

Times

GOLDEN JUBILEE

OF OMAN



50

YEARS OF
LEGACY

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MARRIAGE CONTRACT

Royal Decree issued on Regulation of Premarital Medical Examination

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik yesterday issued Royal decree No. 111/2025 on Regulation of Premarital Medical Examination.

Article (1) states that every Omani wishing to marry—even if the other party is non-Omani—must undergo a medical examination, along with the other party, prior to the conclusion of the marriage contract, whether the contract is concluded inside or outside the Sultanate of Oman. This shall be in accordance with the regulations and procedures to be issued by a decision from the Minister of Health.

Article (2) instructs the health institution to conduct the premarital medical examination in accordance with scientific and technical standards. It must notify both parties intending to marry of the result of each party's examination and provide the necessary medical counselling if required in light of the medical examination results. It is prohibited to disclose the examination results to any third party.

Article (3) says that the health institution shall issue to the parties intending to marry a certificate proving they have undergone the medical examination stipulated in Article 2 of this decree, in accordance with the regulations and procedures to be issued by a decision from the Minister of Health.

Article (4) stipulates that the marriage officiants must not conclude the marriage contract until the two parties to the contract have presented the certificate stipulated in Article 3 of this decree.

Article (5) states that anyone who violates the provisions of this decree shall be punished by imprisonment for a period of no less than ten (10) days and not exceeding six (6) months, and/or by a fine of no less than OMR 100 and not exceeding OMR 1000.

Article (6) cancels all that contradicts this decree or contravenes its provisions.

Article (7) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from 1 January 2026. -ONA

HM THE SULTAN VISITS CYBER DEFENCE CENTRE



During the visit, HM was briefed on the Centre's principal responsibilities and roles it performs to protect Oman's cyberspace

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander, paid a Royal visit

to the Cyber Defence Centre in the Governorate of Muscat on Wednesday.

During the visit, His Majesty was briefed on the Centre's principal responsibilities and roles it performs to protect Oman's cyberspace. Upon the arrival of His Majesty's motorcade, he was greeted by Lt. Gen. Said bin Ali Al Hilali, Head of the Internal Security Service (ISS), alongside some senior ISS officers.

His Majesty the Sultan then proceeded on an inspection tour of the Centre's facilities, where he examined its advanced sys-

tems and operational capabilities, observed the incident response mechanisms for cybersecurity threats, and took note of plans for developing and upskilling national cadres in this field.

His Majesty, the Supreme Commander, gave his directives to continuously align with technological advancements across all relevant disciplines. At the end of the visit, His Majesty took a commemorative photo with the personnel of the Centre. -ONA

CABLE

HM the Sultan condoles President of Bangladesh

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of condolences to President Mohammed Shahabuddin of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on the death of Khaleda Zia, former

Prime Minister of Bangladesh. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his heartfelt sympathies to President Mohammed, the family of the deceased and the people of Bangladesh. - ONA



TOMI 2025 Celebrates Al Mouj Muscat with Best Luxury Brand Video

MUSCAT: Al Mouj Muscat has long stood as a symbol of refined coastal living, where design, lifestyle, and community come together seamlessly.

This award-winning video captured the brand's essence with elegance and emotion, translating its vision of luxury into a cinematic narrative that goes beyond property and into lifestyle.

Through thoughtful storytelling and striking visuals, the film reflected Al Mouj Muscat's identity—aspirational, sophisticated, and deeply connected to its beachfront setting. Every



frame highlighted the harmony between architecture, nature, and modern living, reinforcing the brand's position as one of Oman's most iconic luxury destinations.

The trophy was presented by His Highness Sayyid Suhaib Bin Barghash Bin Said Al Said.

TOMI 2025, organised by Muscat Media Group, took place on 10th December at Crowne Plaza Qurum, Muscat, bringing together over 200 marketing professionals from Oman and the MENA region in a celebration of creativity, strategy, and impact.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR

Oman creates over 51,000 jobs in 2025



MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman generated a total of 51,482 job opportunities in 2025, achieving 114 percent of its annual employment and training target and surpassing the goal of 45,000 opportunities, according to the Ministry of Labour.

The ministry said the achievement reflects strong integration between government entities and the private sector in supporting the national employment system through coordinated policies and initiatives. It noted that quality programmes implemented during the year included replacement plans, training linked with employment, initiatives to enhance the skills of job seekers, and close coopera-

25,207

The private sector recorded 25,207 job opportunities, surpassing its target of 24,000

tion with private sector establishments to create sustainable job opportunities.

First-time employment and

replacement in the government sector accounted for 11,206 opportunities, exceeding the set target of 10,000. The private sector, meanwhile, recorded 25,207 job opportunities, surpassing its target of 24,000.

In the area of training and qualification, including programmes combined with employment, the public sector provided 2,588 opportunities, while the private sector recorded 12,481 opportunities.

The ministry reaffirmed its commitment to continuing the development of initiatives and projects aimed at improving the work environment and raising employment rates, in line with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

-ONA

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Shura Council to host Minister of Labour

1 The Shura Council will hold its regular sessions "6, 7, and 8" next week for the third ordinary convening period of its tenth term. The Council will host Dr. Mahad Said Ba'awain, Minister of Labour. >**A2**

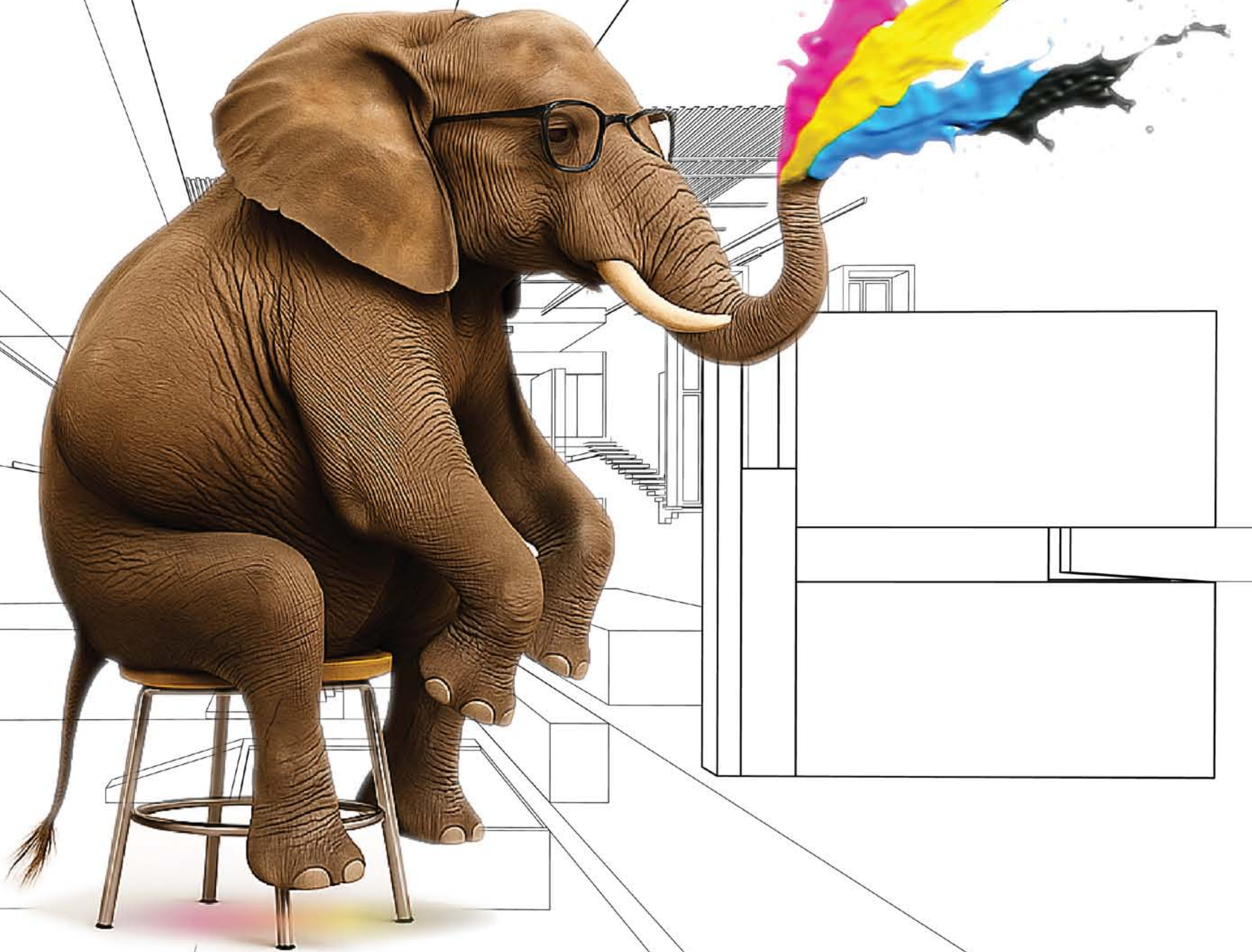
OMAN Sayyid Badr, Saudi minister hold talks

2 Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, met with Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), in Riyadh on Wednesday. >**A6**

WORLD Bangladesh bids adieu to Khaleda Zia

3 Bangladesh held the Namaz-e-Janaza of former PM Begum Khaleda Zia at the South Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, as thousands gathered to pay their final respects. >**A7**

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- Vinyl stickers
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- Backlit flex banners



OMAN

PRAYER TIMINGS



Dhuhr.....	12:15pm
Asr.....	3:16pm
Maghrib.....	5:36pm
Isha.....	6:51pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5:29am

GOVERNORATE OF MUSCAT

His Majesty the Sultan inspects Cyber Defence Centre facilities



Shura Council to host Minister of Labour, discuss policies, plans

The Minister will deliver his statement before the Shura Council in accordance with Article 69 of the Council of Oman



MUSCAT: The Shura Council will hold its regular sessions “6, 7, and 8” next week for the third ordinary convening period of its tenth term. The Council will host Dr. Mahad Said Ba’awain, Minister of Labour

on 7-8 January.

The Minister will deliver his ministry’s statement before the members of the Shura Council in a public session, in accordance with

Article 69 of the Council of Oman. Sheikh Ahmed Mohammed Al Nadabi, Secretary-General of the Shura Council, stated in a comment: “The Council will discuss

the Ministry of Labour’s statement during its seventh and eighth regular sessions of the third ordinary convening period of the tenth term (2023 – 2027). These sessions are

the first dedicated to discussing ministerial statements for the current ordinary convening period.”

He added that the statement includes 5 main themes. The first theme discusses the Ministry’s policies, plans, and programmes for the Tenth Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) under “Oman Vision 2040,” including the programmes of the Tenth Five-Year Development Plan (2021-2025) assigned to the Ministry of Labour (programmes and completion rates for each program).

He indicated that the second theme will address the legislations and laws regulating work in the private and public sectors.

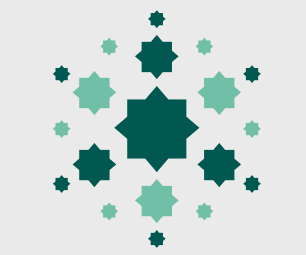
The third theme of the statement will discuss the aspect of work and employment in the public and private sectors by presenting the Ministry’s efforts in bridging the gap between supply and demand in

the labour and employment sector, the most prominent sustainable job initiatives and operational programmes in the public and private sectors, Al Nadabi pointed out.

Regarding the theme of training, the statement will address the most prominent approved training plans and programmes in empowering national cadres to occupy various jobs and professions in the public and private sectors and initiatives for training coupled with employment.

The Secretary-General of the Shura Council added that the fifth theme of the statement will address the topic of digital transformation and electronic linkage.

He further added that the Council will hold its sixth regular session on 6 January, which will be dedicated to discussing the draft Urban Planning Law referred by the government. -OHA



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TOMI 2025 Honours Crowne Plaza Qurum with Best Video Advertising



MUSCAT: Crowne Plaza Qurum steps into a new era, and this award-winning video captured that transformation with clarity, style, and confidence. From elegantly redesigned rooms to contemporary interiors and elevated comfort, the film brought the hotel's refreshed identity to life.

Showcasing modern amenities, refined dining experiences, and its unbeatable location, the video reflected more than a makeover—it told a story of renewal. A celebration of hospitality done right, it reinforced



Crowne Plaza Qurum's position as a destination where luxury, convenience, and memorable guest experiences come together seamlessly.

The trophy was presented by His Highness Sayyid Suhaib Bin Barghash Bin Said Al Said. TOMI 2025, organised by Muscat Media Group, took place on 10th December at Crowne Plaza Qurum, Muscat, bringing together over 200 marketing professionals from Oman and the MENA region in a celebration of creativity, strategy, and impact.



MEETING: The session also focused on proposals submitted by the Council's permanent committees. - ONA

State Council Office holds 2nd meeting

During the meeting, the Office discussed a study prepared by the committee regarding the enhancement of financial sustainability for civil society institutions

MUSCAT: The Office of the State Council held its second meeting for the third ordinary session of the eighth term on Wednesday.

The meeting was chaired by Sheikh Abdulmalik Abdullah Al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council. During the meeting, the Office discussed a study prepared by the committee regarding the enhancement of financial sustainability for civil society institutions, highlighting the findings and recommendations aimed at ensuring the long-term viability of this vital sector.

The session also focused on proposals submitted by the Council's permanent committees concerning topics designated for study during the third ordinary session of the eighth term.

These efforts are designed to enhance legislative efficiency and ensure alignment with the implementation of national development plans, as well as studies that help consolidate the authentic values of Omani society and preserve its achievements.

Additionally, the Office reviewed reports submitted by Council members regarding their participation in regional and international meetings and forums.

