOSURE LINKED TO ALTERED BRAIN DEVELOPMENT AND ADOLESCENT ANXIETY

Significantly, the study found that screen usage at ages three and four did not produce comparable effects, identifying the first two years of life as a uniquely sensitive developmental window

A groundbreaking longitudinal study conducted by Singapore's Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) Institute for Human Development and Potential, in collaboration with the National University of Singapore, has revealed that extensive screen exposure during the first two years of life may induce lasting changes in brain architecture, subsequently associated with slower decision-making and elevated anxiety levels during adolescence.

The research, published in the journal EBioMedicine, followed 168 children over more than a decade as part of Singapore's "Growing Up in Singapore Towards Healthy Outcomes" (GUSTO) cohort study. Participants

underwent brain imaging at ages four, five, six, and seven, enabling researchers to observe the evolution of neural networks across critical developmental stages rather than relying on single-point assessments.

Infants who experienced higher levels of screen exposure demonstrated accelerated development in brain regions responsible for visual processing and self-regulation. Researchers attribute this atypical growth pattern to the intense sensory stimulation generated by digital screens during a formative period of neural development.

Significantly, the study found that screen usage at ages three and four did not produce comparable effects, identifying the first two years of life as a uniquely sensitive developmental window. This temporal specificity underscores the particular vulnerability of early infancy to environmental influences on brain maturation.

The findings contribute to growing scientific understanding of how contemporary digital environments shape neurodevelopment and highlight the importance of mindful screen exposure during early childhood. - ONA



SPORTS

Gunners fire in derby victory



Eberechi Eze and Viktor Gyokeres scored twice in Arsenal's 4-1 win as they restored a five-point lead over Manchester City

LONDON: Eberechi Eze timed his return to the Arsenal scoresheet to perfection with two goals in a 4-1 derby rout of Tottenham Hotspur that calmed his side's Premier League title nerves on Sunday. The forward had not scored since a hat-trick in the reverse

fixture in November but struck in each half while Viktor Gyokeres also netted twice as Arsenal moved five points clear of second-placed Manchester City. Eze, who almost signed for Tottenham last August, volleyed in a 32nd-minute opener only for Randal Kolo Muani to

equalise two minutes later after a mistake by Declan Rice. Gyokeres restored Arsenal's lead shortly after the interval with a sublime curler and Eze's second, a tap-in, gave his side breathing space. Gyokeres then capped a fine display with his second goal sealing the deal in stoppage time. Victory lifted Arsenal to 61 points from 28 games with City, which has played a game fewer, on 56. Tottenham, for whom new manager Igor Tudor was in charge for the first time, remain in 16th place, only four points above the relegation zone. Successive draws against Brentford and bottom club Wolver-

hampton Wanderers, the latter after leading 2-0, had raised the spectre of Arsenal allowing a first Premier League title since 2004 to slip through its fingers. City's 2-1 win over Newcastle on Saturday had cranked up the pressure, so a visit to a woefully out-of-form Tottenham, who have not won in the league in 2026, suddenly looked like a treacherous assignment. Tottenham did show some of the fight Tudor had promised and gave Arsenal some anxious moments, but Eze's timely brace meant Mikel Arteta's side would now be breathing easier. Arsenal dominated the opening

half an hour with Gyokeres going close before Eze showed great athleticism to volley past Guglielmo Vicario after a cross from Bukayo Saka bounced up. Tottenham were gifted a way back from an unlikely source as the usually reliable Rice dallied in his own area and was dispossessed by Kolo Muani who drove a shot past David Raya to send the home fans into delirium. After a comically delayed start to the second half caused by a failure of the match officials' communications, the second of the game, Tottenham had an early chance through Xavi Simons. But Arsenal soon took charge.

