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INVITATION TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Board of Directors of the Omani Qatari Telecommunications Company SAOG (the “**Company**”) invites all shareholders to attend the Annual General Meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, 12 March 2025 at 3 pm via the electronic platform to conduct general meetings, which you can access through Muscat Clearing and Depository Company website (www.mcd.gov.om). In case the required quorum is not met for this meeting, a second Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, 13 March 2025 at 3 pm via the abovementioned electronic platform. The meetings shall discuss the following agenda items:

Agenda of the Annual General Meeting:

1. To consider and approve the Board of Director’s Report regarding the Company's activities and financial position for the financial year ended on 31 December 2024.
2. To consider and approve the Corporate Governance Report for the financial year ended on 31 December 2024.
3. To consider and approve the Auditor’s Report regarding the audited financial statements for the financial year ended on 31 December 2024.
4. To consider and approve the proposal of distributing cash dividends to the shareholders, as on the date of the meeting, at the value of 11.53 Baiza per share for the financial year ended on 31 December 2024.
5. To ratify the sitting fees paid to the Board of Directors and its Sub-Committees during the financial year ended on 31 December 2024, and to determine the sitting fees for the financial year 2025.
6. To consider and approve the proposal of distributing the total sum of RO 239,000 as remuneration for the Board of Directors of the Company for the financial year ended on 31 December 2024.
7. To inform the shareholders about Related-Party Transactions entered into by the Company during 2024.

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CABLES

His Majesty the Sultan sends greetings

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of congratulations to Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei Darussalam on his country's National Day. In his cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere greetings and wishes of good health and happiness to him and to his country's people achievement of aspirations of development and progress in all sectors.

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of congratulations to His Majesty Emperor Naruhito of Japan on his country's National Day. In his cable, His Majesty the Sultan wished the Emperor continued success and achievements in all spheres

coupled with achievement of aspirations of his country's people in continued developments and comprehensive progress.

His Majesty the Sultan also wished further boost to relations and partnership between the two countries and opening of new horizons in the various fields.

His Majesty the Sultan has also sent a cable of congratulations to Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana on his country's National Day.

In his cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere greetings and wishes to the president and his country's people further progress and development. -ONA



Belavia Airlines to connect Salalah

The Civil Aviation Authority issued its approval for the operation, reflecting the authorities' commitment to boosting the tourism sector in Oman

Harthi, Honorary Consul of Belarus in Oman, emphasised that the launch of direct flights between Oman and Belarus is the result of dedicated efforts to strengthen bilateral relations between the two friendly countries.

This development follows the official visit of the President of Belarus to Oman, which contributed to advancing mutual cooperation and identifying strategic sectors for deepening partnership, such as clean energy, tourism, education, healthcare, technology, transport, and logistics.

He added that these direct flights will significantly promote Oman's tourism potential, particularly in the Dhofar Governorate, and enhance commercial and investment activities between the two countries.

He highlighted that Belarusian citizens have been exempted from visa requirements to enter Oman for up to 14 days, aiming to facilitate the movement of individuals and boost tourism and economic exchanges.

Furthermore, the Honorary Consul mentioned that additional flights linking Muscat to Minsk are being planned, which will further enhance cooperation, open new avenues for investment and trade, and leverage the growing relationship to drive economic development for both countries.

He also pointed out the promising opportunities in agriculture, industry, technology, and food security sectors, forming a solid foundation for establishing strategic partnerships that achieve mutual interests.

He praised the efforts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in facilitating procedures and supporting initiatives that strengthen cooperation between Oman and Belarus.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Belavia Airlines, the national airline of Belarus, will start its first tourist flights to Salalah Airport from the Belarusian capital, Minsk, next Thursday.

This comes after the Civil Aviation Authority issued its approval for the operation, reflecting the authorities' commitment to boosting the tourism sector in Oman.

The Civil Aviation Authority announced that the initial phase of Belavia Airlines' operations to Salalah Airport will include four tourist flights until late March 2025, using a Boeing B737-800 aircraft with a capacity of 189 seats.

The authority also noted that the airline is expected to continue its operations to Salalah Airport during the upcoming summer season in 2026, bringing the total number of flights in the first and second phases of operation to 16 tourist flights.

Dr. Abdullah bin Masoud Al

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MEDICAL SERVICES COURSE

Military Medical City marks graduation of officers

MUSCAT: The Medical City for Military and Security Services on Thursday celebrated the graduation of officers who completed a basic medical services course.

The ceremony was held under the auspices of Eng. Uday bin Hilal Al Maawali, Head of the Medical City for Military and Security Services.

The ceremony began with a briefing about the objectives of the training course.

Eng. Uday Al Maawali said in a speech that the course was aimed to expand the officers' medical

knowledge and hone their skills in a manner that helps them perform their duties with high efficiency.

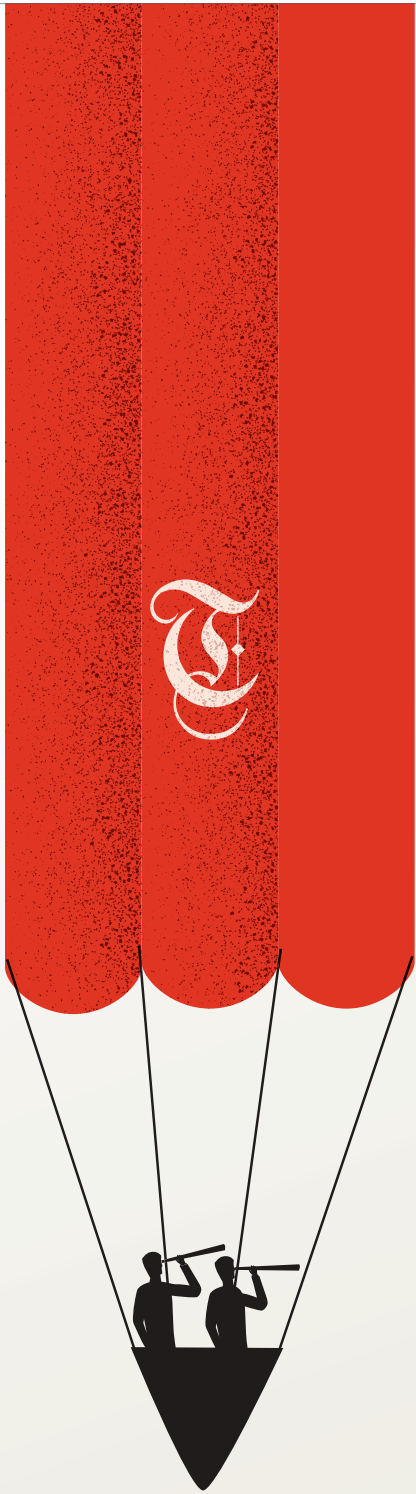
Top graduates felicitated

Then, he felicitated the top graduates and presented them with awards and distributed certificates to the members of the graduating batch.

The ceremony was attended by senior officers and officers of the Medical City for Military and Security Services, and senior officers, personnel of other military and security corps. - ONA



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Marginal increase in Oman's inflation rate

The data indicated an increase in the prices of various personal goods and services groups by 4.4 percent

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The inflation rate in the Sultanate of Oman witnessed a rise during January 2025 by 1 percent compared to the same month in 2024 for the base year 2018, according to data from the Consumer Price Index issued by the NCSI.



The data indicated an increase in the prices of various personal goods and services groups by 4.4 percent, the health group by 3.2 percent, the transportation group by 2.8 percent, the food and non-alcoholic beverages group by 1 percent. The restaurants and hotels group also increased by 0.9 percent, the clothing and footwear group by 0.6 percent, the culture

and entertainment group by 0.6 percent, the furniture, household equipment and maintenance group by 0.4 percent, and the education group by 0.1 percent, while the prices of the housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels groups, communications and the tobacco group remained stable. In the food and non-alcoholic beverages group for January 2025, the prices of vegetables rose by

6.2 percent, the milk, cheese and eggs group by 3.3 percent, the food group by 1.1 percent, the sugar, jam, honey and sweets group by 2.8 percent, the oils and fats group by 1.2 percent, and the prices of the bread and grains group remained stable, while the prices of the fruits group decreased by 1.3 percent, the fish and seafood group by 0.5 percent, the meat group by 0.4 percent, and the non-alcoholic beverages group by 0.2 percent. Inflation rates varied between governorates; Musandam Governorate recorded the highest inflation rate at 1.7 percent, while South Al Batinah Governorate had the lowest rate at 0.2 percent. The inflation rate in the governorates of Al Dakhiliyah reached 1.5 percent, while South Al Sharqiyah recorded 1.4 percent, Al Wusta 1.3 percent, Al Dhahirah 1.2 percent, Dhofar 1.1 percent, Muscat 1.1 percent, Al Buraimi 1.0 percent.



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OMANI TEACHERS' DAY

Teachers make great efforts to instil good values among students



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman will celebrate on Monday, the Omani Teachers' Day which falls on 24 February every year.

The celebration of the Omani Teachers' Day comes in recognition for the great efforts made by teachers in the field of education and their effective role in raising the generations on good values.

The Royal care accorded by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik for teachers through the various potentials in the field of education aims to optimise their missions, duties.

The noble message is designed to keep abreast with the developments in the field of modern teaching methods and tools including artificial intelligence. This, His Majesty the Sultan has reaffirmed during his visit to Sultan Faisal bi Turki School for Boys in the Wilayat of Al Amerat, Muscat Governorate, wherein His Majesty met with a number of specialists in the field of education and students.

His Majesty the Sultan has also stressed, during the meeting, the significance of providing the schools built during the last three or four years with the latest technologies and employing the same in the field of education.

Dr. Mahmoud Sulaiman Al Riyami, Professor of Arabic Language and Literature at Sultan Qaboos University (SQU), said that updating educational plans to cope with the future changes is essential as we live in a rapidly changing world, mainly with incorporation of the Internet, the world of technology and artificial intelligence in all walks of life. He said that the actual condition of education should be profoundly examined for setting a comprehensive, flexible and renewable national strategy that identifies the needs, requirements, mechanisms and purpose of development.

This development should cover the various curricula, and training among other fields, he added.

Salma bint Ahmed Al Riyami, a teacher at Fatima bint Al Zubair School Al Dakhiliyah Governorate, said that the teachers play vital roles in shaping the future of their students and they help students develop their skills and abilities.

Majida bint Abdullah Al Halawi, a teacher at Al Aqsa Basic Education School, North Al Batinah Governorate said that teachers contribute to the personality development of students through their constructive remarks and encouragement. He also stressed the importance of keeping abreast with technology.

Sultan Said Al Hakamani from Al Idrisi Basic Education School, South Al Batinah Governorate said that the Omani Teachers' Day established on the Royal Directives of His Majesty the Sultan is a day set and celebrated in recognition of the great role the teachers play in the society and comes in recognition for the teachers' efforts in serving the country and Omani generations.

Ya'arub bin Ahmed Al Auwaidi, a teacher at Abdullah bin Al Arqam Basic Education School, North Al Sharqiyah Governorate, said that the Omani Teachers' Day comes in honour and recognition for the great role of the teacher in serving the society and the nation.

Ahd bint Ahmed Al Hinai, a teacher at Sharbathat Basic Education School, in Dhofar Governorate expressed her thanks and appreciation for the teachers who she said extend tremendous efforts in educating the generations and help students develop their skills and abilities. The teacher also work on boosting the communication skills and the skills of cooperation and dialogue among students, she added.



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APSR to unveil new initiatives in energy and water sectors

The initiatives aim to enhance the objectives of Oman Vision 2040 and encourage the use of alternative energy sources

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Authority for Public Services Regulation (APSR) will hold its annual media meeting in Muscat on Monday, with the participation of a

number of Their Excellencies the Undersecretaries and CEOs of licenced companies operating in the energy, sustainable energy, water, sanitation and natural gas sectors.

The meeting will witness the announcement of a package of strategic partnerships in the field of sustainable energy within the framework of supporting the Sultanate of Oman's efforts to achieve net zero neutrality in cooperation with a number of government agencies and licenced companies.