Members also examined follow-up reports on the implementation of previously issued decisions and a summary of the Council's activities during the past period.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Office approved and determined the agenda items for the fifth meeting of the third ordinary session of the eighth term. - ONA



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OMAN

Sultanate of Oman strengthens position as emerging regional investment hub



Oman has also adopted an ambitious government digital transformation programme, resulting in the digitalisation of more than 1,700 government services between 2021 and 2024.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman continues to cement its position as an emerging investment destination in the region, driven by well-established legislative and regulatory reforms and rapid digital transformation of government services. These efforts are aligned with Oman Vision 2040, which places economic diversification and investment at the forefront of national priorities.

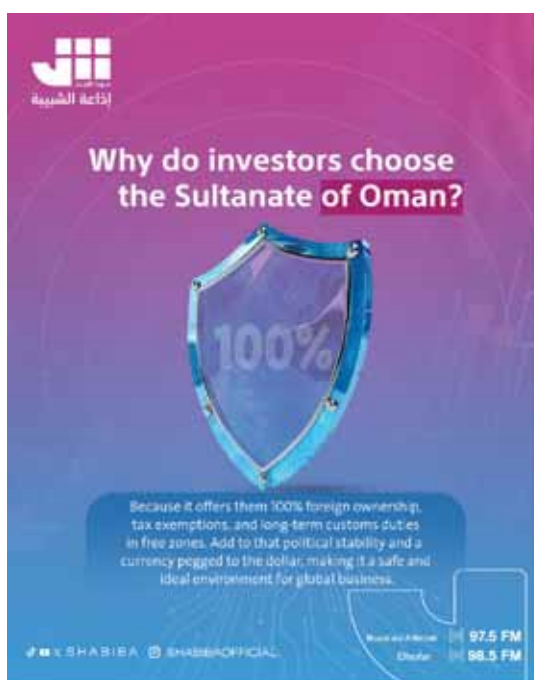
Such reforms have contributed to significant improvements in the business environment, simplifying company establishment procedures and reducing operating costs, thereby enhancing the Sultanate's attractiveness to both local and foreign investors.

In recent years, Oman's investment climate has witnessed remarkable progress, reflecting the

government's strong commitment to modernising business systems and boosting the competitiveness of the national economy.

A key milestone in this journey was the promulgation of the Foreign Capital Investment Law under Royal Decree No. 50/2019, which abolished the minimum capital requirement for foreign investors with effect from January 2020. This step eliminated one of the major traditional constraints faced by investors and marked a turning point in improving market accessibility.

Oman has also adopted an ambitious government digital transformation programme, resulting in the digitalisation of more than 1,700 government services between 2021 and 2024. The rate of digital transformation rose to 73 per cent by the end of 2024, compared to 53 per cent in 2023.



This progress is clearly reflected in the Oman Business Platform, which completed over 827 transactions in 2024 – a 15 per cent increase compared to 2023. Additionally, the Sultanate achieved a score of 72 per cent in the Government Electronic and Mobile Services (GEMS) Maturity Index.

According to World Bank reports, Oman has made notable progress in reducing the time and procedures required to establish a



business compared to neighbouring countries such as the UAE and Saudi Arabia. The average time required to establish a new company in Oman stands at between four and 4.5 days, with only four procedures and no minimum capital requirement. Furthermore, the cost of company establishment in Oman is among the lowest in the region, not exceeding three per cent of per capita income, compared to 17 per cent in the UAE and

five per cent in Saudi Arabia.

Government digital platforms have played a pivotal role in accelerating these procedures.

The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion launched the 'Invest in Oman' portal as a one-stop platform integrating services from 15 government entities, alongside the Oman Business Platform, which offers more than 15 integrated electronic services for the remote establishment

and management of companies. Among these is the AI-powered Know Your Customer (KYC) digital service, which enables investors to establish companies from outside the Sultanate without the need for physical presence during the initial stages.

On the operational cost front, the government has taken tangible steps to support Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), including an 89 per cent reduction in expatriate labour permit fees for small companies registered with Riyadh, in accordance with Ministry of Labour Decision No. 224/2022.

In parallel, Oman launched a long-term residency programme for investors at a time when foreign direct investment reached OMR 30 billion by the third quarter of 2024, reflecting the positive impact of ongoing economic reforms.

The Sultanate of Oman also benefits from political and economic stability, a reliable labour market, and a strategic location along key maritime trade routes connecting Asia and Africa. Looking ahead under Oman Vision 2040, the country is set to introduce further legislative enhancements, adopt smart and AI-supported solutions to deliver proactive investor services, expand public-private partnerships, and launch new economic zones to sustain growth and competitiveness.

GRAND OPENING

A month-long Muscat Nights begins today

MUSCAT: The capital, Muscat, will witness an exceptional winter season with the launch of Muscat Nights 2026, running from the beginning of the new year until January 31. The event returns in a new format and with a qualitative program that reflects an integrated vision combining entertainment, culture, sports, and economic activities within a comprehensive urban experience across Muscat Governorate.

Muscat Nights 2026 stands out as both an entertainment event and a full urban season, highlighting the vitality of the capital and its ability to offer diverse content that appeals to various segments of society, while strengthening Muscat's position as a leading winter destination in the region.

The events will be held across multiple locations in Muscat Governorate, including Qurum Natural Park, Al Amerat Public Park, the Oman Automobile Association, the Royal Opera House Muscat, Seeb Beach, Quriyat, Wadi Al Khoudh, and major shopping centers. This wide geographical distribution allows visitors to enjoy the season in different urban spaces and styles.

The character "Siraj", symbolising an Omani child of light roaming the city's sky, serves as the official mascot of Muscat Nights 2026. Siraj embodies the narrative and visual identity of the event and represents one of its most prominent attractions for families and visitors from within and outside the Sultanate of Oman.

A highlight of the season is the symphony of fountains and light at Qurum Natural Park, where the lake is transformed into an open-air theater hosting artistic water displays synchronized with music and lighting, offering a modern visual experience that blends art



and technology.

Muscat Nights Circus, held daily at the Oman Automobile Association site, features performances by international artists showcasing acrobatics, aerial acts, balancing skills, and sleight of hand. The circus also introduces hologram technology, using advanced light waves to create three-dimensional visual scenes. The circus area includes a dedicated children's zone offering in-

teractive educational activities, role-playing scientific professions, simplified astronomy and space presentations, as well as creative arts, drawing, coloring, and handicrafts within an integrated edutainment environment.

Qurum Natural Park will also host nighttime drone shows, presenting moving light formations inspired by Muscat's cultural and artistic identity. In addition, the park will feature "Masha and the

Bear” interactive events, offering children an imaginative family adventure that promotes values of friendship, cooperation, and discovery.

Carnival zones across the venues will include family games, amusement rides, daily parades, and performances by local and international artists, alongside cultural, artistic, and musical evenings that create a daily atmosphere of joy and celebration.

The Muscat Nights 2026 sports program offers a diverse schedule featuring cycling races, endurance events, shooting, martial arts, friendly football matches, bowling, billiards, and snooker. It also includes the Muscat Nights Local and International 3x3 Basketball Championship, to be held at Al Arahim Boulevard Mall from January 22 to 24, 2026, with

teams participating from inside and outside the Sultanate.

The Oman Automobile Association and Wadi Al Khoudh will host youth-focused activities combining excitement and challenge, including professional car drifting shows, zip-lining, and interactive outdoor adventure experiences, all conducted within a safe and organized environment.

Seeb Beach in the Sur Al Hadid area will host football and beach volleyball tournaments, in addition to morning fitness sessions. A motorcycle exhibition will showcase classic and modern models, along with safe driving demonstrations and technical displays aimed at promoting traffic awareness and technical culture among youth.

The Heritage Village will appear in a renewed form during Muscat Nights 2026 at Al Amerat.

Public Park and Qurum Natural Park, featuring live demonstrations of traditional crafts, folk arts, Omani cuisine, and heritage architectural settings, reflecting the depth of Omani identity within a contemporary vision.

Oman Design Week, held at Al Khuwair Square, will serve as a creative platform bringing together designers, artists, and innovators to present sculptures and interactive design works reflecting innovation, urban beauty, and sustainability, transforming public spaces into open art exhibitions.

Meanwhile, the Royal Opera House Muscat will host Fashion Week as part of Muscat Nights 2026, with the participation of international designers, offering a refined artistic experience that highlights creativity, elegance, and contemporary fashion.

TOMI 2025 Awards IDdesign Oman for Best Digital Advertising



MUSCAT: IDdesign Oman was recognised for Best Digital Advertising at TOMI 2025, celebrating its innovative and creative approach to brand storytelling in the digital space. Specialising in designer furniture and accessories, IDdesign combines compelling graphics, distinctive fonts, and immersive narratives to engage audiences across social media, YouTube, Meta, and Google Ads. Strategic collaborations with brands and influencers further amplify impact, creating campaigns that are both visually striking and results-driven.

With a holistic, multi-chan-



nel approach, IDdesign Oman continues to set the benchmark for digital marketing excellence, delivering measurable engagement, growth, and a lasting connection with audiences across the Sultanate.

The trophy was presented by His Highness Sayyid Suhaib Bin Barghash Bin Said Al Said. TOMI 2025, organised by Muscat Media Group, took place on 10th December at Crowne Plaza Qurum, Muscat, bringing together over 200 marketing professionals from Oman and the MENA region in a celebration of creativity, strategy, and impact.

Oman and Belgium ink pact for ‘Wonders of the World’ exhibition

MUSCAT: The National Museum signed on Wednesday an agreement to stage an exhibition titled “Wonders of the World: From Maps to Artistic Masterpieces”, in collaboration with the Phoebus Foundation of Belgium.

This initiative aims to enhance cultural and artistic cooperation between the two countries in the fields of art, culture, and shared artistic heritage.

The agreement was signed on behalf of The National Museum by Jamal Hassan Al Moosawi, Secretary-General of the National Museum, and on behalf of the Phoebus Foundation by Dr. Katrien Van Cauteren, Chief Executive Officer of the Foundation, in the presence of Ferdinand Huts, Chairman of the Board of the Phoebus Foundation.

As per the agreement, the exhibition will be held from 2 December 2026 to 2 March 2027. It will highlight the contributions of Flemish artists and scholars during the early modern period (16th–18th centuries), demonstrating how they sought to understand the world around them with precision and passion.

This was achieved through cartography, the study of nature, including plants, shells, and minerals, and through meticulous visual representations that combine



scientific inquiry with aesthetic refinement.

These works emerged within a culture characterised by flourishing trade, a spirit of discovery, and exceptional craftsmanship, one that regarded the world as a space worthy of observation and contemplation.

The exhibition places this Flemish perspective in a balanced cultural dialogue with the Sultanate of Oman, drawing on shared elements such as maritime horizons, navigation routes, and a mutual interest in materials and visual culture.

The Phoebus Foundation is regarded as one of Europe's leading cultural and artistic institutions. It is dedicated to the acquisition, conservation, and management of art collections, as well as the or-

ganisation of exhibitions, cultural programmes, and scholarly research related to the arts, thereby contributing to the preservation of artistic heritage and its presentation to the public within a comprehensive academic and cultural framework.

It is worth noting that this exhibition forms part of the National Museum's ongoing efforts to strengthen international cultural dialogue and to highlight points of convergence between civilisations through art and culture.

These efforts contribute to consolidating the Sultanate of Oman's position as a hub for cultural exchange and civilisational dialogue, while supporting partnerships with leading international cultural institutions of long-standing expertise. -ONA

Musandam’s natural assets make it an ideal destination for visitors

The Wilayat of Diba has welcomed 96,652 tourists since the start of the current winter season across 2,337 marine trips dedicated to recreation, sightseeing, fishing and diving

KHASAB: The number of tourists visiting Khasab Port in the Musandam Governorate during the current winter season reached 35,073 as of mid-December 2025.

These visitors arrived via 27 cruise ships, with expectations for a further increase in both tourist numbers and vessel arrivals during the remaining months of the 2025/2026 winter season.

By comparison, the previous winter season recorded 63,781 tourists arriving via 45 cruises



from various Gulf, Arab, European, and Asian countries.

Meanwhile, the Wilayat of Diba has welcomed 96,652 tourists since the start of the current winter season across 2,337 marine trips dedicated to recreation, sightseeing, fishing, and diving, following a 2024 winter season

that saw 133,649 tourists and 2,861 trips.

High influx of visitors

Salah Mohammed Al Farsi, Director of the Heritage and Tourism Department in Musandam, stated that the governorate is witnessing a high influx of visitors from with-

in Oman and abroad during the winter season, which runs from November 2025 to the end of April 2026.

He added that the region receives great attention due to its archaeological, natural, and tourism assets, making it a premier destination for sea and land sports,



adventure tourism, mountain climbing, and exploring caves and valleys. He highlighted the ongoing cooperation with the Office of the Governor of Musandam to organize various entertainment, heritage, and cultural activities throughout the season as part of the “Musandam Winter” events.

Regarding infrastructure, the Director noted that the governorate currently has 13 hotel establishments, including hotels, apartments, guest houses, and green inns, providing a total of 470 rooms. Several major projects are also currently under implementation. -ONA

ANNUAL FORUM



Over 8,600 citizens register at ‘Together Forward’ Forum

MUSCAT: More than 8,600 Omani citizens (68 percent males and 32 percent females) registered to “Together Forward” Forum scheduled to be held on 8 and 9 February 2026. The annual forum is organized by the Secretariat General of the Council of Ministers.

The forthcoming 4th edition of the forum aims to consolidate the principle of community partnership in decision-making.

Registration statistics show that 46 percent of those who registered

to the forum were holders of Bachelor's degree, while public sector employees constituted 41 percent of the registrants.

