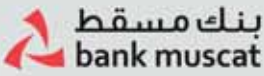




HM RECEIVES WRITTEN MESSAGES FROM KYRGYZ PRESIDENT, PM

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has received two written messages from President Sadyr Japarov of the Kyrgyz Republic and Adylbek Kasymaliyev, Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan dealing with the bilateral relations between the two countries. The messages were received by Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister when he received Jeenbek Kulubaev, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan. **>A2**



Get a callback
2465 6666

Get first year annual fee reversal Meethaq Credit Cards

Terms and conditions apply. Offer valid until 31 March 2025.



C.R. No. 1/14573/8



FOREIGN MINISTER BIDS FAREWELL TO INDIAN ENVOY

Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister received on Wednesday Amit Narang, Ambassador of the Republic of India to the Sultanate of Oman to bid him farewell at the end of his tour of duty. Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi expressed his appreciation to the ambassador for his efforts in enhancing bilateral relations, wishing him success in his future endeavours. — **ONA**

AFFORDABLE TRAVEL

National carrier Oman Air launches new series of all-economy class aircraft



MUSCAT: Continuing to evolve to meet the needs of today's travellers, Oman Air has launched a new series of all-Economy Class aircraft. Designed to offer more affordable travel options while maintaining the airline's renowned comfort and service, Oman Air Connect will consist of five Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft, the first of which arrived earlier this month.

The new aircraft will primarily operate to the Indian Subcontinent, Middle East, and Africa, complementing the airline's existing network, while offering greater accessibility to travellers. Alongside several recent service and product enhancements, Oman Air is also preparing to introduce upgraded in-flight entertainment, ensuring a more modern and engaging onboard experience.

Con Korfiatis, Chief Executive Officer at Oman Air said, "The

way people travel has evolved, with greater accessibility and choice; at the same time, passengers still want to enjoy a comfortable journey.

With this all-Economy fleet, we are adapting to these changing needs, providing our guests with more flexibility and choice without compromising on quality."

Oman Air, which embarked on a three-year financial transformation in 2023, has implemented several initiatives to strengthen its position in the market and ensure long-term sustainability.

The airline continues to serve over 40 destinations with a mix of wide-body and narrow-body aircraft, offering three cabin classes and a diverse range of fare options.

Through these efforts, the award-winning airline remains committed to delivering exceptional travel experiences tailored to the modern traveller.

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Muscat - a model of urban development

1 Muscat Governorate stands as a testament to successful urban planning, blending modernity with the rich cultural identity. Unlike many cities that prioritise rapid concrete expansion, Muscat has prioritised a healthy and livable living environment. **>A3**

OMAN

Dhofar Khareef guests top 1,000,000

2 The number of visitors to the Dhofar Khareef from June 21 to September 21, 2024, reached about 1,048,000, an increase of 962,000 visitors, representing a 9 percent rise compared to the same period in 2023. **>A4**

SPORTS

Oman team defeats table-toppers USA

3 Oman roared back into form with a commanding seven-wicket victory over group leaders USA in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup League 2 at the Oman Cricket Academy ground in Al Amerat on Wednesday. **>A8**

OCCI LAUNCHES 14 INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE BUSINESS



These qualitative initiatives will open up new vistas for the private sector, said Al Rowas



MUSCAT: In cooperation with Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-up Unit, the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) launched 14 initiatives on improving the business environment on Wednesday.

The initiatives aim to develop the governorates economically and help in expanding the base of economic diversification.

The initiatives were launched as part of a "Strategic Approaches Developmental Session".

The closing ceremony of the session was attended by Dr. Khamis bin Saif Al Jabri, Head of the Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-up Unit, Faisal bin Abdullah Al Rowas, Chairman of OCCI Board of Directors, heads of sectoral committees and specialists from the authorities concerned.

Al Rowas said that the development session stems from the

OCCI's ongoing efforts to support the private sector and enhance its role in the national economy.

He pointed out that the session sought to attract an elite group of experts, business owners and relevant parties to ensure the implementation of programmes and projects that are in line with the priorities of Oman Vision 2040, with the prime aim of achieving sustainable economic development.

The session reflects the OCCI's commitment to the approach of dialogue and communication with different parties involved in developing the business environment and strengthening strategic partnerships, said Al Rowas.

"Such efforts contribute to the realisation of qualitative initiatives that support the competitiveness of the Omani economy, opening up new vistas for the private sector," Al Rowas observed.

The participation of the members of the Board of Directors and heads reflects the Chamber's commitment to dialogue and communication with various parties for developing the business environment and strengthening strategic partnerships.

He said that these efforts will create qualitative initiatives and support the competitiveness of the Omani economy and open new horizons for the private sector.

Zakaria bin Abdullah Al Saadi, CEO of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, explained that the new approach adopted by the Chamber is based on discussion sessions and joint work to develop initiatives in partnership with various actors in the public and private sectors for supporting the national economy and enhancing the role of the Chamber and the private sector in development. **>A5**

FINAL STAGE

Yates claims Tour of Oman victory for 2nd consecutive year

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Adam Yates (UAE Team Emirates-XRG) secured a hard-fought second consecutive win at the Tour of Oman, finishing just behind Valentin Paret-Peintre (Soudal-QuickStep) in the final stage at the legendary Jabal Al Akhdar on Wednesday.

Despite the Frenchman's dramatic stage victory, Yates held on to his overall lead, finishing six seconds ahead of Paret-Peintre and 39 seconds ahead of third-place finisher David Gaudu (Groupama-FDJ).

The 138.5km stage, which included a scenic valley loop, culminated with a gruelling six-kilometre ascent at an average gradient of 9.9%.

Early on, a breakaway of 17 riders, including 2023 Green Mountain winner Mauri Vansevenant (Soudal-QuickStep), tried to seize



the stage, but the pace was relentlessly pursued by Yates' team and Groupama-FDJ, setting up a dramatic finale.

As the riders approached the final climb, with just a minute's lead, Vansevenant made an early move, but his effort was short-lived as

the group of general classification (GC) contenders closed in. Australia's Jay Vine played a pivotal role in setting the pace for Yates, while Damien Howson (Q36.5) suffered a crash but recovered to finish fourth overall.

The decisive moment came

with two kilometres remaining when Yates and Paret-Peintre surged ahead, leaving Gaudu behind. Yates briefly eased, allowing Gaudu to make a comeback, but once they entered the final kilometre, Yates unleashed a powerful acceleration that left the Frenchman struggling to keep up.

Speaking after retaining the title, Yates said: "From the start of the week, we knew this would be the decisive stage. Stage 3 had a tough climb, but it was shorter and more explosive, which didn't play to my strengths as well as today's climb. We were focused on today, and it turned out to be the right decision."

"Throughout the stage, we were in control from the beginning because we knew it would be beneficial for us to manage the breakaway and secure the time bonus at the end. The team did a fantastic

job, and in the final, Jay and Rafa set an excellent pace on the climb."

"I mentioned earlier in the week that I'm not in my peak shape just yet. My focus is on maintaining form for the long-term later in the year, so I'm happy with where I am and thrilled to be in the fight for the win. It's a positive sign for the future, and I'm just really pleased to take the victory."

Paret-Peintre, however, was able to match Yates' pace and broke away in the final curve to claim his first stage win for Soudal-QuickStep, crossing the line just two seconds ahead of Yates.

"I tried to drop Yates, about two kilometers from the finish, but I saw that he was very strong," Paret-Peintre reflected on his win. "I focused on the stage, and I'm very happy to start the season this way with my new team. It's great to win early in the season." **>A5**

TheGuide
A unique experience

theguideoman.com @guideoman

30th
MUSCAT





PRAYER
TIMINGS



Dhuhr.....	12:26pm
Asr.....	3:41pm
Maghrib.....	6:06pm
Isha.....	7:17pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5:24am



Comprehensive Shipping Services

Express Mail Service

بريد عُمان
OMAN POST

For more information:



1001

KHOULA HOSPITAL

Fertility Centre registers 79 pregnancies since opening

MUSCAT: The Fertility Centre at Al Wattayah Gynaecology and Obstetrics Complex, affiliated to the Directorate General of Khoula Hospital, has registered 79 pregnancies since its opening in February 2024.

The cases included 9 twin pregnancies, 13 births and 39 cases of pregnancy awaiting delivery. The accomplishment spreads hope among those wishing to experience parenthood.

Dr. Na'ama Al Ma'mari, Consultant of In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) and Intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) at Khoula Hospital, told Oman News Agency (ONA) that the centre received more than 5,000 male and female patients, conducted more than 30,000 laboratory tests, 900 treatment sessions, 729 egg retrieval operations and 224 frozen embryo transfer operations.

Dr. Na'ama said that training workshops were organised for some personnel of referral hospitals to qualify doctors to assess cases of delayed childbearing and conduct the initial examinations required for treating patients at the centre.

She added that educational and cultural publications were also issued to raise the awareness of patients about the causes of delayed childbearing and methods of treating it.

Dr. Na'ama pointed out that the Centre established the first specialized fertility-related database to collect reliable information and document observations on cases of delayed childbearing in the Sultanate of Oman. The information



was collected from the large numbers of patients visiting Al Wattayah Obstetrics and Gynecology Complex, she added.

Dr. Na'ama explained that, to improve the services provided by the Fertility Centre, this data will be analysed periodically and objectively in accordance with specific scientific methods and accurate statistical analyses.

This data will be used for conducting fresh studies in the field of fertilization and assisted conception, said Dr. Na'ama, noting that these studies will provide important data for the local community.

The studies will help understand the causes of high rates of infertility, determine the rates of infertility among men and women and find solutions and appropriate treatment methods, she added.

Speaking about challenges facing the Fertility Centre, Dr. Na'ama said that more than 25 percent of the cases referred to it are over the age of forty, which requires special strategies to deal with this age group and provide appropriate

care for them.

Dr. Na'ama said that among major challenges facing the Fertility Centre is the fact that more than 25 percent of the infertility cases referred to Centre involve patient aged more than 40 years, which requires special strategies to deal with this age group and provide appropriate care for them.

The Fertility Centre at Al Wattayah Gynecology and Obstetrics Complex affiliated with the Directorate General of Khoula Hospital offers hope to couples suffering infertility to overcome the problems of pregnancy and childbirth.

The centre receives cases referred from the obstetrics and gynaecology departments of all government hospitals, as well as health complexes in all governorates of Oman, including urology clinics treating male infertility. It also deals with cases referred from reproductive glands clinics at the Royal Hospital and Al Wattayah Complex, endocrinology clinics and fertility preservation oncology centres around the country. -ONA

FINANCIAL COOPERATION

HM receives messages from Kyrgyz President, PM

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has received two written messages from President Sadyr Japarov of the Kyrgyz Republic and Adylbek Kasymaliyev, Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan dealing with the bilateral relations between the two countries.

The messages were received by Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister when he received at the Foreign Ministry on Wednesday Jeenbek Kulubaev, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgystan.

Bilateral relations

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the bilateral relations between the two countries and ways to enhance them in all areas of common interest, especially in the fields of mining, renewable energy, food security, as well as enhancing investment areas.

The two ministers discussed the latest regional and international developments and exchanged views on them.



DISCUSSION: The messages were received by Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister when he received Jeenbek Kulubaev, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgystan. -ONA

They also underlined the consensus of their countries' positions calling for the adoption of peaceful solutions to address issues and conflicts in a manner that contributes to enhancing security and stability and spreading the values of harmony among countries and peoples.

The two sides signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on political consultations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Kyrgyz Republic.

The meeting was attended by Sheikh Ahmed bin Hashel Al Maskari, Acting Head of the Central Asia Department. -ONA

WFP

Sheikh Khalifa meets UN official

MUSCAT: Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs received on Wednesday Carl Sacco, Deputy Executive Director General and Director of Operations at the World Food Programme (WFP).

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed aspects of cooperation between the Sultanate of Oman and the UN Programme and explored ways to enhance them.

The guest commended Oman's role in addressing regional issues and its cooperation in providing food aid to countries affected by conflicts and wars.

Sheikh Khalifa expressed his



appreciation for the role of the World Food Programme (WFP) in assisting those in need in Gaza, Yemen, and Syria.

The meeting was attended by Mohammed Abdullah Al Qatabi,

Head of the International Organisations Department, and Dr. Abdullah Al Wardat, Director of Government Partnerships and Director of the WFP Programme in Lebanon. -ONA

AWARD

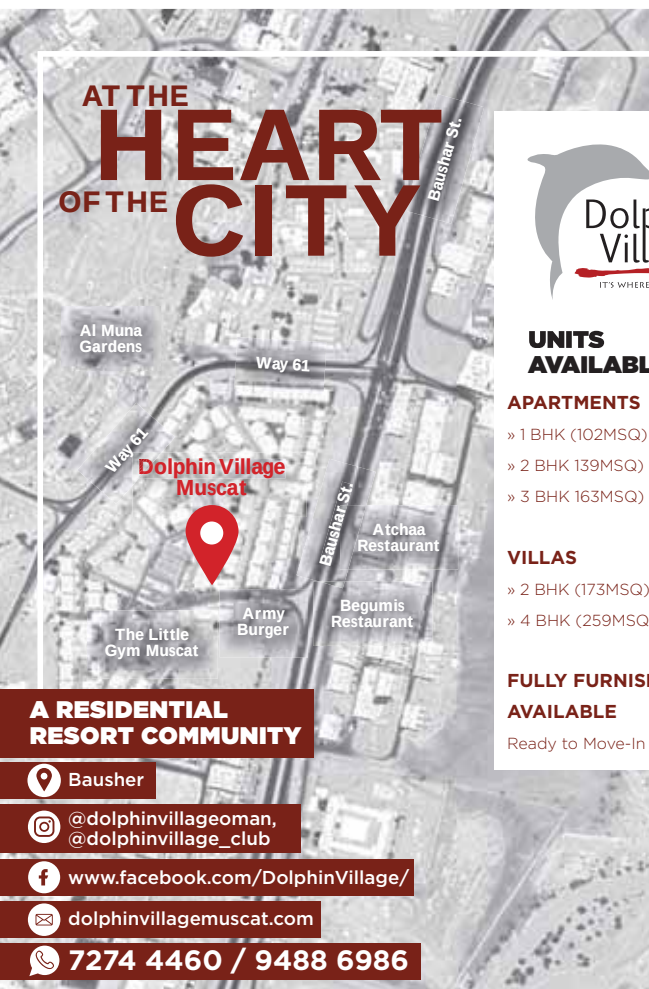
SQU student wins EMR21 award

MUSCAT: Malak bint Khalid Al-Ismaili, a final-year student at the College of Medicine and Health Sciences, has been awarded the Clinical Excellence Award in Research at the 21st Regional Meeting of the Eastern Mediterranean Medical Students' Associations (EMR21) for her research on 'Abdominal Pseudocyst Post Ventriculoperitoneal Shunt'. Her study involved over 200 cases and presented a systematic review spanning 50 years of abdominal pseudocyst cases, a rare complication of ventriculoperi-

toneal shunts used to treat hydrocephalus. The research analysed cases recorded between 1969 and 2022, involving 208 patients, the majority of whom were children (62.8%). The study identified infections and inflammation as the primary factors contributing to these complications. The findings revealed that diagnoses were predominantly made using CT scans (65.38%). Treatment approaches varied, ranging from surgery to shunt rerouting, with a success rate of 71.2% and a relapse rate of 9.1%.