The Authority will unveil new initiatives in the energy, water and sanitation sectors that aim to enhance the objectives of Oman Vision 2040 and encourage the use of alternative energy sources, in addition to launching community projects that contribute to reducing energy consumption and supporting environmental sustainability.

The meeting will also include the announcement of a set of strategic projects that will be implemented by licenced companies during the next phase, in addition to reviewing the most prominent achievements of the Authority during the past five years, including regulatory and legislative frameworks and national initiatives aimed at enhancing the efficiency and sustainability of public services.

This meeting confirms the Authority's commitment to establishing a transparent approach, enhancing effective communication with the media, and reviewing developments in the energy, water and related services sectors, which contributes to highlighting national efforts aimed at achieving sustainable development and enhancing the efficiency of public services in the Sultanate of Oman.



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Tender Announcement

Oman chamber of commerce and industry in Al Batinah North Governorate would like to announce the following tender: -

Tender No.	Tender Name	Tender Fees (non-refundable)	Specialized companies	Deadline for Obtaining Documents	Deadline for Tender submission
2025/1	ORGANIZING, MANAGING & EXECUTING OF SUHAR INVESTMENT FOURM (FEB-2026)	25 OMR	Companies specializing in Manging & Organizing International Conferences & Exhibitions	09 March 2025	30 March 2025

Specialized companies can obtain the tender documents from the Administrative and Financial Affairs Department located on the first floor of the Chamber's branch building in North Al Batinah, Sohar, during official working hours after paying the tender fee.

Tender Conditions:
Submission of a commercial registration, a Chamber of Commerce and Industry membership certificate, and a tax certificate. All required documents must be valid.

Financial and technical bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes addressed to the Chairman of the Main Tender Committee at the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, North Al Batinah branch, clearly stating the tender number and subject. The envelope must not display the name of the bidder or any indication thereof.

A temporary guarantee must be included with the bid in the form of a bank guarantee or certified check amounting to 1% of the bid value, certified by one of the banks operating in the Sultanate, and valid for 90 days from the last submission date. The guarantee must be addressed to the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Please note that any bid that does not meet the temporary guarantee requirement will not be considered.

Bids must be placed in the tender box located at the Oman Chamber of Commerce & Industry branch building in North Al Batinah, Sohar, on the first floor, Administrative and Financial Affairs Department.

The Chamber is not obligated to accept the lowest bid and reserves the right to accept or reject bids without providing reasons.

The final date for submitting bids is before 12 PM on March 30, 2025.
For inquiries, please contact Ms. Maryam Al Balushi at +968 91384243 or via email at maryam.balushi@omanchamber.om and Mr. Waleed Al Shamsi at +968 93240385 or via email at waleed.shamsi@omanchamber.om.

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Experience Oman Muscat Marathon 2025: A Triumph of Community and Sport

The Experience Oman Muscat Marathon 2025 reached new heights on February 21-22, bringing together a vibrant community of over 13,000 runners from more than 60 countries. Under the esteemed patronage of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism and organized by Sabco Sports, with Al Mouj Muscat as the Founding Partner and Host Venue, this year's event marked its most diverse and successful edition yet. With record-breaking participation, the marathon reaffirmed its status as a world-class running event, showcasing Oman's rich culture, stunning landscapes, and growing prominence on the global sporting stage.

Runners of all ages and abilities competed across a variety of categories, including the highly anticipated 42KM marathon, the 21KM half marathon, 10KM and 5KM races, the Kids' Races, and the Ooredoo-sponsored 2.5KM Fun Run, designed to encourage inclusivity and community engagement. The stunning race routes—set against the breathtaking backdrop of Muscat's natural beauty—combined with an electric atmosphere and enthusiastic crowds, made the Experience Oman Muscat Marathon 2025 an unforgettable event for all.

This year's edition was more than just a race—it was a testament to Oman's growing presence on the global sports stage. The event provided a unique platform for local and international athletes to compete at the highest level, while also highlighting Oman's capacity to host world-class sporting events.

From a tourism perspective, His Excellency Azzan Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of Tourism at the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, highlighted the event's significant role in positioning Oman as a premier international sports and

tourism destination:

"The Experience Oman Muscat Marathon is a prime example of how sports can elevate Oman's global image. This event has successfully demonstrated our nation's capacity to host large-scale international events while showcasing Oman's rich culture, warm hospitality, and breathtaking landscapes. We look forward to continuing to support this event and similar initiatives as we work towards strengthening Oman's position as a leading global hub for sports and tourism."

Reflecting on the event's success, Sayyid Khalid Al Busaidi, Chairman of Sabco Sports, expressed his pride in the marathon's achievements:

"We are incredibly proud of the success of the Experience Oman Muscat Marathon 2025. This event has not only united runners from all over the world but has also showcased Oman's exceptional ability to organize large-scale sporting events. It is an honor to be part of an initiative that highlights our country's natural beauty, cultural richness, and commitment to promoting a healthy and active lifestyle."

As the marathon came to a thrilling close and the final winners were crowned, the success of this year's edition stood as a testament to the seamless collaboration between local and international teams, each contributing their expertise to ensure the event's smooth execution.

With the Experience Oman Muscat Marathon 2026 already in the planning stages, next year's edition promises even greater excitement, increased participation, and new race categories to engage both elite runners and recreational participants alike.

Stay tuned as we continue this incredible journey—see you in 2026!

For more information, visit www.muscatmarathon.om.





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Women from Uzbekistan to explore business opportunities

The visit aims to strengthen the relations between Oman and Uzbekistan in various fields, particularly economic and cultural fields



Times News Service

MUSCAT: A delegation of businesswomen from the Republic of Uzbekistan will visit Oman on Tuesday to discuss economic cooperation and business partnerships with their Omani counterparts.

The delegation, led by Nodira Shah Tursunova, Vice President of the Uzbekistan Chamber of Commerce, includes around 20 Uzbek businesswomen representing various sectors such as real estate, design, electrical engineering, textiles, private education, medicine, and import-export.

Abdulsalam Hatamov, the Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Oman, stated that the visit aims to strengthen the relations between Oman and Uzbekistan in various fields, particularly economic and cultural ones.

The Uzbekistan Embassy, in cooperation with the Oman



Chamber of Commerce and Industry, has prepared a programme for the visit that includes meetings with officials from both the public and private sectors in Oman and visits to several commercial companies.

The ambassador added in a statement to the Oman News Agency that the program also includes workshops to be conducted by Uzbek embroidery artisans in Muscat, as well as a fashion show organized by representa-

tives from the textile and design industries.

He pointed out that the program also features a business forum between the Uzbek and Omani businesswomen, where they will discuss economic and investment cooperation.

Last year, the two sides signed a cooperation agreement between their respective chambers of commerce, leading to the exchange of delegations and the organization of business forums.

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TENDER NOTICE

REF: **ISD/ADMIN/TENDER/2024-25/005**
Indian School Darsait is seeking bids from specialised firms who are
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1	General Insurance Policies
2	Printing of Certificates
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4	Pest Control service
5	School Monitored Transport Tracking System

Interested parties shall collect the Tender documents from the school admin
office against the payment of **RO 10/-** each as a non-refundable Tender fee from
23 February 2025 to 05 March 2025 during the working days (Sunday to Thursday)
of the school between **07:30 a.m. and 02:00 p.m.**
The completed Tender shall be dropped in the Tender Box kept in the school office
on or before **09 March 2025 by 2.00 p.m.**
The school reserves the right to reject any tender without providing any reason and
does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.
The Tender document should be submitted in a sealed envelope, addressed to
**The Head Purchase Subcommittee, Indian School Darsait, PO Box 1551, PC114,
Darsait, Muscat.**

Principal

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Ref : **ISML/TA/006**

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The School reserves the right to reject any tender without providing any reason and does not find
itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

INITIATIVE

Oman Across Ages Museum hosts architecture revival initiative

< FROM A1 The programme has received the attention of His Highness Sayyid Bilarab bin Haitham Al Said, who decided to boost its awareness for being one of the important components of the national identity.

The initiative showcased in the corner of Bilarab bin Haitham Award for Architectural Design displays the achievements and gives an interactive experience for revitalisation of architecture.

The corner provides the visitors with the opportunity to acquaint themselves with the stages of the first and second editions of Bilarab Award for Architectural Design; the winning projects of the initiative and the projects winning the competition on the design of the Sultanate's pavilion in Expo 2025 Japan.

The first edition of the award dealt with development of the designated site at Hayy Al Mina in the wilayat of Muttrah located between the seafloor and Mutt-rah Fish Market with a total area of 7,500 sq. metres.

The second edition of the award introduced a competition on the design of the Sultanate's pavilion at Expo 2025 Japan, the winners of which is a team comprising Bayan bint Masalam Al Ramadani; Ammar Abdulhamid Al Kiyomi; and Nairah bint Khamis Al Hinai.

The team employed the idea of Omani falajs in their project.

The video presentation, screened during the ceremony, took the visitors to a journey on the first and second editions of Bilarab bin Haitham Award for Architectural Design; the project winning the design of the Sultanate's pavilion at Expo 2025 Japan and the announcement of the third edition of Bilarab bin

Haitham Award for Architectural Design, scheduled for the end of the current year.

The interactive experience of the initiative dealt with three key pillars in the field of architecture and revitalisation of architecture in Oman. The interactive experience reviewed some architectural expressions of the initiative for prominent Omani personalities, mainly Honourable Lady Sayyida Ahad bint Abdullah Al Busaidi, spouse of His Majesty the Sultan and His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth. -ONA





Recall

PILOT

Recall date: 23/2/2025

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PILOT	2023-2024-2025	Total: 79 units

Recall consequence

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Recall action

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EU-INDIA TIES

EU Chief Ursula von der Leyen to visit India on February 27-28

NEW DELHI: The President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, will be visiting New Delhi on February 27-28, accompanied by the College of Commissioners.

Sharing a post on X, the EU in India wrote, “@EU_Commission President @vonderleyen to visit New Delhi on Feb 27-28 with the College of Commissioners!”

“This unprecedented visit highlights the growing momentum in EU-India ties -- stay tuned,” the post added.

Meanwhile, the unprecedented visit follows President von der Leyen’s announcement of a new strategic agenda with India to be presented this year at the EU-India Summit. The visit emphasises the importance of strengthening ties in key areas vital to the prosperity and security of both Europe and India, the Delegation of the European Union to India and Bhutan said.

Ursula von der Leyen, said, “In this era of intense geostrategic competition, Europe stands for openness, partnership, and outreach. We seek to deepen ties with one of our most trusted friends and allies--India. Europe and India are like-minded partners, bound by the shared conviction that democracy best serves the people. That’s why, one of the first visits of the new Commission is to India.”

She added, “We are committed to strengthening our strategic partnership to advance trade, economic security, and resilient supply chains, along with a common tech agenda and reinforced security and defence cooperation.”

During the visit, the College of Commissioners and the Indian government will hold a plenary



session, chaired by President von der Leyen and Prime Minister Modi. Members of the College will also meet their counterparts individually, while President von der Leyen and Prime Minister Modi will hold a bilateral meeting followed by a press point.

The second Trade and Technology Council (TTC) will convene during the visit, with the EU being represented by Vice-President Virkkunen, High Representative/Vice-President Kaja Kallas, and Commissioners Maros Sefcovic and Ekaterina Zaharieva. The objective of the EU-India TTC is to boost collaboration on the digital transition, clean and green technologies and trade and investment. Concrete topics of discussion will include collaboration on digital public infrastructure and its compatibility, as well as the resilience of key value chains and cooperation on global trade issues.

Ambassador of the European Union to India, Herve Delphin said that Ursula von der Leyen’s visit emphasises the importance that India and EU attach to taking their “strategic partnership” to a new level. – ANI

Zelenskyy and Putin must ‘get together’ to end war, says Trump

“I think that President Putin and President Zelenskyy are going to have to get together. Because you know what? We want to stop killing millions of people,” Trump told reporters at the White House

WASHINGTON DC: US President Donald Trump called on Friday for his Ukrainian and Russian counterparts Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Vladimir Putin to “get together” to end the Ukraine conflict.

“I think that President Putin and President Zelenskyy are going to have to get together. Because you know what? We want to stop killing millions of people,” Trump told reporters at the White House.