The Secretariat General of the Council of Ministers will conduct a sorting process for those registered to the forum. The sorting process will be based on specific criteria that ensures balanced representation of all governorates of Oman. It will also reflect professional categories, academic levels and social diversity. -ONA

BADER

Interior ministry launches logo for Municipal polls

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Interior has launched the logo for the fourth term of the Municipal Council elections for the year 2026.

The logo's design incorporates several verbal and artistic connotations related to the objectives of the electoral process.

The logo centres on the word “Bader” (Initiate), which embodies a direct call to citizens for active participation in the elections. This reflects a sense of national responsibility and promotes a positive contribution to the success of the Municipal Council elections.

The logo was designed with a modern visual style that merges artistic elements reflecting the national identity.

A simplified Arabic font was used for the word “Bader” to ensure it is easy to read and de-



The logo was designed with a modern visual style that merges artistic elements reflecting the national identity. -ONA

livers the message clearly, along with the inclusion of a green ✓ mark as a symbol of the accuracy of decision-making and sound selection. -ONA



U.S. EMBASSY - MUSCAT

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
MUSCAT-2025-002S
SECURITY INVESTIGATOR POSITION

The U.S. Embassy in Muscat is seeking qualified candidates for the below position:

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Paper or e-mailed application or documents will not be accepted.

MEETING

Sayyid Badr, Saudi counterpart review developments in Yemen

RIYADH: Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, met with Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), in Riyadh on Wednesday.

The discussions focused on the latest developments in Yemen and their repercussions for regional security and stability.

The meeting addressed ongoing efforts to de-escalate tensions and explored avenues to bolster the political process.



Both ministers emphasised the need for a comprehensive and enduring resolution that addresses the underlying causes of the conflict.

Such a settlement, they concurred, must safeguard Yemen's sovereignty, stability, and security, while also accommodating the aspirations of the Yemeni people and upholding the vital national security interests of neighbouring states and the wider region.

-ONA

Projects worth over OMR363mn awarded

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Said bin Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy and Chairman of the Tender Board



MUSCAT: The Tender Board on Wednesday approved a major portfolio of government contracts and project amendments valued at more than OMR363 million during its fourth meeting of the year (2025).

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Said bin Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy and Chairman of the Tender Board.

The extensive list of approved awards covers a wide range of sectors, with the single largest allocation designated for the procurement of pharmaceuticals, vaccines, and sera for government units, amounting to OMR201,835,139.

Key infrastructure and development projects approved include:

- The development of 18th November Road and Al Mouj Road (RO 44,940,000)
- Procurement of consumable surgical materials for the Ministry of Health (OMR 19,009,051)
- Provision of nutrition services and associated works for Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) students (OMR 17,536,476)
- The development of the Khor Al Batah in South A'Sharqiyah

Governorate (OMR 16,057,166)

- Operation and maintenance of electrical and mechanical equipment, and general maintenance at Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) for a period of two years (OMR 8,841,806)
- The duplication of Al Rub'Al Khali Road - Phase One - in A'Dhahirah Governorate (OMR 8,396,371)
- The duplication of Al Ma'murah Road - Razzat in Dhofar Governorate (OMR 4,297,466)
- A fisheries survey and exploration project in the Sea of Oman and the Arabian Sea (OMR 7,821,693)
- Design and implementation of Hawiyat Najm Development Project (OMR 5,759,459)
- Implementing the side slopes for the roads (Khadrafi - Sarfai) and (Khadrafi - Dhalkut) in the Dhofar Governorate (OMR 5,351,950)
- Application of vocational and technical education in post-basic education (Grades 11 & 12) (OMR 3,773,600)
- Establishment of the Sur Cultural Youth Center (OMR 3,586,809)

■ Provision of periodic maintenance for radiology equipment at the Royal Hospital (OMR 2,169,063)

- Implementation of the first package of energy efficiency projects for government buildings (OMR 1,861,899)
- Operation and development of the Oman Business Platform (OMR 1,581,700)
- Contracting to provide international news content services (OMR 824,380).
- Technical support services for radars affiliated with the Civil Aviation Authority (OMR 572,955)
- Management services for the Public Prosecution Department's building in Al Irfan City, (OMR 177,500)
- Maintenance services for the brachytherapy system device at the Royal Hospital (OMR 162,540)
- Additional works on the project for constructing and implementing protections for valley walls from flood erosion risks in Salalah City (OMR 2,283,947)
- Additional works on the tender for providing nutrition services for the University Medical City (OMR 1,700,000)

■ Additional works on the tender for providing cleaning and pest control services at Sultan Qaboos University (OMR 1,556,901)

■ Additional works on the tender for the Aftalqoot View Development Project in the Dhofar Governorate (OMR 1,129,411)

■ Additional works on the tender for providing irrigation and landscaping works for the water drainage network project on Sultan Qaboos Road in Al Khuwair (OMR 1,102,675)

■ Additional works on the agreement for the project to design and implement a single road linking Al Sufaiha Village in the Wilayat of Bahla to the Nizwa-Jibrin Road in the A'Dakhiliyah Governorate (OMR 519,000)

■ Complementary works on the project to repair damages resulting from weather conditions in the wilayats of Saham and Al Khabourah (OMR 199,991)

■ Additional works on the consultancy services for the design and supervision of the Aflaj Road Construction Project in the Wilayat of Al Mudhaibi (OMR 50,138)

■ Additional works on the tender for establishing a dialysis unit at Al Khabourah Health Complex in the North Al Batinah Governorate (OMR 46,192)

■ Additional works on the tender for expansion works at Wadi Bani Khalid Hospital in the North Al Sharqiyah Governorate (OMR 42,367)

■ Additional works on the tender for the road maintenance project in the wilayats of Muttrah and Muscat (OMR 40,305)

■ Additional works on the tender for the development, implementation, hosting, and support of the medical fitness examination system for the Ministry of Health (OMR 26,145). -ONA



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HEALTHY LEARNING

Strategic step for boosting quality of higher education



MUSCAT: The Health-Promoting Universities initiative in the Sultanate of Oman represents a pioneering strategic step toward enhancing the quality of higher education by integrating health and well-being into the university environment.

The initiative aims to transform higher education institutions into safe, healthy learning spaces that foster both academic and personal growth.

Dr. Maryam Belarab Al Nabhani, Director General of Private Universities and Colleges, stated that the initiative was launched during the 2023/2024 academic year with the participation of three national universities. It saw a significant expansion in the 2024/2025 academic year, with eight additional government and private educational institutions joining. This growth reflects a rising institutional awareness of the importance of embedding health within university policies, organizational structures, and student activities.

Al Nabhani added that the initiative is currently transitioning from the national evaluation phase to a regional evaluation phase in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO). This transition serves as a precursor to accrediting several Omani universities as health-promoting institutions at the regional level, a national achievement that bolsters Oman's international standing in the sectors of education and health.

The criteria for "Health-Promoting Universities" involve an integrated system designed to improve the quality of life on campus. These standards include institutional policies that support health, a safe campus environment, mental health services, physical activity, proper nutrition, and the prevention of high-risk behaviors. Dr. Al Nabhani emphasized that these standards help create a sustainable educational environment that supports student success and the overall development of educational institutions.

The Director General praised the high level of commitment shown by participating universities, noting that the initiative has been translated into sustainable health programs and practices on the ground. She explained that the initiative aims to improve the physical and mental health of students, reduce negative



health behaviors, and raise health awareness. Furthermore, it seeks to build a balanced student personality and improve academic achievement, as healthy students are better equipped for creativity and excellence.

Regarding the role of the Directorate General of Private Universities and Colleges, she noted that it oversees the implementation of the initiative within private higher education institutions, monitors performance indicators, and ensures continuous coordination with the Ministry of Health.

The Directorate also works to enable universities to meet accreditation requirements and ensures that health concepts are integrated into both academic and administrative policies.

Al Nabhani also highlighted the National Forum for the Health-Promoting Universities Initiative, which was hosted by the University of A'Sharqiyah in the North Al Sharqiyah Governorate this December.

The forum served as a vital national milestone, bringing together higher education institutions, the health sector, and international partners to exchange expertise and unify efforts toward building universities with global health standards.

This forum was the result of joint cooperation between the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation—represented by the Directorate General of Private Universities and Colleges—the Ministry of Health, and the World Health Organization.

This model reflects the integration of roles between different sectors to promote health within educational institutions, ensuring that the quality of education remains inseparable from the quality of life and health on campus. -ONA

30TH MEETING

Govt Communication Centre meeting focuses on proactive communication

MUSCAT: The Government Communication Centre on Wednesday held its 30th meeting titled "Proactive Communication Among Government Units". It was attended by directors and representatives of communication and media departments in government units.

The meeting aimed to boost the preparedness of communication and media departments, enhance their readiness to manage government decisions and to draw out a uniform understanding of approved methodologies, prior to the announcement of government decisions.

The meeting also sought to establish consistent government discourse and ensure the issuance of accurate and balanced messages. In addition, it offered an opportunity to highlight successful experiences in proactive communication among government units.

Ibrahim Salim Al Salmi, Director General and Editor-in-Chief of Oman News Agency, in-Charge of the Government Communication Centre, said in a speech that the meeting was in pursuance of the Centre's ongoing approach to enhance the quality of communication within government units and to underline professional practices that contribute to supporting decision-making and its implementation.



He said: "Experience proved that the success of any government decision does not depend solely on the content of the decision, but rather it is closely linked to how such decision is presented to society, the time of unveiling the decision and the standard of communication readiness that accompanies the announcement of the decision. These factors underscore the importance of proactive communication as a fundamental factor in enhancing confidence and mutual understanding between the government and society."

Al Salmi pointed out that the meeting reflects the Centre's approaches of shifting from reactive communication to proactive communication, developing shared institutional awareness about the importance of in-depth preparation

for decisions that have a social impact—with the prime aim of diminishing challenges linked to implementation, unifying the discourse and raising the level of understanding and acceptance.

The meeting included presentations about the importance of systematic communication planning and its role in supporting decision-making and preparing the public to come to terms with government procedures.

The Government Communication Centre gave a presentation that addressed the conceptual and strategic framework for proactive communication and its role in enhancing institutional coordination.

Zamzam Hamad Al Hinai, Director of the Media Agenda and Integration Department at the Gov-

ernment Communication Centre, said, "Such meetings constitute an opportunity to exchange knowledge and showcase experiences in the field of government communication. The meetings have significantly contributed to promoting the adoption of best practices in communicating with the public."

Meanwhile, Abdulaziz Darwish Al Zadjali, Director of the Communication and Media Department at the Ministry of Labour, gave a visual presentation in which he outlined the experience of proactive communication in the run-up to the Labour Law.

Meanwhile, Osama Salim Al Shukaili, Digital Communication and Marketing Analyst at the Tax Authority, gave a visual presentation on proactive communication with the context of the Personal Income Tax Law. He reviewed key practices and mechanisms used in preparing the public, including delivering communication messages related to the decision.

The meeting formed part of the Government Communication Centre's ongoing efforts to develop government communication and enhance the exchange of experiences between communication and media departments in government units in a manner that serves the public interest and enhances confidence and interaction with society. -ONA



Bangladesh bids adieu to Khaleda Zia as leaders pay respects at her funeral

The funeral prayer was led by the khatib of the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque

DHAKA: Bangladesh on Wednesday held the Namaz-e-Janaza of former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at the South Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, as thousands gathered to pay their final respects to the veteran leader. As reported by The Daily Star, the funeral prayer was led by the khatib of the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque, while BNP Standing Committee member Nazrul Islam Khan oversaw the proceedings. From early morning, Manik Mia Avenue witnessed a steady influx of mourners, with BNP leaders and party activists arriving from across Dhaka and districts such as Fení, Brahmanbaria, Mymensingh, Cumilla, Gazipur, Munshiganj and Narayanganj to attend the Namaz-e-Janaza. Chief Adviser of the interim government Muhammad Yunus reached the Parliament Complex



to join the funeral prayers and offer his last respects. Following the Namaz-e-Janaza, it was announced that Khaleda Zia will be buried beside her husband, former president Ziaur Rahman, at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the capital. The funeral drew wide regional attention, with multiple South Asian nations dispatching senior representatives to Dhaka to attend the state funeral, The Daily Star reported. Earlier in the day, the body of former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was brought to her Gulshan residence, Firoza, where

family members and close relatives gathered ahead of the funeral. Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus said in a post on X that the body had reached the residence. BNP Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman was present at the residence with family members and was seen seated quietly with a prayer book in his hands as he paid his final respects. India formally confirmed its participation in the last rites. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar arrived in Dhaka on Wednesday morning on a special flight that landed at 11:30 am and was re-

ceived by the Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) reported, citing a spokesperson for the Indian High Commission. After his arrival, Jaishankar met Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman and conveyed India's condolences. In a post on X, Jaishankar said, "On arrival in Dhaka, met with Mr Tarique Rahman @trahmanbnp, Acting Chairman of BNP and son of former PM of Bangladesh Begum Khaleda Zia."

