

MEETINGS

Royal Office Minister receives Russian and Egyptian officials



MUSCAT: General Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, received in his office Nikolai Patrushev, Aide to the Russian President and Chairman of the Maritime Board of the Russian Federation, and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the progress of relations binding the Sultanate of Oman and the Russian Federation across all fields and ways to devel-

op them to achieve the interests of the two countries.

The guest Nikolai Patrushev expressed his gratitude to the Sultanate of Oman and its constant efforts to resolve regional and international issues.

During the meeting, a number of matters of common interest were also discussed.

The meeting was attended by the Russian Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman.



Royal Office Minister meets Egyptian military official

General Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, received in his office yesterday Lt. General Ahmed Fathy Khalifa, Chief of Staff of the Egyptian Armed Forces.

Al Nu'amani emphasised the depth of bilateral relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Arab Republic of Egypt.

For his part, the guest expressed

his appreciation for the Sultanate of Oman's positions regarding numerous regional and international files and its active roles in bridging perspectives.

During the meeting, cordial conversations were exchanged, joint cooperation fields were reviewed, and a number of matters of interest were discussed.

The meeting was attended by the Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces. -ONA

IN NORTH AL BATINAH

Forum on vocational colleges kicks off



SAHAM: The 3rd edition of the Research Forum in Vocational Colleges, titled "Scholarly Research: From Challenge to Empowerment", kicked off yesterday at the Vocational College in the Wilayat of Saham in North Al Batinah Governorate.

The forum brings together academics, researchers and practitioners from vocational colleges in the Sultanate of Oman.

The first day of the forum included research papers and studies that address challenges and difficulties facing researchers.

The presentations outlined the systematic treatment that

research requires and the use of artificial intelligence tools in scholarly research.

It also explored the outcome of successful research experiences that covered the areas of agricultural technologies, energy engineering electronics and artificial intelligence.

The forum included a panel discussion about three main themes: Academic and organizational challenges facing researchers; Empowering research in vocational colleges; Role of partnerships and funding in enhancing professional research.

-ONA

Middle East conference calls for investments in space sector

The conference also underscored the importance of activating the government's role in supporting market growth



MUSCAT: The Middle East Space Conference 2026, which concluded on Wednesday in Muscat, issued a set of strategic recommendations reflecting the importance of the next phase in developing the space sector.

These recommendations resulted from specialised discussions and dialogue sessions that brought together a distinguished group of

experts and executives from the government and private sectors, as well as academic institutions.

The conference called for the establishment of clear and transparent institutional governance for the space sector to help build confidence and enhance investment attractiveness.

It also advocated for the development of a flexible and stimulating legislative and regulatory framework that keeps pace with the rapid advancements in space technologies and modern business models.

Furthermore, the conference emphasised the need for continued investment in building

national capabilities and localising knowledge and technology through training and qualification programs and the transfer of expertise, while expanding strategic regional and international partnerships based on the integration of technology, capital, and knowledge. The conference



also underscored the importance of activating the government's role in supporting market growth, particularly through government procurement policies for space services and applications provided by national companies.

This would enable these companies to develop their solutions and build a competitive track record, alongside employing space applications to serve national priorities in urban planning, food

and water security, disaster management, the environment, transportation, and smart cities.

Organised by the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology over three days, the conference witnessed the signing of five ambitious agreements in the space sector and featured 17 panel discussions and specialized dialogues aimed at charting the future of the space sector in the region. -ONA

AL KHABOURAH

Nama strengthens water distribution network

AL KHABOURAH: Nama Water Services has achieved 31 percent completion of the Water Distribution Network Project in Wilayat of Al Khabourah, as part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen water security and ensure the sustainability of water supply services.

The project follows the recent completion of the South Al Batinah-North Al Batinah Water Transmission Line, a strategic infrastructure initiative that enables the expansion of water distribution networks across several wilayats, including Al Khabourah, to serve new residential layouts and areas not previously covered by the water network.

Eng. Ibrahim Said Al Ghunaimi, Project Manager, Nama Water Services, said the project currently under implementation covers Al Qasf Layout, Al Qasf Village and Dhahrat Al Tuwi in Wilayat Al Khabourah. He added that the overall project cost exceeds OMR 1.5 million.

He explained that the project forms part of Nama Water Services' efforts to meet increasing water demand driven by population growth and urban and economic development in the wilayat.

The project also supports the integration of water distribution networks with desalination plants, contributing to water security and service reliability in coordination with the relevant authorities.

Al Ghunaimi pointed out that the project includes more than 483 household connections, benefiting approximately 2,500 residents in



the targeted areas.

The scope of work also involves the construction of over 69 kilometres of internal distribution pipelines, in addition to two booster pumping stations with a combined capacity of 100 cubic metres per hour, along with modern water disinfection systems to ensure quality standards.

He further noted that the project will be linked to the National Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system in Muscat Governorate, allowing for efficient monitoring and operation of the facilities using advanced technologies. In addition to im-

proving water services, the project contributes to local economic development by supporting small and medium enterprises.

Contracts worth OMR250,000 have been awarded to SMEs within the project's scope, while the current in-country value generated by the project has reached approximately OMR267,700.

The project also supports commercial and service activities in the wilayat and provides direct and indirect employment opportunities for local residents, with 10 jobs currently created and additional opportunities expected as the project progresses. -ONA

MILITARY DELEGATIONS

RNO Commander receives Saudi, Russian officials

MUSCAT: Rear Admiral Saif Nasser Al Rahbi, Commander of the Royal Navy of Oman (RNO), received on Wednesday at his office in Al Murtafa'a Camp Lt. General Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Gharibi, Chief of Staff of the Royal Saudi Naval Forces, and the military delegation accompanying him.

Upon the arrival of the Chief of Staff of the Royal Saudi Naval Forces at the Royal Navy of Oman headquarters, the Guard of Honour performed a military salute, and the Royal Navy of Oman band played the guard of honour salute, followed by the guest inspecting the ceremonial guard.

During the visit, the guest and his accompanying delegation were briefed on the roles of the Maritime Security Centre and its efforts in maintaining the security and safety of the environment and navigation within the maritime zones of the Sultanate of Oman.

They also toured the center's facilities and were briefed on the modern technologies and systems



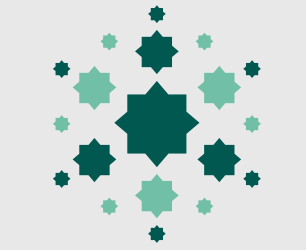
in the MSC.

Chairman of the Maritime Board of the Russian Federation

Rear Admiral Saif Nasser Al Rahbi, Commander of the Royal Navy of Oman (RNO), received today at his office in Al Murtafa'a

Camp Nikolai Patrushev, Aide to the Russian President and Chairman of the Maritime Board of the Russian Federation, and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed several military topics, particularly in the maritime fields.



ظفار الإسلامي
DHOFAR ISLAMIC

LEARNING HAS NO LIMITS
with profit rates starting at

3.49%

on education financing.



www.dhofarislamic.com | 24775777

*Terms and Conditions Apply.

Oman, Austria explore trade opportunities

The two ministers signed an agreement on the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Financial Evasion



MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, received on Wednesday Beate Meisl-Reisinger, Federal Minister for European and International Affairs of Austria.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed ways to enhance bilateral cooperation between the two countries in various political, economic, and cultural fields.

They also exchanged views on regional and international issues of common interest, aiming to de-

velop and expand existing cooperative relations, explore further partnership and trade opportunities, develop investment and tourism initiatives, and encourage human and people-to-people communication.

The Foreign Minister emphasised the Sultanate of Oman's keenness to deepen cooperation with Austria in priority fields, while the Austrian Minister praised the existing cooperation

between the two nations and expressed her desire to broaden its future horizons.

On the sidelines of the meeting, the two ministers signed an agreement between the Government of the Sultanate of Oman and the Government of the Republic of Austria on the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Financial Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital.

This agreement comes within

the framework of enhancing tax cooperation, supporting the economic partnership between the two countries, and facilitating a mutual investment environment.

The meeting and the signing ceremony were attended by Munthir Mahfoudh Al Manthari, Head of the Europe Department at the Foreign Ministry, Christoph Ceska, Ambassador of the Republic of Austria to Oman and several officials from both sides. -ONA

Salalah to attract 580,000 additional passengers by 2030

MUSCAT: Oman Air recorded robust commercial performance during 2025, achieving a milestone in the airline's ongoing transformation programme resulting from the success of initiatives aimed at enhancing operational efficiency, achieving sustainable growth, and elevating the guest experience.

Oman Air successfully transported approximately 5.8 million passengers in 2025, an increase of 8 percent compared to 2024, and a significant rise of 57 percent compared to 2022, thereby exceeding global market growth rates.

Passenger traffic directly arriving into the Sultanate of Oman also witnessed notable development, accounting for 64 percent of the total passenger count, after the sector recorded an unprecedented annual growth of 34 percent.

Oman Air successfully transported approximately 5.8 million passengers in 2025, an increase of 8 percent compared to 2024

Furthermore, the load factor jumped from 76 percent in 2024 to 82 percent in 2025, representing an annual increase of 6 percent and a 26 percent increase compared to 2022, driven by more disciplined network and revenue management.

Oman Air increased its seat capacity on the Muscat-Salalah route by 17 percent during 2025 compared to 2024, and by 19 percent compared to 2022, leading to a passenger increase on this route of 19 percent compared to 2024 and 36 percent compared to 2022.

The national carrier also launched its first direct charter flights between Moscow and Salalah, with plans for expansion to additional Russian cities during 2026. This expansion is set to extend later to other European markets starting from 2027.

These initiatives are expected to attract up to 580,000 additional passengers to Salalah by 2030, contributing to the tourism sector with revenues exceeding RO 320 million.

On the front of national responsibility, Oman Air continued its commitment to facilitating citizen travel by maintaining fixed ticket prices for Omani citizens on the Muscat-Salalah route throughout the year, including the autumn (Khareef) season, while increasing flights during peak periods.

Con Korfiatis, CEO of Oman Air, affirmed that these results embody the tangible progress the company has made within its transformation strategy, which placed improving commercial performance and optimal resource utilisation at the forefront of its priorities, alongside a greater focus on the travelling guest experience.

The transformation program launched by Oman Air in 2023 aims to reach the financial break-even point, a goal the company is progressing towards achieving within a record time, while maintaining a full commitment to improving service quality according to international standards and ensuring sustainable value for all partners, travelers, and stakeholders.



Shura Council Office reviews job stability and security of Omanis

MUSCAT: The Shura Council Office reviewed during its meeting on Wednesday the agenda for the upcoming regular sessions of the Council scheduled for next February, and the joint session with the State Council.

This is to discuss the articles of dispute in a number of draft laws referred by the government, within the framework of both Councils' keenness to enhance and refine the legislative structure to ensure sustainable development across various sectors.

The Shura Council Office reviewed a request submitted by a number of citizens concerning employment contracts of Omani employees that affect their job stability. The request called for reviewing the matter and taking appropriate measures to safeguard the rights of Omani citizens and enhance job security.

This took place during the Office's eighth regular meeting for the third ordinary session of the tenth term (2023-2027), which was held under the chair of Khalid Hilal Al Maawali, Chairman of the Council.



The meeting reviewed a set of ministerial responses to a number of follow-up instruments submitted by the members of the Council.

These included a response from the Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology to a briefing request regarding the construction of tunnels linking the governorates of the Sultanate of Oman, in which the Ministry affirmed its continued efforts to develop infrastructure and proceed with the implementation of road projects.

The office also reviewed the response of the Minister of Housing and Urban Planning to a briefing

request concerning planning aspects related to the location of one of the projects.

In addition, the Office examined the response of the Minister of Health to a briefing request regarding preventive measures to limit the spread of seasonal viruses.

Furthermore, it reviewed the response of the Minister of Education to the report of the Education, Scientific Research and Innovation Committee concerning the employment of graduates in the field of Information Technology. The response of the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion to a briefing

ing request regarding procedures undertaken to examine the dominance of certain companies in the delivery sector was also reviewed.

It also examined the response of the Minister of Labour to a question regarding the Omanisation of the position of institute director in private training institutions, which included the ministerial decisions issued in this regard.

In addition, it reviewed the response concerning the implementation of the unified academic salary scale, noting that the Ministry is currently studying and reviewing the matter.

The office further examined the response of the Minister of Information to a briefing request concerning the absence of effective legal frameworks regulating social media platforms.

The response indicated that the matter requires legislative intervention, and that the Ministry is coordinating with the relevant authorities to establish an appropriate legal framework to regulate content on social media platforms.

Financial penalties imposed on commercial establishments

AL SUWAIQ: The Primary Court in Wilayat of Al-Suwaïq issued two judicial rulings against defendants in favour of consumers, convicting them and imposing financial fines for violating the Consumer Protection Law issued under Royal Decree No. (86/2014) and its Executive Regulations.

The details of the first case date back to the Consumer Protection Office in Wilayat Al-Suwaïq receiving a complaint from one consumer, in which he stated that he had contracted with a commercial establishment to manufacture sofas, Arabic seating, a carpet, and a number of (2) curtains, for an amount of OMR500, with the work to be completed within a specified period.

However, the commercial establishment delayed the delivery of the goods and failed to comply with the terms of the contract. In addition, the establishment failed to provide the consumer with an invoice written in the Arabic language and in clear handwriting upon receiving the service.

This prompted the consumer to submit his complaint, and accordingly the office took the necessary legal measures. After completion of the case file, it was referred to the Public Prosecution in Wilayat Al-Suwaïq to take the legal procedures, whereupon the complaint was referred to the competent court.

Based on the foregoing, the court in Wilayat Al-Suwaïq issued its judgment convicting the defendant of the misdemeanor of failing to provide the service to the consum-



er in a proper manner consistent with its nature, and the misdemeanor of the supplier's failure to provide the consumer with an invoice written in the Arabic language.

The court sentenced him for the first and second offenses to a financial fine, with the penalties merged and suspended, in addition to obli-

gating him to pay the civil claimant an amount of (80) Omani Rials, together with costs.

As for the second case, its details are summarized as the Consumer Protection Office in Wilayat Al-Suwaïq receiving a complaint from one consumer, in which he stated that he had agreed with an

establishment specialized in the aluminum workshop sector to manufacture aluminum doors and kitchen windows, in addition to cupboards and drawers, with a total value of OMR900, on the condition that the works be delivered within a period of (15) days from the date of the agreement, with the consent of both parties.

However, the establishment breached the terms of the agreement and failed to deliver the works within the agreed time, which prompted the consumer to submit his complaint to the office. After completing the case file, it was referred to the Public Prosecution, which initiated the necessary legal procedures, and then referred it to the competent court.

The court issued its judgment convicting the two defendants of

the misdemeanor of failing to provide the service to the consumer in a proper manner consistent with its nature, and the misdemeanor of failing to provide the consumer with an invoice written in the Arabic language. The court sentenced them both for the first and second offenses to a financial fine, with the two penalties merged and the harsher one enforced.

The Consumer Protection Authority affirms, through these judicial rulings, the importance of suppliers and service providers adhering to the highest standards of credibility, transparency, and integrity in their dealings with consumers, and fully complying with the duties and responsibilities stipulated in the Consumer Protection Law and its Executive Regulations.



Muscat Nights continues to attract huge crowds

The festival serves as a key platform to stimulate the tourism sector by showcasing Omani culture, heritage and traditions to a broad audience

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Muscat Nights 2026 continued to witness strong turnout during its final week, attracting large numbers of local and expatriate families, along with visitors from Gulf countries, since the launch of the festival on January 1, 2026.

Over the first three weeks, entrances and walkways leading to the festival venues recorded a steady influx of visitors from various nationalities, reflecting the growing popularity of the event. New locations, including the

Wilayat of Quriyat, shopping malls and several established venues across Muscat Governorate, offered visitors an engaging experience through diverse shows, exhibitions and entertainment activities.