Kaplan-Meier analysis indicated that patients who underwent repeated shunt revisions were more likely to develop abdominal pseudocysts within a shorter timeframe, whereas the age of the patient or the initial surgery did not significantly impact the speed of onset of this condition. The researchers emphasised the importance of early screening and continuous monitoring, particularly for patients undergoing repeated revisions, to facilitate early diagnosis and mitigate the risks of these rare complications.

AT THE
HEART
OF THE
CITY



Dolphin Village
IT'S WHERE YOU BELONG

UNITS AVAILABLE:

APARTMENTS

- » 1 BHK (102MSQ)
- » 2 BHK 139MSQ
- » 3 BHK 163MSQ

VILLAS

- » 2 BHK (173MSQ)
- » 4 BHK (259MSQ)

FULLY FURNISHED UNITS AVAILABLE
Ready to Move-In

AMENITIES:

- 3 Swimming Pools
- 2 Gyms
- Basketball, Tennis & Squash Courts, Table tennis
- Playground & Family Center
- Restaurant

A RESIDENTIAL RESORT COMMUNITY

Bausher

@dolphinvillageoman, @dolphinvillage_club

www.facebook.com/DolphinVillage/

dolphinvillagemuscat.com

7274 4460 / 9488 6986



THE DIFFERENCE...

Our History with you

Banking that is proudly human



Four elements that distinguishes Muscat from other cities of world

Unlike other cities, Muscat has focused on creating a healthy living environment by spreading green vegetation and caring for natural areas along with urban expansion

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Muscat Governorate is famous for its infrastructure and urban development, which is characterised by a combination of modernity and the country's cultural identity. This combination distinguishes the governorate from other cities that have witnessed a large expansion of concrete blocks and paved roads.

Unlike other cities, Muscat has focused on creating a healthy living environment by spreading green vegetation and caring for natural areas along with urban expansion. These efforts have culminated in extending thousands of metres of natural green spaces, perennial trees, walkways and clean beaches, all of which have contributed to enhancing the comfort of citizens, visitors and tourists.

Looking at the model of the capital, Muscat has focused on four basic elements that have contributed to making the capital a healthy city that enhances living conditions. These elements are: walkways and parks, horizontal urban expansion, beaches, and general cleanliness of the city.

Walkways and parks
Muscat is famous for its public walkways and parks, which work to enhance the quality of life in the city by providing the opportunity



for residents or visitors to spend time in nature, communicate with family and friends, or exercise and walk after a busy day at work.

During the renaissance, the capital witnessed the extension of large areas of walkways, green spaces and gardens next to the urban infrastructure.

Among these walkways is the Muttrah Beach Walkway, which is adjacent to the Sultan Qaboos Tourist Port, the traditional Muttrah Souq and the adjacent mountain range. This walkway provides a picturesque view of the sea, ships and mountains, giving the capital a unique identity through the contact of the mountain with the sea.

The municipal sector of Muscat Governorate has prepared this place with seating areas, cafes and a walkway adjacent to the sea water.

Not far from Muttrah is the Qurum Beach and Walkway for sports enthusiasts or walking away from the hustle and bustle of the city. Nearby is the Al Mouj Marina Walkway in the Wilayat of Seeb in the Al Mouj area, and a walkway in the Wilayat of Amerat designed for fitness enthusiasts to provide jogging and cycling paths.

Along with these walkways, the Municipal Sector of Muscat Governorate launched efforts and initiatives within its "Green Muscat" endeavour, aiming to spread a natural green area throughout the governorate. The efforts were



crowned with areas of 2,730,446 square metres, including nearly 20,000 palm trees, seasonal flowers and various other trees.

Muscat Municipality also opened Fins Beach Park in the Wilayat of Quriyat in cooperation with the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, and began work on the "Hail Al Ghaf Park" project in the same wilayat.

These facilities encourage the general public to leave their homes to spend more time in nature, for sports, walking or attending events and activities, which stimulates blood circulation and reduces the chances of modern diseases such

as obesity, diabetes, heart and arteries.

In addition to health, these facilities create suitable conditions for social gatherings for individuals and reduce their isolation, as they can take their families to attend events and nights.

Trees also play a role in maintaining air quality in modern cities by releasing pure oxygen, and providing stunning views that add another aesthetic touch to Muscat's modern architecture.

Horizontal expansion
What distinguishes Muscat from other cities is that it has preferred

a more horizontal expansion strategy than a vertical one, which has allowed the naked eye to see over a distant horizontal extension, and has allowed air to flow between buildings and natural light to penetrate.

This approach has raised the quality of life in Muscat and enhanced its distinction from its counterparts in cities, earning its praise from several figures and organizations, including, for example, Dr. Abdul Hafeez Abdul Salam from the Libyan Republic, who was honoured to visit the capital in 2024.

In addition to the health benefits provided by horizontal expansion, it allows easy access to all areas of the city without the need to drive long, crowded distances between tall buildings, or rely on high internal elevators and walk between complex apartment divisions.

This approach controls the population density in each geographical area with fewer floors and a population density that is neither too few nor too many. It has helped in smoother movement and walking, reduced congestion, provided a sense of belonging and familiarity among residents, and made the city safer, especially during emergencies such as hurricanes and fires.

Clean beaches
God has blessed Oman with a coastal strip that is more than 3,000 kilometres long, containing beaches and mountain ranges that have given the Sultanate a touristic, economic, and health advantage. Muscat Governorate alone has included within its geographical scope many clear beaches such as: Qantab Beach, Fins, Al Qurum, Al Bustan, and the waterfront at Seeb Beach.

These beaches help moderate temperatures in summer and winter through the water's ability to retain heat, and in addition to this advantage, Muscat Governorate, represented by its municipal sector, has taken advantage of these beaches by paving the roads leading to them to facilitate visits by residents and tourists, and preparing them with walkways,

green spaces and outdoor sports equipment, and allocating places for street vendors, and organising carnivals and events that continue throughout the year.

All of these factors have contributed to attracting residents and tourists, and encouraged them to spend more time outside their homes, to rest and relax, or to swim, or to exercise and play, in addition to water activities such as diving and boating.

Muscat cleanliness
Muscat Governorate is famous for its general cleanliness, and has become known as a city free of visual distortions. The Lonely Planet travel guide to Oman praised Muscat's clean streets, describing them as "well-maintained", and praised its parks and public spaces.

The guide described Muscat as a model of how to combine urban development and environmental sustainability, making it "an attractive and enjoyable destination for tourists and residents". In addition, National Geographic also highlighted Muscat for its environmental and cultural richness, including "its approach to maintaining cleanliness and the city's commitment to sustainability".

This reputation did not come only through the municipal role, but also from the residents' keenness on cleanliness, as public cleanliness is an indicator of citizens' and visitors' awareness of maintaining health, manifested by the keenness to throw waste of all kinds in the designated places, and participating in ongoing voluntary environmental initiatives.

The efforts of the youth have combined with the initiatives of Muscat Governorate and its municipal sector, through the continuous cleaning of the city's facilities, streets and beaches, the safe disposal of waste, the presence of sewage networks, as well as strict regulations that maintain public cleanliness.

All these efforts have culminated in the city becoming clean, enhancing its superiority over other cities, and making Muscat a place that enhances public health and an example to be emulated.

CAPTIVATING PERFORMANCES

ROHM to present magnificent pipe organ concert

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Music lovers in Muscat are in for a treat on February 13, as the Royal Opera House Muscat presents an exciting concert that promises to be an unforgettable event.

While the evening's programme, featuring Claudio Astronio, Gianluca Marciano, and the Piccoli Cantori di Torino Children's Choir, is filled with captivating performances, the real star of the show is the magnificent pipe organ housed in the Opera House—a true national treasure.

The pipe organ at the Royal Opera House Muscat is one of the largest in the Middle East, with over 4,000 pipes.

Crafted by the renowned Klais Orgelbau in Germany, this extraordinary instrument stands as a masterpiece of engineering and design.

Its grand presence within the Opera House perfectly complements the stunning architecture of the venue, making it not just a musical instrument, but a defining feature of the space.

Notably, one of the organ pipes was specially designed in honour of Sultan Qaboos, cementing the



deep connection between the Opera House and Oman's cultural heritage.

What sets the pipe organ apart is its incredible range of sound. From the softest, ethereal whispers to powerful, thunderous notes, the organ's rich and resonant tones add a unique depth to any performance.

The sheer scale of the instrument allows it to create a dynamic and immersive atmosphere, whether it is in the context of classical music, opera, or contempo-

rary compositions.

For this concert, the organ will be showcased in all its grandeur, with Claudio Astronio, a renowned organist, performing pieces that highlight its impressive capabilities.

Over the years, the Royal Opera House Muscat's pipe organ has attracted some of the most celebrated organists in the world.

Among the giants who have performed on this remarkable instrument are Olivier Latry, the French organist and titular performer at

Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris, who played in 2014, and David Briggs, a celebrated British organist known for his virtuosic technique, who performed in 2013.

Other renowned organists include Giampaolo Di Rosa (2016) and Hansjörg Albrecht (2017), whose performances have all contributed to the Opera House's reputation as a premier venue for world-class organ music.

The technical wizardry behind the Royal Opera House Muscat's pipe organ is just as impressive as its sound.

The organ has been designed with great flexibility, as it can be moved on a hydraulic system to allow the performance space to be adjusted depending on the size of the ensemble or the type of event.

This innovative feature ensures that the organ can be positioned for optimal acoustics in a variety of settings, making it an incredibly versatile instrument that can adapt to both large orchestral works and more intimate performances.

Its ability to transform the acoustics of the room adds to its status as one of the most impressive organs in the world.

The concert programme itself

offers a delightful variety of music, featuring both choral and orchestral works.

The Piccoli Cantori di Torino Children's Choir, conducted by Elisa Dal Corso, will perform pieces ranging from the joyful I Feel Pretty from West Side Story to the evocative La voce del mare by Francesco Corrias.

The choir's performance will be enriched by the Cheltenham Muscat Choir and Downe House Muscat Choir, who will add depth to the musical experience.

Their combined voices will bring a unique vibrancy to pieces by Henry Purcell, Giuseppe Verdi, and Jacques Offenbach, including the iconic Barcarolle from Les Contes d'Hoffmann.

However, it is the organ that takes centre stage in the second part of the concert.

Astronio will perform a varied organ repertoire that spans centuries, from Baroque elegance in Nikolaus Bruhns's works to the modern vibrancy of Philip Glass's Mad Rush.

A highlight of the evening will be Handel's Organ Concerto in G Minor, a piece that perfectly showcases the organ's power and beauty. Astronio's solo performance of

Mad Rush will demonstrate the versatility of the organ, transitioning from delicate, ethereal tones to bold, resonant sounds.

This concert is also a celebration of cultural exchange, with works that blend European classical music, modern compositions, and even film music, such as Vior sur ton chemin from Les Choristes and Eatmen Vuelie by Frode Fjellheim and Christophe Beck.

This fusion of genres reflects the Royal Opera House Muscat's commitment to fostering global dialogue through music.

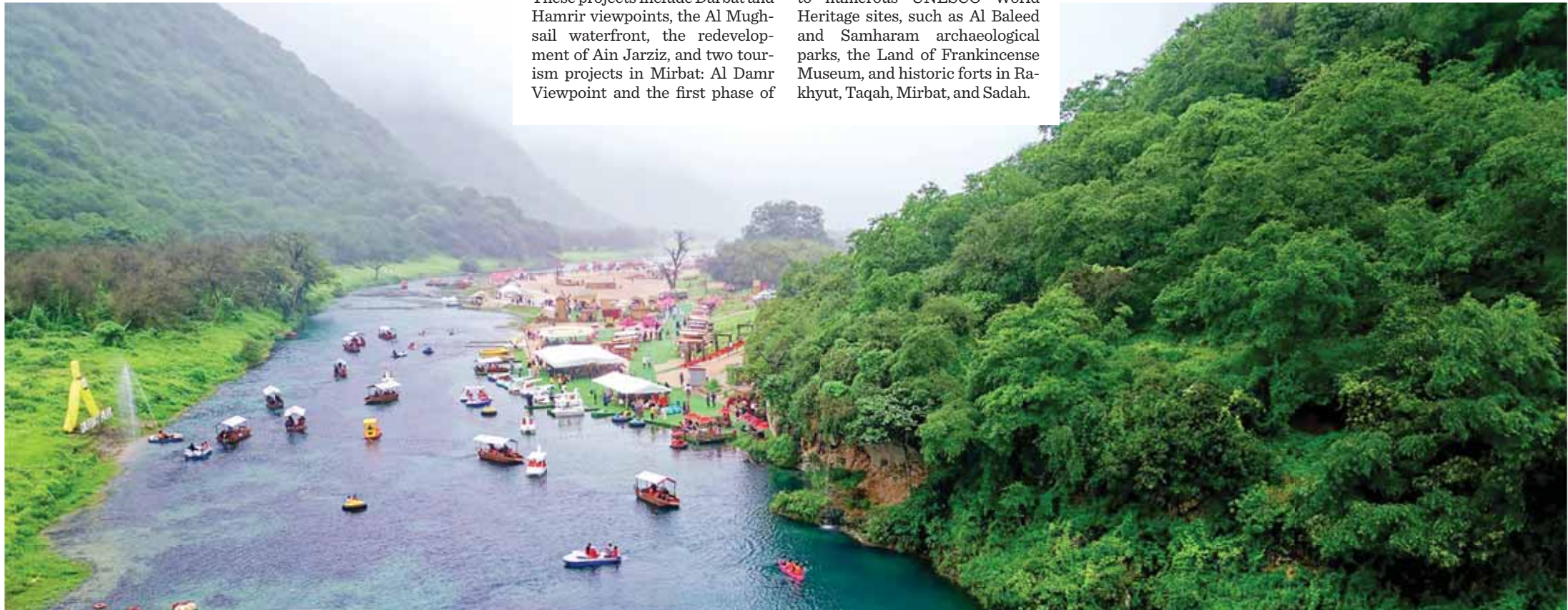
The grandeur of the Opera House, with its world-class acoustics, provides the perfect setting for this extraordinary evening.