Gyokeres, for whom the goals are at last beginning to flow, was allowed too much time to control Jurrien Timber's pass before firing right-footed past Vicario. Eze, who joined Arsenal for 67 million pounds having looked certain to sign for Spurs, made it five goals in two games against Tottenham, firing in from close range after poor defending, much to the derision of the home fans. By the time Gyokeres struck again in stoppage time, the celebrating Arsenal fans were already in full voice. **Other results:** Crystal Palace 1 Wolverhampton Wanderers 0, Sunderland 1 Fulham 3. - Agencies

MAC ALLISTER NETS WINNER



Lacklustre Liverpool snatch late win at Nottingham Forest

LONDON: Liverpool midfielder Alexis Mac Allister struck a winner deep into stoppage time as his side snatched a scarcely deserved 1-0 win at Nottingham Forest in their Premier League clash on Sunday, boosting the Merseysiders' hopes of Champions League football next season. Liverpool, who lost forward Florian Wirtz to an injury in the warm-up, were poor throughout and toothless going forward, and the hosts were not much better

in its first league game under new boss Vitor Pereira, creating few chances across a drab 90 minutes. Liverpool's best chance in normal time came in the 54th minute when Mohamed Salah headed a deep cross back to Jones, but Forest keeper Stefan Ortega got a foot to his shot to avert the danger, and the home side looked to be headed for a draw in their first league game under Perreira. However, Mac Allister had other ideas and he thought he

had given his side the lead in the second minute of stoppage time when the ball cannoned off him and into the net, but a VAR review showed the ball striking his elbow. Undeterred, Mac Allister latched on to a rebound in the 97th minute and lashed it into the net. Liverpool are sixth in the table on 45 points, level with Chelsea and Manchester United, who occupy fourth and fifth spots. Forest are 17th on 27 points, two above the relegation zone. - Agencies

SPANISH LA LIGA

Barca rout Levante to regain top spot

BARCELONA: Barcelona maintained their 100 per cent home record against Levante to end a two-game losing run with a strong 3-0 win at Spotify Camp Nou and return to the top of La Liga on Sunday. A shock loss at Osasuna for Real Madrid on Saturday gave them the opportunity to regain the leadership and Barcelona took full advantage at the Spotify Camp Nou to make it 18 home wins from 18 games against Levante. Hansi Flick's side looked vulnerable when they lost at Girona after being thumped 4-0 by Atletico Madrid in the Copa del Rey, but they bounced back against second-bottom Levante. Teenage midfielder Marc Bernal gave the champions a fourth-minute lead before Frenkie de Jong scored his first goal in 13 months and Fermin Lopez added the third with his 11th of the season. Flick was pleased to be back top, but insisted there was still a lot of football to be played. He told Marca: "It's important to get back to the top, but there's still a long way to go. I'm glad we gave a good answer and that's what I want to see from the team." Eric Garcia centred from the left for 18-year-old Bernal to open the scoring with his second Barca goal in just three games. Joao Cancelo was dangerous on the left for the hosts and the former Manchester City full-back



crossed for de Jong to side-foot home the second in the 32nd minute. The hosts might have had more as Cancelo hit the post with a cross, Levante goalkeeper Mathew Ryan denied Raphinha, while Jules Kounde shot over. Despite their dominance, Barcelona's high defensive line allowed the visitors opportunities and keeper Joan Garcia saved from

Carlos Alvarez and Jon Olassagasti. Substitute Lopez completed the scoring when he cracked home a 20-yard left-foot drive off the inside of the near post in the 81st minute. Australian keeper Ryan denied Barca a fourth with a superb double save from Raphinha and Lopez. **Other results:** Getafe 0 Sevilla 1, Celta Vigo 2 Mallorca 0, Villarreal 2 Valencia 1. - Agencies

ITALIAN SERIE A

Players racially abused on social media after defeats

LONDON: Wolverhampton Wanderers and Sunderland said they were appalled by the racial abuse directed at their players on social media on Sunday following defeats in the Premier League. Wolves striker Tolu Arokodare and Sunderland winger Romaine Mundle both received online abuse, with the incidents coming less than 24 hours after Wesley Fofana and Hannibal Mejbri were racially abused following Chelsea's draw with Burnley. Wolves said they were disgusted by the multiple instances of abuse received by Arokodare following their 0-1 defeat to Crystal Palace.