Unlike previous editions, Muscat Nights 2026 has seen wider participation from government and private institutions, as well as investors. Extensive coverage on social media has also played a significant role in promoting the festival and enhancing public engagement.

The festival serves as a key platform to stimulate the tourism sector by showcasing Omani culture, heritage and traditions to a broad audience.

Running until January 31, Muscat Nights 2026 offers daily programmes featuring cultural, sports and entertainment activities, along with traditional folklore performances.

The main venues include Qurum Natural Park, Al Amerat Public Park, Oman Automobile Association, Seeb Beach, Qurayat Park and Wadi Al Khoudh.

The increasing participation of jobseekers and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) reflects Muscat Municipality's efforts to support seasonal employment, empower local businesses and expand the festival's economic impact.



Bank Muscat Oryx Fund
Chairman Statement

Dear Unit-holders,

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Management Body, to present the results of the Bank Muscat Oryx Fund for the twelve-month period ended 31st December 2025.

2025 was a challenging year for the global markets with multiple factors resulting in high volatility in the markets. The market performance was driven by multiple factors such as supply chain constraints, post tariffs, inflationary pressures, the geopolitical conflicts, interest rate cuts by US Fed and fears of the rich valuations driving the market performance. For the year 2025, MSCI World Index and MSCI Emerging Market index gained 19.5% and 30.6%, respectively.

Oil prices remained under pressure during 2025 with decline of 18.5% and 20% in the Brent and WTI crude oil prices, respectively, mainly on account of higher OPEC+ production and slower growth in China.

2025 was a mixed year for the GCC markets with some of the regional markets delivering healthy returns, however the decline of 12.8% in Saudi market affected the overall performance of GCC markets with decline of 1.5% in S&P GCC Index. Saudi Arabia was pressured by weak sentiment underpinned by lower oil prices and ensuring impact on fiscal deficit concerns, while key economic and market reform measures saw delays in enactment. Oman was the best performing market gaining 28.2%, supported by improving liquidity conditions and potential EM index inclusion catalysts. Kuwait (+21.0%) benefitted from delivery of economic reform measures, while Dubai (+17.2%) and Abu Dhabi (+4.1%) maintained strong price momentum supported by strong earnings growth and further diversification of the economy towards non-oil growth.

Oryx Fund has maintained its track record of consistent outperformance against the benchmark over the medium to longer term. The Fund NAV remained relatively flat during the year as against the decline of 1.5% for the benchmark, thus generating an outperformance of 1.5% during the year.

Audited Statement of Comprehensive Income for year ended 31st December 2025

	31-Dec-25 RO'000	31-Dec-24 RO'000
Income		
Dividends	1,794	1,680
	1,794	1,680
Expenses:		
Management fees	(1,153)	(1,146)
General and administrative expenses	(692)	(574)
	(1,845)	(1,720)
Net Investment (Loss)/Income	(51)	(40)
Fair value Gain or (Loss)	2,551	5,901
Realised (Loss) or Gain on sale	(2,570)	(3,285)
Net (Loss)/Profit for the period	(70)	2,576
(Loss)/Profit per unit	(0.00036202)	0.134150

Audited Statement of Financial Position as at 31st December 2025

	31-Dec-25 RO'000	31-Dec-24 RO'000
Assets		
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL)	59,476	61,363
Cash and cash equivalents	1,909	1,358
Other receivables	27	10
Total Assets	61,412	62,731
Liabilities		
Payables and accruals	(120)	(117)
	(120)	(117)
Net Assets	61,292	62,614
Composition of net assets:		
Unit Capital	19,279	19,217
Retained Earnings	42,013	43,397
	61,292	62,614
Net Asset Value (NAV) per unit (Rial)*	0.3179183	0.3258357

Record date for the dividend of Oryx Fund is 4th March 2026. The book closure will be on 5th March 2026. Any investor wishing to receive the dividend in cash should fax/email their request to the fund managers on 24704478@bankmuscat.com not later than 4th March 2026.

Note: Due to figures displayed in 000's, immaterial variance is likely with actual numbers. The complete accounts will be sent by mail to any Unitholder who requests them, in either Arabic or English, as requested, within 7 days of receipt of request.

Note: During current year, Corporate action of unit split in the ratio of 1:10 was executed on 22 May 2025. Net asset value per unit is extended to 7 decimals from 3 decimals on 14 May 2025.

Managed by Bank Muscat SAOG, Asset Management Division
PO Box 134, Postal Code 112, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman. Call +968 24801866 Fax +968 24704478 or email us on FundInvestorServices@bankmuscat.com

www.bankmuscat.com

800 123 456

INVESTMENT PROMOTION

Oman strengthens global outreach to attract high-quality investments



< FROM A1 The workshop reflects an ongoing national approach to enhancing coordination between investment institutions and diplomatic missions, improving the investment promotion ecosystem, and raising the readiness of Omani embassies abroad to engage effectively with global investment opportunities.

Within this framework, Omani commercial attaches abroad serve as one of the key executive tools for investment promotion and export development. Operating as the specialised economic arm within embassies, they play a pivotal role in presenting investment opportunities, building relationships with investors and economic institutions, and fa-



cilitating direct communication with relevant authorities in the Sultanate. This integration between embassies, commercial attaches and Invest Oman is expected to accelerate investment pathways, strengthen investor confidence, and reinforce Oman's position as a competitive regional and international investment destination.

Sessions showcase inspiring Omani and Emirati youth models

The event emphasised the importance of strengthening cooperation and the exchange of expertise among Gulf youth to prepare a generation capable of innovation



MUSCAT: A youth panel discussion titled “Emirati-Omani Footprint: Success Stories Inspiring a Future Entrepreneurial Generation” was held in Muscat on Wednesday.

The event was attended by officials, and entrepreneurs from Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Organised by the Federal Youth Authority of the United Arab Emirates in cooperation with the

UAE Embassy in the Sultanate of Oman, the session aimed to highlight inspiring models of young Omani and Emirati talents who have made a tangible impact on the development process.

It further emphasised the importance of strengthening cooperation and the exchange of expertise among Gulf youth to prepare a generation capable of innovation and leading change.

The panel addressed four main themes, including the leadership's



vision in empowering youth and creating success stories, and the role of Omani institutions in shaping the entrepreneurial identity of youth.

Additionally, the session reviewed inspiring Gulf youth models in the fields of innovation and entrepreneurship, while discussing the challenges facing young people and ways to transform them into opportunities that make a difference in their journey towards success. -ONA

EXCHANGED VIEWS

Oman, Egypt sign MoU in military field

MUSCAT: Rear Admiral Abdullah Khamis Al Raisi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF), received on Wednesday at his office in Al Murtafa'a Camp Lt. General Ahmed Fathy Khalifa, Chief of Staff of the Egyptian Armed Forces, and his accompanying military delegation, who are currently visiting the Sultanate of Oman.

Upon his arrival at the SAF Headquarters, the Egyptian Chief of Staff was accorded an official reception ceremony.

The guard of honour performed the military salute, followed by the playing of the honorary salute by the military band, after which the guest inspected the guard of honour.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views and discussed several military topics of mutual interest.



Within the framework of the visit, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed covering several military fields.

The MoU was signed on behalf of the Omani side by Rear Admiral Abdullah Khamis Al Raisi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces and for the Egyptian side

by Lt. General Ahmed Fathy Khalifa, Chief of Staff of the Egyptian Armed Forces.

The meeting was attended by Brigadier Saif Hamad Al Yousifi, SAF Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations and Planning.

In a separate meeting today, Maj. Gen Hamed Ahmed Sak-

roon, Chairman of the Academy of Strategic and Defense Studies, received Lt. General Ahmed Fathy Khalifa, Chief of Staff of the Egyptian Armed Forces and his accompanying delegation at his office in Bait Al Falaj Camp.

The two sides discussed matters related to academic cooperation. The meeting was attended by Air Commodore Mohammed Aziz Al Siyabi, Head of the Centre for Strategic and Defense Studies, and Air Commodore Ali Rashid Al Abri, Director General of Studies and Academic Affairs at the Academy.

The Chief of Staff of the Egyptian Armed Forces also visited the National Defense College (NDC) at Bait Al Falaj Camp.

He was received upon arrival by Rear Admiral Ali Abdullah Al Shidi, Commandant of the NDC. -ONA

SULTAN'S ARMED FORCES

Fourth Omani-Italian Friendship Shotgun Championship kicks off

MUSCAT: The 4th Omani-Italian Friendship Shotgun Championship, hosted by the Command of the Sultan's Armed Forces, kicked off on Wednesday at the international marksmanship unit in Ghala. The championship will run from 28 to 31 January 2026.

The first day of the championship included training sessions to promote integration between the

participating marksmen from the Omani and Italian shooting associations.

The championship will also include individual skeet and trap shooting competitions, a mixed skeet competition and a mixed trap shooting competition. These events will be held on the final day of the championship.



SURGERIES

Royal Hospital succeeds in molecular testing for colorectal cancer

FROM A1 Alongside the surgery, the first implantation of a wireless, catheter-based dual-chamber pacemaker was implanted, he added.

He clarified that the Royal Hospital succeeded in localising molecular testing for colorectal cancer (KRAS, NRAS, BRAF), as part of the efforts of the Medical Laboratories Department and the Histopathology and Cytology Unit, to be performed for the first time inside the Sultanate of Oman after previously being conducted externally with a wait time exceeding three weeks.

He reported that the hospital recorded notable humanitarian and medical achievements, including the removal of a rare and malignant cancerous tumor from the liver of a three-year-old child, performing the region's first remote

surgery (Telesurgery) between Muscat and Kuwait, in addition to introducing the surgical robot and enhancing advanced surgeries.

At the institutional integration level, the Director General of the Royal Hospital reported that the hospital performed 429 surgeries as part of a joint campaign with the Medical City of the Security and Military Services.

It also contributed to training medical staff and performing surgeries in several hospitals across the Sultanate of Oman, including Khasab, Sultan Qaboos University Hospital, Sur, Jalan Bani Bu Hassan, Ibra, and A'Rustaq, in addition to launching campaigns to reduce pediatric surgery waiting lists, targeting 1,000 cases and contributing to a 30 percent reduction in waiting lists.

He further noted that in terms

of quality and accreditation, the hospital achieved the highest quality standards in nuclear medicine from the International Atomic Energy Agency, completed the localization of HLA testing as one of the essential tests for organ transplants, received international recognition as a reference center for managing food allergies, in addition to winning an Excellence Award at the IHF World Hospital Congress – Geneva 2025.

The hospital also published 154 research papers in internationally peer-reviewed journals, and enhanced its digital transformation by achieving a 100 percent complete transition to digital systems for patient transfer requests, and activating WhatsApp services for the hospital residences, which contributed to a 90 percent increase in communication efficiency, and im-

proved the digital patient experience through medication tracking systems, smart waiting, and electronic prescriptions.

Dr. Amed bin Khamis Al Araimi, Director General of the Royal Hospital, affirmed that the hospital continues to solidify its position as a leading national institution, combining clinical excellence, innovation, capacity building, and improved patient experience, in a journey that translates the investment in human capital and writes new chapters of achievement in the name of the nation.

He added that the accomplishments of 2025 represent a true reflection of the hospital's vision and mission to provide integrated specialized care, based on quality, governance, and innovation, placing the patient at the heart of the service system. -ONA



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



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

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

INVESTMENTS

Opportunities in African food market explored



MUSCAT: The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones, in cooperation with the National Programme for Private Sector & Foreign Trade Development (Nazdaher), organised a specialised dialogue session to review the available investment and commercial opportunities in the food sector in the African market.

The session comes within the framework of national efforts to market the products of factories operating in special economic zones, free zones, and industrial cities, increase trade exchange between the Sultanate of Oman and African countries, and open wider horizons for the Omani private sector.

During the session, the results of a specialised study prepared to analyze imports of food commodities in a number of selected African countries were reviewed.

The study identified commodities for which the Sultanate of Oman can increase trade exchange, whether on the level of export or import.

Factory owners, entrepreneurs, and investors in the food industries sector from the Omani private sector will have the opportunity to learn about this initiative and its objectives, as well as the food commodities with high commercial potential that they can market in African markets.

The session witnessed wide participation from several government and private entities, including: Nazdaher, the Ministry

of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion represented by “Oman Exports” and the Center for Strategic Partnerships and Foreign Trade, in addition to Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Muhammad Hamoud Al Riyami, Senior Foreign Trade Development Specialist at the National Program for Private Sector & Foreign Trade Development (Nazdaher), clarified that the specialised team verified these opportunities and conducted field visits to the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Kenya.

These visits resulted in identifying opportunities and confirming the desire of the African private sector for these commodities.

He indicated that the expected outcome of these visits is for Omani companies to benefit from these opportunities and increase trade exchange between the Sultanate of Oman and the selected countries.

He stated that the ten selected products include meat, sugar, flour, and dates, which are produced in the Sultanate of Oman, with some being re-exported from the Sultanate to benefit from Omani ports and airports.

The session was attended by Eng. Ahmed Hassan Al Dheeb, Deputy Chairman of the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones, along with a number of officials from Nazdaher program and Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry. -ONA

INDIAN PRESIDENT

‘The future of India-EU relations is full of promise’

NEW DELHI: President Droupadi Murmu lauded the various India-European Union (EU) agreements concluded during the visit of European Council President Antonio Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, stating that they will “further strengthen the India-EU Strategic Partnership.”

Speaking at a banquet at Rashtrapati Bhavan, organised in honour of visiting European dignitaries, Murmu emphasised the importance of collective efforts to address global challenges.

Further referring to the agreements signed during the visit, she described the future of India-EU relations as promising.

“In this period of global uncertainty, our thoughts and perspectives are the same. We believe that global challenges can only be addressed through collective efforts, and that international institutions should not be weakened but rather reformed to adapt to contemporary realities. I am confident that the important agreements concluded during this visit, including the India-EU featured agreement, the Security and Defence Partnership and the Mobility Cooperation Framework, will further strengthen the India-EU Strategic Partnership. Looking forward, the future of India-EU relations is full of promise...” President Droupadi Murmu said.

Earlier on Tuesday, Murmu highlighted the common values shared between India and the EU, noting that both are bound by democracy, pluralism and an open market economy.

In a post on X, Rashtrapati Bhavan said, “President Droupadi Murmu received H. E. Antonio Costa, President of the European Council and H. E. Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, at Rashtrapati Bhavan and hosted a banquet in their honour. The President said that India and Europe are connected not only by contemporary interests but also by shared values such as democracy, pluralism, and an open market economy. She expressed confidence that the India-EU Free Trade Agreement will bring significant positive changes to the lives of our people.” — ANI

US withdrawal from Paris Agreement comes into effect

President Donald Trump signed the executive order to leave the accord for a second time on the day of his inauguration a year ago and has since pledged to pull the country from a raft of other global environmental treaties

NEW YORK: As the gavel came down to seal the Paris Agreement in 2015, tears fell, world leaders joined hands and attendees of the UN COP21 climate summit erupted in a standing ovation.

Just over a decade later on January 27, 2026, the withdrawal of the US — the world’s second-largest emitter — from global climate pact has come into effect.

President Donald Trump signed the executive order to leave the accord for a second time on the day of his inauguration a year ago and has since pledged to pull the country from a raft of other global environmental treaties.

But back in 2015, the Paris Agreement marked a pivotal moment in climate action. For the first time, nearly 200 nations adopted a binding treaty to limit global warming well below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit), while striving to cap the rise at 1.5 C.

Scientists consider the 1.5 C threshold a critical line of defense against climate change’s most severe and irreversible damage. The UN has now said overshooting this, at least temporarily, is “inevitable” with “devastating consequences” for the world.