Trump has been pushing for a deal to end the war soon and has held separate calls with both leaders. His top officials recently met their Russian counterparts in Saudi Arabia in talks that did not include Ukraine.

Trump’s new call follows comments by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio earlier on Friday, who said a potential meeting between Trump and Putin would



“largely depend on whether we can make progress on ending the war in Ukraine.”

In an interview published on social media, Rubio said he told Russian officials in Saudi Arabia earlier that there would be no meeting until “we know what the meeting is going to be about.”

According to the official, Trump wants to know if Russia is serious about ending the war in Ukraine, which was sparked by Moscow’s full-scale invasion three years ago.

“The only way is to test them, to basically engage them and say, ‘Okay, are you serious about ending the war? And if so, what are your demands? Are your public demands and your private demands different?’” Rubio said.

Rubio: Trump ‘very upset’ with Zelenskyy

In the interview, the US Secretary of State also spoke about a growing rift between Trump and Zelenskyy.

“President Trump is very upset

with President Zelenskyy,” Rubio said. “We care about Ukraine because it has implications for our allies and ultimately for the world. There should be some level of gratitude here.”

Rubio also said he discussed a deal to open Ukraine’s natural wealth to US investment in a meeting with Zelenskyy and US Vice President JD Vance in Munich last Friday.

“We explained to them, ‘Look, we want to be in a joint venture with you, not because we’re trying to steal from your country, but because we think that’s actually a security guarantee because we’re your partner in an important economic endeavour,’” Rubio said.

Speaking at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) near Washington, Trump’s National Security Adviser Michael Waltz said Zelenskyy would be giving the US access to Ukrainian mineral resources soon.

“Look, here’s the bottom line, President Zelenskyy is going to

sign that deal, and you will see that in the very short term, and that is good for Ukraine,” Waltz said.

The US has also drafted a short US resolution on Ukraine which mourns the “tragic loss of life” throughout the conflict, according to AFP and Reuters news agencies.

The 65-word draft also “explores a swift end to the conflict and further urges a lasting peace between Ukraine and Russia.” The resolution does not blame Russia for the war and does not mention Russia’s occupation of Ukrainian territory.

Russian Ambassador to the UN Vassily Nebenzia labeled the US-produced text a “good move” but added it does not touch on the “roots” of the conflict.

A parallel Ukrainian-European UN text singles out Russia for the ongoing invasion and said it backs Kyiv’s “territorial integrity.”

The 193-member UN General Assembly will gather on Monday to vote on the European-backed UN resolution. – DW

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ONGOING CEASEFIRE EXCHANGE

Hamas releases six more Israeli hostages from Gaza



GAZA: Six Israeli hostages previously held by Hamas were released on Saturday as part of an ongoing ceasefire exchange, the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) confirmed in a statement.

Two of the five hostages were transferred earlier on Saturday from a vehicle of al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas's armed wing, to vehicles of the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) in Rafah, southern Gaza, which later carried them to the IDF and the Israel Security Agency, according to Israeli and Palestinian sources.

The two are Avera Mengistu, 38, an Ethiopian-born Israeli man from Ashkelon, who crossed into Gaza in 2014 and had been held captive ever since, and Tal Shoham, 40, who was seized during the Hamas attack on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, the sources told Xinhua.

Shoham's wife and two children, who were also taken hostage, were released in November 2023 under a temporary ceasefire agreement.



Later in the day, three other Israeli hostages were handed over by Hamas to the Israeli authorities via the ICRC in the al-Nuseirat refugee camp, in central Gaza, according to Palestinian sources.

The three — Omer Shem-Tov, 22, Eliya Cohen, 27, and Omer Wenkert, 23 — were also seized during the 2023 Hamas attack on Israel.

According to eyewitnesses at the handover ceremony, the three hostages appeared to be in good health, wearing military uniforms and carrying their release certificates. In a striking moment, one of them was seen kissing the heads of two masked members of the al-Qassam Brigades standing beside them.

Another Israeli hostage, 37-year-old Hisham al-Sayed, was released in central Gaza without an official ceremony later on Saturday, said a source within the al-Qassam Brigades.

The Israeli military said al-Sayed has been handed over to Red Cross representatives after being held for almost 10 years and is on his way to Israeli troops in Gaza. — Xinhua



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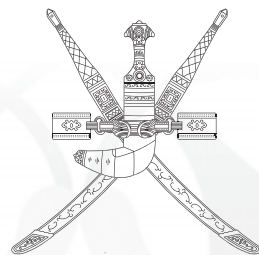
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MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Tender Announcement

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

Tender No.	Tender Subject	Grade	Last date for obtainment of tender document	Last date for tender submission	Tender Document Price (non-retundable)	
					small and Medium companies	local companies
85/2025	Implementing the national registry project for persons with disabilities	Companies specialized in the field of information technology and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the excellent, first, second, third or fourth degree.	Friday 14-03-2025 02:00 PM	Thursday 03-04-2025 10:00 AM	10 R.O	25 R.O
86/2025	Supply of paper recycling machine (for workshops) Al Wafa Center for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities at Salalah	Companies specialized in supplying office and educational tools, materials and supplies Registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the excellent, first, second, third or fourth degree	Friday 14-03-2025 02:00 PM	Thursday 03-04-2025 10:00 AM	10 R.O	Not applicable
87/2025	Purchase of vital signs measuring devices for severe and multiple disabilities (Dar Al Aman	Companies specialized in the field of supplying medical supplies Registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the excellent, first, second, third or fourth degree	Tuesday 04-03-2025 02:00 PM	Sunday 16-03-2025 10:00 AM	10 R.O	Not applicable

- ❖ Specialized Companies, registered with the **Tender Board** may obtain the Tender documents at the Tender Board e-tendering digital portal link (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>), on Monday 13/1/2025
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“ The lowest or any other tender shall not be binding to the Ministry “

Pakistan’s Champions Trophy hopes on the line in high-stakes India clash

After the defeat to NZ in Karachi, Pakistan have arrived in Dubai to play India in a blockbuster clash on Sunday

DUBAI: Pakistan’s much-anticipated return as an ICC event host has taken a bitter turn. After suffering a crushing defeat to New Zealand in Karachi, Pakistan now finds themselves on the brink of elimination in the Champions Trophy. With their fate hanging in the balance, they must face their arch-rivals India in Dubai on Sunday - an opponent they have struggled to overcome in recent years. The match begins at 1pm, Oman time.

The match comes with added complexities. Due to India’s refusal to travel to Pakistan, this high-stakes encounter will be held on neutral ground, amplifying Pakistan’s sense of isolation. With both teams having their own set of strengths and weaknesses, this match will prove to be a defining moment for Pakistan’s tournament hopes.

Pakistan, once a trailblazer in Asian cricket, now finds itself lagging behind in the modern limited-overs format. While India has transformed into a dominant cricketing force, Pakistan has failed to evolve at the same pace, struggling with consistency in recent years. The head-to-head record between the two countries further highlights the gap, with Pakistan having only won twice against India in ICC events since 2011 - both victories coming in 2017 and 2021.

However, Pakistan’s success in the Champions Trophy, including



a memorable victory in the 2017 final, remains a bright spot in this rivalry. India, on the other hand, has been in sensational form in recent encounters, winning 9 of the last 11 ODIs against Pakistan across various ICC tournaments, including the World Cup, Champions Trophy, and Asia Cup. Paki-

stan’s challenge is not just to overcome a team with more depth and firepower, but also to address their own shortcomings in the limited-overs format.

Pakistan’s hope: The pitch conditions
All is not lost for Pakistan, though.

Dubai’s sluggish pitch may work in their favour. The conditions, which generally favour spinners and lack dew, could blunt India’s aggressive middle-order hitters, offering Pakistan a glimmer of hope. If they win the toss, Pakistan will need to capitalise on the opportunity to bat first, much like Sri Lanka did in

similar conditions last year, when they successfully defended a total after winning the toss.

Key to Pakistan’s strategy will be their mystery spinner, Abrar Ahmed, who could exploit India’s recent struggles against leg-spin. In particular, India’s talismanic batsman, Virat Kohli, has shown vulnerability to leg-spin, being dismissed five times for just 21 runs in his last five ODIs against it.

Kohli is just 15 runs away from becoming the fastest player to reach 14,000 ODI runs.

Key players to watch
Virat Kohli: The Indian superstar has been struggling against leg-spin, with five dismissals for just 21 runs in his last five ODIs. Pakistan’s Abrar Ahmed could prove to be a key threat.

Salman Agha: A bright spark for Pakistan, Salman has been in terrific form, averaging 65.00 with a strike rate of 88.07 since 2024. His middle-over contributions will be vital for Pakistan’s chances.

For Pakistan, this match is do-or-die. A win would breathe life into their Champions Trophy campaign, but a loss would see them eliminated from the tournament they’ve waited nearly 30 years to host.

India, on the other hand, will aim to maintain their dominance. With the stakes at their highest, this encounter promises to be a thrilling battle - on and off the field. Political tensions, cricketing history, and intense rivalries all promise to make this clash one for the ages.

Possible XIs: Pakistan: Imam-ul-Haq, Babar Azam, Saud Shakeel, Mohammad Rizwan (capt, wk), Salman Agha, Tayyab Tahir, Khushdil Shah, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Naseem Shah, Haris Rauf, Abrar Ahmed.

India: Rohit Sharma (capt), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul (wk), Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Harshit Rana, Mohammed Shami, Kuldeep Yadav. - Agencies

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CHAMPIONS TROPHY

Rickelton: Rising star across formats, shaping SA's future

KARACHI: Ryan Rickelton is proving his mettle across all formats, and his recent performances have cemented his place in South Africa's starting XI.

Rickelton continued his rich vein of form, marking his Champions Trophy debut with a sublime maiden ODI century as South Africa secured a commanding 107-run victory over Afghanistan in Karachi on Friday. The left-hander's fluent 103 set the foundation for a strong total of 315 for 6, with crucial contributions from Temba Bavuma (58), Rassie van der Dussen (52), and Aiden Markram (52*).

Despite a spirited knock from Rahmat Shah (90), Afghanistan faltered in their chase, crumbling to 208 all out in 43.3 overs. Kagiso Rabada led the bowling attack with figures of 3 for 36, while Wiaan Mulder and Lungi Ngidi picked up two wickets each.

A string of remarkable displays - starting with a double-century in Test cricket, followed by a blistering 89 off 39 balls in a T20, and now his first ODI century - shows that Ricketton has mastered the art of adapting to different formats with ease.

Earlier this year, South Africa endured a rough patch, losing six consecutive matches, but they've clearly turned the tide. Now with their best squad available, Ricketlon has emerged as a key figure, making a lasting impact. His inclusion in the ODI squad may have been uncertain due to Heinrich Klaasen's elbow injury, but with Klaasen's fitness still up in the air, Ricketlon has seized his opportunity to shine.

Against Afghanistan on Friday, Rickelton's composed century (103 off 106 balls) anchored the innings. The impressive aspect of his knock was how Rickelton read the conditions, playing square of the wicket with precision. He accumulated 53 runs square and 35 down the ground.



displaying a well-thought-out strategy that played to the strengths of the pitch.

Rickelton's tactical approach reflects the team's preparations for the conditions in Karachi, as he described in a post-match interview: "Wickets here can be quite skiddy, so we emphasise hitting straighter. If it skids, you're more prone to getting bowled or lbw." This adaptability is one of the key reasons for his success, as he continues to evolve his game with every challenge.

South Africa's collective confidence is building as they eye a path to the Champions Trophy semi-finals, with Rickelton playing a pivotal role in their journey.

"We are desperate to win it," Rickelton said. "But we don't burden ourselves with extra pressure. We're here to play our best game and enjoy it." And so far, his performances have set the tone for what could be an unforgettable tournament.

This victory ended South Africa's six-match winless streak in ODIs.

Brief scores: South Africa 315 for 6 (Rickelton 103, Bavuma 58, Markram 52*, van der Dussen 52; Nabi 2-51) beat Afghanistan 208 (Rahmat 90, Rabada 3-36, Mulder 2-36, Ngidi 2-56). - **Agencies**

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE LAST 16

Liverpool drawn against Paris Saint-Germain

LONDON: Premier League leaders Liverpool will face Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League last 16, while Arsenal take on PSV Eindhoven and Aston Villa face Club Brugge.