Bangladesh observes three-day state mourning

DHAKA: Bangladesh observed a public holiday and entered a three-day period of state mourning on Wednesday as a sea of mourners gathered in Dhaka for the funeral of former prime minister and BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia, marking a moment of national remembrance following the death of one of the country's most influential political figures. India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar represented India at the funeral, according to a statement from the Ministry of External Affairs. BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, as quoted by The Daily Star, urged attendees to maintain discipline, avoid rushing forward or taking photographs, and preserve the dignity and solemnity of the ceremony. He also appealed to the public to pray for strength for the Zia family, particularly Khaleda Zia's eldest and only surviving son and BNP acting

chairman Tarique Rahman, to bear the loss and continue his responsibilities towards the country. More than 10,000 police and Armed Police Battalion personnel were deployed, with army members stationed at key points. Vehicular movement along affected roads remained restricted during the convoy's passage, and the public was requested to cooperate with law enforcement agencies. The government has declared a three-day state mourning starting from Wednesday. In a televised address on Tuesday, Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus announced a public holiday for December 31, followed by a gazette notification issued by the public administration ministry. The decision was taken at a special advisory council meeting attended by BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir at the government's invitation. -ANI

SELSENKIRCHEN



Thieves drill into German bank vault, steal \$33mn in one of largest heists

BERLIN: Just days before the New Year, valuables worth around Euro 30 million (about \$33 million) were stolen from a bank in the western German city of Gelsenkirchen, in what police described as one of the largest bank heists in the country in recent years. Authorities confirmed the incident on Tuesday, DW reported. Police believe the robbery was carried out by a highly organised and well-prepared group, citing the level of planning, technical skill and coordination involved in the operation. According to investigators, the burglars entered the bank through an underground parking garage. From there, they drilled through a wall to gain access to the vault area. After breaking open thousands of safe-deposit lockers, the suspects escaped using the same

route, DW reported. More than 3,000 safe-deposit boxes were damaged during the break-in. The lockers reportedly contained cash, gold and jewellery. Based on an average insured value of Euro 10,000 per box (around USD10,900), police have made an initial estimate placing total losses at approximately Euro 30 million. The theft came to light on Monday after a fire alarm was triggered inside the building, prompting emergency services to respond. It was only then that the scale of the robbery became apparent. Several witnesses later told police they had seen men carrying heavy bags inside the parking garage stairwell during the night. Investigators are reviewing CCTV footage that reportedly shows a black Audi RS 6 leaving

the garage early Monday morning. The occupants were masked, and police confirmed that the vehicle was using a license plate stolen earlier from the northern German city of Hanover. Over the past two days, many customers gathered outside the affected bank branch seeking information about their valuables. Media reports said a large number of victims had stored gold and jewellery in their lockers, with some claiming their losses exceeded the insured limits, DW reported. Police have urged customers not to file individual complaints at this stage. They have been asked to coordinate with the bank, which is collecting damage reports and forwarding them to investigators on a daily basis. The investigation is ongoing, and no arrests have been made so far. -DW

CRUCIAL JUNCTURE

End of an era: Foreign Affairs expert on Khaleda Zia's death

NEW DELHI: Foreign Affairs Expert Robinder Sachdev called the passing of Bangladesh's first woman Prime Minister, Khaleda Zia, the end of an era in Bangladesh. Sachdev, while talking to ANI, said that her death was at a crucial juncture for Bangladesh as it stood at the threshold of elections. Revolution of students He said, "The death of Khaleda Zia marks the end of an era in Bangladesh... It will have an impact on Bangladesh, and coming at this particular juncture, when elec-



tions for the first time after the revolution of students are due to be held in about 6 weeks, when the domestic politics of Bangladesh are completely in turmoil, and it seems BNP is the leading party out there. "The BNP is benefiting from the return of Tarique Rehman, Khaleda Zia's son, after 17 years... And then with the passing of Khaleda Zia, I think there will be a wave of sympathy... her passing would help the prospects of the BNP and Tarique to work towards a majority within the Bangladesh parliament." -ANI

MILITARY LEADER

Guinea junta leader declared winner

CONAKRY: Guinea's military leader Mamadi Doumbouya was declared winner of the presidential election held over the weekend, provisional results showed on Tuesday. Doumbouya, who seized power in a coup in 2021, won 86.72% of the vote, according to the General Directorate of Elections. He was widely expected to win election. Major opposition figures were either barred or were in exile, leaving a fragmented field with no strong challengers. Opposition leaders had called for a boycott of the vote. Election widely seen as effort to legitimise Doumbouya's stay

in power Ahead of Sunday's vote, analysts said a weakened opposition all but ensured Doumbouya's victory, with the election widely seen as an effort to legitimise his hold on power. The election commission said turnout was 80.95%, a figure disputed by opposition groups. Yero Balde, a former government minister, came a distant second with 6.51% of the vote. Opposition decry 'electoral charade' Doumbouya came to power in the mineral-rich but impoverished west African nation in a 2021 coup that ousted former President Al-

pha Conde. After initially ruling out a run for office and promising a return to civilian rule by the end of 2024, Doumbouya reversed course after a new constitution in September lifted the ban on military officers seeking office and extended presidential terms to seven years. Civil liberties advocates have raised concerns over a crackdown on protesters and a deterioration in press freedom under Doumbouya's rule. A citizen's collective, the National Front for the Defense of the Constitution, said many voters stayed away from the "electoral charade." -DW

PHYSICAL LETTER DELIVERY

Denmark delivers last letter as digital shift ends 400-year postal tradition

COPENHAGEN: Denmark's state-run postal service, PostNord, delivered its final letter on Tuesday, bringing an end to more than 400 years of traditional mail delivery as the country fully embraces digital communication, CNN reported. With this move, Denmark becomes the first country in the world to officially decide that physical letter delivery is no longer essential or economically sustainable in the digital age. The decision reflects a sharp and long-term decline in letter usage. According to CNN, in 2024, PostNord delivered over 90 per cent fewer letters than it did in 2000. A similar trend has been seen elsewhere, including in the United States, where the US Postal Service delivered about half as much mail in 2024 compared to 2006.

As communication has shifted online, from emails and WhatsApp messages to video calls and social media, the role of traditional letters has steadily faded. PostNord began removing Denmark's iconic red mailboxes earlier this year. Around 1,500 mailboxes were taken down across the country starting in June. When the company decided to sell the removed mailboxes for charity in December, public interest surged. Hundreds of thousands of Danes attempted to buy one, with prices ranging between 1,500 and 2,000 Danish krone depending on their condition. The strong response highlighted the emotional connection many citizens still feel towards the postal service, even as they rarely use it. Going forward, people who still need to send physical letters will have to drop them off at kiosks in-



side retail shops. From there, private courier company DAO will handle deliveries within Denmark as well as overseas. PostNord, however, will continue operating its parcel delivery services, which remain in high demand due to the growth of online shopping, CNN reported. Denmark is among the most digitally advanced countries in the world. Most government services now function through online platforms, sharply reducing the need for paper-based communication. "Almost every Dane is fully digital, meaning physical letters no longer serve the same purpose as they once did," PostNord spokesperson Andreas Brethvad said. He added that electronic communication and e-commerce have overtaken traditional mail in both relevance and volume, CNN reported. -DW

OMAN CRUDE PRICE DROPS
MUSCAT: Oman oil price (February delivery 2026) on Wednesday reached \$60.44, comprising a drop by 88 cents, compared to the price of Tuesday which was at \$61.32. The average price of Oman oil (December delivery 2025) has stabilised at \$65.04 per barrel, thus \$5.04 per barrel lower than November delivery 2025. — **ONA**

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER
The MSX index closed at 5,866.80 points, up by 0.11% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.36% at 525.91 points. Dhofar Insurance, up 9.72%, was the top gainer while, Majan College, down 10.00%, was the top loser. **>B2**

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AS THE ISSUE MANAGER

Bank Muscat successfully manages OMR200mn Sovereign Sukuk Issuance

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat announced that it successfully managed series 10 of the Sovereign Sukuk Issuance launched by Oman Sovereign Sukuk Company, with a total value of OMR200 million. The sukuk carries a 7-year maturity and offers an annual profit rate of 4.15%.

Bank Muscat was appointed as the issue manager and collecting bank for the subscription by Ministry of Finance, in collaboration with other local financial institutions. This mandate reinforces the bank's role in executing major investment transactions within the Sultanate of Oman and across GCC capital markets.

The subscription window for the sukuk issuance opened from 17 December to 22 December 2025, with the sukuk settlement scheduled for Thursday, 25 December 2025.

The sukuk was priced within a competitive yield range, with an average yield of 4.11%, a minimum yield of 4.07%, and a maximum yield of 4.15%, reflecting strong investor confidence and market stability. The sukuk payouts will be made semi-annually on 25 June and 25 December each year until



maturity on 25 December 2032.

The issuance witnessed participation from different categories of investors, retail as well as institutional.

The sukuk is structured in ac-

cordance with Sharia-compliant principles and is fully tradable on the Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) at prevailing market prices. All allocation details and investor records will be maintained and

administered by Muscat Clearing and Depository Company, as the central registrar and depository for the sukuk.

Commenting on the occasion, Khalifa Abdullah Al Hatmi, Dep-

uty General Manager, Investment Banking and Capital Markets at Bank Muscat noted: "The Bank's appointment as the issue manager for the sukuk issuance is a testament to the trust of concerned

authorities in Bank Muscat's capabilities and leadership in managing major investment transactions for a range of corporate and institutional clients.

The Bank, represented through its Investment Banking and Capital Markets division, has extensive experience in structuring and executing large-scale capital market deals, both on debt as well as equity side, and its specialised team is well-equipped to navigate evolving market dynamics and complexities."

He added that the selection of Bank Muscat as the issue manager underscores its strong local, regional, and international reputation among individuals, corporates, and financial institutions. Demonstrating its role as a key player in advancing the Sultanate of Oman's financial landscape, the Bank continues to build on its market-leading position by delivering innovative financing and advisory solutions.

These include corporate and project finance, debt restructuring, public offerings, equity-linked instruments, private placements, and mergers and acquisitions.

— **ONA**

MINISTRY OF HEALTH



Ibra, Al Mudhaibi Health Centres 85% complete

Ibra: The completion rate for Ibra and Al Mudhaibi Health Centres in North Al Sharqiyah Governorate, which are expected to be completed by the end of March 2026, has reached approximately 85 percent. This is part of the efforts exerted by the Ministry of Health to boost primary healthcare services and provide integrated health facilities that meet the needs of citizens in the wilayats of the governorate.

Eng. Yousuf Yaqoob Ambuali, Director General of Projects and Engineering Services at the Ministry of Health, stated in a comment to Oman News Agency (ONA): "The work on both projects is proceeding according to the approved timeline and at a good pace, with adherence to the approved technical specifications and health standards." He affirmed the Ministry's keenness on continuous follow-up to ensure the readiness of both projects to provide integrated health services upon completion.

He added that the Ibra Health Centre is being built on a land area of 39,692 square metres, with a built-up area of 13,770 square metres, at a total cost of OMR1,157,588. Meanwhile, Al Mudhaibi Health Centre is being constructed on a land area of 24,827 square metres, with a built-up area of 1,458.90 square metres, at a total cost of OMR1,120,000.

He explained that both projects consist of an integrated package of health and service facilities, including 14 outpatient clinics, a dental clinic room, a physical therapy room, an X-ray



room, two triage rooms, a treatment hall with a capacity of two beds, an observation hall with a capacity of two beds, in addition to the pharmacy, laboratory, sterilisation room, meeting hall, administrative offices, two storage rooms, as well as supporting facilities that include rooms for electricity, networks, cleaning, and public services, and equipped waiting halls to serve visitors.

He emphasised that the implementation of the Al Mudhaibi and Ibra Health Centres projects, upon their completion, will contribute to improving the level of health services provided to the residents of North Al Sharqiyah Governorate, particularly the wilayats of Ibra and Al Mudhaibi, and facilitate their access to primary healthcare services. This is in addition to alleviating pressure on existing health institutions, aligning with the objectives of "Oman Vision 2040" in developing the health sector.

— **ONA**

The visit activates the cooperation programme signed with the company in October 2025, seeking to accelerate the executive steps for establishing the first integrated system for the green steel industry and downstream industries in the Sultanate of Oman

BEIJING: Dr. Saleh Said Masan, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion for Commerce and Industry, conducted an extensive field visit to the complexes of the "Tsingshan Holding Group" in the People's Republic of China.

This visit serves to implement the objectives of the "Industrial Strategy 2040," which aims to transform the manufacturing sector into a primary driver of economic diversification. The visit activates the cooperation programme signed with the company in October 2025, seeking to accelerate the executive steps for establishing the first integrated system for the green steel industry and downstream industries in the Sultanate of Oman, thereby enhancing Oman's position as a leading global industrial hub.



The tour included visits to the group's lithium battery production and energy storage system complexes, where the Undersecretary was briefed on the latest smart production lines used by the company to supply global markets with renewable energy solutions. This step reflects Oman's desire to localize clean energy supply chains, as battery technology is a fundamental pillar for supporting green hydrogen projects and ensuring the sustainability of the electrical grid, in addition to being an essential element in the future of the electric vehicle industry targeted by the Industrial Strategy 2040.

The Undersecretary and his accompanying delegation held a series of meetings with the company's Chairman and senior executives to review the master plan for establishing an "Integrated Industrial City" in the Sultanate of

Oman. The two sides discussed the requirements needed to accelerate the creation of this integrated industrial city to ensure the flow of finished products, such as steel and batteries, to global markets with high cost-competitiveness.

Abdulaziz Ahmed Al Qasimi, Head of the Capital-Intensive Industries Section at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, emphasised the strategic importance of this cooperation.

He explained that the integrated industrial city project with the Tsingshan Holding Group represents a cornerstone in the Ministry's path toward modern and pioneering technologies mandated by the Industrial Strategy 2040, which targets the transfer and localisation of advanced technology in two vital sectors: green steel and energy storage.

He added that the visit to the battery factories confirms the integration of the Ministry's vision, which seeks to merge the competitive advantage of green hydrogen production with Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies to produce high-value iron derivatives and smart energy solutions for the aviation and automotive industries. He further stressed that the Ministry's goal is to build an industrial ecosystem, provide quality employment opportunities for national cadres, and raise the sector's contribution to the Gross Domestic Product while maintaining a strict commitment to carbon neutrality.

The Chinese Tsingshan Holding Group is considered one of the largest industrial institutions listed in the Fortune Global 500 and holds a leading global position in stainless steel technology and renewable energy materials. The company's choice of the Sultanate of Oman as an investment destination reinforces Oman's status as a regional platform for green industries, particularly as the company holds advanced patents in reducing carbon footprints, aligning with Oman Vision 2040 in achieving environmental sustainability and balanced economic growth.