The combination of the choral, organ, and orchestral music will create an immersive atmosphere that will stay with audiences long after the final note.

This is a rare opportunity to experience exceptional musicianship and a one-of-a-kind musical instrument, making it a must-attend event for any music enthusiast.

Don't miss this chance to witness the brilliance of the Royal Opera House Muscat's pipe organ in action.

Khareef season in Dhofar attracted 1,048,000 visitors in 2024



The National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) reported that Khareef season in Dhofar attracted approximately 1,048,000 visitors between June 21 and September 21, 2024, reflecting a 9 per cent increase compared to the same period in 2023, when the number of visitors reached 962,000.

The estimates indicate that the number of Omani visitors rose by 70.1 per cent, reaching 734,588 compared to 676,009 in 2023. Visitors from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries increased by 16.9 per cent, totaling 176,643 compared to 161,472 in the same period of 2023. Meanwhile, visitors from other Arab countries saw a 3.6 per cent rise, reaching 37,790 compared to 35,095 in the previous year.

The statistics revealed that the number of visitors from Asian countries to Dhofar's Khareef season between June 21 and September 21, 2024, increased by 8.3 per cent, reaching approximately 86,678 visitors compared to 78,401 in the same period of 2023.

Additionally, the number of European visitors rose by 0.5 per cent, reaching around 7,992 visitors compared to 7,433 in 2023. Visitors from other countries totaled 4,060 in 2024, reflecting a 0.3 per cent increase from the 3,008 visitors recorded in 2023.

According to NCSI, 794,596 visitors arrived via land borders during the Khareef season in 2024, compared to 722,795 in 2023. Meanwhile, 253,155 visitors traveled to Dhofar via air, an increase from 239,401 in the previous year.

The statistics also indicated that from June 21 to September 21, 2024, there were 103,073 international flights and 150,082 domestic flights.

Over the past two years, Dhofar Governorate has witnessed the development and inauguration of several tourism projects in collaboration between the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, Dhofar Municipality, and Omran Group. These projects include Darbat and Hamrir viewpoints, the Al Mugh-sail waterfront, the redevelopment of Ain Jarziz, and two tourism projects in Mirbat: Al Damr Viewpoint and the first phase of

Aghbeer Recreational Park. Additionally, Shat Viewpoint in Rakhut has been upgraded.

During the 2024 Khareef season, the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism (MHT) launched several promotional programs to attract visitors. These included advertising on billboards across Oman and GCC countries, hosting influencers and content creators from within and outside Oman to cover events and tourist sites, and running promotional campaigns on the ministry's social media accounts. The season was also promoted through external media platforms such as MBC TV and its digital platforms.

Furthermore, the Ministry sponsored various events held in Dhofar during the season, such as the 'Muscat Eat.' It also organized familiarization trips for international travel agencies and media delegations and hosted the 'Marhaba Dhofar' event, which welcomed 50 travel agencies and 16 media representatives from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, totaling 65 participants.

The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism emphasized that promotional efforts play a crucial role in attracting tourists from GCC countries and around the world, highlighting Dhofar's unique tourism offerings and exceptional climate. The ministry also credited its tourism representation offices in Dubai and Riyadh for their significant contribution to increasing flight routes to Salalah during the season, demonstrating the importance of coordinated efforts among the ministry, Dhofar Municipality, tourism offices, and airlines.

Khareef season is characterized by cloudy and rainy weather, with moderate temperatures that drop even further in the mist-covered mountain areas, creating an ideal destination for tourists from Oman and abroad.

Dhofar Governorate is renowned for its diverse natural landscapes, including coastal, agricultural, mountainous, and desert environments. It is also home to numerous UNESCO World Heritage sites, such as Al Baleed and Samharam archaeological parks, the Land of Frankincense Museum, and historic forts in Rakhut, Taqah, Mirbat, and Sadah.



HONGQI



ACERE

HS5

OMR 134 PER MONTH

7 YEARS SERVICE | WARRANTY |

ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE





Hongqi Oman



80080777



Azaiba

More than 76 tonnes of abalone caught in 10 days

Drones were used for the first time in monitoring abalone fisheries

SALALAH: The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources said that the outcome of its Fisheries Research Centre's 2024 Survey showed a good improvement in abalone catch, both in terms of sizes and abundance. The survey indicated that average abalone catch in 10 days during 2024 stood at more than 76 tonnes, compared to 149 tonnes in 30 fishing days during the 2011 season. The number of licenses issued



in 2024 stood at 2,369 compared to 4,418 licenses in 2011. Eng. Musallam bin Salim Raafait, Assistant Director General of Fisheries in Dhofar Governorate, said that the Wilayat of Sa-

dah achieved the highest level of abalone catch (93.5 percent, followed by the Wilayat of Mirbat (6.5 percent). Eng. Musallam added that the importance of Omani abalone lies

in its social and economic value, noting that abalone constitutes a source of income for the local community. Abalone is also exported to international markets to further enhance the income of individuals working in the sector, he added. He pointed out that the average price of one kilogramme of Omani abalone is about OMR45 in the local market. He added that the price of one kilogramme of abalone in the global market in 2019 stood at about OMR200. Omani "abalone" is a factor in supporting the tourism sector, attracting visitors and motivating commercial activity. Drones were used for the first time in monitoring abalone fisheries, providing guidance coverage and implementing digital transition in receiving and issuing license applications as a first stage in the 2024 season. -ONA

WASTE-DERIVED FUEL

be'ah inks pact with Raysut Cement, German firm for alternative fuel model

MUSCAT: Oman Environmental Services Holding Company (Be'ah) on Wednesday signed a memorandum of cooperation (MoC) with Raysut Cement Company and German company MVW to evaluate the feasibility of a waste-derived fuel production project and develop a sustainable business model for all stakeholders. The project will contribute to reducing waste and promoting the use of alternative energy in the heavy industries sector. The signing ceremony was held under the auspices of Dr. Mansoor bin Talib Al Hinai, Chairman of

the Authority for Public Services Regulation (APSR). This project is expected to radically transform the waste management sector in Oman and make it a fundamental pillar in promoting environmental sustainability and driving development. **Carbon footprint** It also embodies Oman's commitment to reducing the carbon footprint and establishing circular economy practices, thus placing the country among the world's leading parties in adopting sustainable solutions and building smart future cities. -ONA



TWO-DAY FORUM

Oman to host ICEF Middle East Scholarship Forum

MUSCAT: Represented by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, the Sultanate of Oman will host the 3rd edition of the ICEF Middle East Scholarship Forum 2025 on Sunday, 16 February 2025. The two-day forum aims to review programmes of scholarship, qualification and training programmes in line with national visions in the Middle East region, explore major opportunities for student exchange and research partnerships and consider ways to enhance cooperation among regional higher education institutions and their Omani counterparts. The forum will also review international indices related to higher education and national capacity-building and discuss challenges related to scholarships.



The forum will see the participation of GCC officials, stakeholders and decision-makers in the sectors of higher education, science and technology, in addition to representatives of more

than 60 universities and international institutions with leading scientific programmes linked to skills and specializations of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR). -ONA

OCCI

Detailed plan for initiatives

< FROM A1 He pointed out that this workshop was held in cooperation with the Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-up Unit, to ensure that the Chamber's strategic directions are consistent with national priorities. The CEO of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry confirmed that the Chamber, in

cooperation with the Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-up Unit, has developed a detailed plan to implement these initiatives in a way that ensures achieving the desired impact using a clear methodology aimed at enhancing the Chamber's efforts in serving the private sector. Khalfan bin Suleiman Al

Bahri, Director of the Office for Follow-up of the Implementation of Oman Vision 2040 at the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, pointed out that the development cycle of strategic directions witnessed in-depth discussions and a comprehensive analysis of the initiatives that emerged from the three pillars.

TOUR OF OMAN

Overall victory

< FROM A1 The 23-year-old Paret-Peintre, who impressed last year with a stage win at the Giro d'Italia, continues to show his potential as a key rider for Soudal-QuickStep, likely supporting team leader Remco Evenepoel in the upcoming season's major races. Despite losing the stage, Yates' consistency throughout the tour was enough to secure his overall victory. The British rider's performance at the Tour of Oman underscores his enduring strength and strategic approach to racing. The closing ceremony was held under the patronage of His Highness Sayyid Azzan bin Kais Al Said, Vice Chairman of the board of directors of the Oman Olympic Committee. Also present were Basil Al Rawas, Undersecretary of Sports & Youth, and other senior officials. Overall results: Fifth stage (top five): 1 Valentin Paret-Peintre (Soudal Quick-Step 03:13:15), 2 Adam Yates (UAE Team Emirates-XRG + 02), 3 David Gaudu (Groupama-FDJ + 45), 4 Embret Svetsad-Bardseng (ARKEA-B&B HOTELS + 51), 5 Cian Uijtdebroeks (Team Visma | Lease a Bike + 51). General classification (top five): 1 Adam Yates (UAE Team Emirates-XRG 21:13:18), 2 Valentin Paret-Peintre (Soudal Quick-Step + 06), 3 David Gaudu (Groupama-FDJ + 39), 4 Damien Howson (Q36.5 Pro Cycling Team + 01:07), 5 Cian Uijtdebroeks (Team Visma | Lease a Bike + 01:16).



Times OF OMAN



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: 24726666, Fax: 24812624, E-mail: advertising@timesofoman.com **CIRCULATION:** Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24818270, E-mail: circulation@timesofoman.com

60 COUNTRIES

Indian Ocean Conference to begin on Sunday

MUSCAT: Activities of 8th Indian Ocean Conference (IOC) will begin in Muscat this Sunday. The two-day event is hosted by the Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Foreign Ministry, under the theme "Voyage to New Horizons of Maritime Partnership". In a press conference held at the Foreign Ministry yesterday, Sheikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs said that Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister will open the conference, with the participation of ministers and officials representing 60 countries and international organisations from the countries bordering the Indian Ocean and countries that have a relationship with the Sultanate of Oman.

He explained that the Sultanate of Oman's host of this conference reflects its history and maritime relationship through the Indian Ocean. He added in this context: "As you know, the Omanis were sailors who sailed the seas for hundreds of years, reaching China, India and East Africa". He affirmed that the Sultanate of Oman's host of this conference is not the first initiative, but rather it is one of the founding countries of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), which was established in 1997, and has also hosted many conferences related to the seas and the blue economy.

Al Harthy pointed out that the aim of this conference is to enhance cooperation in various economic and security aspects between the countries bordering the Indian Ocean, in addition to the countries that have interests in this ocean. It also reflects the interest of the Sultanate of Oman in enhancing maritime security in the Indian Ocean, its support for sustainable trade, developing cooperation mechanisms among countries, enhancing economic interests, sustaining ocean resources, and improving transportation and maritime security capabilities, added Sheikh Al Harthy.

He further noted that the conference also aims to familiarize the participants with the capabilities enjoyed by the Sultanate of Oman in various aspects, including infrastructure and ports, which enhance Oman as an attractive investment destination. He added that bilateral meetings will be held on the sidelines of the conference between the Foreign Minister and his counterparts. In his turn, Dr. Ram Madhav, President of the India Foundation, affirmed that the 8th edition of the Indian Ocean Conference is the largest compared to previous ones, and participation will not be limited to countries bordering the Indian Ocean only as some Arab and Asian countries will participate in the event. He pointed out that the foreign ministers of 27 countries will deliver speeches during the conference, presenting their countries' visions on common security challenges and ways to enhance maritime partnerships. He affirmed that the main goal of the conference is to establish partnerships and develop cooperation between the various participating countries and organizations. He explained that the importance of this event lies in the fact that the Indian Ocean overlooks 36 countries with a population of 3 billion, and that 70 percent of maritime trade passes through this ocean. He noted that the event will address many urgent issues such as climate change, maritime security, piracy, human trafficking, and disaster relief. The conference is an annual international platform that aims to enhance regional cooperation and address challenges facing the Indian Ocean region. The 8th edition of the conference will discuss means of strengthening maritime partnerships, improving trade links, backing sustainable development and issues related to maritime security, ensuring freedom of navigation and utilizing modern technology to enhance port security and governance. -ONA



كاسابيل
casabella

اجعل حياتك أكثر
صحة مع **سير** بايو

Make your life more
healthy with **SIR** Bio

📍 Available in Oman



@casabelladistribution



@casabelladistribution



@casabelladistribution



مهرجان الربيع ماسلنيتسا
SPRING FESTIVAL
MASLENITSA
MUSCAT

FEBRUARY
21-22

3-10PM
FRIDAY-SATURDAY

AL MOUJ
AL MARSA PLAZA

experience
oman

Under the
patronage of

سلطنة عُمان
وزارة التراث والسياحة
Ministry of Heritage and Tourism



DANCE & MUSIC | ART - PERFORMANCES & WORKSHOPS
FOOD & TASTING | EAST EUROPEAN & OMANI FAIR

@russianhouseoman

Strategic & Media Partners



Levare

Gates of Arabia
البوابة العربية



Times
OF OMAN

النشئة



merge
SD-4.0



media pulse
TELL YOUR STORY

General Sponsor

الموج
al mouj
مسقط muscat

SPORTS

BLOW FOR INDIA

Bumrah ruled out of Champions Trophy, Varun joins India's final squad



MUMBAI: In a major setback for India's Champions Trophy campaign, Jasprit Bumrah has been ruled out of the tournament due to lingering back issues. While scans conducted in Bengaluru over the weekend showed no serious concerns, Bumrah is not yet fully fit to resume bowling, delaying his return to competitive cricket. The premier fast bowler, who sustained the injury during the Sydney Test in January, had already missed the England white-ball series. This marks the second consecutive ICC tournament he

will miss due to a back-related injury, having been sidelined for the 2022 T20 World Cup in Australia. Harshit Rana has been named as Bumrah's replacement. The Delhi pacer, who made his ODI debut in the ongoing England series, was already part of India's plans as a backup option. He impressed with three wickets in his first outing after a shaky start against Phil Salt. Meanwhile, spinner Varun Chakravarthy has been included in the final 15-man squad, replacing Yashasvi Jaiswal. The move comes after captain Rohit Sharma hinted

at Varun's selection last week, praising the mystery spinner's unique abilities. Varun, who has taken 31 wickets at an average of 11.25 since his T20I comeback, recently made his ODI debut against England, finishing with 1/54. Jaiswal, along with Mohammed Siraj and Shivam Dube, has been placed in the non-traveling reserve list. Siraj's omission raised eyebrows, considering his role in India's dominant 2023 World Cup campaign. However, Rohit previously explained that Siraj's effectiveness is diminished when he

doesn't take the new ball, leading to the team management opting for Rana instead. The ICC had set February 11 as the deadline for finalising squads, with any further changes requiring approval from the tournament's technical committee. **Squad:** Rohit Sharma (capt), Shubman Gill (vice-capt), Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul (wk), Rishabh Pant (wk), Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Harshit Rana, Mohammed Shami, Arshdeep Singh, Ravindra Jadeja, Varun Chakravarthy.