"We stand firmly alongside him, and alongside all footballers who are forced to endure this abuse from anonymous accounts acting with apparent impunity," the club said in a statement. Sunderland, who lost 1-3 to Fulham, said they were working with the authorities to identify those responsible for the messages targeting Mundle. - Agencies

AC Milan's title hopes dented after loss to Parma

MILAN: Mariano Troilo scored an 80th-minute winner as Parma stunned AC Milan with a smash-and-grab 1-0 Serie A victory at the San Siro on Sunday, all but ending the hosts' title chances and leaving leader Inter Milan celebrating. The defeat, a first in 25 games in Serie A, leaves second-placed Milan on 54 points from 26 games, 10 points behind city rivals Inter with 12 rounds remaining. Parma are in 12th with 32 points. Milan had the better of the chances in a game that lacked clear-cut opportunities and struck the post through Rafael Leao. Parma had frustrated Milan all game and then took a rare opportunity from a set-piece, something that has been a trademark of its season to date. The home side dominated possession but created little in the way of clear-cut chances in the first half. The best fell to Christian Pulis-



ic, but he scuffed his shot wide of the left-hand post. Pulisic saw his goal-bound shot blocked early in the second half, before Leao crashed a volley

against the base of the post and the ball flashed agonisingly across the face of goal. Parma took the lead 10 minutes from the end when Troilo headed

in from a corner, but referee Marco Piccinini initially disallowed it for a block on Milan goalkeeper Mike Maignan. After a Video Assistant Referee review at the pitchside screen, Piccinini overturned his decision, likely providing a fatal blow to Milan's Scudetto hopes. Elsewhere, Lazar Samardzic scored a late winner as Atalanta boosted its Champions League qualification bid with a 2-1 victory over top-four rival Napoli on Sunday. Raffaele Palladino's side extended its unbeaten run in the league to nine matches with an impressive second-half fightback. Atalanta will turn their attention to next week's Champions League knockout play-off second leg against Borussia Dortmund, when it will attempt to overturn a 2-0 deficit in Bergamo. **Other results:** Genoa 3 Torino 0, Roma 3 Cremonese 0. - Agencies

PORTUGUESE STAR

‘I belong to Saudi Arabia’: Ronaldo committed to Al-Nassr

RIYADH: Cristiano Ronaldo says he is happy at Al-Nassr following doubts over his future at the Saudi Arabian club.

The 41-year-old Portuguese had reportedly been unhappy with how the club was being run by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF) and missed three recent games.

He returned last week. After scoring twice in Saturday's 4-0 win over Al-Hazem, which sent his side one point clear at the top

of the Saudi Pro League, he insisted he wanted to stay. "I'm very happy," the Portugal international told Saudi broadcaster Thmanyah. "As I say so many times, I belong to Saudi Arabia. "It's a country that has welcomed me very well, and my family and my friends. I'm happy here, I want to continue here.

"The most important thing is we keep pushing [for the league title]; we are at the top. We do our job, we win, we apply pressure, and we'll see at the end of the season."

Ronaldo moved to the Middle East in December 2022, shortly after his contract with Manchester United was terminated by mutual agreement, becoming the best-paid player in football history with an annual salary of £177m.

But since his arrival, the 10-time league champions have only won the 2023 Arab Club Champions Cup. Saturday's win moved them one point ahead of Al-Hilal and they are also into the quarter-finals of the AFC Asian Cup. - Agencies



France maintain Grand Slam dream with win over Italy



The winners eased to bonus-point victory to be on track for back-to-back titles

LILLE: France recorded a bonus-point win against a spirited Italy (33-8) in Lille to maintain their bid for a Six Nations Grand Slam and back-to-back titles on Sunday.

Les Bleus raced into a 19-0 lead through tries by Louis Bielle-Biarrey, Emmanuel Meafou and Thomas Ramos, who was a late switch at fly-half after Matthieu Jalibert was ruled out of the game.

Despite the early dominance on the scoreboard, Italy remained competitive and responded through an Ange Capuozzo try and a Paolo Garbisi penalty.

With Louis Lynagh in the sin-bin, debutant Gael Dreaan grabbed the vital bonus-point try and Emilien Gailleton crossed in a less eventful second half.

The visitors have only beaten France twice in the Six Nations, with the 2024 game ending in a thrilling draw in Lille.



France next travel to Edinburgh to face Scotland on 7 March, while Italy host England on the same day.