Despite some remarkable leaps in climate action since that moment in Paris, experts warn the world stands at a critical juncture. As countries continue to burn oil, gas and coal, temperatures are rising, causing deadly storms, flooding and heat.

The past decade has been the hottest on record, with 2024 topping the grim streak.

Temperatures have climbed since the Paris Agreement

As world leaders gathered in Belem, Brazil, for 2025’s global climate summit, COP30, scientists warned that, however warm the world has already become, every fraction of a degree still counts — making the difference between the safety and suffering of millions of people.

Rising heat is killing roughly one person per minute, and air pollution from the burning of fossil fuels claims an estimated 2.5 million lives every year.

It is also taking a considerable toll on the economy, costing as much as \$304 billion in global economic losses in 2024, according to

research published in the Lancet, a peer-reviewed medical journal.

Meanwhile, critical ecosystems are being pushed beyond their limits. Last year, the world passed its first climate “tipping point,” a threshold that triggers irreversible change, with warming oceans causing mass coral die-offs. Coral reefs are one of the world’s most biodiverse ecosystems, supporting a quarter of marine life.

Scientists warn other tipping points, such as the dieback of the Amazon rainforest and collapse of vital ocean currents, are dangerously close.

What is happening to emissions?

This critical state has been driven by the continued burning of fossil fuels in the decade since the Paris Agreement was reached. In 2024, greenhouse gas emissions reached record levels and are now 65% higher than 1990 levels.

To keep the Paris Agreement goals within the world’s grasp, emissions should already be peaking and beginning to plummet. But a recent analysis revealed no

sign of a slowdown.

Absolute emissions soared in 2024, with human activities — namely, the burning of coal, oil and gas — sending a record of 53.2 gigatons of CO2 equivalent emissions into the atmosphere.

Two-thirds of this came from just eight economies: China, the US, the European Union, India, Russia, Indonesia, Brazil and Japan. Of those big polluters, only the EU and Japan decreased their annual emissions compared to 2023.

The vast majority of this comes from the energy sector, which powers our lives and economies.

What has been achieved since 2015?

While climate action overall is critically lagging, there are pockets of striking progress.

Global growth in renewables has skyrocketed, even exceeding the expectations of optimists. Plummeting costs are helping to drive the boom, with investments in clean energy growing and now doubling those going into fossil fuels.

The share of global energy provided by renewables has more than tripled since the Paris Agreement.

In 2024, the world experienced its largest-ever increase in renewable energy generation, which now provides 40% of global electricity. In the first half of this year solar and wind exceeded all demand growth for electricity, surpassing coal for the first time.

Global solar capacity is over

four times what was predicted in 2015, doubling every three years. Wind has tripled, according to analysis from the Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit, a UK-based non-profit.

Even in the US, where President Donald Trump’s administration has slashed financial support and tax credits for renewable energy sources and has placed restrictions on new solar and wind projects, growth has been positive.

Between January and September 2025, green power dominated US capacity growth, according to consultancy Deloitte. Renewables plus battery storage made up 93% of new capacity added to the grid.

China is the country leading the pack, having in 2024 installed more solar capacity — now 1,000 times greater than it was in 2010 — than the rest of the world combined.

In the last decade, electric vehicles have surged from around 1% of car sales to almost a quarter. The world is on track to reach the Paris Agreement target of 100 million vehicles on the road by 2030 ahead of schedule.

Yet there are important caveats to this progress. Renewables might be breaking records, but so is coal: the dirtiest fossil fuel hit a record high in overall global use last year. And while more money is pouring into green energy, public finance for fossil fuels has also increased to \$1.6 trillion (€1.37 trillion) per year.

Will the world fulfill the Paris Agreement goals?

Experts warn that current climate action is still woefully off track.

Without the Paris Agreement, the world could have faced 4 C of warming by the end of the century. Under the accord, countries have to submit national climate action plans. If fully implemented, those are predicted to limit temperature rise to about 2.3 to 2.5 C. Still, even under that less drastic scenario, the world will face far more extreme heat, storms and rising sea levels.

Ahead of the climate summit in Belem, countries were still scrambling to submit new climate commitments, and more than 65 countries have still not delivered their new pledges. — DW

CENTRAL DISTRICT COURT



South Korea’s ex-first lady sentenced to prison for bribery

SEOUL: A court in South Korea on Wednesday ordered former first lady Kim Keon Hee to one year and eight months imprisonment.

Judge Woo In-sung of the Seoul Central District Court said Kim was found guilty of accepting bribes from Unification Church officials in return for political favours.

The court’s ruling came as a surprise, after prosecutors had initially demanded 15 years of imprisonment and fines of 2.9 billion won (\$2 million) over accusations that include accepting luxury Chanel bags and a diamond necklace from South Korea’s Unification Church.

The court, however, acquitted Kim on charges of stock price manipulation and of violating laws surrounding political funding, citing a lack of evidence.

In December, prosecutors had alleged that Kim “stood above the law” and colluded with the Unification Church and had violated “the constitutionally mandated separation of religion and state.”

The Unification Church said the gifts were given to Kim, with nothing received in exchange. Its leader, Han Hak-ja, who is also on

trial, has denied that those gifts were a bribe to Kim.

Meanwhile, Kim has also denied all the charges against her. Her legal counsel said they would review the ruling and decide whether to appeal the bribery conviction.

Kim’s conviction

Kim’s conviction comes after her husband, ex-President Yoon Suk Yeol, was jailed over actions linked to his 2024 martial law declaration.

Both are now in custody — Yoon for his declaration of martial law in December 2024, and Kim for allegations of bribery, making them the first former presidential couple to be jailed at the same time in South Korea.

Yoon is himself facing eight trials and has appealed against a five-year jail term handed to him this month for hindering attempts to arrest him after his martial law decree.

In a related case, former top opposition lawmaker Kwon Seong Dong was sentenced to two years in prison for accepting bribes from the Unification Church, South Korea’s Yonhap news agency said. — DW

ANTI-IMMIGRATION PARTY

How does Germany deport people?

BERLIN: Germany has no equivalent of the specialised Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency in the United States, though that would change if the Bavarian branch of the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) had its way. Apparently directly inspired by the actions of ICE under US President Donald Trump’s administration, an internal paper from the anti-immigration party seen by the German newspaper taz this week proposed that a new authority be created within the Bavarian state police named the “Asyl-, Fahndungs- und Abschiebegruppe (AFA),” or the “Asylum, Tracing and Deportation group.”

But how effective this would be is another matter. In the last 10 years, the German government has introduced a series of reforms designed to make it easier to deport immigrants with what the bureaucratic system calls “poor prospects of staying.” That effort has been stepped up more recently, as both Chancellor Friedrich Merz and his predecessor, Olaf Scholz, have tried to remove the legal obstacles to deportation.

The effect has been noticeable in the statistics: According to the Interior Ministry, 21,311 deportations were carried out between January and November 2025, a 16% increase on the same period the year before. (From 2023 to 2024, there was also 22% increase in the number of deportations).

On top of that, over 30,000 people “self-deported” in 2025 by leaving the country voluntarily after being served with a “Grenzübertrittsbescheinigung,” a notice informing them they are obliged to leave the country by a certain date.

Who can be deported?

As a rule, any immigrant without residency status, or any asylum seeker whose application has been turned down, is obliged to leave



Germany by a certain deadline (a month for asylum seekers). If they don’t, they can be deported.

Around 180,000 people have a tolerated status in Germany.

The decision to carry out a deportation is taken by the local immigration authority, which checks whether any legal obstacles to deportations exist. If they don’t find any, a deportation date is set (which the deportee is not told). If the person in question has attempted to avoid deportation before, or if authorities believe they may try to flee, the state can order them to be incarcerated until their deportation date.

“Deportations by their nature are a very bureaucratic and very laborious process,” said Svenja Schurade, researcher at the University of Göttingen, and part of a Europe-wide project examining the consequences of returns and readmissions policy.

“That’s partly because deportations are partly negotiated at a level of international diplomacy: Under what conditions will countries take their citizens back? That requires certain proofs, certain diplomatic relations. And then there’s a relatively labourious organisational process,” Schurade told DW.

How are deportations carried out?

While the decision to carry out a

deportation is taken by the state immigration authorities, the actual deportation is carried out by federal police officers. In some cases, entire planes to specific countries are chartered for a “collective deportation,” and the police will try to organise the detainments to ensure the flight is filled. In 2024, around 7,300 of the 20,100 deportations were enforced using chartered flights.

This can be costly for the state: Chartering a flight can cost tens of thousands of euros on its own, and several federal officers must also be put on the flight to escort the deportees.

In many cases, potential deportees are first summoned to report to immigration authorities, where a federal police officer will be waiting to inform them that they are to be deported. They will then be escorted home to collect their clothes and belongings before being taken directly to the airport.

However, in some cases, the police will appear at the deportees’ homes in the early hours of the morning and arrest people. Unlike ICE in the US, they are not masked and are in uniforms. They must carry their IDs with them and provide their names if asked.

There are plenty of stories highlighting how stressful this can be: One former manager of a residential home for immigrants in Germany told DW on condition of

anonymity of a case where police appeared at 5:00 a.m. and took a disabled man straight to the airport, leaving his wife, who is also disabled, without a primary carer.

Officially, deportees are allowed to make phone calls before being deported, and in some cases, lawyers have been able to intervene in the last minute to prevent deportations, but there are also reports of people having their phones taken away from them.

How have deportations been accelerated?

The German government has taken several measures to accelerate deportations in the last 10 years. The measures taken include:

2015: The law was changed to include more justifications to take someone into custody before deportation.

2016: The medical exemption for deportation was narrowed so that only people with chronic or life-threatening conditions could be exempted.

2019: The law was changed so that those considered liable to flee could be preemptively incarcerated, with the list of conditions for a flight risk expanded. Also, it was made a criminal offense to pass on information about planned deportations.

2022: The law was changed to allow asylum-seekers categorized as dangerous to be preemptively incarcerated for up to six months.

2024: The police were given the power to search other rooms in a residence for deportees. But Schurade said that such measures weren’t necessarily speeding up deportations. “Our research shows that these measures haven’t necessarily made deportations more efficient,” she said. “What they have done is cause more social exclusion and put people in more precarious situations.” — DW

Seifert, Santner power NZ to win despite Dube's 15-ball 50

The visitors recorded a 50-run victory in the fourth T20I

VISAKHAPATNAM: India's strong batting finally stumbled as New Zealand's bowlers mastered dew to beat India by 50 runs to register its first win of the five-match series at the ACA-VDCA Stadium on Wednesday.

India's Shivam Dube's lone onslaught lit up a packed house on a cool evening in the City of Destiny, but ultimately proved in vain.

A blistering opening assault from Tim Seifert and a late surge from Daryl Mitchell bookended a decisive middle-overs squeeze by India, as the Kiwis piled on 215/7 after being asked to bat.

Seifert was handed an early reprieve when a leading edge fell safely beyond a backpedalling Jasprit Bumrah.

The Indian pace battery paid a hefty price as a result. A stand-and-deliver blow straight down the ground took the Kiwis past the 50-run mark.

Devon Conway's urge to go up a gear then proved costly as he holed out to Rinku Singh at deep cover. Bumrah then caught Rachin Ravindra off his own bowling.

Seifert attempted to reignite the charge but misjudged Arshdeep's change of pace and perished at long-off, once again finding Rinku. Kuldeep Yadav then lured Glenn



Phillips for a hit down long-on, where Rinku covered 14 metres and timed his leap to perfection.

New Zealand's repeated searches for Rinku almost became a running theme. The fielder's fourth catch of the night ended Zakary Foulkes' stay.

Mitchell, though, was unfazed, smashing 27 runs off nine balls in the final two overs to propel New Zealand to its second-highest T20I total against India.

In reply, snapping up Abhishek Sharma for a golden duck and

Suryakumar Yadav for a single digit score was a shot in the arm for the Black Caps.

Sanju Samson and Rinku consolidated aggressively as India got out of the powerplay with 50 chipped off the target.

Mitchell Santner then struck twice, beating Samson on the outside edge to rattle the middle stump, and drawing Hardik for a failed slice to Foulkes at backward point. Rinku also fell, leaving India with a climbing asking rate.

But Shivam Dube adamantly in-

fused hope, pummeling Ish Sodhi for 29 runs, and bringing up a half-century in 15 balls. But he couldn't finish the job, as the ball deflected off Henry's hand from Harshit Rana's shot and caught him stranded well outside.

At the post-match presentation ceremony, New Zealand skipper Santner said: "The way we started in the powerplay was what India were doing to us. Especially after the last game, you don't want guys to go into a shell. "They set us up for a decent



score. Finished up by Daryl, who took us to a good total.

"We are thinking about what we are likely to get at the World Cup. We have a couple of guys back for the last game, which is nice. Wickets at the start is crucial, makes our job as spinners easier."

Santner's counterpart, Suryakumar Yadav, said: "We purposefully played six batters. Wanted to have five bowlers and challenge ourselves.

"We wanted to play the players who were part of the World

Cup squad, otherwise would have played other players. We have been batting well batting first. We wanted us to see how we bat when two or three down while chasing 180-200. With heavy dew, one or two partnerships like Dube batted, one partnership could have made a difference."

Brief scores: New Zealand 215/7 (Seifert 62, Conway 44, Arshdeep 2-33, Kuldeep 2-39) beat India 165 in 18.4 overs (Dube 65, Rinku 39, Santner 3-26, Duffy 2-33) by 50 runs. - Agencies

FORMER ENGLAND ALL-ROUNDER

Moeen lauds anti-racism steps as he joins Yorkshire

LONDON: Former England all-rounder Moeen Ali has cancelled retirement plans and joined Yorkshire in a move he hopes can help the team continue to "build bridges" with communities.

The 38-year-old has reversed his decision to quit the county game, committing to playing in the T20 Blast.

Five years ago, Moeen spoke out in support of Yorkshire player Azeem Rafiq who experienced racism while at the club.

Moeen says the case provided "a wake-up call for everybody" and expressed his belief that the county side have since "done a fantastic job integrating with society".

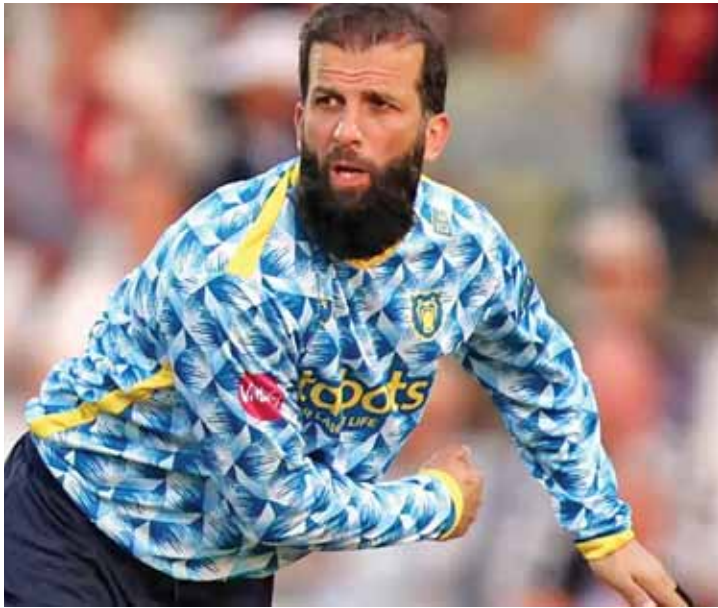
"There was no doubt in my mind [to join Yorkshire]. There has definitely been a change throughout all of the counties, all the way through from coaches to umpires," he said.

Over the past five years, Yorkshire have put in place a number of changes, from leadership to increasing support for women, girls and junior pathways.

Moeen, a two-time World Cup winner, joins the White Rose as one of England's most accomplished white-ball cricketers, scoring 7,792 runs and taking 271 wickets in 420 T20 matches.