— **ONA**

MARKET



MSX index ends higher

Dhofar Insurance, up 9.72%, was the top gainer while, Majan College, down 10.00%, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 5,866.80 points, up by 0.11% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.36% at 525.91 points, Dhofar Insurance, up 9.72%, was the top gainer while, Majan College, down 10.00%, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded while Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 3,864 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR32.74 million, with more than 128.83 million shares changing hands. Out of 76 traded securities, 27 advanced, 25 declined, and 24 remained unchanged.

At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR427,000 while foreign investors were net buyers for OMR235,000, followed by domestic investors for OMR192,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 9,908.90 points, down 0.00%. Prices of Dhofar Insurance, Oman Qatar Insurance, Oman United Insurance, Global Financial Investments, Al Omaniya

Financial Services were up by 9.72%, 6.67%, 4.31%, 3.38%, 2.14% respectively. Prices of Financial Services, Financial Corporation, Al Sharqia Investment, United Finance, Bank Dhofar were down by 3.33%, 2.38%, 2.08%, 1.45%, 1.33% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 7,846.45 points, up 0.75%. Prices of Oman Cables Industry, Dhofar Cattle Feed, Galfar Engineering, Jazeera Steel Products, Al Anwar Ceramics were up by 6.00%, 3.75%, 3.18%, 3.13%, 2.20% respectively. Prices of Oman Refreshment, Oman Chromite, Oman Chlorine, Voltamp Energy, A'Saffa Foods were down by 8.05%, 7.32%, 4.51%, 2.73%, 0.59% respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.10% before closing at 2,405.16 points. Prices of Sembcorp Salalah, Musandam Power, Sharqiyah Desalination, Phoenix Power, Al Jazeera Services were up by 3.50%, 3.13%, 1.32%, 1.31%, 1.06% respectively. Prices of Muscat Desalination, National Gas, Oman Telecom, Renaissance Services, Al Batinah Power were down by 1.11%, 1.09%, 0.67%, 0.63%, 0.61% respectively.

— United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value.....	Diff.....	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX.....	5,886.79	5,851.19	5,866.80	5,860.38	6.42	0.11
FINANCIAL INDEX.....	9,931.43	9,868.95	9,908.90	9,909.03	-0.13	0.00
Industry Index.....	7,747.21	7,846.45	7,788.26	7,788.26	58.20	0.75
Services Index.....	2,412.82	2,401.05	2,405.16	2,402.70	2.46	0.10
MSX Shariah Index.....	528.01	522.63	525.91	524.04	1.87	0.36
MSX TR INDEX.....	8,848.18	8,794.67	8,818.13	8,808.48	9.65	0.11
FINANCIAL TR IDX.....	11,798.89	11,724.66	11,772.12	11,772.27	-0.15	0.00
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX.....	9,736.11	9,551.64	9,673.99	9,602.24	71.75	0.75
SERVICES TR IDX.....	3,146.50	3,131.15	3,136.51	3,133.30	3.21	0.10
FIXED INCOME INDEX.....	1,206.62	1,206.62	1,206.62	1,206.62	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.....	Up.....	Down.....	Equal.....	Sec. Traded
128,838,359	32,744,811	3,864	32,011,279,341	27	25	24	76

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST RD	LAST OFFER	PWA VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	26,267	69,745	35	2,500	2,680	2,500	2,650	2,500	0.150	6,000	2,650	2,501	2,650	0.100	237,705,000
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	144,468	47,777	15	0.325	0.339	0.320	0.339	0.325	0.014	4,308	0.339	0.321	0.317	0.100	33,900,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	389,600	82,663	30	0.214	0.214	0.210	0.214	0.207	0.007	3,382	0.214	0.211	0.214	0.100	42,800,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	499,914	320,011	29	0.640	0.666	0.640	0.660	0.640	0.020	3,125	0.660	0.642	0.642	0.100	82,432,654
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	17,933,334	332,554	95	0.185	0.187	0.182	0.186	0.182	0.004	2,198	0.186	0.186	0.180	0.100	40,920,000
OM0000002236	AL JAZEERA SERVICES	121,992	23,224	22	0.187	0.195	0.187	0.190	0.188	0.002	1,984	0.190	0.192	0.190	0.100	3,140,168
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	40,441,026	6,321,832	550	0.158	0.159	0.156	0.158	0.157	0.001	0,637	0.158	0.159	0.158	0.100	1,045,524,911
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	457,885	174,902	9	0.381	0.382	0.381	0.382	0.380	0.002	0,528	0.382	0.382	0.382	0.100	621,111,508
OM0000003934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	1,298,250	440,162	203	0.341	0.341	0.338	0.341	0.340	0.001	0,294	0.341	0.330	0.341	0.100	262,638,200
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	26,524,509	8,793,117	287	0.334	0.335	0.331	0.333	0.333	0.000	0,000	0.333	0.334	0.333	0.100	490,630,222
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	1,563,813	445,731	22	0.286	0.286	0.283	0.285	0.285	0.000	0,000	0.285	0.285	0.284	0.100	185,519,106
OM0000004393	AL SUWADI POWER	183,738	29,933	21	0.161	0.162	0.161	0.162	0.162	0.000	0,000	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.100	115,735,827
OM0000003072	QIGAS NETWORKS	8,840,414	1,527,873	394	0.195	0.195	0.193	0.194	0.195	-0.001	-0,133	0.194	0.193	0.194	0.100	840,141,040
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	203,492	102,859	19	0.505	0.510	0.504	0.505	0.508	-0.003	-0,591	0.505	0.505	0.505	0.100	60,600,000
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	30,369	4,920	8	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.163	-0.001	-0,613	0.162	0.161	0.162	0.100	109,331,764
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	154,783	49,103	10	0.319	0.319	0.317	0.317	0.319	-0.002	-0,627	0.317	0.315	0.318	0.100	74,941,970
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	5,453,909	5,687,869	149	1.049	1.049	1.038	1.041	1.048	-0.007	-0,668	1.041	1.038	1.040	0.100	780,750,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	4,000	1,304	3	0.324	0.331	0.324	0.331	0.334	-0.003	-0,898	0.331	0.318	0.325	0.100	309,720,538
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	988,644	106,067	35	0.107	0.107	0.106	0.106	0.107	-0.001	-0,935	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.100	237,117,021
OM0000004788	MADINA TAKAFUL	173,711	16,691	16	0.096	0.097	0.096	0.096	0.097	-0.001	-1,031	0.096	0.095	0.096	0.100	16,800,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	148,503	10,243	17	0.069	0.070	0.068	0.068	0.069	-0.001	-1,449	0.068	0.068	0.070	0.100	24,216,656
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO	10,000	940	1	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.096	-0.002	-2,083	0.094	0.094	0.098	0.100	8,460,000
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	381,737	405,397	140	1.100	1.120	1.050	1.070	1.100	-0.030	-2,727	1.070	1.000	1.070	0.100	100,166,083
Total	23	87,844,578,24	7,95,118	2,110												

Parallel Market

OM0000001095	DHOFAR INSURANCE	5,000	1,185	1	0.237	0.237	0.237	0.237	0.216	0.021	9,722	0.237	0.220	0.237	0.100	27,575,184
OM0000006979	OMAN QATAR INSURANCE	27,400	5,139	15	0.188	0.192	0.180	0.192	0.180	0.012	6,667	0.181	0.181	0.181	0.100	30,953,965
OM0000001301	DHOFAR FOODS AND INVESTMENT	43,550	3,596	15	0.080	0.083	0.080	0.083	0.080	0.003	3,750	0.083	0.080	0.083	0.100	16,407,185
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	659,075	134,607	44	0.200	0.207	0.200	0.207	0.200	0.007	3,500	0.207	0.200	0.208	0.100	197,596,394
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	7,080	2,305	3	0.315	0.330	0.315	0.330	0.320	0.010	3,125	0.330	0.315	0.330	0.100	23,228,700
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FINANCIAL SERVICES	10,594	1,486	6	0.141	0.143	0.140	0.143	0.140	0.003	2,143	0.143	0.140	0.143	0.100	45,104,631
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	3,800	1,165	2	0.322	0.325	0.322	0.325	0.320	0.005	1,563	0.325	0.324	0.330	0.100	14,873,884
OM0000004669	SHARQIYAH DESALINATION	5,000	770	1	0.154	0.154	0.154	0.154	0.152	0.002	1,316	0.154	0.150	0.154	0.100	15,061,333
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	74,538	11,553	11	0.153	0.156	0.153	0.155	0.153	0.002	1,307	0.155	0.152	0.155	0.100	226,703,226
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	10,112	1,568	3	0.155	0.157	0.155	0.157	0.155	0.002	1,290	0.157	0.145	0.157	0.100	95,478,865
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	89,413	16,997	5	0.190	0.192	0.190	0.192	0.190	0.002	1,053	0.192	0.190	0.192	0.100	519,655,662
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO	11,400	1,140	4	0.100	0.101	0.098	0.101	0.100	0.001	1,000	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.100	12,309,375
OM0000003000	AL MAHA PETROLEUM PRODS MARKTG	2,787	2,936	4	1.050	1.054	1.050	1.054	1.046	0.008	0,765	1.054	1.046	1.054	0.100	72,726,000
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	3,780	1,038	6	0.275	0.276	0.272	0.276	0.274	0.002	0,730	0.276	0.276	0.276	0.100	15,180,000
OM0000006908	QOBASE INDUSTRIES (SF2)	8,407,448	1,540,348	525	0.183	0.185	0.182	0.184	0.183	0.001	0,546	0.184	0.180	0.184	0.040	636,548,316
OM0000007043	LIVA GROUP	2,343	8013	4	0.325	0.330	0.325	0.330	0.329	0.001	0,304	0.330	0.315	0.330	0.100	131,463,533
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGG & INVESTMENT	5,000	725	2	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.000	0,000	0.145	0.143	0.156	0.100	21,750,000
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	840	99	1	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.000	0,000	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.100	354,000
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	532	253	2	0.475	0.475	0.475	0.475	0.475	0.000	0,000	0.475	0.475	0.480	0.100	73,553,125
OM0000001539	DHOFAR INTL DEVT & INVESTMENT	24	6	1	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.000	0,000	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.100	124,014,035
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	7,000	371	1	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.000	0,000	0.053	0.053	0.054	0.100	16,278,755
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	8,395	4,155	3	0.495	0.495	0.494	0.495	0.495	0.000	0,000	0.495	0.492	0.495	0.100	163,781,991
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	28,190	1,833	2	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.000	0,000	0.070	0.070	0.071	0.100	1,470,000
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	3,679	2,693	2	0.732	0.732	0.732	0.732	0.732	0.000	0,000	0.732	0.732	0.736	0.100	69,540,000
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	38,700	6,815	8	0.177	0.178	0.175	0.178	0.178	0.000	0,000	0.178	0.176	0.178	0.100	28,480,000
OM0000003281	TAAGEER FINANCE	1,294	168	2	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.000	0,000	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.100	36,299,018
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	9,945	2,217	5	0.222	0.223	0.222	0.223	0.223	0.000	0,000	0.223	0.218	0.223	0.100	44,518,739
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	25,476	1,529	3	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.000	0,000	0.060	0.057	0.060	0.100	15,000,000
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	5,000	800	1	0.178	0.178	0.178	0.178	0.178	0.000	0,000	0.178	0.178	0.181	0.100	356,488,313
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	178,449	15,595	6	0.087	0.088	0.087	0.088	0.088	0.000	0,000	0.088	0.083	0.093	0.100	19,557,120
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	7,000	553	3	0.079	0.080	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.000	0,000	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.100	15,540,000
OM0000008088	THE PEARL REAL ESTATE	900	143	1	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.000	0,000	0.119	0.117	0.119	0.100	10,038,000
OM0000009569	JABAL REEF	900	94	1	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.000	0,000	0.104	0.102	0.105	0.100	18,096,000
OM0000001889	SALALAH MILLS	1,666	670	2	0.395	0.407	0.395	0.407	0.408	-0.001	-0.245	0.407	0.395	0.408	0.100	25,422,447
OM00000099759	QO EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	4,861,907	1,758,179	167	0.363	0.363	0.360	0.360	0.361	-0.001	-0.277	0.360	0.360	0.360	0.012	80,080,880,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAD INVESTMENT	9,857,221	1,163,516	87	0.119	0.119	0.117	0.118	0.119	-0.001	-0.840	0.118	0.118	0.120	0.100	35,229,244
OM00000008447	OMAN RETI FUND	43,920	4,240	3	0.097	0.097	0.096	0.096	0.097	-0.001	-1.031	0.096	0.096	0.097	0.100	62,264,677
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	48,200	4,439	10	0.092	0.094	0.091	0.091	0.092	-0.001	-1.087	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.100	773,000
OM00000010120	ASYAD SHIPPING	11,670,464	2,104,335	554	0.182	0.184	0.179	0.179	0.181	-0.002	-1.105	0.179	0.180	0.179	0.000	93,265,226
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	6,067	543	2	0.092	0.092	0.089	0.089	0.090	-0.001	-1.111	0.089	0.086	0.089	0.100	13,843,988
OM00000002549	BANK DHOFAR	3,900,992	589,006	173	0.150	0.152	0.147	0.151	0.150	-0.002	-3.333	0.150	0.148	0.148	0.100	449,600,000
OM0000002011	FINANCIAL CORPORATION	20	1	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.042	0.001	0.281	0.041	0.038	0.000	0.000	0.000	2,871,229
OM0000001384	FINANCIAL SERVICES	6,685	401	3	0.060	0.060	0.058	0.058	0.060	-0.002	-3.333	0.058	0.058	0.060	0.100	1,160,000
OM0000002341	OMAN CHLORINE	2,212	523	4	0.232	0.238	0.232	0.233	0.244	-0.011	-4.508	0.233	0.233	0.238	0.100	16,661,560
OM0000001020	OMAN CHROMITE	6	23	1	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.400	-0.300	-7.317	0.380	0.380	0.400	1.000	12,540,000
OM0000001426	OMAN REFRESHMENT	7,230	9,903	10	0.370	0.370	0.368	0.370	0.400	-0.120	-8.054	0.368	0.365	0.368	1.000	68,500,000
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	3,804	428	2	0.115	0.115	0.108	0.108	0.120	-0.012	-10.000	0.108	0.108	0.120	0.100	10,692,000
Total	47	40,127,138	7,404,065	1,713												



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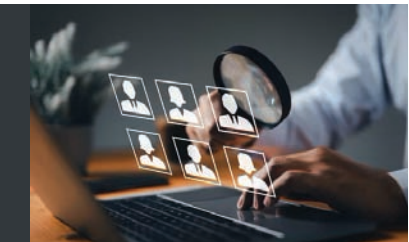


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Contact: +971 585841339
Email: bajifazil@gmail.com

MANAGER

Finance and Accounts Manager well experienced, MBA finance with 16years experience in Oman. Looking for senior position in Accounts and finance.