A bonus-point victory at Murrayfield will not only clinch the title for Fabien Galthie's side but also set up the chance of winning a first Grand Slam in the championship's final match against England.

"I think we always believed we would get the bonus-point win," Meafou told ITV.

"We knew Italy were a strong team, they hung in for 80 minutes, they never cracked and they never let go.

"Our goal is to take out the Six Nations game by game but the end goal is the 2027 World Cup so we keep working towards that."

Gonzalo Quesada's Italy defeated Scotland in the opening round but ran out of steam in the closing stages of the second half against Ireland and Les Bleus.

Italy will now target a first win over an England side who have suffered back-to-back heavy defeats.

France's slick attacking play blew away Ireland and Wales in the opening two rounds to emphatically begin their pursuit of a first Grand Slam since 2022.

Flash tries had the visitors on the back foot early as Antoine Dupont's kick through enabled flyer Bielle-Biarrey to score in a record eighth successive Six Nations game.

Following Meafou's finish from close range, Gailleton's clean break came out of nothing to help set-up

Ramos' try. Two years ago in Lille, the hosts learnt the hard way to not overlook an improving Italy side as Garbisi's injury-time penalty hit the post to deny them a first Six Nations victory in France.

Italy stayed calm in the chaos and should have had one more than Capuozzo's first-half try.

Despite fading in the second half, Italy's scrum - just as it was in Dublin - was a real weapon in the game to win penalties.

Centres Tommaso Menoncello

and Leonardo Marin both looked threatening and could cause problems for England's struggling defence. "The scoreboard is always the truth of the game and we have to go with that," Italy captain Michele Lamaro told ITV.

"France were unbelievably good at taking their opportunities, especially in the first half.

"We couldn't build pressure in the second half and that took us to 70 minutes when we got the yellow card." - Agencies

ALL STAR PERCHE

Duplantis shakes off illness to extend pole vault streak



CLERMONT-FERRAND: Armand Duplantis fought off a bout of food poisoning to stretch his near three-year pole vault winning run at the All Star Perche on Sunday, but was unable to better his world record.

The double Olympic champion fell ill earlier in the weekend and only made a late decision to take part in Clermont-Ferrand, where he cleared 6.06 metres at the first of three attempts to take victory.

Duplantis won his 37th consecutive meet dating back to the summer of 2023.

Australia's Kurtis Marschall

finished second (6.00m) with Greece's Emmanouil Karalis in third (5.90m).

"I'm OK. I'm scared of how I'm going to feel when the adrenaline runs off though. I'm super light. That's a good thing. You know, gravity doesn't like weight, so that's, that's an advantage," Duplantis joked.

"I feel actually pretty decent all things considered."

Duplantis had three tries at breaking his latest world record set at last year's World Championships, but he fell short of the 6.31 metre-mark in his first ap-

pearance since Tokyo.

"I feel like I'm in really good shape. I felt like I definitely could have jumped really, really high if it wasn't for the night before last, throwing up the whole night," said the Swede.

"But other than that I'm not gonna complain. I'm alive. And it feels like it's away now from the system." Duplantis is planning to compete once more before the World Indoor Championships in Torun, Poland, next month. He will headline his home meeting, the Mondo Classic, in Uppsala on March 12. - Agencies

DELRAY BEACH OPEN

Korda lifts third ATP Tour crown

FLORIDA: Sebastian Korda captured his third ATP Tour title on Sunday, beating fifth-seeded Tommy Paul 6-4, 6-3 in an all-American final at Delray Beach, Florida on Sunday.

Korda, 25, shrugged off blustery winds, dictating play from the baseline and saving five of six break points that he faced.

That included four in the final game, when Korda rallied from 0-40 down, and then saving one more break point before clinching



the victory after one hour and 22 minutes.

Korda, who was playing in his first final in more than a year, beat three of the top five seeds on the way to the title, dispatching second-seeded Casper Ruud in the quarterfinals and third-seeded Flavio Cobolli in the semis. Paul, hindered last year by injuries including a ruptured foot ligament and an abdominal strain, was playing his first final since he lifted the trophy in Stockholm in 2024. - Agencies

DOUBLES CATEGORIES

ISC coach Sivan clinches four ITF Masters 400 titles

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Muscat-based Indian Social Club (ISC) tennis coach Sivan Govind delivered an outstanding performance on the international stage, winning four titles in doubles across the 2026 ITF Masters 400 tournaments in India and the UAE recently.