Oman stun table-toppers USA with dominant spin display



Duleep Mendis' men bounced back from their defeat against Namibia to pick up two points in the ongoing ICC World Cup League 2 tri-series at home



MUSCAT: Oman roared back into form with a commanding seven-wicket victory over group leaders USA in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup League 2 at the Oman Cricket Academy ground in Al Amerat on Wednesday. Bouncing back from their opening defeat against Namibia on Monday, Duleep Mendis' men delivered a spin masterclass to dismantle the USA batting lineup, restricting them to a meagre 151 before skipper Jatinder Singh anchored the chase with a composed, unbeaten half-century (82). Opting to bowl first, Oman's spin quartet - Shakeel Ahmed (4/26), Jay Odedra (3/23), Samay Shrivastava (2/34), and Wasim Ali (1/7) - left the USA in disarray, skittling

them out for 151 in 42.1 overs. Saiteja Mukkamalla fought a lone battle with a resilient 80 off 106 balls, but the rest of the USA lineup crumbled under relentless pressure. The visitors suffered an early collapse as Shakeel Ahmed ripped through the top order, removing three of the first four batters, including captain Monank Patel, to leave the USA reeling at 36/3 inside the powerplay. Brief resistance from Milind Kumar (12) and Aaron Jones (15) along with Mukkamalla momentarily steadied the innings, but Odedra and Shrivastava struck crucial blows to trigger another

collapse. The tail offered little resistance, ensuring Oman had a modest target to chase. In response, Oman's openers, Jatinder Singh and Aamir Kaleem, laid a solid foundation with a measured 63-run partnership. Kaleem's patient 28 off 78 balls ended when he was trapped lbw by Harmeet Singh, but Jatinder remained rock-solid. He brought up his fifty off 88 balls, steering Oman's chase with calculated strokes. Despite losing Hammad Mirza (12) at 97/2, Jatinder and Wasim Ali (18) stitched a crucial 32-run stand to keep Oman in firm control.



Wasim departed in the 41st over, but Jatinder, finishing unbeaten on 82 off 127 deliveries with eight fours and two sixes, alongside Vinayak Shukla (8*), guided Oman home in 45.5 overs. Jatinder also set a new Oman record by becoming the first to have scored 12 ODI half-centuries, bettering the 11 in the name of former Oman batter Aqib Ilyas. Shakeel Ahmed was adjudged the Player of the Match for his four-wicket spell. The emphatic victory propelled Oman to third place in the standings with 16 points, trailing only USA (18) and Canada (16), though the latter have played two fewer

games. Netherlands (14) edged Scotland (14) on net run rate for fourth spot, with Namibia (12), Nepal (6), and UAE (4) rounding out the table. Oman will look to build on this momentum when they face Namibia on February 16 before concluding the tri-series with a rematch against the USA on February 18. **Brief scores:** USA 151 in 42.1 overs (Saiteja Mukkamalla 80, Aaron Jones 15; Shakeel Ahmed 4/26, Jay Odedra 3/23, Samay Shrivastava 2/34) lost to Oman 152/3 in 45.5 overs (Jatinder Singh 82 n.o., Aamir Kaleem 28; Harmeet Singh 2/20).

FIRST ODI

Sri Lanka pull off a stunning win over Australia

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka pulled off a dramatic 49-run victory against Australia in the first ODI in Colombo on Wednesday, thanks to a masterclass from Charith Asalanka and a clinical bowling display led by Maheesh Theekshana. Asalanka's stunning century rescued his side from a dire position before Theekshana's four-wicket haul ensured Australia never got close in their chase. On a surface offering assistance to both pace and spin, Sri Lanka's batting faltered early. After winning the toss and opting to bat, they slumped to 135 for 8, struggling against Australia's seam-heavy attack. But Asalanka stood firm, crafting a magnificent 127 off 126 balls. Initially watchful, he accelerated in the latter half, taking full advantage of a tiring Australian attack in humid conditions. His 79-run ninth-wicket stand with Eshan Malinga (1* off 26 balls) proved invaluable. Malinga simply held one end up while Asalanka took on the bowlers,



mixing caution with aggression. His century - his fourth in ODIs - came off 116 balls, marking one of the finest rearguard efforts in recent times. Australia's seamers dominated for most of the innings, with Sean Abbott (3-61), Nathan Ellis (2-23), Aaron Hardie (2-13), and Spencer Johnson (2-44) sharing the spoils. Chasing 215, Australia's top order collapsed under pressure.

Missing key players like Travis Head, Glenn Maxwell, and Josh Inglis, their batting lacked stability. Their troubles began immediately as Matt Short fell lbw to Asitha Fernando for a duck. Jake Fraser-McGurk, known for his aggressive stroke play, struggled against the moving ball and eventually departed for a scratchy 3. Cooper Connolly, fresh from his Test debut, failed to make an impact, trapped lbw by

Theekshana. At 50 for 4, Australia needed a rescue act from stand-in skipper Steven Smith and Marnus Labuschagne. But Smith perished attempting an ambitious slog against Dunith Wellalage, and Labuschagne (15) soon followed, lbw to Theekshana. Alex Carey provided brief hope with a fluent 41, counterattacking against Wanindu Hasaranga. However, when he holed out to

Asalanka, Australia's hopes faded. A 41-run stand between Hardie (32) and Abbott (24) delayed the inevitable, but Theekshana returned to clean up the tail, finishing with 4 for 40 as Australia were dismissed for 165. **Brief scores:** Sri Lanka 214 (Asalanka 127, Wellalage 30; Abbott 3-61, Hardie 2-13, Ellis 2-23, Johnson 2-44) beat Australia 165 (Carey 41, Hardie 32, Theekshana 4-40, Fernando 2-23) by 49 runs.

Starc pulls out from Champions Trophy

SYDNEY: Australia's Champions Trophy campaign has been dealt another major blow with Mitchell Starc withdrawing from the tournament for personal reasons, leaving the team without its first-choice pace attack. Already grappling with the injuries of Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood, and Mitchell Marsh - alongside Marcus Stoinis' sudden ODI retirement - Australia has had to overhaul its squad for the tournament in Pakistan and the UAE, which begins on February 19. Steve Smith has been named captain. - Agencies

THIRD ODI

India complete clean sweep with emphatic win over England in Ahmedabad

AHMEDABAD: India completed a 3-0 clean sweep against England in the one-day international series on Wednesday as the visitors' dismal tour of India concluded with a crushing 142-run defeat. Batting first, India posted 356 all out, a total that proved too strong for the visitors, who were dismissed for just 214 in 34.2 overs. Shubman Gill led the charge for India with a brilliant 112 off 102 balls, supported by Shreyas Iyer's

78 and a crucial 52 from Virat Kohli, signaling his return to form after a lean patch. A 29-ball 40 from KL Rahul, accompanied by cameos lower down the order, lifted India to their highest score at this venue, and joint third-highest against England. In response, England's batting faltered yet again. Tom Banton, replacing the injured Jacob Bethell in the Champions Trophy squad, impressed with 38, but poor shot selection marred



the innings. Ben Duckett struggled with an apparent groin injury, and his participation in the upcoming Champions Trophy is uncertain. England's chase was further hindered by England's top order, as they lost wickets in quick succession. Joe Root and Banton had given England hope with a partnership of 60 for the second wicket, but the spin of Kuldeep Yadav dismissed Banton and the pace of Harshit

sealed the fates of Jos Buttler and Harry Brook, both bowled out. The final wickets tumbled quickly, leaving England all out before the 35th over. England bowlers, led by leg-spinner Adil Rashid's career-best 4-64, and seamer Mark Wood's 3-45, dominated proceedings. **Brief scores:** India 356 (Gill 112, Iyer 78, Kohli 52; Rashid 4-64) beat England 214 in 34.2 overs (Atkinson 38, Axar 2-22, Rana 2-31) by 142 runs. - Agencies

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS
The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by April 2025 reaching \$78.93, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by 25 cents from the price of Tuesday, which was \$79.18. - **OWA**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER
The MSX index closed at 4,486.35 points, down by 0.8% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.55% at 418.18 points. Dhofar Insurance, up 8.17%, was the top gainer while, Oman & Emirates Investment, down 8.70%, was the top loser.

Oman's CPI sees marginal increase of 0.7% in December

The slight rise in inflation was primarily driven by a 1.7% y-o-y increase in the food & non-alcoholic beverages index, the second-largest weighted index. Within this category, vegetable prices rose by 7.6%, while the milk, cheese, and eggs group saw a 3.8% increase in December-2024

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's Consumer Price Index (CPI) recorded a marginal y-o-y increase of 0.7% in December-2024 as compared to a 0.7% uptick in December-2023, according to a new report. The Sultanate's inflation rate has been on a downward trend throughout the year.

"The slight rise in inflation was primarily driven by a 1.7% year-on-year (y-o-y) increase in the Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages index, the second-largest weighted index," the Kuwait-based Kamco Invest said in its latest GCC Inflation Update February-2025.

"Within this category, vegetable prices rose by 7.6%, while the milk, cheese, and eggs group saw a 3.8%

increase in December-2024," the report further said.

Meanwhile, the prices of bread and grains remained stable, while the non-alcoholic beverages group recorded a slight decline of 0.5% y-o-y. In contrast, fish and seafood prices fell by 6.3% y-o-y.

The Kamco Invest report further said that the Furnishing & Household Equipment index recorded a modest 0.4% y-o-y increase in December-2024. The Tobacco and Recreation & Culture indices remained largely unchanged, at 0.0% and 0.6% growth, respectively. On the other hand, the Transport index registered a 0.8% y-o-y decline, while the Housing, Water & Electricity index recorded no change at 0.0% during the same period.

GCC inflation



Inflation in the GCC countries continued to be subdued during 2024 as compared to most other regions in the world where elevated prices and high inflation persisted despite a falling trajectory, the report further said.

Moreover, inflation in the wider Middle East and North Africa (Mena) region remained higher than that of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region during 2024. According to the World

Bank, inflation in the GCC region will come in at 2.1% in 2024, kept down by subsidies, fuel price cap, and currency pegs.

However, in certain sectors such as the Housing sector, inflationary pressures remained in several of the six GCC nations.

Overall, global inflation witnessed a downward trend, maintaining its declining trend from the peaks it reached in 2022. This global deceleration in the rate of

inflation (disinflation) is expected to continue in 2025 mainly on the back of expected subdued energy prices coupled with stabilising supply chains.

However, there is a possibility that the tariffs implemented by the new US administration could escalate into a full-scale trade war, potentially driving up prices and contributing to increased inflation in 2025. According to the IMF, global headline inflation is poised

to drop to 4.2% in 2025 and to 3.5% in 2026 converging back to target earlier in advanced economies than in emerging markets and developing nations. The decline in global inflation is expected to continue in 2025 maintained by the expected decline in energy prices.

US inflation witnessed a significant decline in 2024 falling to 2.9%. On an annual basis, US food climbed 2.5% in 2024 as compared to US energy prices which declined by 0.5% during the same year. However, excluding food and energy, the US CPI annual rate was 3.2% during 2024. Comparatively, annual inflation in the Euro zone fell from 2.9% in December-2023 to 2.4% in December-2024. The decline in inflation in the eurozone during 2024 was attributed to several factors, including stabilisation of energy prices in the region, and the loosening up of supply chain disruptions that had previously driven prices higher.

Among the six GCC countries, Dubai reported an increase of 3.3% in its average annual inflation rate in 2024 nearly identical to its 3.3% annual average rate in 2023. On the other hand, the rest of the GCC countries reported a lower inflation rate growth than Dubai. Average annual inflation rate for Kuwait declined from 3.4% in 2023 to 2.5% in 2024. In contrast, the average annual inflation rate for Saudi Arabia recorded a slight gain, up from 1.5% in 2023 to 1.9% in 2024.

AGREEMENT



Alizz Islamic Bank partners with ITFC & SAUDI EXIM for Sharia compliant financing

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Reinforcing its position as one of Oman's most dynamic Islamic Wholesale Banking institutions, Alizz Islamic Bank has recently signed an agreement with the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) and Saudi Export-Import Bank (Saudi EXIM). This partnership is set to provide Sharia-compliant financing solutions, further enhancing the bank's commitment to offering innovative and ethical financial services in alignment with Islamic principles.

The agreement was officially signed by Dr. Muhammad Nadeem Aslam, GM - Chief Wholesale Banking Officer of Alizz Islamic Bank, Abdul Aleem Habeeb, Head of Asia, ITFC and Mohammed Alabdulmohsen, Financial Institutions Director, Saudi Eximin the presence of a number of senior officials from all three organisations.

This agreement builds on the success of the previous partnership between Alizz Islamic Bank and ITFC. Partnering with leading organisations in their respective fields is an important part of Alizz Islamic Bank's strategy to driving sustainable growth. Customers are at the forefront of the banks focus and collaborating with strategic partners enables Alizz Islamic Bank to enhance its trade solutions and correspondent network which in turn enables the bank to offer competitive working capital financing pricing. The bank is on a mission

to better understand the stakeholders and partner's needs to continually enhance its current offerings and innovate new ones.

The Saudi Export-Import Bank aims to promote non-oil Saudi exports and enhance their competitiveness in global markets across various, this is achieved through providing credit solutions for export financing, guarantees, and export credit insurance with competitive advantages. These efforts align with the goals and foundations of Saudi Vision 2030, which focuses on increasing the share of non-oil exports in the non-oil GDP.