Contact No. 95920740
Email ID: alhameed1527@gmail.com

MEDICAL

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

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

GENERAL MANAGER

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

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A reputed company is looking for sales executives with minimum 2 yrs experience in equipments & machinery sales, having Oman driving license. contact: whatsapp-99212416

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JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Senior Accountant with 14 yrs experience (Oman & UAE) seeking suitable position in Oman.Mob:93150057

Indian male Chartered Accountant Inter holder and M.com graduate with more than 8 yrs Oman experience Looking for suitable position. D/L and NOC. Contact 78793414 Email iqbalpmr@gmail.com

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Indian male accountant 6+ yrs experience in Oman & India, expert in APAR,BRS,LC,cash flow & payroll. Currently working in Oman, available for immediate joining with local transfer. Mob: 94006534

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

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

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

Management, accounting operations & MIS reporting. Seeking a suitable managerial or senior accounting position. Contact: 785814354

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

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

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

Indian male, Sr. Accountant (M.com & MBA finance), having 10 years of Oman experience up to finalization. valid D/L Mob : 97524285, Bobykkj@gmail.com

Accountant looking for job. Contact: 75024166

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

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

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

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

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

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

ADMINISTRATION

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

Indian female, executive secretary, HR, admin, accounts asst coordinator. GSM- 92243552/ 91190552

Indian male, 29 yrs, MBA with NEBOSH certified with 2+ yrs experience in administration looking for safety or administration jobs. Contact: +968 74105832, email: ashikthahir@gmail.com

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

Highly skilled accounting and administrative professional with diverse experience in technical and office administration roles Contact: 90473476. Email: kpsanjay202@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

ARCHITECT

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

DRIVER

Driver with 8 yrs experience. Contact : 92392272

Driver with 25 yrs experience, PDO licence looking for job. Contact: 99116288

EDUCATION/TRAINING

Indian female, completed MCA and also having experience in teaching, available in Oman on family visa, looking for a suitable job. Contact: +91 79090343/ +968 94117967, Email: induchandran01@gmail.com

IT

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

ENGINEER

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

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

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

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

ENGINEER

B. Tech Civil Engineer with 15+ yrs experience. Society Engineering certificate, valid Omani D/L. Looking for a suitable position. Available for immediate join. NOC available. Mob: 91693008

LOGISTICS

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

Indian female with B.Ed. and BCA and 1yrs of experience in Oman. Experienced in Logistics Operations and TeleSales, with strong communication & customer handling skills. WhatsApp: +968- 97384206, Email: Rashida_7861@outlook.com.

Indian male 23 yrs of experience in store, logistics & commercial operations, looking for a suitable job. Mob: 91425510

MANAGER

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

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

PURCHASE/ PROCUREMENT

Store Manager & Quality Controller with 12 yrs experience (Oman). Diploma in Warehouse & Procurement Management, B.Com graduate. Skilled in inventory, procurement, and compliance. Seeking a suitable position. Email: rajeshkumarktvm@gmail.com Ph: +968 90218550

PURCHASE/ PROCUREMENT

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

Indian male 41 yrs MBA, B.com having 13 yrs experience in procurement UAE & Oman with valid UAE D/L,seeking suitable opportunities in Oman. Contact: +971529546753

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

Indian male 40 yrs Bcom MBA having 13 yrs experience in procurement UAE & Oman with valid UAE D/L,seeking suitable opportunities. Contact: +971529546753

SALES/MARKETING

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

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

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

Sales professional with 15+ yrs experience in Oman, strong local market knowledge. valid Oman driving license. Seeking suitable placement in a reputed organization. contact 92258086

B.com graduate with 2 years marketing experience looking for a job , contact: 91447565

Indian male (35) MBA in Oman 10 yrs exp in marketing in FMCG, pharma Contact - 79755795

Russia alleges Ukraine fired 91 missiles towards Putin’s residence

Lavrov said that the attack does not prompt Russia to withdraw from the truce talks

MOSCOW: Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in a statement that Ukraine launched 91 missiles towards the residence of Russian President Vladimir Putin. Lavrov said that the attack does not prompt Russia to withdraw from the truce talks. “On the night of December 28-29, the Kiev regime launched a terrorist attack using 91 long-range unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) on the state residence of the Presi-

dent of the Russian Federation in the Novgorod Region. All the UAVs were destroyed by the air defence systems of the Russian Armed Forces. No casualties or damage were reported,” the statement said. “Notably, the attack was carried out during the intensive talks to settle the Ukrainian conflict between Russia and the US. Such reckless actions will not go unanswered. The Armed Forces of Russia have already selected tar-



gets and the timing for retaliatory strikes,” the statement added. Lavrov alleged that Ukraine’s state policy had shifted to terrorism. “Despite this attack, we have no intention to withdraw from the negotiations with the US. However, given the utmost degeneration of the criminal Kiev regime, which has shifted to a policy of state terrorism, Russia’s negotiating position will be reviewed,” he said. Meanwhile, Ukraine’s Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha on Tuesday strongly rejected Russia’s claims of an alleged attack on the residence of Russian President Vladimir Putin, accusing Moscow of fabricating the incident and spreading disinformation. In a statement on X, Sybiha said

that nearly a day after making the allegations, Russia had failed to provide any credible evidence, noting that Moscow would not be able to do so either. “Almost a day passed and Russia still hasn’t provided any plausible evidence to its accusations of Ukraine’s alleged “attack on Putin’s residence.” And they won’t. Because there’s none. No such attack happened,” he stated. The Ukrainian Foreign Minister also expressed disappointment over reactions from some countries which voiced concern over the alleged attack, including Pakistan, noting that no similar reactions were issued when a Russian missile struck a Ukrainian government building on September 7, 2025. -ANI

CORDIAL MEETING



Shehbaz Sharif reiterates resolve to elevate ties with UAE

RAHIM YAR KHAN: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif met with Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Ruler of Abu Dhabi, at Sheikh Zayed Palace, Rahim Yar Khan Tuesday afternoon and discussed matters of mutual interest. The Prime Minister was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, SAPM Tariq Fatemi and other senior officials. During their warm and cordial meeting, the two leaders carried forward discussions from their recent meeting in Islamabad on 26 December, 2025, when His Highness paid his first official visit to Pakistan as President of UAE. The Prime Minister reiterated his firm resolve to elevate the long-standing, brotherly ties between Pakistan and the UAE into a strategic, mutually beneficial, economic partnership. He stressed upon the need

for both sides to actively pursue enhancement in bilateral trade through a quantum jump which will bring it to the desired level. The two leaders also discussed ways to enhance cooperation in a wide range of areas including IT, energy, mining & minerals, as well as defence cooperation. While expressing his great admiration for the UAE’s remarkable progress under His Highness’ dynamic and visionary leadership, the Prime Minister thanked the UAE President for his patronage and commitment to foster stronger ties between the two countries. He also appreciated the UAE for hosting 2.1 million Pakistanis, who were playing an important role in strengthening ties between both countries. In addition to bilateral cooperation, the two leaders also exchanged views on a variety of subjects. The meeting capped off a year of extensive leadership-level engagements between Pakistan and the UAE. -APP

EXECUTED BY THE CIA

US conducts covert drone strike on Venezuela port in first such attack

WASHINGTON, DC: The United States carried out a covert drone strike on a port facility along Venezuela’s coastline earlier this month, in what is believed to be the first known American attack on a target inside Venezuelan territory, CNN reported. According to CNN, the strike was executed by the CIA and targeted a remote dock that US agencies believe was being used by the criminal gang Tren de Aragua to store drugs and transfer them onto boats for onward trafficking. No casualties were reported, as the site was reportedly empty at the time of the strike. The operation was not publicly disclosed earlier and marks a significant escalation in Washington’s actions against Venezuela. CNN cited two sources that US Special Operations Forces had provided intelligence inputs for



the strike, though this claim was rejected by the US Special Operations Command. Colonel Allie Weiskopf, spokesperson for US Special Operations Command, said, “Special Operations did not support this operation to include intel support,” CNN quoted. Last week on Friday, US President Donald Trump indirectly confirmed the strike during a media interview, although he did not provide details at the time. Earlier on Monday, while hosting Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu at his Mar-a-lago club in

Florida, Trump said the US had struck a dock area used for loading boats involved in drug trafficking but declined to clarify whether the military or the CIA carried out the operation. He said there was “a major explosion in the dock area where they load the boats up with drugs.” “So we hit all the boats, and now we hit the area, it’s an implementation area, that’s where they implement, and that is no longer around,” Trump added. When asked if the US military carried out the Venezuela operation, Trump declined to clarify. “I don’t want to say that,” he said, CNN reported. “I know exactly who it was, but I don’t want to say who it was. But you know, it was along the shore.” Trump first disclosed the operation during a recent interview, where he said the US struck “a big

plant, or a big facility,” adding, “We knocked that out,” CNN quoted. The drone strike comes amid growing pressure by the US on Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro. Washington has stepped up actions aimed at weakening Maduro’s government, including repeated threats of direct strikes inside the country. In recent months, the US has destroyed more than 30 boats in the Caribbean Sea and eastern Pacific Ocean as part of what it calls a counter-narcotics campaign. These operations were conducted in international waters. The latest strike marks a shift, as it was carried out on Venezuelan soil, CNN reported. Trump has also ordered a blockade on oil tankers linked to Venezuela, particularly those under US sanctions, further tightening economic pressure on Caracas. -ANI

CHANNEL TUNNEL

Eurostar back on track after power fault



PARIS: Eurostar plans to run a full service on Wednesday, a day after a major power supply issue halted trains through the Channel Tunnel. The disruption left thousands of travelers stranded in London,

Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam during the busy New Year period. “We plan to run all of our services today, however due to knock-on impacts there may still be some delays and possible last-minute cancellations,” Eurostar

said in a statement.

Rail disruption hits peak travel period
The disruption was caused by a fault in the system’s overhead power supply on Tuesday and further issues with rail infrastructure overnight. It was compounded by a failed LeShuttle vehicle-carrying train inside the 50-kilometre (31-mile) Channel Tunnel linking Britain and France. The operator postponed all services between London, Paris, Amsterdam and Brussels during one of the busiest travel weeks

of the year. Tuesday’s incident is the latest to affect Eurostar, following an electrical fault that caused cancellations and delays in August. In June, cable theft led to two days of rail service disruptions. Eurostar carried a record 19.5 million passengers last year, underscoring its importance during peak travel periods. The company will face competition from Virgin and Italy’s Trenitalia, which plan to launch rival services on the Paris-London route in the coming years. -DW

FEMALE COMEDIANS

Female empowerment: Arab women rise to stand-up comedy show

NEW YORK: “I know, I am surprised I made it on time, too. I was almost late, because I am Arab and we had to prepare a meal for twenty people... because one family friend said she might come by and say hello,” Mia Almas, an up-and-coming comedian of Palestinian origin in New York, says opening her stand-up comedy show. “That’s how my people roll. Like, literally roll, because we overfeed each other to show respect,” she continues. While Mia is a fictional character in Sara Hamdan’s recently published debut novel “What Will People Think?,” the plot highlights the success of Arab women as stand-up comedians across the Middle East. “Over the past few years, performance has emerged as a meaningful vehicle for female empowerment and social critique in parts of the Arab world,” Elham Manea, a Swiss-based political scientist who specialises in Gulf and Middle Eastern studies, said. “This visibility matters, women reach audiences well beyond activist or elite circles.” While many smaller events across the region already host female comedians who perform in Arabic, women at the region’s major comedy festivals in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Amman and Riyadh were still in the single digits this year.

In September 2025, three women performed at the Riyadh Comedy Festival. There were 47 male comedians. **Humorous roots** “Humorous plays have a long history in the Middle East and are a rich part of our culture,” author Sara Hamdan said. For example, Egyptian theatre and films rose to fame in the 1930s, and slapstick TV shows have been cornerstones of the Arabic entertainment industry for decades. Hamdan’s love for comedy also helped her as a journalist when she moved from New York to Dubai 15 years ago. For her first article, which focused on comedy in the Middle East, she met Jamil Abu-Wardeh who had done a TED talk on comedy and how to teach writing comedy. “I ended up interviewing the man who became my husband,” she recalls with a smile. The couple has been sharing their passion for comedy since. “We go to shows on a regular basis,” Hamdan said. “There is an appetite for female comedians in the region,” Syrian comedian Ola Msharaf confirmed in an interview with Grazia magazine in 2023. However, in the same article, Egyptian comedian Reem Nabil revealed that for her, being a female comedian means constant comparison of her work to that of



her male counterparts. “The difficulty I face is that people compare us to male comedians. They pit us against each other as if we [women] are here to compete with them and prove that one is funnier than the other,” she said. **Comedy comes with limits to free speech** “Comedy does not dismantle gender hierarchies,” Manea confirms. “Women comedians are often more tightly policed than men, and certain topics remain difficult or risky to address.”