Holders Real Madrid - who knocked out Manchester City in the knockout phase play-offs - face local rivals Atletico Madrid and Bayern Munich play Bayer Leverkusen in an all-Germany affair.



pool have faced PSG since 2018-19, when the Reds went on to be crowned champions of Europe for

the sixth time. The winners of that tie will face Aston Villa or Club Brugge in the quarter-finals, while Arsenal will meet record 15-time winners Real Madrid or Atletico Madrid in the last eight - should they get past PSV Eindhoven.

Fixtures: Club Brugge vs Aston Villa: First leg: 4 March, Second leg: 12 March; Real Madrid vs Atletico Madrid: First leg: 4 March, Second leg: 12 March;

Borussia Dortmund vs Lille: First leg: 4 March, Second leg: 12 March; **PSV vs Arsenal:** First leg: 4 March, Second leg: 12 March; **Feyenoord vs Inter Milan:** First leg: 5 March, Second leg: 11 March; **PSG vs Liverpool:** First leg: 5 March, Second leg: 11 March; **Bayern Munich vs Bayer Leverkusen:** First leg: 5 March, Second leg: 11 March; **Benfica vs Barcelona:** First leg: 5 March, Second leg: 11 March. - Agencies



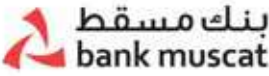
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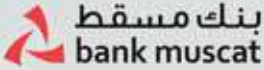


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SOHAR PORT AND FREEZONE
Sohar Port and Freezone have commenced the deepening of the navigation channel for the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project "Marsa," marking a strategic step to establish Sohar as a regional hub for supplying clean fuel to ships.



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OIA invests in Singapore’s Golden Gate Ventures Fund

This partnership aims to empower Omani startups, stimulate and attract direct foreign investments, and transfer valuable expertise to the local market

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In line with the government’s commitment to support startups and enhance investments that promote innovation and entrepreneurship, Oman Investment



Authority (OIA) - represented by its venture capital arm Innovation Development Oman (IDO) has announced its investment in a new MENA fund launched by Singapore’s leading venture capital firm, Golden Gate Ventures (GGV). The new fund targets startups in the Middle East and has a capital of \$100 million.

This partnership aims to empower Omani startups, stimulate and attract direct foreign investments, and transfer valuable expertise to

the local market. It will also create job opportunities for Omani youth and support the establishment of research and development centres, thereby reinforcing Oman’s position as a regional hub for innovation and technology investment.

GGV kicked off its regional investments by investing in the Omani company Bayanat, specializing in data analytics solutions delivered via a Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) model. This reflects OIA’s commitment to having an Omani

dimension in its international investments while adding value to the national economy. This move underscores OIA’s focus on supporting startups while advancing the national objectives of Oman Vision 2040, strengthening the digital economy and empowering local entrepreneurs.

Ibrahim Al Eisri, Chief Investment Officer-Private Markets at Oman Investment Authority, stated that the partnership is part of broader efforts to diversify in-

vestments and enhance the Omani dimension in its international projects by redirecting investments into local sectors.

This strategy is expected to drive economic development and promote technological innovation. Additionally, the initiative supports OIA’s national agenda by investing in future-oriented sectors such as renewable energy, technology, artificial intelligence, and medical technology, while also creating sustainable business opportunities for local enterprises and employment for youth.

Michael Lints, Partner at the Middle East and North Africa Fund, GGV, remarked that this collaboration with OIA represents a significant milestone in the GGV’s journey to actively shape the future of innovation and entrepreneurship in the region.

He emphasized that the partnership lays a solid foundation for expanding and enhancing sustainable value for investors.

As part of this cooperation, GGV plans to establish an office

in Oman. This development will strengthen the firm’s investments in Omani startups, attract local talent, and support early-stage ventures. It will also enhance ties with the investment ecosystem in Southeast Asia, accelerating the inflow of foreign investment into the local market. Notably, GGV was founded in 2011 and has invested in more than 100 companies across Asia, the United States, and Europe, including nine Unicorns (startups that reach the valuation of \$1 billion). The recent establishment of this MENA Fund further strengthens its regional presence.

This investment marks a continued effort to diversify the Future Generations portfolio managed by OIA consisting of its international investments across various sectors. Through these investments, OIA aims to support economic growth and enhance financial sustainability in alignment with Oman Vision 2040, which seeks to establish the Sultanate of Oman as a leading investment destination both regionally and globally.

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SAUD BAHWAN Group

Sohar Port begins deepening of LNG project navigation channel

The operations will involve dredgers removing approximately 4 million cubic meters of material to create a specialised navigation channel and a dedicated berth for the project

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Sohar Port and Freezone have commenced the deepening of the navigation channel for the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project “Marsa,” marking a strategic step to establish Sohar as a regional hub for supplying clean fuel to ships.

The operations will involve dredgers removing approximately 4 million cubic meters of material

to create a specialised navigation channel and a dedicated berth for the project. This aims to provide an alternative low-emission marine fuel at competitive prices, contributing to reducing the carbon footprint of maritime transport, minimizing harmful emissions, and enhancing the sustainability of the maritime sector in line with global environmental targets.

The “Marsa” LNG project, with



an investment value of USD 1.6 billion, is set to make Sohar Port and Freezone the first hub for supplying LNG fuel to ships in the Middle East. It will bolster the port's leadership in providing sustainable maritime transport services, making

it a key partner in Oman's energy transition. The operations are on track for completion by September 2025, followed by the construction of the necessary infrastructure to support this vital project.

Emile Hoogsteden, CEO of So-

har Port, stated that the start of the channel deepening is a pivotal step in solidifying Sohar Port and Freezone's position as a regional hub for LNG supply to ships.

In a statement to ONA, Hoogsteden said that developing ad-

vanced maritime infrastructure is fundamental to the launch of the “Marsa” LNG project, which will enhance the sustainable energy system and support the transition to cleaner fuel in the maritime shipping sector.

He added that the project reflects Oman's commitment to low-carbon solutions and reinforces Sohar Port and Freezone's role as a strategic global trade and innovation hub, helping to empower businesses and connect international markets.

Hoogsteden noted that the project will produce 1 million metric tons of LNG annually, utilizing solar energy from a 300 MW photovoltaic power plant.

The CEO emphasized that once operational, the project will redefine marine energy solutions in the Middle East by providing cleaner fuel alternatives for the maritime transport sector and supporting Oman's economic and development goals.

SECOND CONSECUTIVE WEEK

Muscat stock market ends lower in weekly trading

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Omani stock market continued its downward trend for the second consecutive week, breaking through the support level established at the end of last year, according to an analyst.

“Market sentiment has been significantly impacted by persistently lower oil prices, which have struggled to mount a sustainable recovery amid current geopolitical tensions and trade war developments,” said Abdullah Mahfoodh Al Wahaibi, Coach and analyst in global financial markets.

“These factors have created uncertainty around potential economic growth, while the absence of positive market catalysts has further weighed on investor sen-

timent. Market participants are now looking ahead to next week's assembly meetings, where several companies are expected to announce their dividend distributions,” he further added.

Asyad's forthcoming IPO represents a transformative development for Oman's stock market, with the state-owned logistics powerhouse planning to offer 20% of its shares in a deal valued at approximately \$1.66 billion, potentially raising \$332.8 million. This strategic listing builds upon the successful IPOs by OQ Base Industries and OQ Exploration and Production, which notably enhanced the market's attractiveness to investors. With strong regional investor interest and attractive dividend pros-



pects, Asyad's IPO is positioned to significantly boost market liquidity, attract international investment, and potentially encourage other companies to pursue public listings. This continued progres-

sion in IPO activity could play a crucial role in advancing Oman's capital markets development and supporting its economic diversification objectives.

The services sector demonstrated notable weakness this week, declining by 1.68%, with several key companies contributing to the downturn. OQ Exploration and Production saw a modest decrease of 0.32%, while Oman Telecom experienced a more substantial decline of 2.60%. Other significant movements in the sector included Renaissance Services dropping by 1.70% and Al Suwadi Power recording a notable decrease of 2.94%.

In the financial sector, which registered an overall decline of 0.75%, major banking institutions

showed varying degrees of weakness. Bank Muscat experienced a slight decrease of 0.39%, while both Sohar International Bank and Ahli Bank recorded more significant declines of 2.24% and 2.26% respectively, reflecting broader pressures on the banking segment.

The industrial sector emerged as the sole positive performer, posting a modest gain of 0.17%. This uptick was primarily driven by Galfar Engineering and Contracting, which recorded an increase of 3.95%, while Oman Cement contributed to the positive performance with a gain of 1.23%. These industrial sector gains stood in contrast to the broader market's downward trend, highlighting the sector's resilience during the week.

REPORT

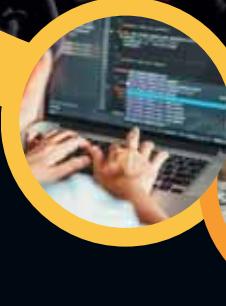
India's GDP growth likely to improve

NEW DELHI: India's economic growth is expected to pick up momentum in the third quarter of the financial year 2024-25 (Q3FY25), with gross domestic product (GDP) growth estimated at 6.2 per cent, up from 5.4 per cent in the second quarter (Q2FY25), according to a report by Union Bank of India.

The report highlighted that the negative gap between GDP and Gross Value Added (GVA) growth, which was observed in the first half of FY25 (H1-FY25), is likely to have neutralised in Q3FY25.

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STRATEGIC

Asyad and be'ah partner to deliver sustainable logistics solutions

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Asyad Group, Oman's global integrated logistics provider, has successfully partnered with Oman Environmental Services Holding Company (be'ah) aimed at enhancing sustainable logistics solutions in the region. This partnership underscores both parties' commitment to operational excellence, environmental stewardship, supporting and empowering small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and enhancement of in-country value (ICV) under the Oman Investment Authority (OIA) umbrella.

Dr. Said Al-Touqi, Design and Engineering Manager at be'ah, stated, “We are proud of this partnership, which contributes to implementing major environmental projects in line with the best practices. Undoubtedly, our collaboration with Asyad enables us to provide comprehensive solutions for transporting essential materials to build modern engineering landfills, enhancing waste management efficiency and protecting the environment”

This project also involved local SMEs for material transportation, enabling Asyad to not only reinforce its dedication to (ICV),



but also boost SMEs' contribution to national economic development, and positioning Oman as a global logistics hub.

Juma Al Maskari, Asyad Logistics Director said: “We partnered closely with be'ah, leveraging our expertise to provide strategic advice on Incoterms that delivered substantial cost savings and operational improvements. By aligning our practical solutions with their goals, we ensured the seamless and efficient execution of this critical project, setting a benchmark for collaborative success.”

The partnership not only exemplifies Asyad Group's commitment to building local capacity but also sets a precedent for future collaborations. With additional

projects on the horizon, this initiative is already inspiring further collaborations aimed at fostering sustainable development.

“This project showcases our ability to deliver innovative and cost-effective logistics solutions while supporting Oman's broader economic vision and enhancing operational capabilities and contribute to a sustainable future for Oman,” continued Juma Al Maskari.

By integrating sustainable logistics practices, Asyad Group and Be'ah are not only reinforcing their roles as leaders in their respective fields but also aligning their efforts with Oman Vision 2040, aiming to position the country as a global trade hub.

FORWARD-THINKING STRATEGY

Musandam Construction & Technical Services unveils ambitious technology strategy

MUSCAT: Musandam Construction & Technical Services, SPC (MCTS), a wholly owned subsidiary of Musandam Global Investment Co. (MGIC) — the super local community company of Musandam Governorate — has launched a transformative Technology strategy (2025-2028) to revolutionise its operations and solidify its leadership in the construction sector.

This forward-thinking strategy harnesses an array of cutting-edge technologies, including

SAP ERP, Building Information Modeling (BIM), digital twins, IoT sensors, drones, satellite imagery, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), robotics, wearable devices, artificial intelligence (AI), computer vision, augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR), machine learning (ML), mobile applications, blockchain, generative design, and energy harvesting. These innovations aim to streamline operations, reduce costs, and address MCTS's evolving operational demands.