Yorkshire's general manager of cricket Gavin Hamilton said: "Moeen's decision to join Yorkshire reflects the direction of travel at the club and the environment we are building. We're excited about what he will bring, not just in performances, but in setting standards."

Moeen announced he would be leaving domestic cricket behind after featuring for Birmingham



Bears last summer.

He ended his international career the previous year after playing 68 Tests, 138 ODIs and 92 T20 internationals, and featuring in three Ashes series.

Moeen, who won two IPL titles with Chennai Super Kings and captained Worcestershire to their first Blast triumph in 2018, also skippered Birmingham Phoenix to the final of the inaugural Hundred tournament.

He knows his latest move might surprise some people.

"There might be some fans disappointed at signing a 38-year-old, but I'm there to do a job and hopefully win silverware," he said.

"And to play at Headingley, which is such an iconic ground, is one of the main reasons I signed for Yorkshire. I know this might

be the last two or three years of my career and I want to win as much as I can."

The move will also see Moeen team up with England's white-ball captain Harry Brook, the Yorkshire batsman who has been making headlines on and off the pitch.

Moeen will join his new side in May before their first T20 match against Nottinghamshire, and there is an option to extend his contract for 2027.

Moeen said of his future: "I have got one eye on what I want to do after cricket. I want to go straight into coaching.

"While I'm at Yorkshire I want to help as much as I can and if that means doing an academy session I'll be more than happy to help and pass on my knowledge of the game." - Agencies

FIRST T20I: SA VS WI

Markram, Linde headline S Africa's facile victory

CENTURION: Aiden Markram powered South Africa to a nine-wicket win in the first Twenty20 international against the West Indies at Boland Park on Tuesday.

The South African captain hit nine fours and three sixes in a career-best 86 not out off 47 balls as the hosts chased down a competitive West Indian total of 173 for seven with 13 balls to spare.

An opening partnership (also) of 83 off 47 balls with Lhuan-dre Pretorius (44) set the tone before Ryan Rickelton joined Markram and made 40 not out in an unbeaten second-wicket stand of 93 off 62 balls. The three-match series is the final preparation for both teams before the T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka next month.

South Africa rested several players who were involved in the SA20 franchise final on Sunday, including first-choice opening batsman Quinton de Kock.

Pretorius, who is not in the World Cup squad, opened in De Kock's absence.

Markram said he was pleased with the depth in his squad.

"There are a few guys not here tonight who are good players. It's taken a few years to get where we are now. There are a lot of guys putting their hands up and it's a good space to be in."

Shimron Hetmyer hit 48 off 32 balls for the West Indies but no other batsman reached 30 in what captain Roston Chase said was a below-par total.

"We didn't have big partnerships. Players got in but didn't go on to make 60 or 70. Then we were poor with the ball in the powerplay," said Chase, who was stand-



ing in for four captain Shai Hope, who had suffered a blow on a knee.

South African left-arm spinner George Linde was named man of the match. He took three for 25, sharing the new ball and then bowling the last over of the innings when he dismissed Hetmyer and Jason Holder and conceded only five runs.

Linde picked up three wickets while Markram finished on an unbeaten 86 as South Africa chased down 174 with ease

Brief scores: South Africa 176/1 (Markram 86*, Pretorius 44, Rickelton 40*, Chas 1-31) beat West Indies 173/7 (Hetmyer 48, Linde 3-25, Bosch 2-35, Maharaj 2-44) by nine wickets. - Agencies

MOVES TO NO.7

India skipper Suryakumar rises in ICC rankings after striking purple patch

DUBAI: India's T20I captain Suryakumar Yadav's return to form has meant a rise for him in the ICC T20I batters' rankings.

Following back-to-back half-centuries - 82* and 57* - in the second and third T20Is against New Zealand, respectively, Suryakumar has moved five places up to No.7.

Hardik Pandya, meanwhile, gained one place to rise to third place in the all-rounders' chart.

Hardik has picked up four wickets in three matches against New Zealand, after scoring 142 runs in

four games against South Africa.

Fellow all-rounder Shivam Dube is also up six places to No.11.

Dube has three wickets so far in the series against New Zealand, apart from smashing 36* in 18 deliveries in the second match.

Abhishek Sharma, meanwhile, has strengthened his position at the top of the batting rankings.

After playing 84 off 35 balls and 68* in 20 deliveries against New Zealand - he fell for a duck in between - Abhishek has 929 rating points, 80 clear of second-placed



Phil Salt. Tilak Varma, who will be missing the entire five-match series against New Zealand, is third.

Among bowlers, Jasprit Bumrah's Player-of-the-Match performance of 3 for 17 in the third T20I has helped him rise four spots to No.13.

England's stars rise on ODI tables

In the ODI rankings, three England players have moved up following their 2-1 series win against Sri Lanka.

Centuries from Joe Root and Harry Brook took their side to victory in the decider on Tuesday. As a result of that, Root has climbed six places up to No.17 while Brook has jumped from No.28 to No.11.

Root ended the series with the most runs (247) across both sides, while Brook (184) finished second. Adil Rashid, the highest wicket-taker of the series with seven wickets at an average of 19.85, moved up six places to No. 5 among bowlers. - Agencies

Changan Oman unveils 2026 EADO Premium that goes beyond your expectation



MUSCAT: Changan Oman has announced the launch of the all-new 2026 EADO Premium. Under the inspiring tagline 'Beyond Your Expectation', this latest model arrives with a comprehensive suite of advanced features, setting a new benchmark for the segment in the Sultanate with its segment-leading six-year/250,000 km manufacturer's warranty.

The 2026 EADO Premium features a highly efficient 1.5-litre engine utilising Changan's signature BlueCore technology. This powertrain delivers 103 hp and 145 Nm of torque, mated to a smooth 7-speed Dual Clutch Transmission (DCT) with an Electronic Shift Mechanism.

A spokesperson for Changan Oman said, "We are thrilled to bring the 2026 EADO Premium to our drivers.

"This model perfectly balances performance and practicality, offering premium technology and safety usually reserved for higher segments. With our extensive warranty and 'BlueCore' efficiency, we are ensuring that our customers enjoy an ownership experience that truly goes beyond their expectations."

The vehicle's exterior presence is defined by 16-inch alloy wheels,



LED Daytime Running Lights (DRL), and automatic headlamps, alongside power-adjustable OR-VMs. The car measures 4730mm in length, 1820mm in width, and 1505mm in height, sitting on a substantial 2700mm wheelbase for a

spacious cabin

EADO Premium offers a tech-forward environment featuring a 10-inch infotainment screen with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, supported by 4 speakers and both front and rear USB ports.

Comfort is guaranteed with fabric seats, a centre armrest with console box, and automatic air conditioning with dedicated rear vents. The driver can enjoy multi-function tilt and telescopic steering wheel, Cruise Control, and the

convenience of a Smart Key with Push Button Start. Additional conveniences include central locking, power windows, and an Electronic Parking Brake.

Prioritising the well-being of every occupant, the EADO Premi-

um is engineered with a comprehensive suite of stability systems including ABS, EBD, Traction Control (TCS), Electronic Stability Control (ESC), and Brake Assist (BA). For added confidence on gradients, the vehicle features Hill Hold Control (HHC) and Hill Start Assist (HAS).

The interior offers robust protection through Driver, Passenger, and Side airbags, while effortless manoeuvring is ensured by rear parking sensors and a Reverse View Camera.

About AGAE

Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment (AGAE) offers state-of-the-art showrooms located in Al Qurum, Mawaleh, Sohar, Ibri, and Salalah, along with additional new showrooms in Nizwa, Barka and Sur. In addition, AGAE has established fourteen service centres across Oman, including its main service centre in Azaiba, Muscat, providing comprehensive maintenance and repair services.

For more information, contact Changan Oman at the toll-free number 80050800, via WhatsApp at 96628909, or visit the newly launched showroom in Al Qurum. Customers can also visit www.changanoman.com to book test drives, request a callback,

OMAN OIL PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by March 2026 reaching \$64.61, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rise by \$1.76 from the price of Tuesday, which was which was \$62.85.

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 6,361.45 points, up by 1.44% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 1.32% at 595.97 points. Al Madina Investments, up 10.00%, was the top gainer while, Gulf Hotels, down 10.00%, was the top loser.

OMR3mn Raysut Fishing Port project reaches 81% completion

This project is part of the efforts led by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources to enhance the efficiency and development of fishing ports



SALALAH: The completion rate of the development project for the fishing port in Raysut, Wilayat of Salalah, has reached approximately 81 percent, with a total cost of nearly OMR3 million. This project is part of the efforts led by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources to enhance the efficiency and development of fishing ports. Eng. Abdul Nasser Aubad Ghaswas, Director of the Fisheries Department in Dhofar Governorate, told Oman News Agency that the Ministry is continuing the construction work according to the approved schedule, with comple-

tion expected in the first quarter of 2026. He noted that the port's development aims to support local fishermen and bolster fishing activities in the Wilayat of Salalah. He explained that the rehabilitation works include the construction of a 610-meter breakwater and a 60-meter fixed wharf, alongside the creation of a 250-meter rock groyne to provide primary protection against sand and silt encroachment into the port. He added that the project also involves the construction of a boat ramp and the paving of a one-kilometer internal road connecting the existing road to the fixed wharf,



in addition to installing lighting, implementing rainwater drainage systems, deepening approximately 100,000 cubic meters of sand within the port basin, and reclaiming 30,000 square meters of land adjacent to the fixed wharf. Furthermore, he pointed out that four future projects are planned for Dhofar Governorate within the

Ministry's project matrix, categorized by priority. These include the development of the fishing port in the Wilayat of Mirbat, the establishment of fishing ports in the

centers of the Wilayats of Sadah and Rakhut, and a project to establish a fishing port in Al Shuwaymiyah in the Wilayat of Shalim and Al Hallaniyat Islands. **ONA**

OMANI-AUSTRIAN



Business forum discusses means of enhancing trade and investment

MUSCAT: The Omani-Austrian Business Forum organized a meeting under the auspices of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI). The meeting discussed ways to enhance trade and investment and explore new vistas for cooperation between the private sectors of the two countries in different economic sectors, including healthcare, construction, water treatment, glass industries, sustainability and technology. Beate Meinel-Reisinger, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Austria (Federal Minister for European and International Affairs), said that "The Sultanate of Oman represents a promising economic partner in the region, due its strategic geographic location as a gateway to the markets of Asia, Africa, and GCC states—thanks to the country's economic stability and its clear development vision that extends until 2040." The Austrian minister pointed out that Oman Vision 2040 opens up broad prospects for enhancing trade and investment between the two countries, notably in the sectors of industry, energy and tourism. She underlined Austria's keenness to expand cooperation with the Omani private sector. She added that the envisaged launch of a direct flight route between Muscat and Vienna will constitute a cornerstone in boosting trade and tourism—bringing the business communities of both countries closer together and supporting the establishment of deeper and more sustainable economic partnerships. Faisal Abdullah Al Rawas, Chairman of OCCI Board of Directors, said, "The visit of the

Austrian trade delegation is in pursuance of a programme to boost bilateral relations between the two countries and reflects their shared commitment to promote economic, commercial and industrial cooperation." Al Rawas added that Omani-Austrian relations have been distinguished for decades by mutual respect and understanding, noting that these relations saw gradual development across various sectors. He affirmed that the two countries now share many opportunities to maximize gains through their private sectors more than any other time before. Al Rawas explained that holding the Omani-Austrian Business Forum comes at a crucial time, given the developments taking place in the global economy and the growing need to build genuine partnerships between private sector establishments, based on the exchange of expertise, knowledge transfer, value chains and joint investments that serve mutual interests. This meeting represents an opportunity for exchanging experiences and expertise between business owners in the two countries within the context Oman Vision 2040." Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry believes in the significance of the role of the private sector as a key partner in economic development, said Al Rawas, noting that the OCCI is keen to support such high-quality meetings and convert their outcomes into tangible partnerships and projects that contribute to augmenting the volume of trade and economic cooperation between Omani and Austrian companies. **ONA**

ENERGY DEVELOPMENT OMAN

EDO issues USD 10-year Sukuk worth OMR250mn

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Energy Development Oman (EDO) has announced the successful issuance of a USD 10-year Sukuk of OMR250 million (USD 650 million), maturing in January 2036. This transaction is part of EDO's ongoing financing strategy to support a portion of its annual capital expenditure requirements, diversify its funding sources, and optimise its capital structure. Priced at a profit rate of 5.14%, the Sukuk achieved a credit spread of 100 basis points over the 10-year US Treasury benchmark, representing the tightest pricing ever secured by an Omani government-related entity (GRE). This success follows the recent upgrade of both EDO and the Sultanate of Oman to investment grade (BBB-) by Fitch, matching that from S&P. This marks EDO's third US dollar Sukuk issuance, building on the company's earlier transactions in 2023 and 2024. The 5.14% profit rate compares favourably to the 5.875% achieved for EDO's debut 10-year Sukuk and the 5.662% secured for the 7-year issuance in 2024, underscoring a strong pricing outcome, particularly in light of lower oil prices and increased geopolitical uncertainty.

Diversified participation
The decision to move swiftly in early January allowed EDO to



take advantage of a constructive window in the market and secure a portion of its 2026 financing early in the year. Citi, J.P. Morgan and Standard Chartered acted as Global Coordinators on the transaction, while DIB, HSBC, Mashreq and Sohar International joined as Joint Bookrunners. The issuance attracted strong and diversified participation from investors across Asia, Europe, the GCC, the UK and the US. With this latest transaction, EDO extends the average tenor of

its debt portfolio while further optimising its overall cost of funding. Commenting on the issuance, Eng. Sultan al Mamari, Chief Financial Officer at EDO, said: "EDO is delighted with the success of our latest USD Sukuk, which set a new benchmark for attractive pricing by an Omani GRE. We are pleased to have locked in a significant portion of our financing requirements early in 2026, given the uncertain global outlook. The success of this transaction reflects the improvement in EDO's and Oman's credit standing,

as well as investor endorsement of EDO's business strategy." Since its establishment, EDO has played an instrumental role in shaping a more resilient and commercially sustainable energy sector in Oman. Through consistent delivery, disciplined investment, and closer integration across the energy value chain, the company has safeguarded production, strengthened energy security, and ensured the sector continues to generate long-term value for the Sultanate of Oman.

FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

India-EU trade pact to unlock \$23tn market for Indian MSMEs

NEW DELHI: The newly concluded India-European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is set to unlock significant business opportunities for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), marking a major transition in the country's economic landscape. According to Ranjeet Mehta, CEO and Secretary General of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI), the agreement provides Indian industries with a gateway to a massive USD 23 trillion economy. The trade pact covers 27 countries within the European Union and is expected to act as a vital buffer for smaller businesses. Speaking to ANI, Dr Mehta said, "India-EU deal is a pivotal economic milestone. This opens the door for Indian industries to reach around a USD 23 trillion. The EU consists of around 27 countries. I think that

this will open even bigger business opportunities for our MSMEs, especially the MSMEs who have been hit hardest by the US tariffs." **Key sectors**
Key labour-intensive sectors are poised to lead the growth under this new framework. The agreement focuses on providing relief and expansion for traditional export categories that have recently faced global trade headwinds. "Sectors like textiles, apparel, gems and jewellery. These sectors will definitely be benefited by this. And this will also open up doors for employment opportunities in our country," Mehta stated. He noted that the combined population of India and the EU exceeds 2 billion people, representing approximately 25 per cent of the world economy. The deal also emphasises deep

structural integration between the two regions, particularly in technical fields. Mehta explained that the partnership is "integrating in the global value chain, especially in sectors like logistics and manufacturing." **Win-win situation**
He further added that the industry expects substantial technological integration and increased investment into the Indian economy, describing the agreement as a "win-win situation for both the EU and India." Recent data from the PHDCCI SME index reinforces this optimistic outlook for the manufacturing sector. A survey conducted with industry members and manufacturing units indicates a robust trajectory for domestic production. "I think that this shows the robust growth in manufacturing,

Also, the industry has an intention to hire more people in the coming quarters," Mehta told ANI. **Positive momentum**
Analysis by PHDCCI suggests that demand for goods and services remains strong as the market expands. The industry body anticipates that the positive momentum will continue through the upcoming months, driven largely by the favourable trade environment created by the new pact. "Based on our analysis, it shows that there is a stronger demand for goods and services. Also, we see stronger growth, with a trajectory, expected in the coming quarters. I think MSMEs are upbeat about the market and especially in the backdrop of the trade deal between India and the EU. All the MSMEs are set to gain through this FTA," Mehta said. **ANI**

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Al Madina Investments, up 10.00%, was the top gainer while, Gulf Hotels, down 10.00%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 6,361.45 points, up by 1.44% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 1.32% at 595.97 points. Al Madina Investments, up 10.00%, was the top gainer while, Gulf Hotels, down 10.00%, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded while Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 6096 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 58.49 million, with more than 220.24 million shares changing hands. Out of 82 traded securities, 40 advanced, 19 declined, and 23 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net buyers for RO 2178K while GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for RO 1110K, followed by domestic investors for RO 1068K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 10,994.18 points, up 1.12%. Prices of Al Madina Investments, National Finance, Al Madina Takaf-ul, Bank Muscat, Sohar Interna-

tional Bank were up by 10.00%, 9.61%, 4.00%, 3.39%, 3.11% respectively. Prices of Financial Services, Global Financial Investments were down by 2.04%, 0.87% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 9,020.14 points, up 2.54%. Prices of Voltamp Energy, Jazeera Steel Products, Galfar Engineering, Oman Chromite, Al Maha Ceramics were up by 10.00%, 9.41%, 7.37%, 5.88%, 2.13% respectively. Prices of Majan Glass, Dhofar Cattle Feed, Oman Fisheries, Al Anwar Ceramics, Oman Cables Industry were down by 7.69%, 3.85%, 3.23%, 2.53%, 0.74% respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.32% before closing at 2,547.27 points. Prices of OQ Gas Networks, Abraj Energy, Muscat Gases, Barka Desalination, OQ Exploration & Production were up by 1.97%, 1.92%, 1.68%, 1.31%, 1.28% respectively. Prices of Majan College, Phoenix Power, Ooredoo, Al Jazeera Services, Renaissance Services were down by 2.40%, 2.35%, 0.67%, 0.52%, 0.31% respectively.—United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.
MSX 30 INDEX	6,366.21	6,271.43	6,361.45	6,271.43	90.02
FINANCIAL INDEX	10,994.18	10,869.76	10,994.18	10,872.75	121.43
Industry Index	9,033.04	8,792.44	9,020.14	8,796.48	223.66
Services Index	2,552.14	2,539.10	2,547.27	2,539.10	8.16
MSX Shariah Index	595.97	587.61	595.97	588.21	7.76
MSX TR INDEX	9,568.76	9,426.31	9,561.61	9,426.31	135.31
FINANCIAL TR IDX	13,061.47	12,917.21	13,061.47	12,917.21	144.27
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	11,136.95	10,840.32	11,121.05	10,845.30	275.76
SERVICES TR IDX	3,328.18	3,311.18	3,321.82	3,311.18	10.65
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,206.85	1,206.85	1,206.85	1,203.61	3.24

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
220,245,082	58,490,951	6,096	33,576,808,409	40	19	23	82

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PREV. VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	60,368	101,556	47	1.546	1.694	1.546	1.694	1.540	0.154	10.000	1.694	1.675	1.694	0.100	158,580,696
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	1703,663	1,588,721	69	0.870	0.935	0.870	0.930	0.850	0.080	9.412	0.930	0.930	0.930	0.100	116,155,103
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	3,482,704	438,287	129	0.125	0.130	0.125	0.130	0.125	0.005	4.000	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.100	22,750,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	33,850,563	12,081,313	563	0.355	0.387	0.353	0.386	0.354	0.032	3.390	0.386	0.355	0.386	0.100	2,747,341,325
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	59,230,939	9,727,443	738	0.161	0.166	0.161	0.166	0.161	0.005	3.106	0.166	0.160	0.166	0.100	1,098,462,881
OM0000002440	AL SHARGHIA INVESTMENT HO.	143,891	16,634	18	0.115	0.117	0.114	0.117	0.114	0.003	2.632	0.117	0.114	0.117	0.100	10,530,000
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	21,600	8,322	7	0.386	0.388	0.385	0.388	0.380	0.008	2.105	0.388	0.385	0.388	0.100	38,800,000
OM0000008072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	10,930,033	2,341,729	675	0.205	0.207	0.204	0.207	0.203	0.004	1.970	0.207	0.202	0.207	0.100	896,439,151
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	5,857,556	2,164,021	430	0.365	0.372	0.365	0.372	0.365	0.007	1.918	0.372	0.370	0.372	0.100	286,514,040
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	1,645,933	597,655	46	0.359	0.370	0.359	0.366	0.360	0.006	1.967	0.366	0.365	0.366	0.100	342,470,444
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	2,806,123	267,524	84	0.092	0.093	0.091	0.092	0.091	0.001	1.099	0.092	0.090	0.092	0.100	32,763,711
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	2,079,265	831,132	35	0.397	0.401	0.397	0.400	0.397	0.003	0.756	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.100	650,378,542
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	6,622,213	7,276,922	193	1.099	1.099	1.097	1.098	1.098	0.000	0.000	1.098	1.097	1.098	0.100	823,500,000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	2,223,292	293,780	61	0.131	0.134	0.131	0.131	0.131	0.000	0.000	0.131	0.130	0.131	0.100	293,040,847
OM0000004925	ALBATHAH POWER	95,617	15,872	10	0.166	0.166	0.166	0.166	0.166	0.000	0.000	0.166	0.165	0.166	0.100	112,031,313
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	115,727	19,211	15	0.166	0.166	0.166	0.166	0.166	0.000	0.000	0.166	0.166	0.170	0.100	118,591,452
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	14,000	9,786	1	0.689	0.689	0.689	0.689	0.700	-0.011	-0.143	0.689	0.670	0.700	0.100	83,880,000
OM0000002224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	104,176	33,868	14	0.326	0.326	0.324	0.324	0.325	-0.001	-0.308	0.324	0.324	0.325	0.100	70,586,840
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	43,346	8,348	8	0.192	0.193	0.192	0.192	0.193	-0.001	-0.518	0.192	0.193	0.192	0.100	8,225,854
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	209,675	61,642	17	0.297	0.297	0.293	0.295	0.297	-0.002	-0.673	0.295	0.294	0.298	0.100	192,028,548
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	24,689	66,227	16	2.720	2.720	2.680	2.680	2.700	-0.020	-0.741	2.680	2.670	2.800	0.100	240,398,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	197,457	45,074	14	0.230	0.230	0.228	0.228	0.230	-0.002	-0.870	0.228	0.226	0.228	0.100	45,600,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	250,125	48,735	40	0.196	0.199	0.193	0.193	0.198	-0.005	-2.525	0.193	0.194	0.194	0.100	42,460,000
Total	23	131,713,155	37,934,082	3,250												

Parallel Market

OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	1,135,066	49,313	67	0.041	0.044	0.040	0.044	0.040	0.004	10.000	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.100	3,740,000
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	253,270	49,134	22	0.194	0.194	0.194	0.194	0.177	0.017	9.605	0.194	0.194	0.194	0.100	117,976,548
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	101,162	20,165	20	0.193	0.205	0.193	0.205	0.191	0.014	7.330	0.205	0.195	0.205	0.100	121,244,560
OM0000001020	OMAN CHROMITE	100	360	1	3.600	3.600	3.600	3.600	3.400	0.200	5.882	3.600	3.600	3.600	1.000	11,880,000
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	2,430	697	2	0.282	0.288	0.282	0.288	0.282	0.006	2.128	0.288	0.282	0.290	0.100	15,840,000
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	4,000	484	2	0.121	0.121	0.121	0.121	0.119	0.002	1.681	0.121	0.121	0.125	0.100	3,630,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	1,783,601	234,385	51	0.130	0.132	0.130	0.132	0.130	0.002	1.538	0.132	0.131	0.132	0.100	39,408,987
OM0000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	3,000	615	2	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.202	0.003	1.485	0.205	0.202	0.210	0.100	3,612,851
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	52,076	7,978	7	0.153	0.155	0.153	0.155	0.153	0.002	1.307	0.155	0.154	0.153	0.100	11,705,910
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	167,650	12,901	23	0.077	0.078	0.076	0.078	0.077	0.001	1.299	0.078	0.075	0.078	0.100	1,638,000
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	18,147,856	7,145,702	400	0.390	0.396	0.390	0.395	0.390	0.005	1.282	0.395	0.395	0.395	0.001	160,000,000
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	48,350	4,340	1	0.089	0.090	0.089	0.090	0.089	0.001	1.124	0.090	0.090	0.091	0.100	13,999,536
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	408,943	43,723	38	0.106	0.110	0.105	0.109	0.108	0.001	0.928	0.110	0.109	0.110	0.100	13,284,375
OM0000003000	AI MAHA PETROLEUM PRODS MARKTG.	30,200	33,237	11	1.110	1.110	1.100	1.110	1.100	0.010	0.909	1.110	1.100	1.110	0.100	76,590,000
OM0000003281	TAGEER FINANCE	1,467,785	191,475	48	0.130	0.132	0.130	0.130	0.129	0.001	0.775	0.130	0.129	0.130	0.100	36,299,018
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGG & INVESTMENT	1,067,289	156,477	5	0.147	0.150	0.147	0.148	0.147	0.001	0.680	0.148	0.149	0.150	0.100	22,200,000
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	1,000	469	1	0.489	0.489	0.489	0.489	0.486	0.003	0.617	0.489	0.488	0.489	0.100	90,688,375
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	5,840,260	1,050,962	277	0.180	0.182	0.179	0.181	0.180	0.001	0.556	0.181	0.182	0.181	0.100	550,203,534
OM0000006908	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	37,223,467	7,139,492	864	0.191	0.193	0.191	0.192	0.191	0.001	0.524	0.192	0.192	0.192	0.040	664,222,243
OM00000010120	ASTAD SHIPPING	15,175,229	2,964,246	570	0.195	0.196	0.194	0.196	0.195	0.001	0.513	0.196	0.196	0.196	0.000	1,020,913,879
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	90,458	36,000	21	0.397	0.399	0.397	0.399	0.397	0.002	0.504	0.399	0.397	0.410	0.100	18,260,000
OM0000004735	SEMOBOP SALALAH	50,370	10,931	6	0.218	0.218	0.217	0.217	0.216	0.001	0.463	0.217	0.216	0.217	0.100	207,142,113
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	340	169	1	0.496	0.496	0.496	0.496	0.494	0.002	0.405	0.496	0.480	0.496	0.100	164,112,864
OM0000001180	NATIONAL GAS	322,176	30,042	25	0.094	0.095	0.093	0.094	0.094	0.000	0.000	0.094	0.092	0.094	0.100	7,990,000
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL INDUSTRIES	71,000	4,970	4	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.070	0.070	0.074	0.100	3,735,000
OM0000001426	OMAN REFRESHMENT	118	170	2	1.440	1.440	1.440	1.440	1.440	0.000	0.000	1.440	0.000	1.440	0.100	72,000,000
OM0000001509	DHOFAR INTL DEVT & INVESTMENT	66,859	17,398	7	0.260	0.262	0.260	0.262	0.262	0.000	0.000	0.262	0.257	0.262	0.100	129,966,709
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	1,564,284	112,748	59	0.074	0.074	0.071	0.072	0.072	0.000	0.000	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.100	22,114,535
OM0000001889	SALALAH MILLS	1,030	438	3	0.425	0.425	0.425	0.425	0.425	0.000	0.000	0.425	0.410	0.431	0.100	26,546,802
OM0000002077	AI OMANYIA FINANCIAL SERVICES	39,500	6,283	6	0.159	0.160	0.159	0.159	0.159	0.000	0.000	0.159	0.156	0.159	0.100	50,151,303
OM0000002200	ABLI BANK	2,921	552	3	0.189	0.189	0.189	0.189	0.188	0.000	0.000	0.189	0.183	0.189	0.100	61,585,261
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	996	748	1	0.751	0.751	0.751	0.751	0.751	0.000	0.000	0.751	0.751	0.000	0.100	71,345,000
OM0000002333	SALALAH PORT SERVICES	45	19	1	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.000	0.000	0.430	0.430	0.000	0.100	77,330,000
OM0000002341	OMAN CHILDRINE	186,609	43,766	13	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.000	0.000	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.100	16,804,578
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	1,282	4,529	4	0.173	0.173	0.173	0.173	0.173	0.000	0.000	0.173	0.173	0.173	0.100	27,860,000
OM0000004348	SMN POWER HOLDING	26,142	280	4	0.218	0.220	0.218	0.220	0.220	0.000	0.000	0.220	0.218	0.220	0.100	43,919,822
OM0000005380	OMAN ARAB BANK	10,778	1,908	2	0.177	0.177	0.177	0.177	0.177	0.000	0.000	0.177	0.161	0.177	0.100	35,454,570
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	2,000	176	1	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.000	0.000	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.100	19,557,120
OM0000007910	OMAN REAL ESTATE	19,019	1,498	8	0.079	0.079	0.078	0.079	0.079	0.000	0.000	0.079	0.078	0.079	0.100	15,600,000
OM0000009569	JABAL REIF	242,200	24,904	23	0.102	0.104	0.102	0.102	0.103	0.001	0.971	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.100	177,480,000
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	67,707	6,794	9	0.100	0.102	0.100	0.101	0.102	0.001	0.980	0.101	0.101	0.102	0.100	65,507,822
OM0000001384	FINANCIAL SERVICES	60,950	5,851	12	0.098	0.099	0.095	0.096	0.098	0.002	0.241	0.096	0.092	0.096	0.100	1,920,000
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	290,912	48,681	50	0.170	0.170	0.166	0.166	0.170	0.004	0.253	0.166	0.166	0.166	0.100	242,791,820
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	20,000	2,440	2	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.125	0.003	0.240	0.122	0.118	0.124	0.100	12,078,000
OM0000001301	DHOFAR FOODS AND INVESTMENT	28,892	4,452	7	0.148	0.150	0.148	0.150	0.156	0.008	0.346	0.150	0.145	0.153	0.100	29,651,538
OM0000001111	GULF HOTELS (OM)	501	1,761	1	3.555	3.555	3.555	3.555	3.950	0.395	10.000	3.555	3.555	0.000	1.000	12,187,685
Total			86,084,472	19,473,716	2,697											



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

CONNECT

PRINT EDITION

WWW.TIMESOFOMAN.COM
THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026

PLACE YOUR
ADVT HERE

Email to : amcoman@choueirigroup.com



RENT

CARGO

VACANCY



RENT OR SALE?

PLACE YOUR
ADVT HERE

Email: amcoman@choueirigroup.com

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

ISO CONTAINER SALES, CONVERSIONS & RENTALS



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



**PLACE
YOUR
ADVT HERE**

Send your ad to: amcoman@choueirigroup.com



LOOKING FOR
LOGISTIC JOB ?



Send your advt. to:
amcoman@choueirigroup.com

VACANCY

**TRUCK AUTO SPARE
PARTS DIVISION**

Required:

Sales man and store keeper
Priority for experienced

Interested candidates
can send cv to:

hrrecruitmentautoparts@gmail.com

JOB VACANCY

URGENTLY REQUIRED

- Urgently Required Omani with minimum 2 years experience in Media house.
- Knowledge of English both writing & speaking preferred.