In contrast with many successful international stand-up comedians, performances by both men and women in much of the Middle East tend to avoid politics, and profanity during formal festival lineups. Organisers are reportedly restricting what can and what can’t be said ahead of events. However, outside of official festival circuits, political comedy exists, and many Arab and Arab-diaspora comedians do address a wider range of topics. “Over time, what feels sayable and normal has expanded,” Manea

points out. “Moreover, by placing women at the center of humour rather than judgment, comedic performance has helped recalibrate how women’s voices, frustrations and authority are perceived in public culture.” In her view, the impact is rarely overtly political, but rather lies in visibility, repetition, and tone. “Comedy enables women to address marriage, family pressure, work, respectability and double standards without presenting their commentary as ideological confrontation,” she explains.

Laughter makes these experiences socially legible and shareable, often reaching audiences who might resist explicit feminist discourse, she finds. **Power of platforms** Furthermore, comedians don’t depend on traditional platforms like TV stations, event organizers or directors any more. “We have the power in our hands with mobile phones,” Sara Hamdan told DW. She follows her favourite Arab comedians, Saaniya Abbas, Roxy and Mina on Instagram. They have between 5,000 and 500,000 followers each. In 2023, the Emirati TV broadcaster OSN also aired “Stand Up! Ya Arab!”, the first of its kind comedy series featuring 56 Arab comedic talents, including 17 women. It has received an outstanding 8.4 out of 10 rating on the International Movie Database platform. The success of up-and-coming female comedians is likely to serve as a blueprint and role model for future generations in the Middle East. “While role models continue to emerge, limitations must be dismantled to ensure their success is not the exception but the norm, as the next generation of girls deserves more than inspiration,” Moez Doraïd, UN Women Regional Director for the Arab States, said. -DW



LIFESTYLE

BREAKTHROUGH
AI MODEL
PREDICTS
PATIENT-SPECIFIC
MORTALITY RISKS
FOR DIABETES

The advanced model is also capable of explaining the rationale behind its predictions to medical specialists

A team of scientists at the Institute of Biology and Biomedicine, Lobachevsky University in Russia has developed a novel artificial intelligence (AI) model designed to predict the risk of all-cause mortality in diabetic patients. The advanced model is also capable of explaining the rationale behind its predictions to medical specialists.

According to a university statement, the AI was trained on a comprehensive dataset comprising the physiological indicators of over 550 diabetic patients monitored for a period of 17 years.

Mikhail Ivanenko, the lead researcher and Director of the Institute of Biology and Biomedicine, noted that the study's innovation lies in creating a precise and interpretable predictive tool. "Our method for interpreting AI predictions allows us to identify the complex inter-relationships between dozens of patient parameters," he stated. "For instance, the analysis reveals that a patient's age, the duration of their disease, and the number

of diabetic complications are the most significant risk factors for mortality. This system can generate a personalised risk profile for each individual, such as illustrating that a 68% increased mortality risk is primarily driven by elevated creatinine levels, age, and the presence of four specific complications."

The model's development has also shed light on the significance of several lesser-known biomarkers. These include NT-proBNP, which indicates underlying myocardial stress; creatinine, a marker of kidney function; and specific N-glycan structures in blood serum, which serve as biomarkers for immune regulation and aging processes.

This breakthrough effectively transforms explainable AI from an abstract computational concept into a practical clinical tool that augments a physician's diagnostic decision-making. It represents a significant advancement with the potential to extend and enhance the lives of the millions of people worldwide living with diabetes. - OMA

PATIENTS

SPORTS



Arsenal trounce Aston Villa to end the year on a high note

The Gunners scored four second-half goals while Ollie Watkins got a late consolation goal for Villa at Emirates Stadium

LONDON: Arsenal scored four second-half goals as they thumped Aston Villa 4-1 at Emirates Stadium on Tuesday to end the year five points clear at the top of the Premier League.

Centre-back Gabriel Magalhaes, making his first start since recovering from injury in November, bundled the ball in from a trademark corner in the 48th minute to

give Arsenal the lead, and despite appeals from the Villa players for a foul on their goalkeeper Emi Martinez, the goal stood.

The Gunners then doubled their lead when captain Martin Odegaard won the ball back in midfield before playing an excellent pass to Martin Zubimendi who poked past Martinez.

Leandro Trossard added a third

when he slammed a shot low into the net from the edge of the area, after a lengthy check for offside by the video assistant referee (VAR).

And substitute Gabriel Jesus ensured it was a memorable night for the Gunners when he curled in from the edge of the area, before Ollie Watkins tapped in from close range in stoppage time to give Aston Villa a consolation goal.

Villa manager Unai Emery went down the tunnel without shaking hands with Arsenal counterpart Mikel Arteta after the full-time whistle, but both bosses later played down the incident.

Villa came into this game on a 11-match winning streak which included a 2-1 victory over the Gunners 24 days ago, but despite starting the game well and going

close through Watkins could not take the lead.

Emery's side, who were without Matty Cash and Boubacar Kamara through suspension, came with a clear gameplan to slow the tempo of the match and tried to frustrate Arsenal, but could not deny Arteta's side an impressive win.

The victory ends an excellent year for the Gunners who have lost just twice in the league this season, and move five points clear before second-placed Manchester City's match at Sunderland on New Year's Day.

Arteta delighted

Arteta was delighted with the quality on show from those in red and white.

"I'm very, very happy," the gaffer

said after the game. "I think it's one of those wins that you feel satisfied with because you know the difficulty of it, with all the preparation, all the issues that we had, the little time that you have from game to game and to play against a team that has 11 wins in a row.

"To be able to beat them in the manner that we did is not easy and the players deserve a lot of credit for that. The determination, the dominance and that willingness to go for more, the spirit of the team is incredible.

"When we had to navigate through difficult periods, and we did it really well, and then we took our opportunities today.

"I think we stepped up in the second half in terms of what we had to do, the quality that we de-

livered. There are some great moments that we have done there, so a big well done to the team."

Arteta thanked the fans (Gooners) for pushing us to victory, and hopes to give them many more happy moments over the course of another big 12 months.

"I think we generated an incredible atmosphere again," he added. "We went through patches that were tough, but we have to go through that together. I think they enjoyed the performance, they enjoyed the victory.

"Thank you so much for the support in 2025, and let's go for the next part of the season which is going to be a big one."

Other results: Burnley 1 Newcastle United 3, West Ham United 2 Brighton & Hove Albion 2. -Agencies

LONG THROW-INS



Semenyo helps Bournemouth to thrilling draw at Chelsea

LONDON: Bournemouth forward Antoine Semenyo, who is nearing a move to Manchester City, set up two goals and conceded a penalty in a chaotic 2-2 draw with Chelsea at Stamford Bridge on Tuesday.

The 25-year-old Ghana forward is in advanced talks over a £65m move to Etihad Stadium but turned out for the Cherries to set up two goals through long throw-ins for David Brooks and Justin Kluivert to score.

His first throw led to Brooks scoring from close range in the sixth minute.

Chelsea equalised and then went ahead after Semenyo brought down Estevao Willian in the box. Referee Sam Barrott awarded a penalty following a pitch-side video assistant referee (VAR) review in the 15th minute.

Cole Palmer converted, finding the corner despite goalkeeper Djordje Petrovic diving the right way, before Enzo Fernandez fired into the top corner to make it 2-1 after 23 minutes.

Kluivert then tapped in from close range after another Semenyo long throw-in just four minutes later.

Chelsea had further chances, but Bournemouth had the better of the first half with 14 attempts that tested goalkeeper Robert Sanchez.

At the interval, Chelsea managerVAR official Craig Pawson then dismissed a handball appeal against Malo Gusto early in the second half, with former Blues goalkeeper Petrovic impressively saving Estevao's shot from the edge of the box.

Chelsea have now won just one of their past seven league games, while Bournemouth remain winless in 10. -Agencies

PREMIER LEAGUE

Wolves end 11-match losing streak with draw at Man Utd

LONDON: Wolves ended their 11-match Premier League losing streak and manager Rob Edwards grabbed his first point as manager as his side held a Manchester United 1-1, who were booed off at Old Trafford on Tuesday.

Without eight senior players due to a combination of injuries and international calls, United were far from their best but still managed to go in front thanks to Joshua Zirkzee's deflected 27th-minute effort. However, Wolves began to force the pace towards the end of the opening period and after United goalkeeper Senne Lammens had kept a Hugo Bueno effort out, Ladislav Krejci levelled with a header from eight yards after he was given far too much room at the far post.

Lammens denied Krejci a second after half-time, when he dived to his left to parry a low shot and then got the ball away from danger as Yerson Mosquera closed in. Ironically, Mosquera came close for the home side when he headed the ball past Jose Sa and towards his own goal. Fortunately for the



Colombian, Sa got back to retrieve the situation just before the ball bounced in. Sa had already been at the centre of one unusual incident when he was penalised by referee Thomas Bramall for holding onto the ball longer than eight seconds.

It was only the third time the new rule has been applied in the Premier League this season but the home side could make nothing of the corner that followed. Jhon Arias came close to a winner for

the visitors with a shot that deflected narrowly wide and Patrick Dorgu then thought he had scored for the hosts in the final minute but a lengthy video assistant referee check confirmed the offside decision against him was correct.

It was Wolves' third draw - and point - of the season, and their first since 5 October, although it does not do much for their survival chances as they are still 15 points from safety. -Agencies

GARNER AND BARRY ON TARGET

Everton triumph as Forest suffer third successive defeat

LONDON: Everton condemned Nottingham Forest 2-0 to a third straight Premier League defeat, 2-0, after rare goals from James Garner and Thierno Barry on Tuesday.

Midfielder Garner - a former Forest loanee who won promotion to the top flight with them in 2022 - scored his first goal since August and a second in over two years.

Barry doubled the Toffees' advantage - just his second goal since a £27m move from Villarreal in the summer, with both coming against Forest.

The Toffees are eighth after a fifth win in their last nine games, leaving them just four points adrift of the top four.

Boss David Moyes said: "We want to keep pushing. We went to Chelsea two or three weeks ago knowing that if we could beat Chelsea we might have gone fourth or fifth.

"I've got a hope that maybe I get



a chance somewhere in February or March so I get an opportunity to do that again.

"So the only way we can do that is by hanging in at the moment. But, you know, if we lose [at Forest] you could have been 15th, you win you could be fifth. So it's really

difficult for everybody to weigh up the league.

"It's one of our best [results] because of what we had available."

It felt like a pivotal game for 17th-placed Forest after defeats to Fulham and Manchester City stopped them moving further clear



of the relegation zone.

They had not suffered successive defeats under former Everton boss Sean Dyche before Saturday's loss to City, but suffered another setback despite dominating possession.

Forest visit Aston Villa next on

Saturday, before travelling to third bottom West Ham who are just four points behind.

After Garner struck in the 19th minute with a low finish into the corner from Dwight McNeill's pass, the hosts struggled to create chances, with Igor Jesus prodding

their best opening wide.

James Tarkowski headed wide for Everton, but Barry sealed the success, firing in from Garner's through-ball.

Dyche, who has won seven of his 15 games, said: "I came here thinking, 'go on then' after the Manchester City performance.

"You can talk about stats but there wasn't an edge in the performance.

"Three games ago people were saying we were brilliant, so that's how the storyline changes. We have got to change that the other way, and that's the biggest challenge.

"It is dealing with expectation as well. We have risen to the big games, then the ones where the expectation changes to being on us. It is a case of can we go again?

"Can you step on again? A couple of times we haven't done that. Finding consistency, in everything you do, is the next step." -Agencies



Senegal outplay Benin to finish on top of group

The Lions of Teranga recorded an impressive display to win 3-0 and edged DR Congo to second spot in the group

TANGIER: Senegal won Group D on goal difference as the 10-man Teranga Lions endured a tense finale to their 3-0 win over Benin at the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) in Tangier on Tuesday.

With the 2021 champions leading 1-0 and group rivals DR Congo beating Botswana 3-0, top spot in the section was on course to be decided by the drawing of lots before Habib Diallo slotted in his side's second from Sadio Mane's pass in the 62nd minute, ensuring they moved top by a goal.

Senegal staff and fans were left to nervously hope DR Congo failed to score again until Cherif Ndiaye converted a 97th-minute penalty to definitively settle top spot.

Third-placed Benin, who joined their opponents in being assured of progressing before kick-off, fell behind when Abdoulaye Seck headed in Krepin Diatta's cross and gained a numerical advantage through Kalidou Koulibaly's 71st-minute dismissal.

Senegal will remain in Tangier to face Burkina Faso or Sudan on Saturday, and will discover their opponents when Group E concludes. Benin will face seven-time champions Egypt, who won Group B, at the same time on Monday in Agadir.

Senegal secure top spot
With DR Congo extending a 2-0 half-time lead to a three-goal ad-



vantage on the hour mark against Botswana in Rabat, the race was on to avoid a less favourable-looking path through the knockout stage for the top two.

Winning the group has spared Senegal a meeting with two-time champions Algeria in the last 16, as well as guaranteeing they will not face three-time winners Nigeria or host nation and tournament favourites Morocco before the final.

Video assistant referee (VAR) decisions have been a regular feature of this AFCON and Seck's powerful header was subject to a lengthy check to decide that the centre-back had not handled the ball, which appeared to come off his shoulder as it flew past Marcel Dandjinou.