Driving efficiency, safety, and sustainability: The strategy is engineered to enhance operational efficiency, elevate safety standards, boost competitiveness, and advance sustainability.

Measurable goals, tangible impact: MCTS has set ambitious Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to gauge the strategy's success.

Cohesive ecosystem for the future: For MCTS to remain a market leader, integrating these advanced technologies into a cohesive ecosystem is essential.



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Contact: +968 7900 6803
Email: thirumurugan9360@gmail.com

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Indian, MBA, Finance with 20 yrs experience in business with complete knowledge in Finance, VAT, Credit Control, Admin, HR, Warehouse with SAP knowledge & D/L.

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Indian, male, B.Com, 17 yrs experience in finance, Vat, looking for senior position in finance. Available for immediate joining. Contact: 97645592, Email: roshalpinto@gmail.com

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

SriLankan, MBA finance, 9+ yrs experience in financial state-ments, auditing, budgeting, VAT, tax, fixed assets, reconciliation, payroll. Seeking a full-time or part-time position in a senior role. Contact: 93988825 Email: akramhaniffa@yahoo.com

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Indian, female, (MBA graduate specialised in Insurance manage-ment and finance) having 4 yrs working experience as Assis-tant manager underwriting and marketing in Insurance industry, looking for suitable placements. Currently available in Oman & ready to join immediately. Contact: 78082912

Experienced finance professional looking for a suitable senior level opportunity. Contact: 78581435

Indian MBA graduate having 2 yrs experience in accounting department. Contact : 79819938 Email: mohamme-dasim955@gmail.com

Indian graduate having 2 yrs experience in accounts & sales department. Contact: 7642 0699, Email: saqibahmed0319@gmail.com

Accountant with 5 yrs expertise in accounts payable, receivables, financial reporting, VAT, payroll, and bank & cash reconciliation. Actively looking for new opportunities. Contact: 79791746 Email: Ibrahimsaw52@gmail.com

Indian male, MBA (Berlin), M.com, SAP, with 5+ yrs experience in India, UAE, Germany accounts, project management.Seeks a suitable position & available immediately. Contact: 95860072. Email: mastermerin95@gmail.com

Senior Accountant upto finalization with D/L. Contact: +968 79471027

Accounts Manager, 22 yrs of exp in accounts(20 yrs in Oman) until finalization (MIS, collections, handling inventory and payments and all related work). Contact: 91410602

Indian, male, Accountant, M.com (finance), 12 yrs experience in Oman. Handling accounts up to finalization independently, Noc & D/L available. Contact: 99859141

Accounts manager, Ass. FM, Indian, male, B.com, MBA. More than 15yrs experience in accounting up to finalisation. Looking for immediate placement. Contact: 91469060

Sr. Accountant, accountant, 16 yrs of experience in Oman. Accounts up to finalisation and auditing. Contact: 94001764.

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Looking for a job (Indian male) Store keeper, documents controller,procurement Experience 6+yrs in GCC, (ERP system). Valid Qatar D/L Ready to join immedi-ately. Contact: +968-79366717 Email: sshahidmj@gmail.com

Sudanese Supply chain profess-ional with CSCP certificate, MBA and 10 yrs experience in supply chain, logistics, procurement and project management. Contact: 95272472. Email: kemeir@hotmail.com

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BUSINESS



‘AI HAS A PIVOTAL ROLE IN SHAPING OMAN’S FUTURE’

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Microsoft’s global AI Tour arrived in Muscat on Thursday day, bringing together industry leaders, developers, and government officials to explore the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in accelerating Oman’s digital transformation.

The exclusive event spotlighted cutting-edge AI solutions that are enabling organisations across industries to drive innovation, enhance efficiency, and unlock new opportunities for economic growth.

The event featured keynotes by senior Microsoft executives including Samer Abu-Ltaif, President, Microsoft Europe, Middle East, and Africa (EMEA); Charles Nahas, Regional General Manager for Commercial Solutions, Microsoft Middle East; and Harry Kambanis, Business Group Leader, Business Applications, Microsoft Central and Eastern Europe, Middle East and Africa.

Gulf Leaders Circle, the exclusive media partner for the Microsoft AI Tour Oman, had the privilege of interviewing key industry leaders driving transformation through Microsoft AI.

In his welcome address, Samer Abu-Ltaif, President, Microsoft Europe, Middle East, and Africa (EMEA), emphasised the pivotal role of AI in shaping Oman’s future: “It is a privilege to be here today in Oman, a nation that has long embraced technological progress as a driver of economic growth and national development. Microsoft’s presence in the Sultanate spans over two decades, a testament to our enduring commitment to this nation’s growth and prosperity. As Oman advances towards its Vision 2040 aspirations, our mission remains steadfast: to provide world-class cloud and AI solutions that enable Omani organizations to achieve more, fostering a future of sustainable growth and innovation.”

Sheikh Saif Hilal Al Hosni, Country Manager, Microsoft Oman and Bahrain, stated: “Businesses in Oman are increasingly recognising AI as a critical driver for innovation, efficiency, and competitive advantage. At Microsoft, we are at the forefront of empowering organizations across all industries to effectively leverage the latest advancements in AI to tackle existing challenges and drive real business impact. Our ongoing collaborations with leading Omani organisations reflect our commitment to equipping them with world-class AI and cloud solutions to shape the future of Oman’s digital economy.”

Al Hosni was joined on the stage by Ahmed Al Habib, Head IT – PMO, Oman Housing Bank, who



spotlighted how the organization has adopted Microsoft 365 Copilot to enhance productivity and efficiency across the bank’s operations.

Al Hosni concluded his address by thanking Microsoft’s partners supporting the ‘Microsoft AI Tour in Muscat’ event, especially IITC, Netways, TeKnowledge, Wizard Cyber, Insomea, and Gulf Leaders Circle. He also expressed his hope for continued collaboration in driving AI adoption and innovation within the Sultanate.

Netways – Oussama Dannawi, Regional Sales Manager at Netways, emphasized the pivotal role of data, stating that Microsoft’s AI tools enable Netways to convert raw data into actionable insights. This transformation enhances operations and elevates customer service.

IITC (OHI Group) – Oussam Henein, Managing Director of IITC, highlighted OHI Group’s 40-year partnership with Microsoft. OHI has an academy dedicated to training over 500 individuals in Microsoft Copilot skills, fostering new business opportunities for both Microsoft and OHI.

TeKnowledge – Mahmood Lockhat, Chief Technology Officer, noted that within the tech-managed services sector, TeKnowledge is among the top five global partners supporting Microsoft customers. With a team of approximately 4,000 engineers, the company leverages Copilot to deliver greater value and innovative solutions efficiently.

UTAS (University of Technology and Applied Sciences) – Dr. Huda Al-Shuaili, Vice Chancellor for Electronic Systems and Student Services, and Faiza Al Jabri, IT Manager of the Education, Technology, and Infrastructure Department, discussed UTAS’s collaboration with Microsoft.

The partnership is enhancing platform development, operational efficiency, and infrastructure scalability. Microsoft Copilot has facilitated the creation of an AI-powered vending zone and streamlined 24/7 online application processes while ensuring security, privacy, identity protection, and resource scalability.

The AI Tour also highlighted

Microsoft’s collaborations with key Omani organizations that are leveraging AI to enhance operations and drive innovation:

The Ministry of Education leveraged Microsoft AI solutions to deploy an advanced AI-powered chatbot that provides instant access to information. The Ministry is adopting Microsoft Copilot to empower teachers and students to enhance their teaching and learning methods.

The University of Technology and Applied Sciences (UTAS) is empowering instructors to easily streamline and create course content with Microsoft Copilot as well as an AI-powered agent in their Learning Management System.

Oman Telecommunications Company (Omantel) adopted Microsoft 365 Copilot to enhance operations and productivity. Prioritizing security, they chose Microsoft AI-powered Security to protect their environment against cyber threats.

OQ adopted Microsoft 365 Copilot to enhance productivity and efficiency. Furthermore, OQ

developed AI solutions for candidate screening to support employees, streamlining business and improving work efficiency.

The AI Tour in Muscat also celebrated local innovation through the AI Excellence Awards. Recognizing Omani-based organizations that have implemented successful AI solutions, the awards spotlighted the achievements of the Ministry of Education of Oman, National Centre for Statistics and Information of Oman (NCSI), Oman Housing Bank, Oman Telecommunications Company (Omantel), OQ SAOC, Renaissance Services SAOC, University of Technology and Applied Sciences (UTAS). Each organization was acknowledged for their significant contributions to AI deployment, which has led to transformative improvements across their respective sectors.

The event also featured in-depth sessions covering Microsoft’s flagship AI tools, including Microsoft Copilot and Copilot Agents, designed to revolutionize the workplace and improve productivity.

Further discussions delved into Responsible AI practices, underscoring Microsoft’s dedication to ethical and transparent AI use.

Microsoft experts also showcased the innovative AI capabilities of the Microsoft Surface portfolio. Business leaders and IT professionals experienced firsthand how Surface AI PCs and Microsoft’s latest Copilot+ PCs integrate seamlessly with Microsoft Copilot and other AI solutions to drive operational efficiency, productivity, and creativity.

The Microsoft AI Tour in Oman underscored the company’s unwavering commitment to fostering a thriving digital ecosystem in the country. As AI continues to revolutionise industries, Microsoft remains dedicated to equipping Omani businesses, government entities, and developers with the tools, resources, and expertise needed to harness AI’s full potential.

The event served as a testament to the transformative power of AI and the limitless possibilities it presents in driving innovation and economic progress across Oman.

Vodafone’s auction breaks record for highest sold number closing with over half a million Omani rials for charity

The 777 series auction, attracted overwhelming participation, reaffirming the growing demand for unique mobile numbers that embody both status and rarity



MUSCAT: Vodafone Oman has once again set the benchmark for exclusivity and innovation with the success of its 777 live number auction. Held in collaboration with the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA), this exclusive event provided customers the

opportunity to claim some of the most sought-after mobile numbers in Oman, with final bids closing at over OMR580,000 to support charitable associations and organisations across the country. Building on the success of the

company’s previous special gold and diamond numbers auction — which generated over OMR100,000 — the 777 series auction, attracted overwhelming participation, reaffirming the growing demand for unique mobile numbers that em-

body both status and rarity.

A new milestone
This momentum continued as Vodafone reached a new milestone with the auction of the first-ever single-digit number (77777 77777)

in the country’s telecom history, which sold for OMR429,500, setting a new record as the most valuable number ever sold in Oman. Commenting on the impact of the auction, Eng. Bader Al Zidi, Vodafone Oman CEO, remarked:

“At Vodafone Oman, we believe that every interaction with our customers should be meaningful; whether it’s through our services, experiences, or initiatives like the 777 auction. This event wasn’t just about offering rare numbers; it was about creating something truly memorable while making a tangible impact in the community. The overwhelming participation reaffirms that exclusivity can have a purpose, and we are committed to continuing to find ways to bring value to our customers beyond traditional telecom offerings.”
He went on to add, “I would like to thank the TRA and our loyal customers for being part of this success.”
The event provided a seamless and interactive experience, allowing bidders to compete for some of the rarest numbers in Oman. While adhering to regulatory and data privacy processes, this auction reinforced Vodafone’s commitment to setting new standards in customer engagement while ensuring fair competition through a structured and transparent bidding process.

LET'S TALKTimesOF OMAN

CONGRATULATIONS

for partnering in shaping the way people think for 50 years

ADINC

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES



NBO participates in SQU career fair

MUSCAT: The National Bank of Oman (NBO) has participated in the Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) Career Fair 2025, a dynamic event focused on connecting academia with the labour market. The fair offered an exclusive platform for visitors to engage with aspiring talents and explore a wide range of career opportunities in different organisations.
NBO’s participation reflected its dedication to empower the next generation of Omani talent, providing students and graduates a chance to discover exciting career opportunities. Key highlights included the launch of Tomorrow’s Leaders Program and the unveiling of X-Wall, an innovative interactive digital display that engaged and captivated

attendees.
Speaking on the participation, Ali Al Abri, General Manager and Chief Human Resources Officer at NBO, said: “NBO is committed to play a vital role in the professional growth of Oman’s youth. Our participation in the SQU Career & Training Fair 2025 is a great opportunity to connect with students and recent graduates, share our career development programs, and offer them valuable insights into the opportunities available at NBO. This reaffirms our dedication to build meaningful connections with the next generation of Omani talents. It goes without saying that we are excited to engage with promising professionals and support their journey toward a successful and fulfilling career.”