Interested candidate please forward
Cv-**ASamarani.OPS@ChoueiriGroup.com**

JOB WANTED

DOCUMENT CONTROLLER

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

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

SALES & MARKETING

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

Contact: 94976056

LOOKING FOR
ENGINEERING
JOB ?



Send your advt. to:
amcoman@choueirigroup.com

URGENTLY REQUIRED - ACCOUNTANT

A well-reputed hotel chain in Oman is seeking to recruit a candidate for the position of **Accountant with a minimum of 5 years' hotel experience in a similar position.**

- Bachelor's degree in Accounting and Finance/ ACCA/CA /CMA, or related field.
- At least 5 years of proven accounting experience
- Strong knowledge of accounting software and MS Excel.
- Excellent attention to detail, organizational skills, and ability to meet deadlines.

Interested candidates are invited to send their applications to:
vacancy@omanhotels.com
Deadline: February 10, 2026.

FINANCE

Senior Management Accountant/ Finance Manager

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

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

BUSINESS HEAD

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

Contact No.: 7708 8859

MEDICAL

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

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

GENERAL MANAGER

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

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

MANAGER

Finance and Accounts Manager
well experienced, MBA finance with 16years experience in Oman. Looking for senior position in Accounts and finance.
Contact No. 95920740
Email ID: alhameed1527@gmail.com

SERVICE

Cleaning services & pest control specialized cleaning of buildings carpet, sofa shampooing pest control, termite treatment Painting, plumbing, electrical works manpower supply. Glow Services Trading LLC Contact: 99844284, 99450130

JOB VACANCY

DOMESTIC HELP

Experienced cook required for a respectable Omani family, with experience in Arabic, Indian, continental food, able to read, write and speak English preferred. Good salary and benefits offered. Please send CV with photo to 99239659 or muscatprojects@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

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

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

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

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

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

Indian Male Accountant / Accounts Manager, B.Com, 12yrs experience in Oman, valid D/L, looking for suitable job. NOC available. Contact: 90302933.

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

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Indian male, 20 yrs experience, seeking a senior position in accounts & finance (Finalisation, Tax Audit, VAT Returns, Credit Control).contact:96761026/ email:mehreenraiz.com

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

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

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

Indian male, Bcom, MBA finance, 14 yrs of Oman and Indian experience, seeking suitable jobs in accounts. Have valid Oman D/L. Contact:97436925. Email : sandeep_as@yahoo.com

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

Accountant looking for job. Contact: 75024166

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

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

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

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

Accountant available immediate joiner, Indian male, B.Com, 10+ yrs exp (4 yrs Oman) Expert in Tally & Accounts Contact: 91471733

Indian male MBA, Senior accountant, admin having 10 yrs experience. Contact: 95416322, Email: aabynarayan@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATION

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

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

ARCHITECT

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

IT

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

ENGINEER

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

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

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

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

Indian male, B.E mechanical with 4+ yrs automotive CFD experience (underhood thermal, ANSA). senior CFD engineer at Alten India. immediate joiner. Contact: 9080451226 | +96896008574 | maheshbabuv1799@gmail.com

ENGINEER

Software Engineer / full-stack developer B. Tech computer science with experience at Google strong in Python, Java, Go, Cloud & AI systems. Contact: +968 91950661 | anaswer.impluse@gmail.com

DRIVER

Qualified pickup light driver available, valid PDO documents available, speaks English and Hindi, contact 97681676

Looking for driver job. Contact: 72852929.

Looking for driver job experience 4 yrs contact 94981482/ 76303505

LOGISTICS

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

MANAGER

Finance manager, Indian 26 yrs of experience, looking Job Change, Contact- 98006226

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

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

PURCHASE/ PROCUREMENT

Strategic operations leader with 22 yrs experience in Logistics, Procurement and Commercial administration. Expert in leading high performing teams across Store, Branch office, Warehouse, Service and Financial domains. Seeking leadership roles. Contact 93451519, Email anirudhadat@gmail.com

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

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

SALES/MARKETING

Indian male, 15+ yrs Sales exp. (IT/Software). Open to Sales/BD roles in any industry. Valid Oman D/L. Contact: 94110178

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

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

Indian male 15 yrs experience having Oman D/L Looking for suitable placement in sales & marketing- contact - 9169 3829

Indian male BCA. with 9+ yrs of experience in banking, marketing and sales . looking for a suitable job. available for immediate joining. contact: +96874194291.

BILATERAL RELATIONS

British PM embarks on China visit

LONDON: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer has begun a high-stakes diplomatic visit to China while managing unease at home and tension with the United States, according to media report.

Starmer's trip, running from January 28 to 31, comes amid shifting global dynamics and domestic pressure to balance economic opportunity with security concerns. It marks the first visit by a UK prime minister to China in eight years and is being closely watched in capitals from Beijing to Washington.

Accompanied by senior ministers and a delegation of more than 50 business leaders, Starmer is due to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang, and top legislator Zhao Leji.

Talks are expected to focus on trade, investment and broader cooperation, with both sides framing the visit as a chance to deepen economic engagement and political trust.

China's Commerce Ministry said Beijing is ready to enhance co-operation with the UK and pursue agreements to boost mutual trade and investment.

Domestically, Starmer frames the mission as essential to Britain's economic revival. With the UK economy facing sluggish growth, officials believe stronger ties with Beijing could open markets for sectors including finance, manufacturing and services.

The prime minister's office has stressed a pragmatic approach that balances commercial interests with national security.

However, the visit has drawn criticism from various quarters.

— ANI

Trump calls for 'honest' probe into Pretti's killing

This represents a turnaround in Trump's approach towards the incident, after previously defending the federal agents and their operational methods

MINNEAPOLIS: US President Donald Trump said he'd like to see a "very honourable and honest" investigation into the killing of protester Alex Pretti, who was shot by ICE agents in Minneapolis.

"I'm going to watch over it, and I want a very honourable and honest investigation. I have to see it myself," Trump said.

This represents a turnaround in Trump's approach towards the incident, after previously defending the federal agents and their operational methods. At the same time, even some Republican politicians pushed back on federal agents' tactics after the shooting, which was documented and widely shared on social media. Pretti was the second US citizen to be killed by ICE's crackdown on immigration in Minnesota.



Border czar Tom Homan arrives in Minnesota amid reset

President Donald Trump's border czar, Tom Homan, has arrived in Minnesota to take charge of federal immigration operations.

The Trump administration appears to be seeking a reset to its approach after national backlash over fatal shootings by federal agents.

Homan is replacing Border Patrol commander Gregory Bovino in leading Operation Metro Surge, the broad immigration enforcement effort in Minneapolis and surrounding areas, a senior administration official confirmed.

After arriving in the state, Homan met Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, a Democrat who ran for US vice president in 2024.

"Governor Walz met with Tom Homan this morning and reiterated Minnesota's priorities: im-

partial investigations into the Minneapolis shootings involving federal agents, a swift, significant reduction in the number of federal forces in Minnesota, and an end to the campaign of retribution against Minnesota," the governor's office announced.

"The Governor and Homan agreed on the need for an ongoing dialogue and will continue working toward those goals, which the President also agreed to yesterday," the statement said.

The shift follows the death of 37-year-old ICU nurse Alex Pretti, who was shot and killed by federal agents during enforcement actions earlier this month — the second fatal shooting of a US citizen in Minneapolis this year after the killing of Renee Good. Protesters and local leaders have sharply criticized federal tactics and are demanding accountability and changes to the operation.

In an apparent shift to a more conciliatory approach, Trump said he had "great calls" with Governor Walz and Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey on Monday.

Biden says Minneapolis shootings betray core US values

Former US President Joe Biden has sharply criticized the Trump administration's handling of federal immigration enforcement in Minneapolis.

"What has unfolded in Minneapolis this past month betrays our most basic values as Americans. We are not a nation that guns down our citizens in the street," the veteran Democrat posted on social media.

"We are not a nation that allows our citizens to be brutalized for exercising their constitutional rights."

"The people of Minnesota have stood strong — helping commu-

nity members in unimaginable circumstances, speaking out against injustice when they see it, and holding our government accountable to the people. Minnesotans have reminded us all what it is to be American, and they have suffered enough at the hands of this Administration. Violence and terror have no place in the United States of America, especially when it's our own government targeting American citizens," Biden said.

2 federal officers fired shots during encounter that killed Alex Pretti, DHS tells Congress

Two federal officers fired shots during the encounter that killed ICU nurse Alex Pretti in Minneapolis, a Customs and Border Protection official said in a notice sent to Congress.

According to the notice, seen by the Associated Press, officers tried to take Pretti into custody when he resisted, triggering a struggle.

Body-camera footage reviewed by investigators shows a Border Patrol agent repeatedly shouting, "He's got a gun!"

A Border Patrol agent and a CBP officer each fired their Glock pistols. CBP's Office of Professional Responsibility conducted the initial review, as required for all in-custody deaths, which must be reported to Congress within 72 hours.

In none of the half-dozen bystander videos is Pretti ever seen brandishing his handgun police say he was licensed to carry. In the videos, Pretti is seen being pushed by an officer before a half-dozen agents — DW

SAUDI PRESS AGENCY



Saudi Arabia not to permit use of its airspace, territory against Iran

Riyadh: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, on Tuesday affirmed that the Kingdom will not permit its airspace or territory to be used for any military actions against Iran, amid reports of a US naval buildup in the region.

According to a statement by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), the Crown Prince made the remarks during a telephone conversation with the President of the Islamic Republic, Masoud Pezeshkian, who briefed him on recent developments in Iran, including the nuclear negotiations.

During the call, the Al Saud emphasised that Saudi Arabia respects Iran's sovereignty and will not allow attacks or military operations against the country from any party, regardless of their origin. He also reiterated the Kingdom's support for resolving disputes through dialogue to promote security and stability in the region.

"The Crown Prince affirmed the Kingdom's position of respecting the sovereignty of the Iran and emphasised that the Kingdom will not allow its airspace or territory to be used for any military actions against the Islamic Republic of Iran or any attacks from any party whatsoever, regardless of their origin," SPA stated in its statement.

"His Royal Highness also affirmed the Kingdom's support

for any efforts aimed at resolving disputes through dialogue in a way that enhances security and stability in the region," it added.

The Iranian President expressed appreciation for Saudi Arabia's stance and thanked the Crown Prince for his efforts to maintain regional security and stability. This comes moments after US President Donald Trump reiterated his hard-line stance on Iran during a campaign-style event in Iowa, emphasising both military pressure and the possibility of negotiations with Tehran as tensions persist over the crackdown on protesters and regional security.

Pointing to a significant US military buildup in the Middle East, Trump said that there was a "beautiful armada floating beautifully toward Iran," noting that the Islamic Republic "make a deal." "By the way, there's another beautiful armada floating beautifully toward Iran right now. So we'll see. I hope they make a deal. I hope they make a deal. They should have made a deal the first time. They'd have a country," Trump said.

His comments highlighted Washington's show of force while also leaving the door open for diplomacy.

Iran is currently in turmoil due to nationwide anti-government protests, driven by soaring inflation, economic hardship and mounting public anger over governance. — ANI

INDIA

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar dies in plane crash in Baramati

BARAMATI: Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and Nationalist Congress Party chief Ajit Pawar died in the plane crash on Wednesday morning.

According to DGCA, five people, including the crew, on board the chartered plane flying from Mumbai, Maharashtra, to Baramati died after a crash-landing at 8.45 am this morning. The crash landing of Mumbai-Baramati charter plane occurred at the runway threshold in Baramati. Pawar was onboard along with 2 more personnel (1 PSO and 1 attendant) and 2 crew members. Further details about the crash are awaited.

Pawar was headed to Baramati to attend a public rally for the Zilla Parishad Elections. Pawar was in Mumbai on Tuesday, where he attended a meeting of the Maharashtra Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure, chaired by CM Devendra Fadnavis. Maharashtra Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule and other officials were also present.

Ajit Pawar was the longest serving Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra non-consecutively. He served in the position for six terms within various governments. He had worked as deputy chief minister in the cabinets of Prithviraj Chavan, Devendra Fadnavis, Uddhav Thackeray and Eknath Shinde.

He is married to Sunetra Pawar, with whom he has two sons, Jay and Parth Pawar.

In 1982, Ajit Pawar began his political career after being elected to the board of a cooperative sugar factory. In 1991, he was elected as the chairman of the Pune District Central Cooperative Bank.

He was elected to the Lok Sabha for the first time in 1991 from the Baramati Parliamentary constituency and later vacated the seat for his uncle Sharad Pawar. He was elected to the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly seven times from the Baramati Assembly constituency. He first won in a 1991 by-election and subsequently in 1995, 1999, 2004, 2009, and 2014.

In November 2019, he engineered a split in the NCP and joined a government led by the Bharatiya Janata Party and became the Deputy Chief Minister. In February 2024, the Election Commission awarded the party name and symbol to the faction headed by Ajit Pawar.

"Grassroots leader dedicated to Maharashtra people": PM Modi mourns Ajit Pawar's death



Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday mourned the demise of Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, remembering him as a mass leader with deep grassroots.

In a post on X, the Prime Minister said Pawar was widely respected for his hard work and dedication to public service in Maharashtra. He highlighted Pawar's strong grasp of administrative affairs and his commitment to empowering the poor and underprivileged.

"Shri Ajit Pawar Ji was a leader of the people, having a strong grassroots level connect. He was widely respected as a hardworking personality at the forefront of serving the people of Maharashtra. His understanding of administrative matters and passion for empowering the poor and downtrodden were also noteworthy. His untimely demise is very shocking and saddening. Condolences to his family and countless admirers. Om Shanti," the 'X' post from PM Modi said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday condoled the demise of Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, saying he was deeply distressed by the tragic news and hailed Pawar's decades-long dedication to public service.

In a post on X, Shah said Pawar's contribution to the welfare of every section of society in Maharashtra over the past three and a half decades was beyond words. He recalled their interactions, noting that Pawar always held detailed discussions on issues affecting the state's people.



"Today, the news of the loss of Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister and our senior NDA colleague Ajit Pawar ji in a tragic accident has left my heart deeply distressed. The way Ajit Pawar ji dedicated himself to the welfare of every section of society in Maharashtra over the past three and a half decades cannot be expressed in words. Whenever we met, he would engage in long discussions on numerous issues related to the welfare of the people of Maharashtra. His passing is a personal loss not only for the NDA family but also for me," Amit Shah wrote on X.

"I express my deepest condolences to the Pawar family. In this hour of grief, the entire NDA stands firmly with the bereaved Pawar family. May God grant the departed soul a place at His divine feet. Om Shanti Shanti Shanti," he added.

Ajit Pawar died in the plane crash on Wednesday morning.

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Arvind Sawant on Wednesday expressed grief at the news of the tragic demise of Maharashtra Deputy Chief

Minister Ajit Pawar, who was killed in a charter plane crash in Bramanti early today.

"It is very sad news," Sawant said, adding that the entire Pawar family is shattered by the news.

"I always did what he said. He was a bold man. He had a big role in the development of the Baramati region. I express my condolences to the entire Pawar family," the Shiv Sena (UBT) MP said.

According to DGCA, five people, including the crew, on board the chartered plane flying from Mumbai, Maharashtra, to Baramati died after a crash-landing at 8.45 am this morning. The crash landing of the Mumbai-Baramati charter plane occurred at the runway threshold in Baramati. Pawar was onboard along with 2 more personnel (1 PSO and 1 attendant) and 2 crew members. Further details about the crash are awaited.

Pawar was headed to Baramati to attend a public rally for the Zilla Parishad Elections. Pawar was in Mumbai on Tuesday, where he attended a meeting of the Maharashtra Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure, chaired by CM Devendra Fadnavis. Maharashtra Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule and other officials were also present.