Knowing the predicament his team faced, Pape Thiaw sent on Sunderland midfielder Habib Diarra and Paris Saint-Germain forward Ibrahim Mbaye for Monaco's Lamine Camara and Everton play-

maker Iliman Ndiaye at the break.

Mane's burst inside the box and clever cut-back set up Diallo to put Senegal back on top of the group, but they remained dependent on DR Congo's fortunes, with Koulibaly's dismissal for treading on Aiyegun Tosin's ankle - again assessed by VAR - adding to the drama.

Senegal goalkeeper Edouard Mendy made excellent saves to tip Junior Olaitan's free-kick over the crossbar and deny Rodolfo Aloko in a one-on-one before Cherif Ndiaye put their final position beyond doubt, converting from the spot after Abdoul Rachid Moumini impeded Mbaye.

Gernot Rohr's Benin will now hope to cause an upset against Egypt and repeat their run to the quarter-finals on their most recent AFCON appearance in 2019, while Senegal will hope to vanquish memories of their last-16 defeat in 2023, when they lost to eventual champions Ivory Coast on penalties. - Agencies

Tanzania end 45-year long wait to reach knockouts

RABAT: Tanzania reached the Africa Cup of Nations knockout stage for the first time, 45 years after their maiden appearance, by coming from behind to draw 1-1 with fellow qualifiers Tunisia in Rabat on Tuesday.

Ismael Gharbi converted a penalty just before half-time for Tunisia and Feisal Salum levelled early in the second half in the Moroccan capital.

Tanzania have been trying since 1980 to advance beyond the group stage, and have still to win in 12 matches spanning four appearances. They squeezed into the round of 16 after two draws and one loss.

Tunisia finished second in Group C with four points, five less than table-toppers Nigeria. Tanzania piped Angola on goals scored for one of four places reserved for third-placed teams.

Raphael Onyedika scored twice as already qualified Nigeria overcame 10-man Uganda 3-1 in the other Group C match to maintain a 100 percent record after the group stage.

Tanzania will face hosts and title favourites Morocco in Rabat on Sunday, one day after Tunisia tackle Mali.

Nigeria will meet the third-placed team in Group F - currently Mozambique - on Monday in Fes.

"We did not have enough time to prepare the team, but worked together with the federation," said Argentina-born Tanzania coach Miguel Gamondi, who replaced local Hemed Suleiman only last month. "I feel very proud, not just for myself, but for the country. I wanted to change this mentality of Tanzania always being underdogs."

"To qualify is great for Tanzania. I hope this success will be a reminder to these players and the next generation of players of the



potential of Tanzanian football."

Gamondi gave an AFCON debut to 33-year-old goalkeeper Hussein Masaranga, one of three changes to the team that drew with Uganda in their previous match.

Audacious goal attempt

Tunisia coach Sami Trabelsi dropped another 33-year-old, captain Ferjani Sassi, to the bench, but the midfielder came on early in the second half to win his 100th cap.

Ismael Gharbi struck the post for Tunisia early on. He then saw an audacious long-range effort land on the roof of the netting to

the relief of poorly positioned Masaranga.

Tunisia had a slight edge in possession and went ahead on 43 minutes when the Congolese referee awarded a penalty after reviewing a goalmouth incident on the pitchside VAR monitor.

Big-screen replays showed Ibrahim Hamad fouling Hazem Mastouri. The spot kick was converted by Gharbi.

The lead did not last long, as Feisal Salum levelled two minutes into the second half. He fired goalwards from beyond the D and the ball sneaked into the corner past Aymen Dahmen. - Agencies

DR Congo trounce Botswana

RABAT: A much-changed DR Congo eased to victory over already-eliminated Botswana at the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) but ultimately had to settle for second place in Group D on Tuesday.

The Leopards were already assured of a spot in the last 16 ahead of kick-off in Rabat and began the final round of fixtures behind table-topping Senegal on goal difference.

Nathanael Mukau slid in to meet Gael Kakuta's smart back-heel to open the scoring just after the half-hour mark, and 10 minutes later a penalty from former Chelsea player Kakuta made it 2-0 to the Central Africans.

The spot-kick had been awarded after Meschack Elia's cross struck the hand of Thabo Leinanyane, with referee Ahmad Heeralall sent to his pitch-side monitor by the video assistant referee (VAR).

Kakuta, who was not even in DR Congo's initial squad but



called up after an injury to Mario Stroejkens, added the third in the 60th minute when he converted a cut-back from substitute Theo Bongonda.

Fiston Mayele had a potential fourth ruled out for handball midway through the second half - despite the ball appearing to hit the part of his upper arm which was covered by his shirt sleeve - and

Bongonda failed to convert three late chances.

Senegal's 3-0 win over Benin meant the West Africans finish above the Leopards by a two-goal margin.

DR Congo remain in the Moroccan capital but will face a tough last-16 match against fellow two-time champions Algeria on 6 January. - Agencies

UGANDA USE THREE GOALKEEPERS

Onyedika's brace as Super Eagles soar past Uganda

FES: Much-changed Nigeria finished the group stage with a perfect record after three games at the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON), recording a 3-1 win and eliminating a Uganda side who were reduced to 10 men and forced to use all three goalkeepers in their squad.

Having already secured top spot in Group C, Super Eagles coach Eric Chelle rotated eight starters from the victory against Tunisia, with Victor Osimhen captain.

In a relatively even first half, the Super Eagles took the lead in the 28th minute through Paul Onuachu, but an innocuous-looking injury to Uganda goalkeeper Denis Omedidi was almost as important.

The 40-year-old struggled through to half-time and was replaced by Salim Magoola, who was shown a straight red card 11 minutes later for saving an attempted lob by Osimhen while well outside his area.

Third-choice keeper Nafian Alionzi was beaten six minutes after coming on by Raphael Onyedika, who struck again from inside the box for Nigeria's third five minutes later. The Cranes did manage



a consolation in the 75th minute when Allan Okello found Rogers Mato's fine diagonal run, allowing the recipient to chip a finish over the onrushing Francis Uzoho.

Nigeria will remain in Fes and face the third-placed team from Group F - Mozambique, Cameroon or Ivory Coast - on Monday.

Uganda, meanwhile, exit the tournament and extend their winless run at AFCON to six matches since 2019.

Onyango out in painful fashion

This was only the second time the two nations have met at the finals, with the East Africans emerging victorious in a semi-final clash in 1978.

Uganda knew they needed a similar result in Fes, with only a win enough to send them into the second round.

And while Chelle had the luxury of resting players such as Alex



Iwobi, Wilfred Ndidi and Ademola Lookman after the 3-2 win against Tunisia, Cranes boss Paul Put gave starts to St Johnstone striker Uche Ikpeazu, who scored his side's equaliser against Tanzania and has a Nigerian father, and winger Denis Omedidi.

Trabzonspor frontman Onuachu redeemed himself in breaking the deadlock, having squandered a golden opportunity shortly beforehand when Denis Onyango made a

smothering point-blank save.

But the Mamelodi Sundowns stopper, who came out of international retirement for this tournament, was soon down again for the wrong reason, receiving treatment after appearing to twist his ankle on the uneven surface underneath a groundsheet displaying a sponsor's logo behind his goal.

After going down twice more before the break, it was no surprise to see Onyango replaced as part of

a triple change by Put ahead of the second half. The Belgian coach's plans were soon in disarray after Magoola's red card and from that point on Uganda never looked capable of a comeback.

A second Nigeria goal felt inevitable and arrived when Fulham's Samuel Chukwueze released Onyedika down the right, slotting a low finish through Alionzi's legs to sum up Uganda's goalkeeping nightmare.

The Club Brugge midfielder netted again in the 67th minute following another incisive attack orchestrated by the lively Chukwueze.

Despite the convincing scoreline, Chelle will be disappointed by the late lapse in concentration which allowed Mato to score the Cranes' consolation and deny Nigeria a first clean sheet of the tournament.

The victory, however, sees the Super Eagles become the first team to win all three group matches at this Afcon and exhibited the squad's strength in depth.

For Uganda - and, in particular, the legendary Onyango - this was a sad way to bow out. - Agencies

ROUND-UP

Toyota introduces the GR Yaris in Oman — born from motorsports, driven by pure thrill



Developed with the expertise of the TOYOTA GAZOO Racing World Rally Team—the force behind Toyota’s five consecutive FIA WRC manufacturers’ championships—the GR Yaris is the brand’s first model developed with a “motorsport-first” approach

MUSCAT: Saud Bahwan Automotive proudly announces the highly anticipated arrival of the Toyota GR Yaris to the Sultanate of Oman. Born from the heat of competition in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC), this model introduces the new Aero Performance Package, developed to elevate aerodynamic efficiency, cooling performance, and driving stability. The launch marks an exciting new chapter for driving purists in Oman, offering them a vehicle that wasn’t merely adapted



for the track, but born from it. Developed with the expertise of the TOYOTA GAZOO Racing World Rally Team—the force behind Toyota’s five consecutive FIA WRC manufacturers’ championships—the GR Yaris is the brand’s first model developed with a “motorsport-first” approach. It serves as a rolling laboratory, refined through the rigorous demands of the Super Taikyu Series and the

Japanese Rally Championship to deliver unmatched confidence and control on every road. As Akio Toyoda (Morizo), Toyota Chairman and Master Driver, noted, “The GR Yaris is a car developed for the win. In the past, we tried to succeed in motorsport by adapting production cars for competition—this car reverses that process. There is no limit to how far we can improve it, and the final touches should be

made by your own hands.” Under the hood lies the heart of a champion: a 1.6-litre inline three-cylinder turbo engine (G16E-GTS) that delivers an explosive 300 HP and 400 Nm of torque. Drivers in Oman can choose between two transmission options—the newly developed 8-speed Direct Automatic Transmission (DAT) for rapid, seamless shifting, or a six-speed intelligent manual trans-

mission (iMT) for a more direct, mechanical connection. Power is managed by the GR-FOUR full-time 4WD system with an electronically controlled multi-plate clutch and three selectable modes, ensuring optimal traction and stability across diverse road surfaces. The new Aero Performance Package enhances aerodynamic efficiency through six precision-engineered components, including

a ducted aluminum hood for improved cooling, a front lip spoiler to reduce lift, fender ducts to sharpen steering response, a variable rear wing for high-speed stability, rear bumper ducts to minimize drag, and a fuel-tank undercover that smooths underbody airflow. Inside, the GR Yaris features a driver-focused cockpit available in a sporty Black x Red theme or a minimalist Full Black option. Its lightweight body—featuring an aluminum hood, doors, and rear hatch, along with a carbon-fiber-reinforced plastic (CFRP) roof—ensures a low center of gravity and superior handling. Safety remains paramount with Toyota Safety Sense, which includes the Pre-Collision System (PCS), Dynamic Radar Cruise Control (DRCC), Lane Tracing Assist (LTA), as well as Blind Spot Monitor (BSM) and Rear Cross-Traffic Alert (RCTA). The new GR Yaris will be available in five distinctive colors, including Platinum White Pearl Mica, Precious Black, and Emotional Red. Saud Bahwan Automotive invites performance enthusiasts across Oman to experience this rally-bred masterpiece firsthand. Official sales of the GR Yaris and the Aero Performance Package will commence on December 24, 2025. For the latest Press Releases, Test Drive requests and more, please visit www.toyotaoman.com, www.youtube.com/toyotaoman, www.facebook.com/toyotaoman, and instagram.com/toyotaomanofficial/. For any further details & to ascertain availability of stocks, please visit your nearest Toyota Showroom.

PRODUCT'S WIDE ACCEPTANCE

يحقّق أمبرو ديكترا اعتماد (OEM) من الشركة المصنّعة DTFR

علامة التّكيس جودة لثباته وموثوقيّة ظروف التشغيل الشّائعة

AMPRO Dextra Achieves DTFR OEM Certification

A mark that reflects consistent quality and dependable heavy-duty performance

Al Maha Petroleum secures Daimler Truck OEM approval for AMPRO Dextra 15W40 CI-4

MUSCAT: Al Maha Petroleum Products Marketing Co. SAOG has announced that its heavy-duty diesel engine oil, AMPRO Dextra 15W40 CI-4, has obtained DTFR approval from Daimler Truck, confirming its official OEM approval for use in Mercedes-Benz Trucks. This approval reflects AMPRO Dextra's compliance with the highest technical and operational standards imposed by Daimler Truck on operating fluids. **Stringent testing procedures** Such approvals are granted exclusively after passing comprehensive and stringent testing procedures, making them a reliable indicator of product quality, performance consistency, and formulation stability under real operating conditions.

The approval further enhances confidence among customers and fleet operators in using AMPRO Dextra 15W40 CI-4 in approved Mercedes-Benz truck engines, as it delivers effective engine protection, extended engine life, and dependable performance across various operating environments and demanding working conditions. It also underscores Al Maha Petroleum's commitment to providing lubrication solutions that meet leading international standards and align with the requirements of major OEMs.

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it delivers effective engine protection, extended engine life, and dependable performance across various operating environments and demanding working conditions. It

also underscores Al Maha Petroleum's commitment to providing lubrication solutions that meet leading international standards and align with the requirements of major OEMs. The Daimler Truck approval adds to a growing list of OEM endorsements already obtained by AMPRO Dextra from leading global truck manufacturers, including Volvo, Renault Trucks, and Mack, reflecting the product's wide acceptance and its ability to meet the requirements of different engine technologies. With the continued expansion of OEM approvals, AMPRO Dextra 15W40 CI-4 continues to strengthen its position as a trusted heavy-duty diesel engine oil, supporting Al Maha Petroleum's vision of delivering high-quality lubricants to local and global markets.

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