SQU CAREER FAIR

ahlibank enhances career opportunities for students

MUSCAT: As part of its strategic objectives to develop national expertise and empower the youth to begin a successful journey in the banking sector, ahlibank participated in the Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) Career Fair.
The event took place over the span of three days, from 17 to 19 February, and it succeeded in connecting groups of students; giving them a brief look into the intricacies of ahlibank.
The popular Career Fair that aims to provide job and training opportunities for students and graduates. Students interested in working for the companies and institutions at the career fair were given insight on how they operate and what is expected of them upon joining the workforce. Representatives of ahlibank offered consultations to those present at the event, driving forward the Bank’s mission to nurture bright, young individuals.
Talent acquisition is a key focus at events like the SQU Career Fair, where ahlibank actively works to unlock youth potential, enhance their skills, and accel-



ate their professional growth. By offering a platform that empowers national talent, the Bank reinforces its commitment to Oman’s socio-economic development, aligning with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.
ahlibank adopts a strategic approach, providing training and development programs that address its employees’ needs. Programs to note, such as HIMAM, iGeneration, and the Business Graduates Program, all play into a well-crafted system that enables the youth to pursue career opportunities in the banking sector.

Japan-Oman relationship holds great significance: Ambassador

The relationship between Japan and Oman is of great importance, says Jota Yamamoto in a message to Oman on the occasion of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan's 65th birthday on Sunday

JOTA YAMAMOTO*

MUSCAT: It is with great honour and warmth that I extend my greetings to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and the people of the Sultanate of Oman on the occasion of the 65th birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, which is observed on February 23rd. Japan and Oman share a profound and enduring relationship, one that has been nurtured over decades by mutual respect, understanding, and trust. This bond is embodied not only in the historical ties between our nations but also in the meaningful connections between our imperial and royal families. As the Japanese community here in Oman expresses its respect and admiration for His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, we also convey our heartfelt wishes for the continued happiness and prosperity of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, whose leadership and vision are central to Oman's progress.

The relationship between Japan and Oman holds immense signifi-



cance. It is both a privilege and a responsibility for us to honour this legacy and continue to deepen our cooperation. While 50 years ago, Japan may have been the only East Asian nation familiar to the Omani people, today, Oman engages with a range of countries across Asia. Nonetheless, Japan's ties with Oman remain unique, not only due to our long-standing history of collaboration but also because of the ongoing friendship between our imperial and royal families. I, for one, eagerly anticipate the opportunity for mutual royal and imperial visits in the near future. Such exchanges, whether His Majesty Sultan Haitham visits Japan or the Emperor visits Oman, will offer fresh perspectives on our shared history and open new avenues for future cooperation. Japan and Oman share deep cultural and historical connections, particularly as maritime nations. Both countries have long recognised the importance of maritime security, which has become even more relevant in today's increasingly complex regional context. Japan's Maritime Self-Defence Force operates actively in the region, and Oman continues to be a trusted partner in this vital area. The recent Indian Ocean Conference hosted in



Muscat also offered a valuable opportunity to deepen our cooperation on maritime security and regional stability, particularly with the presence of the State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan. Culturally, the ties between our two nations are flourishing. Last year, a group of Japanese manga artists, invited by the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Youth, visited Oman to share the art of manga creation with Omani audiences. More recently, the Oman Japan Friendship Association (OJFA) hosted a Japanese orchestra, whose performance at the Royal Opera House Muscat was a testament to the growing cultural exchange between our countries. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the OJFA for its tremendous support in promoting Japanese culture here in Oman. It is truly encouraging to know that many Omani people are studying Japanese through the language courses offered by the OJFA at the Children's Public Library. This success is a direct result of the exemplary leadership of OJFA Chairman Sheikh Abdullah Mohamed Bahwan, as well as the longstanding dedication of the previous Chairman, Sheikh Mohammed Saud Bahwan. The 'Ship for World Youth (SWY) Committee - Oman' also plays a vital role as a powerful bridge connecting Japan and

Oman. Through their efforts in fostering people-to-people connections, particularly after their participation in the SWY programme organised by the Japanese government, they are expanding and strengthening the human network between the two nations. This is evident in their events, such as Oman-Japan Day and SWY Weekend. Additionally, thanks to the Sultanate's proactive and strategic efforts in hosting MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conventions/Conferences, and Events/Exhibitions), Japan and Oman have enjoyed a deepening relationship, including through sports. Events such as table tennis, hockey, golf, and others have facilitated numerous visits by Japanese athletes to Oman. These interactions not only promote sportsmanship but also offer Japanese players the opportunity to engage with Oman's rich culture, while expressing their sincere admiration for the hospitality and warmth of the Omani people. Japan's partnership with Oman is in line with Oman Vision 2040. At the heart of this vision lies a commitment to education and capacity building, areas where Japan is eager to contribute. The recent inauguration of the Third General Assembly of the International Science Council (ISC) in Muscat underscored the importance of education in Oman's development. At this event, two prominent

Japanese figures - the President of the Japan Science Council and the ISC Vice-President for Science and Society - highlighted the shared focus on advancing scientific and educational cooperation. In addition, Professor Kanehara, a Japanese distinguished international law expert, visited Oman to deliver a lecture at the Oman Foreign Ministry's Diplomatic Academy, further reinforcing the academic exchanges between our two countries. At the student level, both the Japanese government and Japanese businesses offer scholarships to Omani students to study in Japan. These scholarships not only foster educational growth but also provide a solid foundation for shaping the future of our bilateral friendship. Equally important is the growing economic partnership between our countries. Japan has worked closely with Oman in the energy sector for more than five decades, particularly in the areas of crude oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG). Today, our cooperation is entering a new phase, with both nations exploring new opportunities in green hydrogen, ammonia, and other environmentally friendly technologies. Japan is also particularly eager to support Oman's transition to green energy, recognising the country's leadership in pioneering hydrogen projects. With eight major hydrogen initiatives already underway, Japan is proud to be involved in two of them. Furthermore, Japan and Oman share a common determination to pursue decarbonization, a goal that is increasingly urgent as we face the realities of climate change. The recent missions to Oman by the Japan Cooperation Center for the Middle East (JCCME) and the Japan Business Federation were resounding successes, thanks in no small part to the warm hospitality of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion, the Ministry of Energy and

Minerals, and the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI). These visits allowed us to gain valuable insights into Oman's proactive approach to decarbonization and economic diversification, and highlighted the country's comparative advantages, such as its peace, stability, strategic location, and abundant renewable energy resources. Most importantly, these missions expanded our network of human connections, opening new possibilities for future collaboration. The discussions with His Excellency Minister Qais of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion; His Excellency Minister Engineer Al Aufi of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals; and His Excellency Sheikh Faisal of the OCCI, revealed a shared focus on advancing initiatives such as the Japan-GCC Free Trade Agreement, the Japan-Oman Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM), and the upcoming EXPO 2025 Osaka-Kansai. Oman's proactive engagement with EXPO 2025 under the leadership of His Highness Sayyid Theyazin, Minister of Culture, Sports, and Youth, is especially commendable. This event will undoubtedly play a pivotal role in expanding and diversifying business cooperation between our two nations, with sectors such as tourism, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, and digital applications likely to benefit significantly. On the auspicious occasion of His Majesty the Emperor's birthday, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to all those who, through their admiration for Japan, contribute to the strengthening of the bonds between our countries. Finally, I would like to convey my best wishes for the continued success and prosperity of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, and the people of Oman.

* The writer is Ambassador of Japan to the Sultanate of Oman

OMAN JAPAN FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

Congratulations and Warm Wishes to the people of Japan on the occasion of the 65th Birthday of His Majesty Emperor Naruhito

Oman and Japan celebrate a long-standing partnership built on trust, respect and shared aspirations. From trade and innovation to culture and diplomacy, the two nations, continue to inspire and strengthen each other, shaping a future of prosperity and friendship.

At the heart of the ever-growing ties between Oman and Japan is the Oman Japan Friendship Association. Through its close collaboration with the Embassy of Japan in Oman, OJFA has played a pivotal role in nurturing people-to-people connections, fostering cultural and artistic exchanges and strengthening economic and social partnerships. This association has been instrumental in bringing our two nations closer, offering a dynamic platform where traditions, knowledge and aspirations are shared and celebrated.

Today, on this special occasion, the Oman Japan Friendship Association reaffirms its dedication to strengthening and deepening the cherished bond of friendship between Oman and Japan.

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YEARS OF
LEGACY

Times
OF OMAN
SPECIAL
SUPPLEMENT

CREDIBLE NEWS, ENGAGING STORIES

My journey with Times of Oman

H H SAYYIDA ZAWAN BINT FAHR AL SAID

As I look back on my years as a broadcaster, I can't help but reflect on the role that print journalism - particularly *Times of Oman* - has played in shaping not just my career but the entire landscape of news and storytelling in Oman.

When I first stepped into the world of radio broadcasting, trained in radio production with the BBC, there was no manual or guidebook to rely on. It was a time when resources were scarce, and information was not as readily accessible as it is today. However, amidst this challenge, we always had the support of *Times of Oman*.

Times of Oman, the Sultanate of Oman's first English-language broadsheet newspaper, made its debut in 1975, long before other English newspapers hit the stands.

At the time, I was just a child, but as I grew into my twenties and became a broadcast journalist, *Times of Oman* became the go-to source for credible news and engaging stories.

It also holds a special place in my heart because it was the very first newspaper to interview me as a radio journalist.

The interview was conducted by a talented and ambitious young journalist, Adarsh Madhavan, who was a familiar name in Oman's media circles.

His career at *Times of Oman*



spanned many years, and I still remember how his sharp storytelling brought a unique charm to the pages of the paper.

One of the most exciting additions to *Times of Oman* during his tenure was the launch of a weekend magazine - a groundbreaking move at the time.

The magazine's last page always

featured an intriguing story by Madhavan, and one could never predict where his narratives would lead. It was the perfect mix of intellect and curiosity, making the weekend reading an absolute delight.

Times of Oman not only gave me exposure as a broadcaster, but it also continued its support

for my family years later.

Recently, the paper played a role in introducing my son, Zehy Al Dhabari, to a wider audience as a jazz musician.

The renowned journalist Ashok Purohit conducted an in-depth interview with him, and it went viral. That kind of reach and impact is a testament to the paper's enduring legacy in telling Oman's most compelling stories.

Journalism, in many ways, runs in the veins of Oman's Al Zedjali family.

They have long been a cornerstone of print media, and their contributions extend to radio and television broadcasting as well.

Through my journey as a journalist, I have had the privilege of working alongside some of them, witnessing their dedication to upholding the standards of journalism in Oman.

Fifty years of news, stories, and voices. Fifty years of documenting Oman's progress. *Times of Oman* is not just a newspaper - it is a living archive of our nation's journey, one that has informed, inspired, and shaped public discourse for half a century.

Here's to the incredible legacy of *Times of Oman*. May it continue to thrive and tell the stories of the next generation, just as it has for mine! God bless *Times of Oman*.

(The writer is a former popular radio presenter)



HALF A CENTURY OF STORYTELLING, INTEGRITY AND PROGRESS

50 years

Khimji Ramdas congratulates Times of Oman on its 50-year milestone and wishes them continued success.

As the oldest and the leading English daily newspaper in the Sultanate, Times of Oman has informed, engaged and shaped conversations that matter.