Govind showcased remarkable consistency and class in the Masters categories against strong international opponents.

At the ITF Masters 400 event in Trivandrum, India, Govind secured two doubles titles on clay.

He clinched the 45+ men's doubles title partnering M.S. Krishnakumar, before going on to win the 50+ men's doubles crown alongside Binu Mani.

Carrying his winning momentum into the ITF Masters 400 tournament in Dubai, Govind added two more trophies to his tally.

In the 50+ mixed doubles final, he teamed up with Estonia's Marren Olander-Doyle to defeat Malakhova S and Zuev V 6-4, 6-4.

He then captured the 50+ men's doubles title with Swedish partner



ner Jan Hedman, overcoming the Portuguese-Polish pair of Vasco Graca and Piotr Zaboklicki 7-5, 7-5 in the final.

With over two decades of coaching experience across Dubai and Oman, Govind continues to balance

mentorship with competitive excellence. His recent haul at the prestigious ITF Masters 400 level underlines his standing as one of the region's leading senior players and brings pride to Muscat's tennis community.

ROUND-UP

Night to Shine event celebrates and honours people with special needs

Hosted in the elegant setting of The Diplomatic Club, the event featured a red-carpet welcome, music, dancing, interactive experiences, food, and a crowning ceremony where every guest was celebrated as a King or Queen — a defining moment that beautifully captured the spirit of Night to Shine

MUSCAT: The Diplomatic Club hosted Night to Shine – Muscat, a special evening dedicated to celebrating and honouring people with special needs, bringing together



families, caregivers, volunteers, diplomats, corporate partners, and community leaders for a night filled with dignity, joy, and inclusion.

The evening was honoured by the presence of Her Highness Sayyidah Hujaija bint Jaifer al

Said, who delivered a heartfelt address emphasising the importance, value, and unique contributions of individuals with special needs, and the joy, love, and hope they bring to society.

Organised by Joy House Arabia

in partnership with the Tim Tebow Foundation, Night to Shine – Muscat formed part of a global celebration that recognises people with special needs as honoured guests, celebrating them for who they are.

Hosted in the elegant setting of

The Diplomatic Club, the event featured a red-carpet welcome, music, dancing, interactive experiences, food, and a crowning ceremony where every guest was celebrated as a King or Queen – a defining moment that beautifully captured the

spirit of Night to Shine.

Night enabled by partnership and purpose

As host venue, The Diplomatic Club extended its full hospitality and support to create a warm, elegant, and dignified environment for all attendees, reaffirming the Club's ongoing commitment to inclusive community engagement and meaningful social impact.

The Muscat edition welcomed over 150 honoured guests, supported by more than 150 volunteers, reflecting the strong sense of community and collective goodwill behind the event.

Community and corporate support

Night to Shine – Muscat was supported by a wide network of community and corporate partners, including AmCham Oman, Europcar Oman, Crowe Oman, and several other organisations and individuals who generously contributed their time, resources, and hearts to the evening.

Gratitude and looking ahead

The Diplomatic Club, together with Joy House Arabia and its partners, expressed sincere gratitude to all volunteers, families, sponsors, and supporters who made Night to Shine – Muscat a memorable success, reaffirming a shared commitment to building a more inclusive, compassionate, and connected society in Oman.

HOLY MONTH

Sohar International and Sohar Islamic support over 100 families in Al Wusta through its 'Sohar Al Attaa' initiative

MUSCAT: As part of their steadfast commitment to advancing national economic development and fostering community progress, Sohar International and Sohar Islamic launched their charitable initiative, 'Sohar Al Attaa', in conjunction with the Holy Month of Ramadan.

The initiative was carried out in collaboration with the Walis' Offices in the Wilayats of Mahoot and Al Jazir, and in coordination with several charitable teams operating across both Wilayats.