The International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation is a member of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group. It was established with the primary objective of advancing trade among OIC member countries, which would ultimately contribute to the overarching goal of improving the socioeconomic conditions of the people across the world. Commencing operations in January 2008, ITFC has provided over \$75 billion of financing to OIC member countries, making it the leading provider of trade solutions for these member countries' needs. With a mission to become a catalyst for trade development for OIC member countries and beyond, the Corporation helps entities in member countries gain better access to trade finance and provides them with the necessary trade-related capacity-building tools, which would enable them to successfully compete in the global market.

LEAP 2025 CONFERENCE

Omantel joins hands with Shaffra Technology Labs to drive AI and metaverse innovations

Times News Service

RIYADH: Omantel has entered a strategic partnership with Singapore-based Shaffra Technology Labs to develop groundbreaking solutions leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) and metaverse technologies. These solutions will be hosted within Omantel cloud services and provided to government institutions and private sector companies in the Sultanate of Oman to enhance operational efficiency. The agreement was signed during the LEAP 2025 Conference in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Eng. Aladdin Bait Fadhel, Chief Commercial Officer of Omantel, stated: "At Omantel, our vision is to solidify our leadership role as a key enabler of Oman's digital transformation and to be the premier provider of innovative technology solutions in the region. Our collaboration with Shaffra will significantly contribute to developing cutting-edge technology solutions, particularly in artificial intelligence, for our customers".

Al Harith Al Atawi, CEO of Shaffra Technology Labs, expressed his enthusiasm about partnering with Omantel on this strategic project. He noted that this cooperation would open vast opportunities for Shaffra in the Omani



market by introducing successful AI and metaverse solutions, such as the AI employee project, which is now being adopted by numerous government and private entities in several countries. "We aim to deliver a unique experience for Omantel customers through this partnership and innovative projects that enhance productivity and reduce costs," said Al Atawi.

Omantel has previously signed multiple agreements to localise global technologies and enhance the ICT infrastructure in the Sultanate. In collaboration with major international technology giants, Omantel seeks to attract the latest

technological and innovative advancements to foster Oman's digital transformation. This strategic initiative aligns with Omantel's vision to become an integrated provider of digital solutions, catering to the diverse needs of government institutions, private sector companies, and individual subscribers under one umbrella.

Omantel has succeeded, through the integration of its operations, processes, and extensive expertise in the field of communications and digital technology, in establishing its position as a leading telecommunications company within the Sultanate of Oman and beyond. The

company's innovative approaches have contributed to providing state-of-the-art solutions to different consumer and business sectors. The company aims to deliver an unparalleled, exceptional experience to its customers and strives to always exceed their expectations. To achieve the objectives of Oman Vision 2040, Omantel invests in emerging technologies and provides cutting-edge ICT solutions, such as cloud solutions, AI, Smart solutions, cybersecurity, and much more, in addition to harnessing its technological capabilities to enhance innovation and leadership in new and advanced technologies.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

World Bank forecasts 3.4% growth for Gulf economies in 2025

DUBAI: The World Bank projects that the economic growth rate of Gulf countries will reach 3.4 percent in 2025, rising to 4.1 percent in 2026, compared to an expected 3.3 percent growth rate for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region as a whole.

Ousmane Dione, World Bank Vice President for the Middle East and North Africa, stated that while the region's economic outlook remains positive, growth rates will vary between oil-producing and oil-importing countries.

Speaking to the Emirates News Agency (WAM) on the sidelines of the World Governments Sum-

mit 2025 (WGS) in Dubai, Dione highlighted that the GCC countries maintain a strong economic position thanks to their diversification efforts. In contrast, other countries in the region continue to face challenges related to conflicts and instability.

Substantial investments

Ousmane Dione noted that Gulf economies benefit from substantial investments in non-oil sectors, providing them with a competitive advantage over countries struggling with geopolitical instability.

In a separate context, Dione discussed the Memorandum of Un-

derstanding signed between the World Bank and the Mohamed bin Zayed Water Initiative. He stated that this partnership aims to address water security challenges in the region and beyond.

He also highlighted that the MENA region accounts for approximately 55 percent of the world's desalinated water production. However, he emphasised the importance of exploring alternative solutions such as water reuse, improved resource management, and integrating artificial intelligence and modern technologies to track leaks and enhance smart irrigation systems for greater efficiency. -**WAM**



MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Dhofar Insurance, up 8.17%, was the top gainer while Oman & Emirates Investment, down 8.70%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,486.35 points, down by 0.8% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.55% at 418.18 points. Dhofar Insurance, up 8.17%, was the top gainer while Oman & Emirates Investment, down 8.70%, was the top loser. Shares of OQEP were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 755 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 6.05 million, with more than 25.95 million shares changing hands. Out of 59 traded securities, 6 advanced, 27 declined, and 26 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net sellers for RO 311K while domestic investors were net buyers for RO 253K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 58K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,804.51 points, down 0.41%.

Prices of Dhofar Insurance, Muscat Finance, United Finance, OMINVEST were up by 8.17%, 4.17%, 1.70%, 0.61% respectively. Prices of Oman & Emirates Investment, Financial Corporation, Bank Nizwa, Sohar International Bank, Bank Muscat were down by 8.70%, 5.46%, 1.94%, 1.47%, 0.78% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,541.20 points, down 1.33%. Prices of A'Saffa Foods were up by 0.25% respectively. Prices of Jazeera Steel Products, Voltamp Energy, Galfar Engineering, Oman Cables Industry, Construction Materials were down by 2.97%, 2.73%, 2.56%, 2.41%, 1.32% respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.97% before closing at 1,680.31 points. Prices of were up by respectively. Prices of Al Suwadi Power, Phoenix Power, Oman National Engineering, Al Batinah Power, Ooredoo were down by 2.90%, 1.70%, 1.61%, 1.45%, 1.36% respectively. — United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,519.10	4,475.22	4,486.35	4,522.49	-36.14	-0.80
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,841.90	7,801.44	7,804.51	7,836.78	-32.27	-0.41
Industry Index	5,627.66	5,541.20	5,541.20	5,615.73	-74.53	-1.33
Services Index	1,696.83	1,668.19	1,680.31	1,696.83	-16.52	-0.97
MSX Shariah Index	420.49	414.87	418.18	420.51	-2.33	-0.55
MSX TR INDEX	6,331.20	6,269.73	6,285.32	6,335.95	-50.63	-0.80
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,914.00	8,863.24	8,866.72	8,903.38	-36.66	-0.41
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,492.98	6,393.23	6,393.23	6,479.21	-85.99	-1.33
SERVICES TR IDX	2,034.95	2,000.60	2,015.14	2,034.95	-19.81	-0.97
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,166.89	1,166.89	1,166.89	1,166.89	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	25,956,468	Turnover	6,047,077	Trades	755	Market Cap	27,362,605,775	Up	6	Down	27	Equal	26	Sec. Traded	59
--------	------------	----------	-----------	--------	-----	------------	----------------	----	---	------	----	-------	----	-------------	----

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF BD.	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BD.	LAST OFF.	PRE VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM00000002374	UNITED FINANCE	97,570	5,860	7	0.061	0.061	0.060	0.060	0.059	0.001	1.695	0.060	0.059	0.060	0.100	21,267,638
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	3,845	1,263	3	0.330	0.330	0.328	0.330	0.328	0.002	0.610	0.330	0.328	0.330	0.100	220,560,581
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	2,597	1,036	2	0.399	0.399	0.399	0.399	0.398	0.001	0.251	0.399	0.000	0.399	0.100	47,880,000
OM0000002440	AL SHARGITA INVESTMENT HO.	42,500	3,275	6	0.077	0.078	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.000	0.000	0.077	0.078	0.084	0.100	4,930,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	185,000	16,280	9	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.000	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.100	17,600,000	
OM0000004735	SEMBICORP SALALAH	516,000	51,600	1	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.099	0.100	0.100	95,457,195
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	20,650	1,735	3	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.000	0.000	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.100	14,700,000
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	5,000	1,350	1	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.270	0.000	0.277	0.100	19,005,300
OM0000009072	Q GAS NETWORKS	4,453,008	575,851	90	0.129	0.131	0.129	0.129	0.130	-0.001	-0.769	0.129	0.129	0.130	0.100	558,650,486
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	902,692	231,707	31	0.257	0.257	0.255	0.256	0.258	-0.002	-0.775	0.256	0.283	0.256	0.100	1,921,637,648
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	1,422,968	1,239,324	14	0.885	0.892	0.883	0.883	0.892	-0.009	-1.009	0.883	0.878	0.883	0.100	862,250,000
OM0000003254	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	76,045	26,641	10	0.351	0.354	0.350	0.350	0.354	-0.004	-1.130	0.350	0.325	0.350	0.100	82,743,500
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	24,890	10,110	6	0.420	0.420	0.405	0.405	0.410	-0.005	-1.220	0.405	0.405	0.451	0.100	134,003,448
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	695,587	162,364	21	0.234	0.234	0.232	0.232	0.235	-0.003	-1.277	0.232	0.232	0.232	0.100	178,686,400
OM0000005968	OOREDOO	83,200	17,963	24	0.221	0.221	0.199	0.218	0.221	-0.003	-1.357	0.218	0.200	0.218	0.100	141,908,842
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	6,300	428	3	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.069	-0.001	-1.449	0.068	0.067	0.072	0.100	45,892,345
OM0000003986	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	2,237,774	301,275	35	0.135	0.135	0.134	0.134	0.136	-0.002	-1.471	0.134	0.130	0.137	0.100	868,711,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVESTMENT	85,000	10,375	10	0.122	0.123	0.122	0.122	0.124	-0.002	-1.613	0.122	0.121	0.121	0.100	18,300,000
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	106,000	7,159	9	0.069	0.069	0.067	0.067	0.069	-0.002	-2.899	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.100	47,865,225
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	96,531	36,032	23	0.372	0.372	0.358	0.360	0.371	-0.011	-2.965	0.360	0.360	0.360	0.100	44,963,266
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	199,033	13,109	21	0.067	0.067	0.063	0.063	0.069	-0.006	-8.696	0.063	0.063	0.065	0.100	7,678,125
Total		21	11,364,290	2,734,738	329											
Parallel Market																
OM0000001095	DHOFAR INSURANCE	4,000	900	1	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.208	0.017	8.173	0.225	0.190	0.225	0.100	25,369,330
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	1,425,695	71,702	46	0.051	0.051	0.050	0.050	0.048	0.002	4.167	0.050	0.050	0.051	0.100	15,357,316
OM0000001020	OMAN CHROMITE	100	315	1	3.150	3.150	3.150	3.150	0.000	0.000	0.000	3.150	2.900	3.150	1.000	10,395,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	49,890	3,842	5	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.000	0.000	0.077	0.077	0.078	0.100	6,545,000
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	200	18	1	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.000	0.000	0.090	0.081	0.090	0.100	2,700,000
OM0000001426	OMAN REFRESHMENT	29,988	29,988	6	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	0.000	0.000	1.000	0.000	1.000	0.100	50,000,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	85,478	5,909	3	0.069	0.070	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.000	0.000	0.069	0.068	0.074	0.100	14,640,420
OM0000002333	SALALAH PORT SERVICES	177	45	1	0.252	0.252	0.252	0.252	0.252	0.000	0.000	0.252	0.227	0.252	0.100	45,319,025
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	157,500	21,158	12	0.134	0.135	0.134	0.134	0.134	0.000	0.000	0.134	0.134	0.135	0.100	76,876,374
OM0000005281	TAGEER FINANCE	1,900	205	1	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.000	0.000	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.100	29,277,774
OM0000005056	ALMAHA CERAMICS	1,129	41	1	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.000	0.000	0.125	0.125	0.000	0.100	6,870,000
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	5,000	325	1	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.000	0.000	0.065	0.064	0.065	0.100	14,445,600
OM0000008447	OMAN RETT FUND	2,600	198	1	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.000	0.000	0.076	0.076	0.080	0.100	38,655,978
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIP	11,565	1,388	6	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.000	0.000	0.120	0.115	0.120	0.100	70,972,426
OM0000009908	Q BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	2,138,970	216,039	56	0.101	0.102	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.000	0.000	0.101	0.101	0.110	0.100	349,408,576
OM0000003000	AI MAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	950	1,076	1	1.133	1.133	1.133	1.133	1.135	-0.002	-0.176	1.133	1.040	1.131	0.100	78,177,000
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	16,000	1,440	1	0.144	0.144	0.144	0.144	0.145	-0.001	-0.690	0.144	0.144	0.145	0.100	240,395,040
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	1,000	436	1	0.436	0.436	0.436	0.436	0.440	-0.004	-0.909	0.436	0.436	0.439	0.100	68,670,000
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	82,550	28,068	9	0.345	0.345	0.340	0.340	0.344	-0.004	-1.163	0.340	0.330	0.344	0.100	67,876,104
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	7,991,866	2,602,679	214	0.317	0.317	0.312	0.312	0.316	-0.004	-1.266	0.312	0.312	0.320	0.100	1,010,496,000
OM0000001388	CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL INDUSTRIES	120,775	9,058	3	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.076	-0.001	-1.316	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.100	4,687,500
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	1,227,039	72,376	8	0.059	0.060	0.058	0.058	0.059	-0.001	-1.695	0.058	0.058	0.060	0.100	84,830,885
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	1,202,068	121,411	11	0.101	0.101	0.100	0.101	0.103	-0.002	-1.942	0.101	0.100	0.103	0.100	225,932,256
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	51,458	138,621	2	2.694	2.694	2.630	2.630	2.695	-0.065	-2.412	2.630	2.635	2.685	0.100	235,911,000
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	20,800	1,583	2	0.078	0.078	0.076	0.076	0.078	-0.002	-2.564	0.076	0.076	0.077	0.100	15,428,970
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	4,000	2,140	1	0.535	0.535	0.535	0.535	0.550	-0.015	-2.727	0.535	0.518	0.562	0.100	43,550,471
OM0000002911	FINANCIAL CORPORATION	12,403	645	4	0.055	0.055	0.050	0.052	0.055	-0.003	-5.455	0.052	0.052	0.054	0.100	3,641,558
Total		27	14,546,121	3,231,705	399											



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

CONNECT

PRINT EDITION

WWW.TIMESOFOMAN.COM
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2025

PLACE YOUR ADVT HERE

Email to classifieds @ timesofoman.com



RENT

CARGO

VACANCY

RENT OR SALE?