KR
Khimji Ramdas
In your triumph is ours

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Muscat Media Group

Times
OF OMAN



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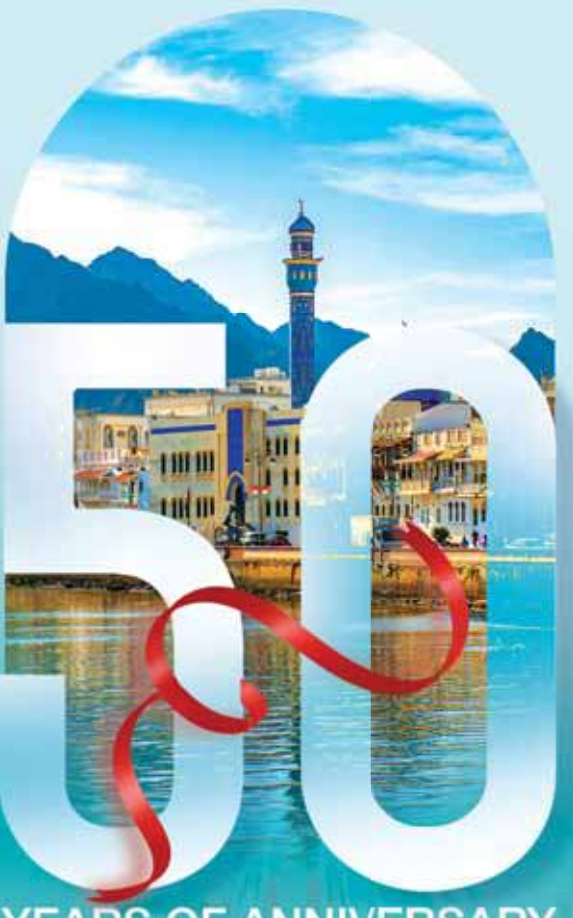


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إفطار على الساحل

RAMADAN BY THE COAST

Taking the overall title as Rihla, which translates to Journey, Kempinski Muscat, transforms into a haven of cultural immersion and gastronomic delight this Ramadan.

The Kitchen invites you on a culinary journey, with daily themed Iftars showcasing the diverse flavours of the Arabian world, Southeast Asia, and India.

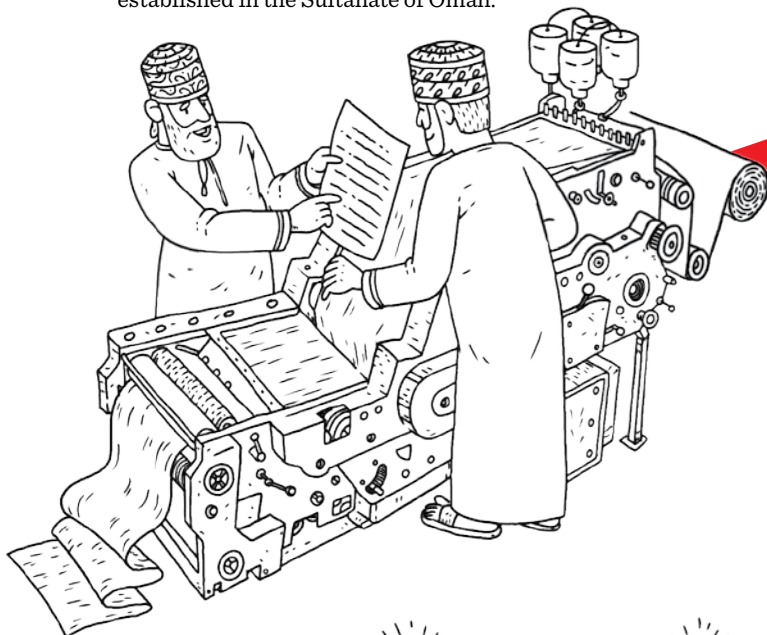
Indulge in a one of a kind dining at Zale, under the starry skies, ocean front. Sahra at Zale, invites you to spend the beginning of your fasting journey, meanwhile Iftar Nujum at Zale, offers exquisite culinary offerings to gather with friends and family on your end of day's fast, with daily live entertainment.

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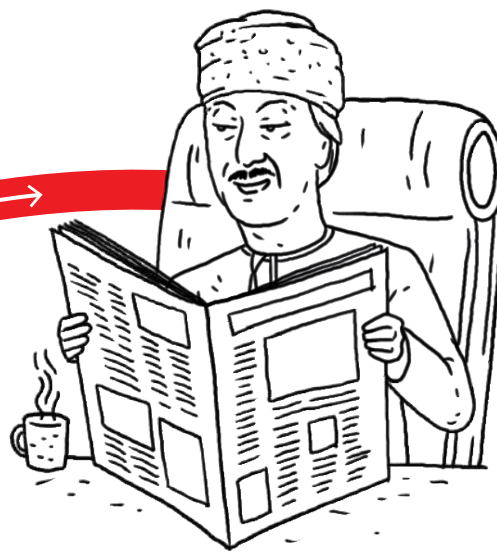
50 Years of Muscat Media Group

As Times of Oman, the Sultanate's first and oldest English paper, celebrates its 50th anniversary, we look back at the key moments that have defined our publications over the years. From our humble beginnings in 1975, to a diversified and fast-expanding media house today, it has been quite an eventful journey for both Times of Oman, as well as its sister publications and other allied offerings. Our successes would not have been possible without you, our loyal readers, as we look forward to more fond memories in the future.

1974
Oriental Printing Press was one of the first printing companies to be established in the Sultanate of Oman.



1975
Times of Oman, the first English-language paper of Oman, founded by Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali, started publication on February 23, 1975.



1990
Al Shabiba launched as a Sports Weekly



1991
Times of Oman became a broadsheet daily.



1993
Al Shabiba launched as an Arabic daily newspaper.



1998
Times of Oman launched its website, which also made MPPH the first publication house in the region to develop a website dedicated to news information.



1999
Thursday magazine was launched on November 18.



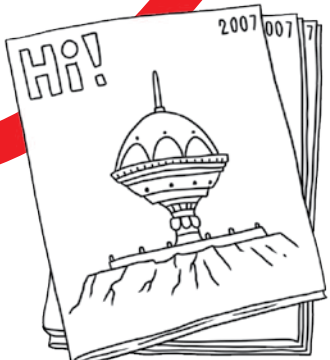
2004
The Times of Oman e-paper was launched.



2006
timesofoman.com won the Gold Award at the 2006 Oman Web Awards.



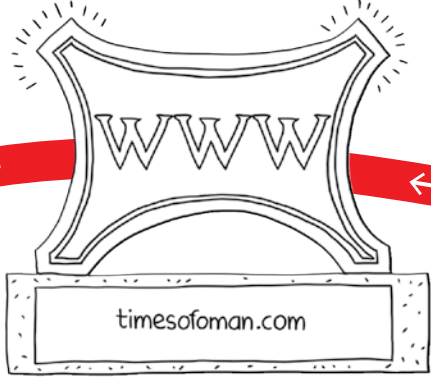
2007
Hi Weekly was launched.



2007
Times of Oman launched its first mobile application for smartphones.



2007
timesofoman.com won the Bronze Award at the 2007 Oman Web Awards.



2010
Times of Oman and Al Shabiba launched their editorial redesign on April 4.



2011
Times of Oman made history by becoming the first Omani print media publication to win international creative awards.



2011
Times of Oman is the first Omani newspaper to be awarded by the World Press Cartoon.



2011
Times of Oman became the first Omani newspaper to be awarded at the Communication Arts Magazine Annual Competition.



2011
Al Shabiba became the first Omani newspaper to receive a gold award for an infographic at the WAN-IFRA Asian Media Awards for the publication of the 'Four Decades of Progress' infographic.



2011
Al Shabiba became the first Omani newspaper to receive an award at the Malofiej International Awards for the publication of the infographic 'Four Decades of Progress'.

2012
In December 2012, the Times of Oman website was redesigned to feature more sections for news coverage, both locally and globally.



2013
Times of Oman's Facebook page was launched.



2013
Times of Oman became the first Omani newspaper to receive an award from the Society of Publication Designers.



2013
Times of Oman YouTube Channel was launched.



2014
Times of Oman grabbed top two awards at the Oman Football Association's Annual Award ceremony.



2014
Muscat Media Group was awarded the ISO 9001:2008 certificate for Quality Management Systems.



2014
Times of Oman's Twitter page became active.



2024
T Quiz League 2024: A Digital Evolution of Quizzing by Times of Oman



2025
Times of Oman (16th Feb, 2025) follower count:
X (Twitter): 152,920
Facebook: 923,059
Instagram: 121,000
LinkedIn: 8,698



2023
Muscat Media Group won the Best ePaper-Concept Award at the 2023 edition of WAN-IFRA's Digital Media Awards Middle East



2011
Al Shabiba's Sabat Ayam was launched in August 2011 as its weekly tabloid.



2022
ISWK, ISS declared winners of Times of Oman/Shabiba 2020 English Quiz



2020
Times of Oman launched its first evening e-paper.



COVID-19

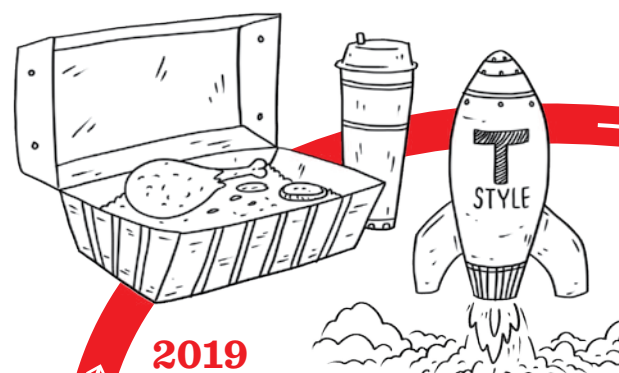
2020
Times of Oman launched Hygiene Edition as COVID pandemic spreads.



2020
Times TV reaches 56,000 subscribers and 25 million views.



2019
The T Style and T Cooking segments were launched.



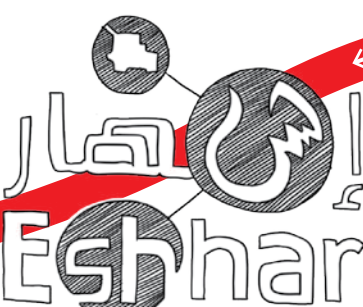
2019
Times of Oman crossed 700,000 followers on Facebook.



2018
TFM and Shabiba FM were launched in Muscat and Dhofar.



2018
Eshhar-Muscat Media Group's e-Distribution Service was launched.



2017
Al Shabiba's infographic supplement 'Oman, The Land of Frankincense' was nominated as a finalist at the 2017 Arab Journalism Awards, an honour to visual journalism.



2016
Times TV launched on YouTube.



2016
Times of Oman became the first Omani newspaper to receive a gold award at the WAN-IFRA Middle East World Digital Media Awards for the publication of the infographic 'Oman's National Dress'.



2015
Times of Oman became the first and only Asian publication, to date, to be bestowed the Peter Sullivan Award (Best of Show) at the Malofiej International Awards for its 3D Paper Football Infographic.



2014
Times of Oman's supplement, Thursday Magazine, was the first Omani publication to be awarded at the Type Directors Club Annual Competition.



2014
Times of Oman's supplement, Thursday Magazine, was the first Omani publication to be awarded at the HOW Magazine International Design Awards.



2014
In the 35th edition of the Society for News Design (SND) competition, Times of Oman received the most awards, becoming the first non-American newspaper to achieve such a feat.





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MY PERSONAL REFLECTIONS ON NEWS AND CRICKET



CHAITANYA KHIMJI

Fifty years is a remarkable milestone, and as I reflect on the journey of *Times of Oman*, I am reminded of my own deep and personal connection with this publication. My relationship with *Times of Oman* began in 1975 when I was just an 11-year-old boy, eagerly awaiting each weekly edition.

Back then, the newspaper was more than just a source of news - it was a gateway to the world, shaping my understanding of global events and even helping me plan my Friday television schedule.

The transition to a daily publication was a game-changer. It meant waking up each morning to a fresh dose of news, insightful analysis, and engaging stories - a habit that has remained with me ever since.

Times of Oman became a constant companion, keeping me informed through the years as Oman evolved and grew on the global stage. Beyond its role in journalism, *Times of Oman* has played a vital part in championing local sports, particularly cricket, which has been a lifelong passion of mine.

As the owner of two top-flight cricket teams in Oman, I have witnessed firsthand how



the newspaper has celebrated our triumphs, recognised our efforts, and amplified the voice of the cricketing community.