Ajit Pawar was the longest-serving Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra non-consecutively. He served in the position for six terms within various governments. He had worked as deputy chief minister in the cabinets of Prithviraj Chavan, Devendra Fadnavis, Uddhav Thackeray and Eknath Shinde. — ANI



LIFESTYLE

RESEARCHERS

PIONEER NOVEL,

TARGETED THERAPY

FOR AGGRESSIVE

T-CELL BLOOD CANCERS

The innovative technique involves engineering a specialised antibody that selectively targets cancer cells expressing the TRBC2 receptor

A research team from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine has pioneered a new therapeutic strategy designed to combat rare and aggressive T-cell lymphocytic blood cancers, which often prove resistant to standard treatments.

Scientists at the Baltimore-based institution explained that conventional therapies typically destroy both cancerous and healthy T-cells, leaving patients vulnerable to life-threatening infections. The novel approach, however, leverages a subtle genetic distinction between healthy T-cells and their malignant counterparts. The innovative technique involves engineering a specialised antibody that selectively targets cancer cells expressing the TRBC2 receptor.

This antibody is then conjugated with a potent anti-tumor drug, creating a precision-guided therapy that delivers its payload directly to the tumor while sparing the majority of healthy immune cells. Laboratory tests on cells and animal models showed the treatment achieved complete tumor regression with no observed side effects.

The researchers further indicated that a combined therapeutic approach targeting both the TRBC1 and TRBC2 receptors could establish a foundation for personalised treatment regimens for the majority of T-cell lymphocytic cancers. - **ONA**

SPORTS

Djokovic gets lucky to set up semi showdown with Sinner



Since capturing his 24th Grand Slam singles title in 2023, the Serb has been bidding for a 25th and to become the most decorated tennis player of all time

MELBOURNE: Novak Djokovic admitted he got lucky after opponent Lorenzo Musetti retired hurt on Wednesday to send the Serbian great into his 13th Australian Open semi-final and a showdown with reigning champion Jannik Sinner. The 38-year-old Djokovic, chasing an all-time record 25th Grand Slam crown, has the tennis gods smiling on him.

His last-16 opponent Jakub Mensik pulled out without a ball being hit and Musetti was forced to retire with the Italian leading 6-4, 6-3, 1-3 on Rod Laver Arena.

Musetti was also forced to retire from the French Open semifinals last year - with a similar injury - against eventual champion Alcaraz. "Honestly, I never imagined the feeling of leading two sets to zero against Novak and playing like that and having the lead of the match like that and then forced to retire," he said. "It is something that, of course, it's really painful."

"I feel personally that I know my body and I feel personally that I'm kind of secure that this is a tear, unfortunately."

It wasn't really the way Djokovic wanted to cap yet another record - his 103rd win at Melbourne Park, one better than Roger Federer's previous all-time mark - but he accepted any route through.

The fifth-seeded Musetti was well on top when he needed treatment on his upper right leg, and with his movement badly impeded, was forced to reluctantly throw in the towel. "I feel really sorry for him, he was the far better player, I was on my way home tonight," said Djokovic, who had been uncharacteristically error strewn and staring down the barrel.

"It has happened to me a few times. He was in full control. "So unfortunate, I don't know what else to say. He should have been the winner today no doubt. I am extremely lucky to get through this one today."

Djokovic has been trying to move past Margaret Court and clinch the landmark 25 since his last major

title at the US Open in 2023. It has proved increasingly difficult with the emergence of Sinner and world No.1 Carlos Alcaraz.

Djokovic, who needed treatment during the match for a gruesome blister, added: "I am going to double my prayers and gratitude tonight to God for giving me this opportunity again."

Italian second seed Sinner was sublime in sweeping past big-serving American eighth seed Shelton 6-3, 6-4, 6-4. He holds a 6-4 win-loss record over Djokovic and has won their last five encounters.

"It is very, very tough to play against Ben, he has a huge serve and he is improving so much each year," said Sinner.

"I am very happy about today's

performance. We go day by day, today I felt I was moving again, a little bit better, I feel physically stronger again," the relentless Sinner said after easing into a sixth consecutive Grand Slam semifinal.

Sinner has a 6-4 lead in career head-to-heads with Djokovic, winning the last five. That sequence includes semifinals at the 2024 Australian Open and at Roland Garros and Wimbledon last year.

"It improves you as a player and a person," Sinner said of his matches with the tennis great. "We're still lucky to have Novak here playing incredible tennis at his age."

Alcaraz plays third seed Alexander Zverev in the other semi-final. - Agencies

AUSTRALIAN OPEN: WOMEN SINGLES

Rybakina stuns Swiatek, to face Pegula for place in final

MELBOURNE: Fifth seed Elena Rybakina booked her place in the Australian Open semifinals on Wednesday with a dominant second set display to hand six-time Grand Slam champion Iga Swiatek a 7-5, 6-1 defeat at Melbourne Park. She will now meet American Jessica Pegula for a place in the final

"Really pleased with the win," said Rybakina. "We know each other pretty well, and I was just trying to stay aggressive."

"I feel like in the first set for both of us the first serve wasn't working so we were trying to step in on the second serve to put pressure on each other."

"I think in the second I just started to play more freely, serve better and I'm really happy with the win."

Swiatek had made a quick start, breaking Rybakina in the opening game as she punished the Kazakh's second serve but the No.2 seed failed to consolidate, immediately surrendering her advantage.

Both players held serve until the final game, when Swiatek fired into the net to give Rybakina the opening set after almost an hour's play.

Rybakina then made the most of Swiatek's frustrations with her service, taking the second game of the second set by crashing a fore-



hand into the corner with the Pole rooted to the spot. Swiatek was left questioning a marginal line call as Rybakina broke her serve again late in the set before comfortably holding to advance.

Pegula sees off fellow American Anisimova

Jessica Pegula moved into the semifinals for the first time in her career with a 6-3, 7-6(1) win over fellow American and fourth seed Amanda Anisimova.

The sixth seed, who exited the competition at the quarterfinals stage in 2021, 2022 and 2023, will take on Rybakina for a place in Saturday's final.

Pegula raced into a 4-1 lead as a clearly frustrated Anisimova struggled in the early exchanges, surrendering two breaks of serve inside the opening five games to allow her compatriot to go on and claim the first set in 30 minutes.

Anisimova had shown signs of regaining her composure late in the opening set and built on those improvements to put Pegula under pressure, breaking her serve to go 5-3 up in the set only to double-fault in the next game to squander that advantage.

The pair traded breaks to take the second set to a tiebreak, where Pegula kept her cool to prevail over an increasingly agitated Anisimova. - Agencies

Svitolina credits mental health break for maiden AO semi-final march

MELBOURNE: Elina Svitolina credited her first-ever Australian Open (AO) semifinal run to the mental health break she took at the end of last season, a move she believes rejuvenated her.

The 31-year-old Ukrainian swept aside French Open champion Coco Gauff in the quarterfinals on Tuesday, ending the American third seed's bid for a third Grand Slam title.

Svitolina, the 12th seed, reached the last four at Melbourne Park for the first time after three quarter-final appearances, keeping alive her hopes of a maiden Major title.

"It was difficult decision in one hand, but then I spoke with my team and family," Svitolina told reporters. "If I kept pushing last year, I think I would not start here. I would be exhausted, and even not sure if I would be injury-free."

"So for me it was important to just step back, and I'm very happy that I did that. Of course, now it's easy to say because the results have been great ... but I still think it's something that helped me."

Svitolina won the Auckland Open this month, her 19th WTA title, after ending her



2025 season early to focus on her mental health.

Asked whether she surprised herself with how quickly she rediscovered her form, Svitolina said: "I tried to trust myself... When I'm fresh, when I'm mentally ready to face difficult situations, then I can play well."

Svitolina next faces Belarusian top seed Aryna Sabalenka, against whom she holds a 1-5 losing record.

"It's no secret she's a very powerful player," Svitolina said. "The power in all parts of her game is her strength. I think she's very consistent for the past years with everything that she does on the court. I'll have to be ready for that, try to find the ways and the little holes, little opportunities in her game." - Agencies

PLAYER PRIVACY

Are we tennis players, or animals in the zoo, asks Swiatek

MELBOURNE: Iga Swiatek picked up a theme that Coco Gauff left the Australian Open with after the 21-year-old American's racket-smashing, frustration-releasing moments away from the court went viral.

Gauff said a "conversations need to have" about the seemingly limitless access-all-areas cameras that track players from the locker room to the court and just about everywhere in between.

After her quarterfinal loss to fifth-seeded Elena Rybakina on Wednesday, Swiatek was asked how she feels about the lack of off-camera areas for the players and what she thinks should be the balance between entertainment, constant content and player privacy.

"Yeah, the question is, are we

tennis players, or are we, like, animals in the zoo?" she said. "It would be nice to have some privacy," she added.

"It would be nice also to, I don't know, have your own process and not always be, like, observed."

Swiatek and Gauff are two of the top three players in women's tennis, so it stands to reason they'll be more in focus at the tournament.

Swiatek said there were parts of her game she'd like to practice immediately before walking out for a match and "it would be nice to have some space where you can do that without the whole world watching."

The 24-year-old is one of Poland's star athletes, and is fully aware that being in the public gaze is part-and-parcel of being a tennis champion. "We're tennis players,



We're meant to be watched on the court, you know, and in the press. That's our job," she said. "It's not our job, like, be a meme when you forget your accreditation."

"Oh, it's funny, yeah, for sure. People have something to talk about. But for us I don't think it's necessary."

No. 3-ranked Gauff, a two-time major winner, smashed her racket into the concrete floor of a ramp near the player area seven times after her Australian Open quarterfinal loss to Elina Svitolina on Day 10. She struggled with her serve in the 59-minute match, and stayed composed as she left the center court before trying to find somewhere in the shadows to vent.

Turned out, there's pretty much no place with the confines of Rod Laver Arena except for the locker

rooms that are beyond the scope of the cameras.

"Certain moments - the same thing happened to Aryna (Sabalenka) after I played her in the final of the US Open - I feel like they don't need to broadcast," Gauff said in her post-match news conference.

"I tried to go somewhere where I thought there wasn't a camera because I don't necessarily like breaking rackets."

She said she didn't want to smash her racket on the court within sight of fans because she didn't think it was a good look, which is why she saved it for a quieter area.

"So, yeah, maybe some conversations can be had," she said, "because I feel like at this tournament the only private place we have is the locker room." - Agencies

ENTIRE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Top Malaysian football officials quit over foreign-born players scandal

KUALA LUMPUR: The entire executive committee of Malaysia's football association resigned on Wednesday, the latest blow in a damaging eligibility row over forged documents used to field foreign-born players in Asian Cup qualifiers.

"The resignations are to safeguard the reputation and institutional interests of (the association) and to mitigate the risk of

further adverse consequences that could affect Malaysian football as a whole," acting president Yusoff Mahadi told reporters.

FIFA suspended seven foreign-born players for a year in September and fined the Football Association of Malaysia (FAM) \$400,000 for submitting false documents claiming they had Malaysian ancestry.

Football's global governing body

had launched a probe after receiving a complaint following Malaysia's 4-0 thrashing of Vietnam in a June Asian Cup qualifier.

FAM appealed the sanctions, but a FIFA committee rejected it and issued a scathing report slamming the association for "not taking any discernible disciplinary action".

It ordered a full probe into FAM's conduct and governance.

FAM has since appealed to the

Court of Arbitration for Sport in Switzerland, where the case is pending.

Wednesday's resignations will "provide the appropriate space for FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation to independently assess, review, and, where necessary, address governance, administrative, and procedural matters within FAM," Yusoff said. - Agencies



FIFA World Cup 2030 final will be played in Spain: RFEF president

MADRID: Spain will host the final of the 2030 World Cup, the president of the Royal Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) said on Tuesday. FIFA has not yet said where it plans to stage the decisive match of a tournament that will be co-hosted by Spain, Portugal and Morocco.

But Rafael Louzan told reporters at a media event that the title match will be in Spain, although he did not specify in which city or venue it would be played.

"Spain will lead the World Cup and the final will be held here," Louzan said, without elaborating.

Real Madrid's recently renovated Santiago Bernabeu Stadium has been long touted by Spanish media as the venue for the final, but recently there had been reports that Morocco could end up hosting the match.

Morocco was hoping to host the final at the under-construction Hassan II Stadium, set to be the largest football arena in the world



with a capacity of 1,15,000 after its planned completion in 2028.

But a chaotic final of the Africa Cup of Nations this month reflected badly on Morocco and it may have cost the country a chance to stage the World Cup final.

Barcelona also renovated its Camp Nou stadium and it could also bid for the final.

The 2030 World Cup will also see Latin American countries Uruguay, Argentina and Paraguay each host a match as part of the celebration of the tournament's centennial. - Agencies

Hadjar crashes new Red Bull in F1 testing



The 21-year-old Frenchman lost control of his car in wet conditions at the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya



World champions McLaren, who last week said they would first run their new car on either Tuesday or Wednesday, were not ready to run until late in the morning session and decided because of the weather to wait to run until Wednesday. They will now take part in each of the final three days of the test.

For Ferrari, Charles Leclerc drove in the morning and Lewis Hamilton in the afternoon, doing a total of 123 laps - just short of two grand prix distances - between them. Hamilton only experienced the car in the wet and said it had been a "very challenging" but "really productive" day.

F1 has introduced revised rules for chassis, engines, tyres and fuel this season that means the cars are completely new, and a much bigger role for the hybrid part of the engine will make energy management a major factor in F1 this season.

Seven-time champion Hamilton added: "Such a major regulation change, so to get through the day with no major issues is great. We just need to try and get some more days like this."

Leclerc said: "It's not been the best conditions because it was a bit rainy, but we did our programme because we are not focusing on performance." - Agencies

BARCELONA: Red Bull driver Isack Hadjar crashed his car in wet conditions on the second day of Formula 1 pre-season testing in Barcelona on Tuesday, *BBC Sport* reported.

The 21-year-old Frenchman, promoted to the senior Red Bull team for 2026 after just one season in F1, lost control at the fast final corner and hit the barriers.

The test is being held in private with no access for independent media, and Red Bull have not responded to requests for comment on the incident.

But eyewitnesses at the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya say Hadjar was on his first lap on a set of intermediate tyres having just

switched from full wet tyres.

The track was still damp and the weather was drizzly when he went off, spinning and hitting the barrier backwards. Team principal Laurent Mekies said: "It was very tricky conditions this afternoon, so very unfortunate that it finished that way, but it's part of the game."

"These difficulties came after a very, very positive day yesterday in terms of the number of laps Isack could complete in the car, and in terms of his learning and development and feedback to the engineers. "We will try our best to repair the car and see what's coming next."

Until then, Red Bull had continued their encouraging progress of the first day, and Max Verstappen had had his first run in the car in the morning session.

The four-time champion had an off at Turn Five on his first lap out of the pits but was able to rejoin.

Red Bull have only one further day of running permitted to them under the rules of the test, having been out on track on both days so far. The weather forecast meant only Red Bull and Ferrari ran on Tuesday - teams are limited to three of the five days this week.

PREMIER LEAGUE

Aston Villa sign striker Abraham from Besiktas

LONDON: Striker Tammy Abraham has returned to Aston Villa after the Premier League club agreed a reported 18 million pounds (\$24.82 million) deal with Besiktas on Tuesday.

Abraham was part of the Villa side that won promotion back to the Premier League in 2018-19, scoring 25 league goals while on loan from Chelsea, which sold him to AS Roma in 2021.

He was on loan at Besiktas from Roma, but the Turkish club activated their buy option on Monday for 11 million pounds, meaning they could make a profit on the player.

The 28-year-old England international will boost Villa manager Unai Emery's attacking options as the Midlands club tries to keep



itself in the Premier League title race. Villa are third in the table, four points behind leaders Arsenal, and host Brentford on Sunday. - Agencies

GOLF

Brooks Koepka 'rang Tiger Woods first' over PGA Tour return

NEW YORK: Five-time major winner Brooks Koepka said on Tuesday that Tiger Woods was the first person he called to discuss a return to the PGA Tour after leaving LIV Golf.