PLACE YOUR ADVT HERE

Email: classifieds@timesofoman.com

REEFER / ISO DRY CONTAINER SALES, MODIFICATIONS & RENTALS

OFFICE, WORKSHOPS, PLANT ROOMS, TRAINING FACILITIES, TOILETS, ACCOMODATION & ANY CUSTOM BUILT CONTAINER

CONTAINER SOLUTIONS LLC
Po Box 522, P.c 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



For High Impact Professional | Oman Web Award Winner

WEBSITES GULFCYBERTECH E-Solutions

Designing & Maintenance
E-Commerce Solns.
Domain & Hosting
Mobile Applications
Email Ads & Promotions

Tel: 99818819 Email: 24130929 info@gulfcybertech.com
www.gulfcybertech.com

WJ Towell Group Company



- Fleet of 2,000 vehicles
- Choose from a wide range of brands & models
- PDO, OXY and BP spec vehicles available
- Attractive rates for short-term & long-term lease

Quality car rentals at competitive prices.

Muscat 9679 0594 9679 0684 | Sohar 9731 6218 9731 6218 | Salalah 9429 9325 9429 9325 | www.orbit-oman.com

ORBIT
Car Rental & Lease

JOB WANTED

STORE MANAGER
Seeking job as a **STORE MANAGER** (retail) **FASHION & FMCG.**
Experienced in store operations, inventory management and business growth at Raymond Lifestyle. Ready to contribute skills to a dynamic team.

Contact: +968 7967560
WA +91 8055514441

PROJECT LEAD
Female, well-versed in **Project Administration** with 13 years of proven experience in training, recruitment, administration, finance, and secretarial support.
As an **Executive MBA** holder, I can contribute effectively to your organizational goals and looking forward to an interview call and the opportunity.

Contact: 98260708 | meena.v24@gmail.com

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

Contact: 78031718

ENGINEER
Indian, BE Civil Engineer with 10 years experience (8 years in Oman & 2 years in India) in commercial and residential project with valid oman D/L. Currently available in Oman with local NOC / Release.

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

OMANI HSE ENGINEER
Approved Omani HSE Engineer 7+ yrs (Approved, PTW holder, OPAL valid license, IOSH, NEBOSH IGC & other required courses).

Contact: +968 79975864

JOB VACANCY

URGENTLY REQUIRED

A reputed Company in Oman seeking Smart and Qualified

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

Requirements:

- Male, age in the early 40's
- 10 years of Managerial experience in Oman/GCC
- Strong leadership, high integrity and good attitude
- Knowledge of Finance/IT/Admin
- Oman Driving License

Email: hroman007@gmail.com

URGENTLY REQUIRED

Experienced **CHEF/COOK** (Arabic & Indian Dishes) for a reputed family in Muscat.

Contact: 99735820

URGENTLY REQUIRED

For a Muscat based well known Excellent Grade Construction Company.

Electrical Engineer

Experienced Male with B Tec / BE Electrical Engineering. Minimum 5years of experience in Construction Industry. Should be able to handle MEP Tenders & MEP Project Site Management.

Holds valid Oman driving License. Ready to join within 1 month with NOC.

Please send your CV to:
Email: skill.mct@gmail.com
Contact: 96174003 / 95945618

URGENTLY REQUIRED

Two (2) **PROTECTION ENGINEERS** - Approved OETC (Lev. 3), 15 Y. Exp.

Send CV along with Qualification, Training & Appreciation Certificates at:

muscat.jobs22@gmail.com

URGENTLY REQUIRED

One of the leading shipping & freight forwarding company looking for a

Sales & Business Development Executive and Commercial Manager for their Oman office. Driving license and local experience in sales and Business development in freight forwarding is must.

Please forward CV to:
shippingoman74@gmail.com

RENT

OFFICE CUM WAREHOUSES & STORES WITH OPEN YARD FOR RENTAL (KARSHA, NIZWA)

Office in a double story building, warehouses, stores and open yard around 7000 square meter area in Karsha Industrial area, Nizwa for partial or whole area rental.

This is the prime corner location facing two-sided industrial area roads with ample parking facility. This is suitable for showroom cum service centers and office cum warehouses and stores.

Contact: +968 99345407, +968 99642563

Let Your Brand Grow with our Creative Services

LOGO DESIGN
CREATIVE CAMPAIGNS
BRANDINGS
PACKAGING
PRINT COLLATERALS



99440826 | digital@nexusnovel.com

NEXUS NOVEL

SERVICE

PEST CONTROL
Al-Basheq Grey Trad. & Cont. LLC

100% Professional & Competitive rate!!!

Anti Termite, Cockroaches, Bed Bugs, Ants, Rodent, On monthly, yearly or one time service.

All We use quality products which approved by oman ministry. Harmless & Odourless

CALL US: 91 45 22 33
Email: albasheqgrey@gmail.com

Services of Carpet Shampoo, marble & tile polishing, pest control & Anti-termite treatment, General cleaning painting, Plumbing, Electrical, shifting.

Glow Services Trading LLC
Contact: 24810137, 99450130

Pest control
Contact: 92326955
Gulfa international LLC.

SEARCHING JOB ?

Send email to:
classifieds@ timesofoman.com



CARGO AND LOGISTIC

PROMOTE YOUR SERVICE WITH US

Send email to classified@timesofoman.com or Call: 24 72 66 66 (Ext: 815 / 462 / 354)

Email: dailyguide@timesofoman.com
classifieds@timesofoman.com
Tel: 24726666
Ext: 815 / 462 / 354

CONNECT

JOB VACANCY

ADMINISTRATION

Required project coordinator (construction site) with 4-5 years' experience in GCC & Oman D/L. Call/Whatsapp: +968 97123333

ENGINEER

Required sales engineer (Trading company) fresher or with 2-3 year exp, mechanical engineer graduate/ diploma. Cell/whatsapp - 98996978

DESIGNER/ AUTOCAD DRAUGHTMAN

Looking for Structural designer having experience in design of Structural steel building mainly in PEB industry. Minimum 3 year of experience with M Tech-Structural Design Please send CV to: hrjob191@yahoo.com

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Indian, male, B.Com, 17 yrs experience in finance, Vat, looking for senior position in finance. Available for immediate joining. Contact: 976455592, Email: roshalpinto@ymail.com

Accountant, B.com, graduate with 06yrs of experience.Proficient in finalization,vat and taxation with Oman DL. Contact: +968 97611460, Email: sreeju.8.ek@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

35 yrs, Indian, male, with 8yrs of experience in Oman & UAE looking for an accounting, admin job vacancy in Oman. Contact: 77484934

Indian male, Accountant, 10 yrs experience in Oman up to finalization, audit, budgeting, MIS, VAT, tax assessments. Working experience in SAP & other ERP systems, looking for a suitable position, having valid D/L. GSM: 92024380, Email: mithun.chittedathu@gmail.com

Part-time accounting services book keeping, accounts, inventory, VAT, tax, and audit. Contact: 974419760

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

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

Indian male 34, finance professional. MBA & PGDM in finance. 8 yrs of experience in Oman out of 14 yrs exp. Handled independently accounts finalization, IFRS, Vat & tax audit. Know oracle & tally. Contact: 71181096. Email: kansehalvant@gmail.com.

Senior accountant, chief accountant, accounts manager & finance professional with 20+ yrs of experience in group companies in Oman, seeking a suitable placement. Contact: 99219937

Experienced accounts manager seeks suitable senior level opportunity. Contact: 78581435

A skilled professional MBA (Finance & marketing) with more than 2 yrs experience in India seeks suitable accountant or sales positions. Contact: +91 6238349738 (WA), Email: thaha2255@gmail.com

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

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

Indian, male, with 12 yrs of experience in accounts, sales coordinator, admin, printing media, and automotive fields is looking for a suitable job. Contact: 97474155.

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

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

Junior accountant, Indian, male B.com graduate 2yrs experience in Oman seeking suitable job. Contact: 78047716

Highly skilled Chief accountant looking for suitable position. Contact: +968 79888153

Indian male, having 2.5 yrs of experience in Accounts, finance, admin looking for job. Contact: +968 79414996, Email: sajadzn29@gmail.com

Indian male with 4+ yrs exp. in Oman, worked as Accounts & admin executive Bachelor Degree in Management (BBA) with valid D/L, ready to join immediately. Contact: 93536020, Email: naseentm24@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATION

Executive secretary with 20+ yrs of experience in India and Oman looking for suitable placement. NOC available. Contact: 97932277

Dynamic and well-experienced professional: 5 yrs of Dubai and 4.5 yrs of Muscat experience in operations management, business excellence or key account management looking for new challenges. Contact: 96766702, Email: Ilyas3299@gmail.com

Female, Highly experienced candidate looking for a suitable position in admin, accounts department & logistics, available in Oman to join immediate with valid D/L. Contact: 76452212

Indian (M), Oman experience in projects, corporate communications, CEO office. WhatsApp: +968 97457945.

Indian male MBA(HR) & B tech (Comp) with nearly 10 yrs of over all experience seeks job. Contact: +968 94168194, +91 9745020204, Email: gokulgopan91@hotmail.com

ARCHITECT

Qualified junior Architect with experience in software such as Auto- CAD, lumion, sketchUp, revit, 3Ds max etc. looking for job in Oman. Contact: +968 78902260, E-mail: ar.mohamedadhelka@gmail.com

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

Graduate Architect with valid Oman D/L. Proficient in various Design software. Looking for Architect, interior designer roles. Contact: 93249129, Email: psmenez2015@gmail.com

DESIGNER/ AUTOCAD DRAUGHTMAN

Electrical designer draftsman 12 yrs experience skilled in autocad MEP Microstation and electrical standards 8 yrs at ARAMCO currently with JES Oman. Available immediately. Contact: 98525863 Email: ijackcs@gmail.com

DRIVER

Looking for driving job, 12 yrs experience. Contact: 98301890

Looking for driving job with 15 yrs experience. Contact: 78037801

Looking for driving job have car. Contact: 98586920

Looking for driving job. Contact: +968 99532361

Looking for driving job with 2 yrs experience. Contact: 97995898

EDUCATION/TRAINING

Msc Chemistry graduate, Indian female, looking for jobs in Oman. Preferably in Sohar. Contact: 77198123, Email: deenaffrancis75@gmail.com,

JOB WANTED

EDUCATION/TRAINING

Indian female, completed MCA and also having experience in teaching, available in Oman on family visa, looking for a suitable job. Contact: 79090343/94117967, Email: induchandran01@gmail.com

Chemistry teacher with 7 yrs experience of teaching IGCSE chemistry (Pakistani). Currently in Oman. Contact: +968 78684306

ENGINEER

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

Indian male with 10 yrs. Experience in Oman, have 3 yrs Electrical diploma, General maintenance, valid Oman D/L. Contact: 93220672

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

Indian male (Mechanical Engineer) with Oman experience in Oil & Gas, BDM, procurement, logistic, inventory management & operations. Ready to join immediately. NOC & D/L available. Contact: 99189094, Email: ben.sdbmct@gmail.com

E & I Engineer 6 yrs exp in Oman in oil & gas construction , testing & commissioning. OQ approved QC inspector & PTWH. Looking for job Contact: 94971464

BE Civil Engineer (15+ yrs in procurement) seeking placement as Senior procurement manager, AGM, DGM procurement. Currently senior procurement manager in a reputed Oman-based construction company having skills to drive strategic sourcing initiatives and optimize procurement processes effectively. Contact: 77250106.

Bsc in civil engineer, looking suitable position,having 10 yrs experience in Oman and D/L. Contact: 93326947, Email: emsa5054@gmail.com

Project manager in civil with 18 yrs experience (14 yrs in gulf region) seeks suitable placement. Ready to join immediately, with D/L. Contact: 95181197, Email rooswin.anto@gmail.com

Civil engineer supervisor, 14 yrs experience civil & tower project with D/L & own visa. Ph: 78002980

BE Project engineer 12-13 yrs experience. Contact: 93850875, Email: abdulcivilco2015@gmail.com

Mechanical engineer with over 4 yrs experience in sales and operations having Oman D/L with MSc in Engineering management from UK available to join immediately. Contact: 96111283, Email: dobin.mathew@gmail.com.

BE Project engineer 12-13 yrs experience. Contact: 93850875, Email: abdulcivilco2015@gmail.com

ENGINEER

B-Tech Civil Engineer with total 16yrs GCC experience include 11 yrs Oman experience, project manager job seeking. Contact: 97733497

Indian male, data scientist & BSC computer science graduate,looking for job. Contact : 78026010, Email: vivekkrishnan2233@gmail.com

Female, software Engineer, full stack developer also expert in digital marketing with 5 yrs experience. Contact: 78462153.

ENGINEER

Indian male, 22 yrs, BBA in Aviation & logistic management seeking for opportunities in logistic, management or administrative, sales, marketing or any suitable position. Contact: 79487865, E-mail: Officialabdulraziq@gmail.com

Indian male, 37 yrs , With 12 yrs experience in the Logistic and warehousing field in Oman, with D/L. looking for senior position. Contact: 97254050

LOGISTIC

Indian male, storekeeper, document controller 2+ yrs of experience in GCC, completed BCA ,ready to join immediately. Contact: +968 71818173, Email: swamierezhasouth@gmail.com

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

MECHANICAL/ TECHNICAL

Production supervisor in printing press with 7 yrs experience in Dubai seeks job. Contact: +968 79896168, Email: anvinsildon99@gmail.com

MANAGER

Finance manager with 15 yrs of experience in oil & gas multinational company looking for suitable placement. Contact: 95230609

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

MEDICAL

General practitioner doctor male with MOH licence, 30 yrs experience seeks locum or permanent job. Contact: 78559363

MISCELLANEOUS

Merchandiser job or helper with 4 yrs experience in Oman. Contact: 78651895

Procurement officer, 15 yrs experience in construction, oil & gas & MEP materials looking for placement. D/L & local release available. ready to join immediately. Contact: 79563830. Email: rayancriston@gmail.com

27 yrs experience in Oman, Indian, looking for a manager position in purchase, sales, holding valid Omani D/L. Contact: 94338072 / 78177167.

Procurement engineer, Sudanese, 10yrs experience in Oman,MEP, firefighting, projects, D/L. Contact: 79027138 .