This collaboration reflects a structured institutional approach aimed at ensuring aid is delivered to eligible beneficiaries, strengthening sustainable community partnerships, and extending support to the communities they serve – particularly in remote areas and among the most vulnerable segments.

As part of the Ramadan initiative, comprehensive food supply boxes and fish preservation freezers were distributed to 100 low-income families in the remote areas of the Wilayats of Mahoot and Al Jazir in Al Wusta Governorate. The provision of fish freezers to local fishermen further support the stability of their households and contribute to sustaining their livelihoods over the long term.

Commenting on the initiative, Abdulwahid bin Mohamed Al



Murshidi, Chief Executive Officer of Sohar International, stated: "Ramadan is not only a season of giving, but a reminder of the responsibility institutions carry in shaping resilient and inclusive communities. At Sohar International, community investment is embedded within our broader sustainability agenda and the way we deliver long-term value across the Sultanate. Through Sohar Al Attaa, our social arm, we take a deliberate and structured approach to outreach – ensuring that our support addresses immediate needs while strengthening livelihoods and economic

participation. By focusing on underserved regions and working communities, including fishermen and low-income households, we aim to create impact that is practical, dignified, and sustainable. Our objective is not limited to seasonal assistance; it is to contribute meaningfully to social stability and economic resilience in the areas we serve, reinforcing our role as a responsible financial partner in Oman's continued development."

The Sohar Al Attaa initiative is designed around a needs-based engagement model that prioritizes targeted and context-driven as-

sistance. This year, the initiative focused on the Fishermen in both targeted Wilayats due to the vital role they play in supporting local food security.

The program is structured to align contributions with the specific socio-economic conditions of beneficiary groups, ensuring that resources deliver practical and sustainable value. By focusing on tailored outreach and beneficiary-specific requirements, the program enhances effectiveness while supporting broader social stability across remote regions.

Employee volunteers from Sohar International and Sohar Islamic actively participated in the distribution efforts, reflecting the bank's broader culture of volunteerism and social engagement. The involvement of employees highlights the organization's emphasis on encouraging staff to contribute to social initiatives beyond their professional responsibilities.

Through such initiatives, Sohar International and Sohar Islamic continue to demonstrate its focus on responsible corporate citizenship and inclusive development. The bank's engagement efforts are guided by principles of empathy and long-term value creation, reflecting a balanced approach that aligns economic participation with social well-being.

SIGNATURE EVENT



Capital Store unveils refined selection of luxury beauty houses

MUSCAT: Capital Store hosted its exclusive signature event at Oman Avenues Mall, welcoming distinguished guests, visionary brand founders, media representatives, and industry partners for a curated journey into luxury beauty.

The event marked a milestone for Capital Store unveiling a refined selection of niche and luxury beauty houses. Guests explored signature fragrances, premium beauty products, and the stories behind each brand, while engaging directly with the creators and founders who define their artistry.

Several exclusive additions were introduced to Capital Store's portfolio, including Thameen, Etat Libre d'Orange, Tiziana Terenzi, Paradis des Sens, Born to Stand Out, Kilian, Versace Atelier, Ojar and more.

The showcase reinforced the brand's dedication to bringing globally acclaimed niche beauty

houses to Oman, offering clients an experience that blends craftsmanship, individuality, and discovery.

"The Signature Event marks an important step in our strategy to expand Capital Store's luxury portfolio and redefine the beauty retail experience in Oman," said Joseph Faddoul, Chief Executive Officer at Capital Store.

Present across Oman's most prestigious retail destinations, including Oman Avenues Mall, Mall of Oman, Sohar City Centre, and Salalah Gardens Mall, Capital Store curates an elevated beauty destination defined by discovery, personalization, and exclusivity.

As the brand continues to expand its portfolio and presence, it remains dedicated to shaping the luxury beauty landscape in Oman through distinctive brand curation, premium gifting, and immersive experiences that celebrate artistry, craftsmanship, and individuality.

'CELEBRATION OF GENEROSITY

Celebrate Ramadan with premium rewards on Lexus ES sedan

MUSCAT: This Ramadan, Lexus Oman is inviting drivers to rediscover the joy of the journey with the "Celebration of Generosity" campaign, now highlighting the sophisticated Lexus ES. Renowned for its smooth handling and artistic design, the ES is a centerpiece of this year's seasonal offers.