The unwavering support from the *Times of Oman* has been instrumental in bringing the stories of our cricketing endeavours to the forefront, fostering a deeper connection with the community and inspiring the next generation of athletes.

On this golden jubilee, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the entire *Times of Oman* team. Your dedication to delivering comprehensive

news, credible journalism, fostering informed discussions, insightful business coverage, and in-depth sports reporting has enriched our lives and informed our perspectives, keeping the community engaged.

Here's to many more decades of excellence, insightful storytelling, and lasting impact.

Wishing *Times of Oman* continued success!

(The writer is a prominent Omani businessman and owner of two top-flight domestic cricket teams)

'A TIMELESS CHRONICLE'

ARVIND SAMPAT

As *Times of Oman* celebrates its golden jubilee, I find myself reflecting on the remarkable journey this newspaper has taken over the past five decades. A publication that has been an unwavering pillar of news and information, it has truly been a part of the expatriate experience in Oman. I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the entire team on reaching this magnificent milestone of 50 years!

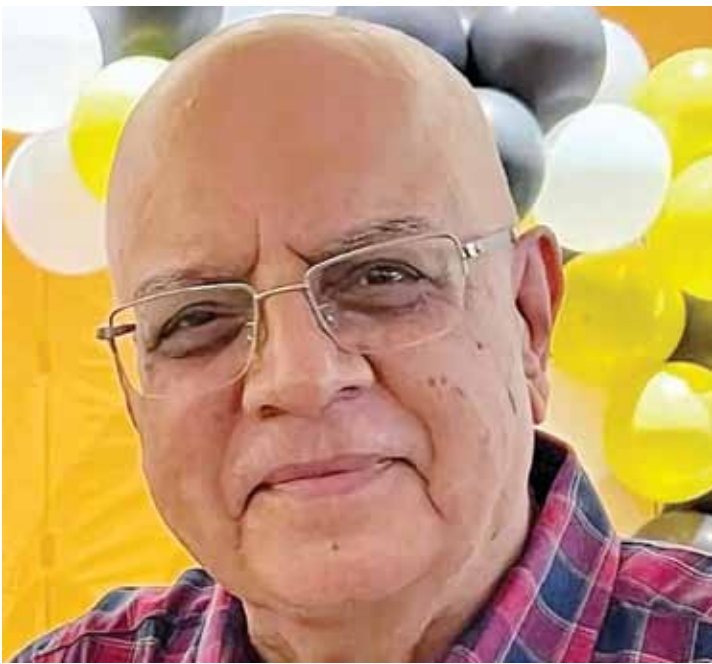
When I first arrived in Muscat in January 1975, the city felt like a world apart. Though international publications were flown in daily, there was a significant void when it came to local news and insights. With no television or digital media outlets, staying connected to the fast-changing landscape of Oman was a challenge. The expatriate community often felt disconnected, relying on word-of-mouth and outdated international newspapers to stay informed. Then, *Times of Oman* arrived - a game-changer.

The debut of an English-language newspaper in the Sultanate was a momentous occasion, filling a crucial gap. I vividly remember the sense of excitement and curiosity within the expatriate community. It felt like the beginning of a new era, one in which we could finally have access to news that mattered to us, tailored to reflect the changes and developments taking place in Oman.

In the early days, I recall that *Times of Oman* was distributed free of charge to corporate offices - a strategic move that quickly made it a staple among expatriates. The newspaper's widespread distribution ensured that it reached a wide audience, and soon it became an essential part of daily life for many.

The timing of the newspaper's arrival could not have been more fitting. Oman was on the cusp of rapid transformation, with massive infrastructure projects reshaping the country.

Roads, schools, hospitals, and airports were all being developed, and these were stories that mattered to the people living here. For expatriates like myself, having a re-



liable source of local news became invaluable, as it helped us better understand the nation's evolving landscape and its future direction.

The visionary leadership of Late Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali, the founder of *Times of Oman*, deserves special mention. His foresight and commitment to providing a credible, consistent, and informative news source were revolutionary at the time. Al Zedjali understood the importance of a media platform that could unite the diverse expatriate community while keeping them informed about the progress and challenges facing the country. His dedication laid the foundation for the success of the publication.

As the years passed, *Times of Oman* became synonymous with in-depth reporting on key developments across various sectors - be it infrastructure, social welfare, sports, or culture. Its ability to reflect the spirit of Oman and its people, while keeping pace with the nation's remarkable progress, has always been one of its defining features. The newspaper's coverage has not only highlighted the country's growth but has also celebrated its heritage and traditions.

In today's digital age, *Times of Oman* has evolved, embracing new technologies and platforms

to reach a wider audience. The shift to digital media has been seamless, yet the commitment to high-quality journalism remains as strong as ever. The newspaper has managed to preserve its credibility while adapting to modern demands, proving that its legacy is built on more than just tradition.

As we celebrate this significant milestone, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to the management, the editorial team, and all those who have played an integral role in shaping *Times of Oman* into the institution it is today. Your hard work, dedication, and commitment to journalism have made *Times of Oman* an invaluable resource for both expatriates and Omanis alike.

Looking ahead, I have no doubt that *Times of Oman* will continue to flourish and adapt, just as Oman itself does. Its role in reflecting the progress of the nation and the aspirations of its people will remain as essential as ever. May the next 50 years bring even greater success and contributions to the media landscape.

Best wishes for continued excellence!

(The author is a businessman, who completed 50 years in Oman on January 10, 2025.)



A GRATEFUL TRIBUTE TO TIMES OF OMAN

MS MIRIAM ANNE MALIN

Fifty years of storytelling, of chronicling the Sultanate's journey, and of inspiring many - including myself - to step into the world of writing. As *Times of Oman* celebrates this remarkable milestone, I find myself reflecting on the invaluable role it played in shaping my own path in the media landscape.

My journey as a columnist with *Times of Oman* began in the 1980s, thanks to a chance conversation with Arthur Cushing, the newspaper's British editor at the time. Arthur was a kind and insightful man, always ready to share his knowledge and encouragement. During one of our many engaging discussions, he extended an invitation that would change my life - he asked me to write a weekly column on 'Health & Beauty'. That moment marked my entry into journalism with the only private English-language newspaper in circulation in Oman at the time.

What started as a single column soon flourished into something much greater. Arthur entrusted me with more assignments, which not only honed my writing skills but also opened doors to other publications.

It wasn't long before I was invited to contribute to *Gulf News* in the UAE, and later, I became



a regular contributor to *BBC Gulfwide Magazine*. My work also found a home in Spinney's Living in the Gulf magazine, where I wrote several articles each month.

Arthur eventually returned to the UK, but his influence on my career - and on Oman's media sector - remains indelible.

During my association at the *Times of Oman*, I had the pleasure of interacting with many talented individuals, including Meredith Taylor (later Campbell), the deputy editor. Meredith was also a remarkable newsreader on Oman TV and I often met her in the newsroom, having been myself an English newsreader for more than 20 years.

One particularly fond memory is of the May Queen Contest - an event that stands out as both glamorous and unique. Hosted and sponsored by *Times of Oman* in the early 1990s, it was most likely the first (and only) compe-

tition of its kind in the country. The event took place at the Seeb Novotel, which later became the Novotel, and was a dazzling affair featuring a line-up of impressive contestants. I was honoured to be on the judging panel, sitting alongside none other than Late Essa Al Zedjali, the then Editor-in-Chief and one of Oman's true media pioneers.

There were also delightful perks that came with writing a beauty column. Luxury perfume and cosmetic brands often invited me to exclusive product launches, where they generously gifted full-sized bottles of fragrances and skincare products. These experiences enriched my writing and provided first-hand insight into the beauty industry.

Looking back, I realise how much confidence and credibility I gained through my association with *Times of Oman*. It was my launch pad into a broader writing career, and for that, I will always be deeply grateful.

Congratulations, *Times of Oman*, on five decades of excellence - of telling Oman's ever-evolving story and inspiring so many to join the world of media. May you continue to shine and shape the future of journalism for many more years to come!

Thank you *Times of Oman*!

(The author is a former newsreader on Oman TV and a cartographer)



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COMMENTARY



SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

50 years of unbiased coverage

It has been a remarkable 50 years delivering the best of journalism that covers all aspects of news, not just local but regionally and internationally as well. Times of Oman has made a huge impact not only to its readers in the last half a century but to the Sultanate of Oman as a nation. It has delivered an unbiased analytical news, not only how it happened but why it happened. Why? Because Times of Oman over years knows very well that

readers want not only to read the news but understand it with greater clarity. This newspaper is always on its toes to give readers a deeper understanding of what is going on in the world they live in. Times of Oman is now more than a news bearer but a trusted brand that reaches far and wide to cover events from every corner of the globe. Whether its business, economy, social or politics, this newspaper cover the detail in the highest pedigree. It started modestly and over the years constantly

redefined and reinvented to make the news interesting for all. Right here in the Sultanate, the newspaper covered news from its infancy when Oman's infrastructure was bare minimum and faithfully reported its progress from the flat ground to the high rise buildings, sprawling roads, schools, hospitals, shopping malls, entertainment centers and much more in the last fifty years of development. But what has been formidable over the decades is an amalgam

of cultures, traditions and heritages that meet in Oman from people from over 100 countries. From the Arab world, the Indian subcontinent countries, Africa, Europe, Asia and as far as the Americas, Times of Oman has covered their news in different and exciting perspectives. The creativity of its journalists has been enviable. From the newsrooms to the streets or press conferences, the stories churned out by the reporters of this newspaper have always

been unrivalled. The in-depth analysis continues to this day. It has changed form over the years. From print to now digital, video and audio formats. It is this combination that gives this newspaper an advantage from the rest. The time is fast changing but the value of unparalleled work will continue. In conclusion, Times of Oman is now well placed for another 50 years of progress to bring facts to light for many years come for the future generations.



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Among all objects of design, the ones we wear are the most universal and the most intimate. Every day, everywhere, everyone wears something, whether a full outfit or nothing more than a tattoo. Like other kinds of design, fashion thrives on productive tensions between form and function, automation and craftsmanship, standardization and customization, universality and self-expression, and pragmatism and utopian vision. Fashion ranges from mass production to precious, hand-crafted uniqueness. Like all design, it exists in the service of others (sometimes many, many others) and it can have profound consequences—social, political, cultural, economic, and environmental. Of the various design fields, none has, or has had, greater impact.

Items is—surprisingly then—the first exhibition on fashion at the Museum of Modern Art since 1944, when curator Bernard Rudofin organized *Are Clothes Modern?*, a provocation that was intended to prompt museumgoers to reconsider their relationship with the clothes they wore. With today's question—*Is Fashion Modern?*—we shift the focus from the individual to the collective sphere and highlight not only the ways in which clothing is made but also the social and cultural contexts in which it might be made. Every item in the exhibition can be seen through which to gain a deeper understanding of the economic complexity.

Today, like yesterday, "modern" in architecture and design indicates a constructive attitude based on the unity of the arts, working together on society's needs, aspirations, and priorities. In this exhibition, garments created for the benefit of many coexist with those made for the delight of a few. What they have in common is their influence on the world over the past one hundred years. We examine these in three tiers: archetype, stereotype, and prototype. Presented in the incarnation that made a particular garment or accessory significant—its stereotype—each item is accompanied by a material that traces it back to historical archetypes. Our mission in tracing a design's stereotype was subjective but drew on a collective consciousness: when you close your eyes and think of chinos, what do you see? That is the item's stereotype. In a third of these pieces, we are presenting new designs (some of which have a red corner) that use pioneering textile approaches, and novel design techniques. These are commissioned especially for this exhibition.

Items featured here are hardly exhaustive, but they do reach. We have chosen to present the city as an object of discussion, starting with a simple question: what do we know? We hope the exhibition will spark curiosity, awareness, and conversation.

Curated by Paola Cirio, Curator of Fashion and Textiles at the Museum of Modern Art, New York City. The exhibition is a collaboration between the Museum of Modern Art and the Times of Oman.

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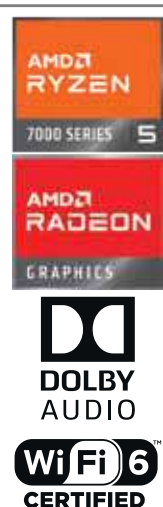
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