SALES/MARKETING

Indian, MBA, 20 yrs of experience in Sales. Previously held supervisory, managerial position with. D/L seeks suitable placement. Contact: 95548480

Sales & marketing manager, Indian MBA 25 yrs of experience in Oman in FMCG, consumer durables. Strong relationships with major retailers across the country. Seeking a suitable position. Contact: 93340457

Experienced Sales and marketing manager is available for immediate placement. Indian, having DL and NOC. Contact: 78501743

Indian male with 14 yrs of sales & marketing experience. looking for suitable job with valid D/L. Contact: 95136784

Indian male, Sales executive (MBA in Marketing) with 10 yrs of experience in FMCG & automobile with strong communication skills, holding valid Oman. D/L. Contact: 92350798

Indian male MBA graduated specialized with Marketing & HR (fresher). Looking for suitable positions . Currently in Muscat Oman. Contact: +968 71084371, Email: ccrashid9@gmail.com



PLACE YOUR ADVT HERE

RENT OR SALE?

Send email to classifieds@timesofoman.com

IN ISRAELI PRISONS

Testimonies from Gaza detainees reveal horrific conditions

GAZA: The Palestinian Prisoners Society (PPS) and the Palestinian Authority's Commission of Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs have released new testimonies from Gaza detainees incarcerated inside Israeli detention, all of which affirm Israel's use of torture as a weapon of war.

They said that these testimonies are part of dozens of testimonies and statements that the institutions obtained through visits that were made to many Gaza detainees over the past period, and recently 18 detainees from Gaza were visited in the Negev prison and the Sde Teiman camp, one of whom confirmed that his hands were broken and he was abused while he was tied up.

They also shed light on the brutality and systematic torture faced by detainees, reflecting the



extreme violence and dehumanization they endure at the hands of Israeli forces.

These detainees continue to endure unimaginable conditions, having been subjected to torture, humiliation, and severe deprivation since their detention.

The statement reiterated that the level of crimes and violations reflected in the testimonies has not changed, but rather remains at the same level, which doubles the level of danger to the fate of thousands of detainees.

They also affirmed that torture

crimes still dominate the impact of the detainees' testimonies, and even the crimes of starvation, and humiliation in all its forms, in addition to the harsh detention conditions that are based on policies of theft and deprivation.

Gaza death toll from Israel's deadly aggression surpasses 48,222

Medical sources confirmed on Tuesday that the death toll in the Gaza Strip has risen to 48,222, the majority of whom are children and women, since the start of the Israeli occupation aggression on October 7, 2023.

The same sources added that the number of causticities have surged to 111,674, since the start of the aggression, while a number of victims are still under the rubble, and ambulance and civil defense crews

cannot reach them.

They affirmed that three slain Palestinians were taken to hospitals in the Gaza Strip, including two whose bodies were recovered during the past 24 hours, as well as nine other casualties.

Aggression on Jenin and Tulkarm continues

The Israeli occupation forces continue the aggression on the governorates of Jenin and Tulkarm for more than two weeks, leaving 29 slain Palestinians, dozens of injuries, detentions, the demolition of homes, and forced displacement, amidst widespread destruction of property and infrastructure, while it withdrew from al-Far'a camp south of Tubas, after an aggression that lasted ten days.

Since the beginning of the aggression, Israel has imposed ar-

bitrary measures at its military checkpoints near most of the entrances and exits of the governorates in the West Bank, and closed most of the gates of villages and towns, in an attempt to explode the situation, in preparation for creating a state of violent chaos, to facilitate the annexation of the West Bank, which was evident in the brutal attacks committed by terrorist colonist gangs against Palestinian civilians, their towns, properties, homes, lands, and holy sites.

The Israeli occupation continues its aggression on the city of Jenin and its camp for the twenty-third consecutive day, leaving 25 slain people and dozens of injuries.

Six citizens were injured yesterday evening after the Israeli occupation forces beat them in the city of Jenin. — WAPA

SPOOF WEB CAMPAIGN

Thousands of Danes sign petition to buy California from US

CALIFORNIA: A petition calling for Denmark to buy the most populous US state had gathered more than 200,000 signatures on Wednesday, promising to "Make California Great Again."

The spoof web campaign comes amid renewed interest from Donald Trump in buying Greenland — or even taking the vast Arctic island by force.

What does the petition call for?

The jokey web campaign posits the vision of a California ruled from Copenhagen, with all the advantages of a Nordic welfare state — plus the glorious sunshine of the Golden State.

"Have you ever looked at a map and thought, 'You know what Denmark needs? More sunshine, palm trees, and roller skates.' Well, we have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make that dream a reality," it says.

"Let's buy California from Donald Trump! Yes, you heard that right. California could be ours."

The website lists the possibilities that such an acquisition might bring, including the re-naming of Disneyland as "Hans Christian Andersenland."

It envisages "Avocado Toast Forever," with almost 90% of US-grown avocados coming from California.

The petition's authors also envision an expanded frontier for the Danish concept of coziness (hygge) and environmentally-friendly Scandinavian



buttered rye bread.

"We'll bring hygge to Hollywood, bike lanes to Beverly Hills, and organic smørrebrød to every street corner."

Could it prove successful?

No. But, while the petition is a clear parody — "100% real... in our dreams" — it cites reasons that property mogul Trump might agree to sell the state.

Trump last year called California "Paradise Lost" and he regularly insults its Democratic Governor Gavin Newsom with the nickname "Newsom."

"Let's be honest — Trump isn't exactly California's biggest fan," the website says. "He's called it 'the most ruined state in the Union' and has feuded with its leaders for years. We're pretty sure he'd be willing to part with it for the right price."

It sets a mock crowdfunding goal of "\$1 trillion (give or take a few billion)." — DW

UK, US decline to sign global AI pact in Paris

Visiting US Vice President JD Vance laid out several US reservations in a speech at the summit at the Grand Palais. "We believe that excessive regulation of the AI sector could kill a transformative industry," he said



France and India.

Why did the US decline to sign?

Visiting US Vice President JD Vance laid out several US reservations in a speech at the summit at the Grand Palais.

"We believe that excessive regulation of the AI sector could kill a transformative industry," he told the gathering of world and industry leaders.

"We feel very strongly that AI must remain free from ideological bias and that American AI will not be co-opted into a tool for authoritarian censorship."

Vance alleged that the EU regulations such as the Digital Services Act and the GDPR rules on online privacy led to unacceptable compliance costs for smaller companies. "Of course, we want to ensure the internet is a safe place, but it

is one thing to prevent a predator from preying on a child on the internet, and it is something quite different to prevent a grown man or woman from accessing an opinion that the government thinks is misinformation," he said.

"From CCTV to 5G equipment, we're all familiar with cheap tech in the marketplace that's been heavily subsidized and exported by authoritarian regimes," Vance said.

Chinese startup DeepSeek last month made its new AI reasoning model freely available, leading to a sharp 17% decline in the price of Nvidia shares. The tech company's stock price had risen more than tenfold over the past two years amid the emergence of AI models like ChatGPT.

French President Emmanuel Macron told the summit — but not Vance, who left after giving

his speech — in his closing address that he also favoured cutting red tape.

However, he added that regulation was needed to ensure trust in AI, and to prevent people from rejecting it as unreliable.

India to host next summit of this kind, Elysees Palace says

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the guest of honour and co-host in Paris, had spoken moments before Vance in Paris on Tuesday.

He had appealed for international support, calling for "collective, global efforts to establish governance and standards that uphold our shared values, address risks and build trust" in AI.

The Elysees Palace said as the summit concluded in Paris on Tuesday that India would host the next event of its kind. — DW

MOB VIOLENCE

Security forces arrest more than 1,500 people in Bangladesh

DHAKA: Police in Bangladesh have arrested more than 1,500 people since Saturday amid reports of mob violence across the country and a security crackdown.

The arrests came six months after Bangladesh's embattled ex-Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was toppled in a student-led revolution.

The police action was part of Operation Devil Hunt, a joint initiative by army troops and police to target groups behind a series of violent incidents that have taken place in recent months, committed both by groups connected to the ousted premier and groups which opposed her.

On Monday, police took publisher Shatabdi Bhaha into protective custody after dozens of furious Islamist students surrounded his stall at the Amar Ekushey Book Fair in the capital, Dhaka, which was selling works by exiled feminist author Taslima Nasrin.

"They had been campaigning to vandalise the book stall," said Sanjana Mehran, who alongside Bhaha co-founded Sabyasachi Publishers, according to AFP news agency.

Secretary-general of the country's powerful opposition Bangladesh National Party (BNP), Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, met the country's interim leader, Muhammad Yunus, late on Monday to "raise concerns over the incidents that have swept across the country," reported the AFP.

The Office of the Chief Adviser also condemned the incident and warned of strict action to prevent



any kind of chaos. Home Affairs Adviser Jahangir Chowdhury told reporters that Operation Devil Hunt would continue "until the devils are eliminated."

Political analyst Zahed Ur Rahman told DW that the interim government only makes statements, rather than preventing attacks or taking further action against perpetrators of the attacks.

"This is a huge failure for the Bangladesh government and

a message that even after six months, the government has not been able to ensure good governance," Rahman said.

Nur Khan Liton, a human rights activist and member of the Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances, which was set up by the interim government, believes there may be a special political motive behind these incidents.

"This time," he told DW, "different forces worked together in the

mass uprising." Khan said, "There were many small forces among them who basically believe in extremism."

He noted that these factors could impact the country's journey towards democracy and the upcoming elections.

In September, the government initiated a joint operation by the police and army. Although many illegal weapons were recovered and arrests made, human rights con-

cerns have surfaced.

In early February, Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), a Bangladeshi human rights organisation that documents attacks on minority communities, reported that 17 people had died in law enforcement custody during the first five months of the interim government. Among them was a leader of the BNP.

Nur Khan believes the crisis is worsening because the army is handling police work.

"The data shows that extrajudicial killings are increasing. This is a gross violation of human rights. We don't expect this to happen under this government," he told DW.

Khan added that the army lacks experience in handling civilians, "leading to accusations of involvement in crimes such as robbery, kidnapping, house grabbing, and human trafficking."

In response to the growing concerns, Yunus asserted that the reports of rights violations were widely exaggerated, the AP news agency reported.

Fresh protests erupted last week, sparked by a live speech on social media from Hasina, who had taken refuge in India.

In response, protesters bulldozed the historic house of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the leader of Hasina's Awami League and her father, who led the country's war of independence.

Offices of the Awami League and allied parties in 35 districts, as well as the homes of leaders and activists, were also set on fire.

An attack occurred on the house

of A.K.M. Mozammel Haque, the Awami government's Minister for Liberation War Affairs, in Gazipur district near Dhaka, injuring several students in a counterattack by locals.

The government announced Operation Devil Hunt on Saturday in response to the unrest.

"We are not conducting a drive against any political party or its leaders or activists. Our drive is against criminals and miscreants," said Nazmul Karim, the police commissioner of Gazipur.

Although the government did not provide specific information, Nur Khan claimed that most of the thousands arrested in the operation were Awami League leaders and activists.

He believes that "this does not seem to be an exception compared to the experience of such operations in the past" and doubts that such operations will restore order in the country.

The press wing of the chief adviser did not respond to a request for comment.

However, on Monday, advisor Mahfuz Alam hinted at the government's strict stance in a Facebook post. He wrote, "If you support the uprising, stop mobbing, and if you engage in mob actions, you will also be treated as devils."

He further emphasized that the government will deal with the "so-called movements" and "mob activities" with a strong hand from now on. "Any attempt to render the state ineffective and failed will not be tolerated," he wrote. — DW

SPORTS

Late drama as Real Madrid edge Man City 3-2 in a thrilling clash

Bellingham's injury-time goal handed Spanish giants the advantage in the Champions League knockout round play-offs

LONDON: Manchester City's quest for Champions League glory faces a difficult road ahead following a heartbreaking 3-2 loss to Real Madrid in the first leg of the knockout round play-offs at Etihad Stadium on Tuesday.

Jude Bellingham's injury-time goal handed Madrid the advantage, as the Spanish giants capitalised on City's lapses late in the match.

City's hopes were initially buoyed by a strong start, with Jack Grealish's precise assist setting up Erling Haaland to score after just 19 minutes. Grealish, who had been influential, was forced off through injury before the half-hour mark, a blow that disrupted City's early momentum. Despite this, Haaland came close to doubling the lead shortly



after the break, only for his shot to strike the bar.

Madrid grew into the match as City's fatigue became evident. Ky-

lian Mbappe's scrappy equaliser on the hour mark turned the tide in favour of the visitors. Real Madrid's dominance was clear as they missed

a number of chances, including two from Bellingham, which left City's defence struggling to cope.

City regained the lead in the 80th minute when Haaland converted a penalty after Dani Ceballos fouled Phil Foden. However, Madrid responded with a vengeance in the dying minutes. Brahim Diaz, once part of City's academy, netted the equaliser before Bellingham sealed the win with a composed finish in the dying seconds.

While City showed glimpses of their former selves early on, their defensive frailties and tired legs were exposed by Real's late surge.

Guardiola's side now faces a daunting challenge in the return leg at the Bernabeu. - Agencies

City fans' Rodri banner gave Vinicius Jr 'more strength'



LONDON: Real Madrid winger Vinicius Jr found extra motivation in the form of a banner displayed by Manchester City fans before their Champions League match on Tuesday, which featured Rodri kissing the *Ballon d'Or* trophy. Rodri, who won the prestigious award ahead of Vinicius, was a point of contention for the Madrid side, who boycotted the award ceremony due to their belief that Vinicius deserved it.

"I saw the banner," said Vinicius Jr. "Whenever the opposing fans do things like that, it gives me more

strength to have a great game. And here, I have done it." Real Madrid responded to the banner with a resilient performance, culminating in a dramatic 3-2 victory.

This match marked the fifth time in six seasons that these two teams met in the knockout stages, with Real emerging victorious last year on penalties. Vinicius Jr added: "They know our history, everything we do in this competition," reflecting his confidence in the team's resilience as they now turn their focus to the second leg in Madrid next week. - Agencies

FA CUP: FOURTH ROUND



Forest triumph in penalty shootout against Exeter

LONDON: Nottingham Forest battled through a tense penalty shootout to secure a 4-2 victory over 10-man Exeter City in the FA Cup fourth round on Tuesday night. After a 2-2 draw following extra time, Forest's composure in the penalty shootout ensured their place in the next round, while Exeter's valiant effort ended in disappointment.

The match had seen a dramatic twist as Exeter were reduced to 10 players after debutant Ed Turns was sent off in the 87th minute for a foul on Morgan Gibbs-White.

Despite the setback, Exeter had the upper hand in the shootout early on, as Reece Cole's penalty was saved and Angus MacDonald hit the bar. However, Forest maintained their cool, with Neco

Williams scoring the decisive spot-kick to send them through.