Koepka joined the lucrative Saudi-Arabian-backed LIV series in 2022, but left in December with one year left on his contract.

The 35-year-old has since rejoined the PGA Tour under a new returning member programme and admitted he was "nervous" as he prepared for his first event back on the series at this week's Farmers Insurance Open at Torrey Pines.

"I think the 23rd [of December] I was released and then called Tiger right away, then that process got the ball rolling," said Koepka.

"I've always had a good relationship with Tiger. That was what I wanted to do once I had the opportunity to, I guess, get reinstated on

the PGA Tour. "It was exciting and I kind of really didn't know what to do. That was the first person that kind of came to mind."

American Woods is a 15-time major winner and chairman of the PGA Tour's Future Competitions Committee.

And Koepka added: "I didn't know [the new PGA Tour commissioner] Brian [Rolapp], I didn't have a relationship with him obviously just because he's pretty new and Jay [Monahan, the previous incumbent] was going to be the next call."

"I felt like Tiger was somebody that I've relied on in the past for questions and answers and how to deal with things and I felt like that was maybe the most comfortable call for me."

Married with a young son, the three-time PGA Championship winner and twice US Open champion said he was leaving



LIV Golf to prioritise "the needs of his family".

"I don't regret anything I do," added the Florida-born Koepka,

who won nine PGA Tour events during his nine seasons on North America's elite professional circuit.

"I've learned a lot. I've always enjoyed the ride no matter where I'm at."

Speaking about making his re-

turn to Torrey Pines in California, he said: "Maybe I'm a little nervous about that as well, just to see, I guess, how the fans respond to it."

"I hope that they're excited. I hope that they're happy that I'm out here. You know, hopefully that goes, at least like the conversations I've had with players, that they're excited that I'm back and happy to see me play."

Rory McIlroy recently suggested Koepka's return to the PGA Tour could mean the rival LIV Golf tour was in decline.

But the Northern Irishman has now added the decision could also have been motivated by the level of competition.

"He obviously is a very competitive person and wants to compete at the highest level," said McIlroy, 36. "I think he made the decision that he thought competing at the highest level meant coming back to the PGA Tour. - Agencies

ROUND-UP

Tiggo 9 PHEV sets new benchmark for power, green efficiency and premium mobility in Oman

As the newest and most advanced member of the Tiggo family, it reflects Chery's long standing philosophy of "Conquer with you, Guard for love", delivering a driving experience that supports ambition while prioritizing family well being and peace of mind

MUSCAT: The Tiggo 9 PHEV continues to strengthen its presence on Oman's roads, earning recognition as a flagship SUV that



seamlessly blends advanced technology, powerful performance, and refined comfort.

As the newest and most advanced member of the Tiggo family, it reflects Chery's long standing philosophy of "Conquer with you, Guard for love", delivering a driv-

ing experience that supports ambition while prioritizing family well being and peace of mind.

From the first glance, the Tiggo 9 PHEV commands attention. Its bold octagonal front grille and 20 inch multi spoke alloy wheels project a confident, modern stance befitting

its flagship status. Designed to excel across the diverse landscapes of Oman, the Tiggo 9 PHEV stands out not only for its visual presence but also for its thoughtful engineering.

Inside, the cabin embodies comfort, intelligence, and sophistication. A 15.6 inch 2.5K HD center touch-

screen serves as the hub of connectivity, complemented by premium 3D stitched seating that enhances long distance travel comfort. The spacious, family oriented interior is crafted to create a warm, tech forward environment that transforms every journey, whether a weekday

commute or a weekend escape, into a refined private experience.

At the heart of the Tiggo 9 PHEV lies its new high efficiency hybrid powertrain. The combination of a 1.5T high performance engine with two powerful electric motors and a Dedicated Hybrid Transmission (3DHT) produces an impressive 423 HP of combined power and 580 Nm of combined torque. Despite this level of performance, the SUV maintains remarkable efficiency, achieving just 1.9 L/100 km (WLTC), making it one of the most economical choices in its category.

Drivers in Oman also benefit from exceptional long range capability. Thanks to its Super Hybrid DHT system, the Tiggo 9 PHEV delivers a combined driving range of up to 1,050 km, enabling effortless travel across the country's expansive highways with fewer stops and greater overall convenience.

This balance of power, intelligence, comfort, and efficiency makes the Tiggo 9 PHEV a truly future ready companion for families and professionals alike.

With its focus on premium craftsmanship, integrated technology, and sustainable performance, the Tiggo 9 PHEV redefines what a modern flagship SUV can offer, ensuring every journey in Oman is safer, greener, and more enjoyable.

SUPPORT

Renaissance Services serves as official support services partner for Muscat Marathon

MUSCAT: Renaissance Services supported the Experience Oman Muscat Marathon 2026 held at Al Khuwair Square from January 23-24, 2026, as the official support services partner. Now in its 13th edition, Oman's premier sports event, drew record participation, drawing over 15,000 runners from around 100 nationalities and further strengthening Muscat's growing profile as a tourism destination. With race categories including the full marathon, half marathon, 10km, 5km, Fun Run and Kids Run, the festival brought together trained elite athletes, amateur runners, first-time participants and families for an action-packed weekend.

Renaissance's contribution included support and cleaning services delivered in the lead-up to the event and throughout the marathon days, helping maintain a safe and clean environment across high-footfall areas. The company also provided food packages for organisers, officials and volunteers, supporting teams working



extended shifts during peak activity periods.

Speaking on the occasion, Mohana Prabhakar, Chief Communications and Corporate Affairs Officer, Renaissance Services, said, "At Renaissance, we view initiatives such as Muscat Marathon 2026 as aligned with our focus on long-term performance and sustainable growth. Supporting the strong youth participation in such events reflects our belief that investing in people today strengthens organisational resilience and value creation for the future."

Renaissance has a proven track record of supporting major sporting and community events in the region. Its experience includes catering at FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 stadia and last-mile venues, as well as delivering large-scale event catering in Oman, including the ICC Men's T20 Cricket World Cup and the Muscat Asian Beach Games. The company is Oman's leading accommodation services and integrated facilities management company and has been listed on the Muscat Stock Exchange since 1996.

OMAN INCLUSION

Conference at ABA inspires collaboration and action in inclusive education

MUSCAT: The second edition of the Oman Inclusion Conference (OIC) 2026, jointly organised by Inspire Educational Consultancy and Al Jisr Foundation, was recently hosted at ABA Oman International School, with inspiring keynote presentations, practical workshops, and strong community engagement.

The conference brought together educators, parents, practitioners, policymakers, and advocates from across Oman to deepen understanding and strengthen inclusive education practices. Building on the success of the inaugural conference in February 2025, OIC 2026 reaffirmed its commitment to advancing inclusive learning across the Sultanate.

Sarah Al-Mawaali, OIC organiser and Inclusive Learning Strategist, said: "Inclusive education is the foundation of a thriving society. When schools, families, and communities collaborate, every child is empowered to reach their full potential. The Oman Inclusion Conference brings together educators, parents, and practitioners to share knowledge, build skills, and implement evidence-based strategies. It demonstrates a strong commitment to inclusive education

and highlights the importance of equipping educators to create equitable learning environments for every student."

The conference opened with welcome remarks from Craig Williamson, Head of School at ABA Oman International School; Dina Al-Khalili, General Manager of Al Jisr Foundation; Janaab Sayyid Dr. Shariffa Qais Al-Said, Educational Consultant to Oman's Ministry of Education; and Nadia Sultan of Inspire Educational Consultancy. Participants were intrigued by the keynote addresses from Samantha Garner, Wellbeing & Cognitive Specialist, on The Impact of Inclusion, and Hatem Mahmoud, School Transformation Catalyst and IB Consultant, on The Ideal vs. the Reality, offering valuable insights into inclusive education in practice. Samantha Garner, in her keynote stated, "Inclusion is a journey, not a destination. Through shared experiences, continuous learning, and incremental improvements, we can achieve transformational change that benefits every student, family, and educator."

The Oman Inclusion Conference is the brainchild of the Inspire Educational Consultancy



team - Nadia Sultan (Founder & Educational Psychologist) and Sarah Al-Mawaali. Nadia stated, "Our vision is to build a strong, inclusive education system where support services are accessible, effective, and embedded into school culture. The Oman Inclusion Conference demonstrates how collaboration across sectors creates a powerful ecosystem for student success. By working closely with schools, educators, and families, we help align inclusive practices, support children's learning and development, and equip professionals with the tools and strategies they need to meet diverse learner needs. Through dialogue, innova-

tion, and capacity building, the conference advances inclusive education, strengthens student support services, and showcases best practices that will shape the future of learning in Oman."

The conference was proudly supported by Al-Jisr Foundation, a non-profit organisation that champions sustainable development projects aligned with Oman Vision 2040 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Dina Al-Khalili, General Manager of Al-Jisr Foundation, stated, "We are proud to foster initiatives that turn dialogue into meaningful action and support inclusive education across the country."



Bank Muscat's leading position in the Sultanate's banking sector, particularly in delivering trusted, top-quality banking services and facilities for both individuals and corporates.

Commenting on the achievement, Said bin Salim Al Auli, General Manager for Human Resources & Administration at Bank Muscat, expressed his pride in Bank Muscat being named the Most Trusted Brand in Oman, extending his appreciation to Apex Media for this well-deserved recognition. He explained that this award reflects the Bank's long-standing strategy focused on customer service and enhancing the

banking experience, alongside its pioneering role in delivering sustainable community programs throughout its successful journey spanning over four decades. He added that the achievement is a testament to the Bank's ongoing efforts to deliver superior banking services aligned with the latest global developments in the financial sector.

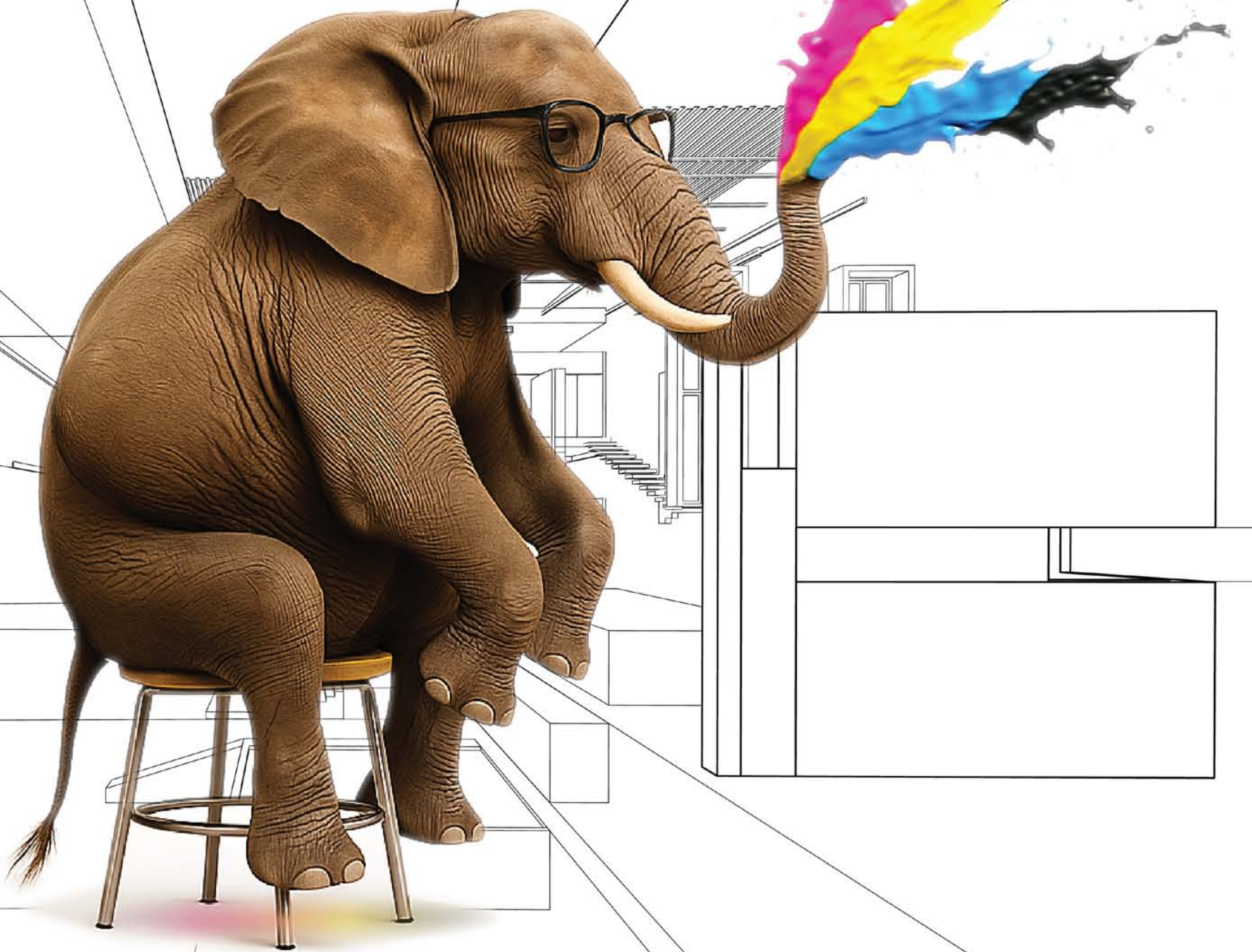
Over the years, Bank Muscat's brand has been strongly associated with numerous sustainable initiatives, community programmes, and campaigns aimed at reinforcing its leadership in the banking sector and its service to society.

The conference featured a diverse selection of 19 workshops, of which 12 were accessible in both English and Arabic thanks to simultaneous translation services. Additionally, all keynote sessions as well as the plenary offered the same simultaneous translation services, ensuring accessibility for all participants.

Sessions included Parent Well-being and the SEN Journey by Samantha Garner; Educational Services Provided to Students with Disabilities by Oman's Ministry of Education by Heba Al-Busaidi; Trauma-Informed Approaches to Inclusion and Learning by Raja'a Sultan; and a plenary session led by Samantha Garner and Inspire Educational Consultancy. Additional workshops explored Sensory Regulation and Circuits in the Classroom Setting by Denise Hill; Inclusive and Adaptive Teaching and Learning Approaches That Remove Barriers and Promote Success by Sandra Tibbles; ADD/ADHD: A Workshop for Parents on the Neurodivergent Brain by Clodagh Cahill; and Systematic Inclusion: Practical Tools for School Leaders to Embed a Whole-School Inclusive Culture by Hatem Mahmoud. Further sessions included

Building a Compassionate Community: Self-Compassion for Parents and Teachers by Alya Sultan; Supporting Independent Working Skills and Resilience in SEN Students by Samantha Garner; Universal Design for Learning by Ujala Chaudhary and Apoorva Joshi; Understanding Avoidant Restrictive Food Intake Disorder (ARFID) by Arabella Prowle; Reach to Teach: Practical Tools for Teachers to Connect with All Learners by Hatem Mahmoud; AI in Education by Kirk McCullough; What Is Occupational Therapy and How It Supports Child Development and Learning by Ibrahim Madhoun; Language and Communication: A Focus on Auditory Processing Disorder by Tasneem Hassan; The Power of 'We': Co-Creating Inclusive Education Through Cross-Disciplinary Teams by Vanessa Sequiera and Nadia Sultan; Understanding Terminology Linked to Neurodiversity: A Workshop for Teaching Assistants by Dr. Masooma Al Saleh; BTEC: Alternative Pathways to Success by Denise Hill; and Connecting with Bricks: Communicating with LEGO and Metaphors by Clodagh Cahill.

We make your Business bigger than your problems.



We get you ahead on

- Booth production
- Event conceptualisation
- Event management

Wait, there's more

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