Available at Lexus showrooms across the Sultanate until April 8, 2026, this campaign provides a perfect opportunity for sedan enthusiasts to step into a world of Japanese craftsmanship and modern innovation.

The Ramadan campaign is built around providing a worry-free and premium ownership experience for every new Lexus ES owner. The offer (Terms & Conditions Apply) includes Free One-Year Registration and a comprehensive 5-year



or 50,000 km Service Package, which covers the first five major service intervals. To add further value, customers receive OMR 50 in Al Nukhbah Loyalty Points, redeemable for future maintenance or repairs.

The Lexus ES lineup offers a variety of powertrains to suit different driving styles. The ES 250 features a 2.5L engine producing 203 hp, while the more powerful ES 350 is equipped with a 3.5L V6 engine delivering a robust 297 hp.

For those prioritizing sustainability without sacrificing luxury, the ES 300h hybrid delivers a combined 215 hp with an incredible fuel economy of 24.1 km/L. These options ensure that whether you seek raw power or eco-friendly

efficiency, the ES provides a balanced and responsive drive.

Inside, the Lexus ES is designed as a sanctuary of calm and high-tech convenience. The cabin features a leather and wood-finished steering wheel, 8-way power-adjustable front seats, and a moonroof that adds an airy feel to the interior. Technology takes center stage with a 12.3-inch interactive touchscreen, a premium 17-speaker Mark Levinson Audio System, and seamless smartphone integration. Practical features like a wireless charging tray, a Head-Up Display (HUD), and a remote engine starter with a card key make every daily commute effortless.

Safety is deeply embedded in the Lexus ES through a suite of advanced driver-assist technologies. The sedan is equipped with

the Pre-Crash Safety System, Dynamic Radar Cruise Control, and Lane Tracing Assist to help keep the vehicle centered and secure. Additional features like the Blind Spot Monitor and Rear Cross-Traffic Alert provide 360-degree awareness, while a comprehensive SRS airbag system, including knee airbags, ensures maximum protection for all occupants.

Lexus continues to be a symbol of prestige and hospitality in Oman. To learn more about the Lexus ES and the Ramadan campaign benefits, customers are encouraged to visit their nearest Lexus showroom for a personalized experience. With the offer ending on April 8, now is the ideal time to start an "amazing journey" with a vehicle that embodies finesse and sophistication.

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4
YEARS

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YEARS

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FREE
REGISTRATION *

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VOUCHER

200
LITERS ***

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Ramadan Mubarak

*Conditions Apply



SHOWROOM - GHALA HEIGHTS, MUSCAT



THIS OFFER IS VALID FROM 25TH JANUARY 2026 TO 25TH MARCH 2026. * FREE REGISTRATION: APPLICABLE ON ALL MODELS. **FREE SERVICE: UNLIMITED KMS/4 YEARS IS APPLICABLE ON 01,03,03+ & 09. ** 50,000 KMS/5 YEARS APPLICABLE ON 06 & 05. ***FUEL VOUCHER OF 200 LITRES: AVAILABLE FOR ALL MODELS. #5 YEARS/150,000 KMS WARRANTY APPLICABLE ON 2026 YM 01 HYPER, 01 HYPER PRO, 05 HYPER PLUS, 05 HYPER HALO, 09 PRO, 09 HALO, 06 CORE PLUS, 06 HYPER PRO, 06 HYPER HALO AND 2025 YM 03 HYPER PRO. # 6 YEARS UNLIMITED MILEAGE EXTENDED WARRANTY: APPLICABLE ON 2024 YM 03 HYPER PLUS, 03 HYPER PRO, 03+ 09 HALO AND 09 ULTRA. @ 6 YEARS AAA ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE IS APPLICABLE ON ALL MODELS. IMAGES ARE FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY. SPECIFICATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. THE OFFER IS VALID FOR PRIVATE VEHICLES AND DOES NOT APPLY TO FLEET VEHICLES, GOVERNMENT OR TAXI VEHICLES, RENTAL VEHICLES OR COMMERCIAL VEHICLES.

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