The match had been fiercely contested, with both sides showing determination. Exeter had matched Forest throughout the game, taking the lead twice. Forest, however, equalised both times—first through Taiwo Awoniyi and later through Willy Boly's header. Despite Exeter's numerical disadvantage in extra time, they held strong in defence, forcing the match to penalties.

Forest had made 10 changes to their lineup, yet their strength in depth proved decisive in the shootout.

The win means Forest will host Ipswich Town in the fifth round, and despite the tough contest, they will be relieved to progress in the competition. - Agencies

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE PLAY-OFF FIRST LEG

Slim advantage for Juve against PSV



TURIN: Juventus secured a narrow advantage over PSV Eindhoven in their Champions League knockout play-off first leg, with Samuel Mbangula scoring a late winner to give the Italian side a 2-1 victory on Tuesday.

Juventus dominated much of the match, but PSV's resilience kept them in the tie, setting up a tense second leg.

The match started with Juventus controlling possession and creating early chances. Nicolas Gonzalez, Kenan Yildiz, and Randal Kolo Muani all came close, but it was Weston McKennie who broke the deadlock in the 34th minute, finishing superbly from outside the box after PSV failed to clear their lines.

PSV equalised against the run of play in the second half when Ivan Perisic scored a well-placed shot into the bottom corner in the 72nd minute. Perisic's goal, however, was only confirmed after a VAR review, which dismissed a potential handball by PSV's Noah Lang in the build-up.

The game appeared to be heading for a draw until Mbangula came to Juventus's rescue, scoring from close range to seal the win in the 89th minute. The substitute, who had replaced Yildiz at half-time, played a crucial role in the final moments.

Juventus will head into the second leg with a slim advantage, but PSV's goal away from home could prove significant in the return fixture at Philips Stadion next week.



Dembele's double secures first-leg win for PSG

In Paris, Paris Saint-Germain took a commanding lead in their Champions League play-off with Brest, securing a 3-0 victory thanks to a brace from Ousmane Dembele. The France international has been in sensational form, extending his scoring streak to 18 goals in his last 11 appearances across all competitions.

PSG's attack proved too much for Brest, despite the hosts' spirit-

ited efforts. After Vitorino's penalty opened the scoring, Dembele struck twice to seal the win, and the French giants will be strong favorites to progress when they meet Brest in the return leg in Paris.

Guirassy leads Dortmund to crucial first-leg win

Serhou Guirassy continued his prolific Champions League form with a goal in Dortmund's 3-0 win over Sporting CP. The Guinea forward's header gave Dortmund a crucial lead, before Pascal Gross and Karim Adeyemi sealed the victory. Sporting's wastefulness in front of goal, combined with Dortmund's efficient counter-attacks, left them with little hope heading into the second leg. - Agencies

THE ADMIRAL'S CUP 2025

Oman sailors deliver encouraging performance in Thailand

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Sail's Optimist youth squad delivered an encouraging performance at The Admiral's Cup 2025, held in Pattaya, Thailand, from February 6-10.

Five young sailors from Oman competed alongside over 100 participants from across Asia, with three securing top-10 finishes in their respective fleets.

Khamis Nasser Al Mashaikhi impressed with a ninth-place finish in the highly competitive Gold fleet. He kicked off the event with a strong victory in the opening race and maintained consistent form, also claiming third place in round eight of 11 races. Meanwhile, Hood Saad Al Nofli triumphed in the Silver fleet, while teammate Mohammed Ziyad Al Qasimi finished in a



commendable fourth place.

Al Nofli displayed remarkable resilience after a challenging start, clinching six podium finishes in the final seven races, including three wins, to claim the top spot in the Silver fleet. Al Qasimi, although narrowly missing third place, demonstrated strong growth

throughout the regatta with two podium finishes.

The other two members of the Omani team, Hadeel Yousuf Al Mushaifri and Tarteel Zaid Al Hasani, gained valuable international experience, finishing 35th and 47th, respectively, out of 51 competitors.



The Omani delegation, led by team leader Hashim Al Rashdi and Optimist coach Sultan Al Zadjali, expressed pride in the sailors' achievements. Al Rashdi said, "This was an excellent experience for all five of our sailors. Ending the Admiral's Cup with a top-10 finish in the Gold fleet and a win-

ner and fourth place in the Silver fleet is a testament to their growth. We've been focusing on tactics and mindset, and the sailors have shown they can adapt and perform under pressure. We are excited for what's to come this season."

The regatta was organised and hosted by the Royal Varuna Yacht



Club in Pattaya. Oman Sail's team will continue their competitive journey with several key events throughout the year, including the Winter Cup, GCC Beach Games, Oman Sailing Championships, and Mussanah Race Week, culminating in the IODA event in October-November in Oman.

ROUND-UP

Enjoy remarkable journeys with bold, stylish Ford Territory SUV

The Ford Territory offers a welcoming and spacious environment designed for both comfort and convenience

MUSCAT: The Ford Territory stands out with a bold and dynamic exterior design, featuring an integrated grille and signature lighting that enhance its commanding presence. The full LED lighting not only adds to its modern aesthetic but also improves visibility for safer driving. The unique headlamp design incorporates daytime running LED lights seamlessly integrated with a strong horizontal grille bar, creating an eye-catching front fascia. Beyond aesthetics, the lowered headlamps provide an expanded lighting area, improving nighttime visibility while reinforcing the vehicle's confident stance. The bold grille bar, crafted from high-



quality materials, reflects Ford's global design DNA, ensuring durability and a premium look. Inside, the Ford Territory offers a welcoming and spacious environment designed for both comfort and convenience. The horizontal coast-to-coast design creates a sense of openness, making the cabin feel even more expansive. Premium leather seats add a touch of sophistication, while the 10-way adjustable ergonomic driver's seat provides personalised comfort and support, ensuring a relaxed driving experience even on long journeys. Practicality is at the heart of the Territory's design, with over 20 spacious storage compartments thoughtfully placed throughout

the cabin, allowing passengers to organise their essentials effortlessly. The 448-litre trunk further enhances versatility, offering ample cargo space that can be easily adapted for daily commutes, weekend getaways, or active lifestyles. Under the hood, the Ford Territory is powered by an efficient yet powerful 1.8L EcoBoost engine,

delivering an impressive 190 hp and 320Nm of torque. This balance of power and efficiency ensures a dynamic driving experience while maintaining fuel economy. Paired with a seven-speed automatic transmission, the vehicle offers smooth, responsive gear shifts, enhancing both performance and driving comfort. To

adapt to varying road conditions and driving styles, the Territory is equipped with four selectable driving modes like Eco, Normal, Sport and Mountain, allowing drivers to tailor their experience, whether navigating busy city streets, cruising on highways, or tackling challenging terrains. Safety and driver confidence are paramount in the Ford Territory, which is equipped with an advanced suite of Ford Co-Pilot driver-assist technologies. These features provide enhanced protection and convenience, allowing drivers to stay in control at all times. Lane Departure Warning (LDW) and Lane Keeping Aid (LKS) help maintain lane discipline, reducing the risk of unintentional drift. The Tyre Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS) ensures optimal tyre performance for better fuel efficiency and overall safety, while the Passive Anti-Theft System adds an extra layer of security for peace of mind. With its striking design, premium comfort, versatile storage, powerful performance and advanced safety features, the Ford Territory is designed to elevate every journey, offering drivers a well-rounded SUV that seamlessly blends style, capability and innovation. In Oman, Ford vehicles are brought to you by Arabian Car Marketing Co.

STATE AUDIT INSTITUTION

SAI holds awareness seminar on protecting public funds and promoting integrity

MUSCAT: In cooperation with the Governor of South Batinah office, State Audit Institution carried out an awareness seminar entitled "Protecting Public Funds and Promoting Integrity, Institutional Roles and Community Partnership" in South Batinah Governorate, on February 12, at the office of the Wali of Rustaq. The seminar was patronized by Eng. Masoud bin Saeed Al Hashemi, Governor of South Batinah, in the presence of Her Excellency Zahra bint Mohammed Reda Al Lawatia, SAI Deputy Chairman for Audit on Authorities, Investments and Companies, and a number of honored members of the State Council, their Excellencies members of the Shura Council and governors, officials from the units of the civil and military administrative apparatus, and CEOs of government-owned companies in the governorate. The seminar opened with a speech by Yahya Al Kindi, Director of Audit on Education Sector Department, in which he explained that the seminar aims to highlight SAI role in protecting public funds and promoting integrity, in accordance with the State Audit Law issued by Royal Decree No. 111/2011 and the Law on the Protection of Public Funds



and Avoidance of Conflicts of Interest issued by Royal Decree No. 112/2011, along with other relevant laws. He emphasized that the Sultanate of Oman, represented by the State Audit Institution and relevant government entities, has worked towards enhancing the efficiency of public fund utilization, optimizing human and financial resources, and safeguarding the achievements of the renaissance. This reflects the wise vision of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, contributing to sustainable development, economic growth, and societal well-being, in line with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040. In the speech, Al-Kindi emphasized the importance of institu-

tional partnership in efficiently and effectively managing various resources. This, in turn, ensures the proper execution of responsibilities and the achievement of assigned objectives with high efficiency. SAI also seeks, through its media and awareness activities, to enhance public understanding of laws and procedures related to public funds and public service, raise awareness about the importance of partnership in protecting public funds and combating corruption, and instill and strengthen integrity values among different segments of society. Following this, the seminar's key topics were presented. Shibib Al-Busaidi, Director General of the General Directorate of Legal Works at SAI, reviewed the laws governing the SAI's work, explaining the methodology it follows in implementing its objectives and responsibilities. He provided a detailed explanation of the audit process, the procedures followed when identifying observations and violations, and the reports issued by SAI. He also highlighted its primary role in protecting public funds, promoting integrity, and combating corruption. Additionally, he pointed out the measures taken by the Institution when the Sultanate of Oman joined the United Nations Convention Against Corruption and the subsequent steps that showcased the Sultanate's efforts in various related fields. After that, Dr. Mubarak Al-Rahbi discussed the societal roles in protecting public funds and outlined the channels provided by the Institution for submitting complaints and reports, along with the mechanism for reviewing them. He also highlighted the impact of audit efforts and the added value based on the findings summarized in SAI's 2023 annual report. Furthermore, key observations identified in the oversight of government tenders and auctions were addressed.

SQU CAREER FAIR

Explore career opportunities with Bank Muscat

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, will be participating in the 25th Career Fair organised by Sultan Qaboos University from 17 – 19 February. The annual event will witness the participation of different private and public institutions representing a wide range of sectors in Oman. Students and graduates interested in exploring the diverse career and training opportunities offered by the Bank are invited to visit its dedicated stall at SQU Cultural Center in the Grand Hall, from 9 AM till 4:30 PM. The annual Fair serves as a link between university students and labor sectors. It allows the participating institutions to learn about the academic level, skills and abilities of students. At the same time, it familiarises students and graduates with the available job and training opportunities and mechanism to apply for them, and raise their professional awareness. The Fair is also an opportunity for the participating institutions to accelerate their Omanisation plans through direct contact with graduates from different majors.

Bank Muscat is keen to participate annually in the Career and Training Fair, as it is an opportunity to meet with students and introduce them to the Bank's recruitment policy, available vacancies, the areas of human resources development and the programmes provided by the Bank in this field. The bank's annual participation in the Fair confirms its commitment to the long-standing partnership with Sultan Qaboos University, in particular, and government and private institutions in general as part of the its strategy to support sustainable human development plans. Bank Muscat allocates considerable resources to enhance the capabilities of its workforce where training plans and programmes are approved annually for all employees. Since the very moment of joining the Bank, employees are enrolled in appropriate training and development courses to enable them to perform their jobs to the fullest. The Bank is committed to provide a professional working environment based on fair distribution of opportunities among all employees.

VALENTINE'S DAY

Enchanting romance escape awaits at St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort



MUSCAT: This Valentine's Day, The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort invites couples to immerse themselves in a realm of elegance and intimacy, featuring thoughtfully curated experiences designed to create unforgettable moments together. With exclusive offerings ranging from private suite getaways to enchanting beachside dinners, the resort promises an unforgettable celebration of love. The ultimate romantic escape awaits at the Pearl Suite, where breathtaking views and a sophisticated ambiance set the stage for an intimate one-day romantic retreat. As the sun sets, couples will be treated to a private balcony dinner, with every detail, from the gourmet menu to the candlelit setting, meticulously curated for an intimate evening under the stars. Zorba invites guests to embrace a one-of-a-kind beachfront transformation creating a sanctuary of love and serenity, which presents two captivating options. The Valentine's Day Beachside Cabana Dinner provides a dreamy setting with soft lantern glow, live entertainment, and a curated menu for two in an idyllic secluded beach

location. Alternatively, guests can savor a specially crafted Valentine's Set Menu Dinner at Zorba, where exquisite flavors and an enchanting beachfront atmosphere come together to create a truly magical dining experience. Couples can immerse themselves in a journey of relaxation and connection at the renowned Guerlain Spa with a serene Valentine's experience. Indulge in a 90-minute rejuvenating couple's massage followed by a 30-minute romantic bath ritual designed to relax and refresh the senses. For those seeking an elevated offering, the Guerlain Spa has collaborated with Novikov Café to offer a seamless blend of wellness and culinary delight. After the soothing treatments, couples can enjoy a sharing-style set menu paired with a refreshing beverage of their choice at Novikov Café. Available throughout February, this combination promises to rejuvenate the body and soul while creating cherished memories. The resort's acclaimed dining venues also offer exceptional culinary delights for Valentine's Day. At Roberto's, couples can indulge

in an elegant five-course set menu crafted for love, while COYA offers a vibrant dining atmosphere infused with Peruvian flair through its specially curated set menu. Novikov Café provides both lunch and dinner options throughout February, offering couples the perfect opportunity to celebrate their love in an atmosphere that suits their preference. At Hakkasan, romance unfolds with two exquisite dining journeys. Discover the art of Cantonese cuisine with a specially crafted Valentine's Day Set Menu, a symphony of flavors designed to delight. Alternatively, explore the depths of Hakkasan's renowned à la carte menu, where innovative dishes meet timeless tradition, all set against the restaurant's opulent and immersive environment. Whether it's the privacy of a luxurious suite, the charm of beachside dining, or the serenity of a spa retreat, every moment at The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort is meticulously created to celebrate love. From the soft hues of the Omani sunset to our signature service, romance is woven into every detail this Valentine's Day.

