



**HM THE SULTAN GREETES
PRESIDENT OF GAMBIA**

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Adama Barrow of the Republic of Gambia on his country's Independence Anniversary. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of success to President Barrow in leading his country's people towards further progress in all spheres.
— ONA



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IOC CONFERENCE

Oman serving as a gateway between East and West: Qais



MUSCAT: Activities of the 8th Indian Ocean Conference (IOC) concluded on Monday. Through various topics, the conference addressed the opportunities and challenges facing the Indian Ocean countries and means of enhancing regional cooperation.

On the sidelines of the closing day, an event titled India-Indian Ocean Economic Forum was held. It was attended by Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, and some officials from the Foreign Ministry and participants in the conference.

In a speech at the event, Al Yousef said: "The 8th Indian Ocean Conference is a platform dedicated to fostering maritime partnerships and economic integration across our region as Oman underlines its commitment to strengthening ties with its neighbours, and fostering a regional economic ecosystem that promotes prosperity for all."

"Trade has always been at the heart of Oman's identity; Centuries ago, Omani sailors set sail across the Indian Ocean, navigating as far as the eastern coast

of Africa, India, and China. They traded frankincense, dates, and copper, returning with spices, textiles, and knowledge that enriched our civilisation. That same maritime tradition continues today, with Oman serving as a strategic gateway between the East and the West. Always being a champion of trade, from the bustling souqs 5,000 years ago to our modern free zones and world-class ports," he added.

The minister affirmed that the Indian Ocean is not just a body of water—it is an economic lifeline. It facilitates nearly 80% of global oil trade and carries a significant portion of the world's container traffic. The ports in this region handle billions of dollars in trade annually, yet we are only scratching the surface of our collective potential.

Miyaji Takuma, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan touched on the importance of enhancing the common interests of all countries bordering the Indian Ocean and the ties that unite them to foster growth and prosperity for all countries, overcome crisis, geopolitical competition and climate change that have impacts on everyone. **>A2**

THE CHIPS WILL BE USED IN NEXT GENERATION AI APPLICATIONS SUCH AS SELF-DRIVING VEHICLES, AI TRAINING AND OTHERS. THE PROJECT WILL BE BASED IN THE SALALAH FREE ZONE IN DHOFAR GOVERNORATE.

MOU SIGNED TO DEVELOP ADVANCED AI SEMICONDUCTOR CHIPS IN OMAN

The manufacturing plant is expected to develop national expertise in semiconductor design and create new job opportunities

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology signed on Monday a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with AONH Private Holdings to formalise mutual cooperation to develop advanced Artificial Intelligence semiconductor chips.

The chips will be used in next generation AI applications such as self-driving vehicles, AI training and others. The project will be based in the Salalah Free Zone in Dhofar Governorate.



The MoU was signed by Dr. Ali Amir Al Shidhani, Undersecretary for Communications and Information Technology, and Ali Steve Chao, Chairman of AONH Private Holdings.

The Oman Advanced Semiconductor Manufacturing plant is expected to contribute to building and developing national expertise in semiconductor design and manufacturing, creating new business opportunities for Omani youth, and attracting international talent from leading semicon-

ductor nations such as Taiwan, South Korea, and Japan.

This will support the transfer of global expertise and the localisation of advanced semiconductor technologies in Oman.

Dr. Al Shidhani emphasised that this project aligns with the Digital Industry Programme, one of the key initiatives under the National Digital Economy Programme, and Oman Vision 2040, which positions technology and digital innovation as fundamental pillars of the national economy.

He affirmed that the establishment of this digital industry will strengthen Oman's regional and global presence in semiconductor design and advanced packaging technologies. It will also attract international semiconductor companies, encourage further investment in the sector, and foster local technological innovation and research in microelectronics.

Ultimately, this will contribute to economic growth, technological advancement, and sustainable development in Oman. **>A2**

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TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Foreign minister holds meetings

1 Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister held meetings yesterday with his counterparts, on the sidelines of the 8th Indian Ocean Conference. **>A5**

OMAN

Symposium on diversification indices

2 A two-day symposium titled "GCC Economic Diversification Indices" kicked off in Muscat on Monday. **>A6**

MARKET

Tender announced for dry port construction



3 The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) announced the launch of the third package tender for the development of Economic Zone at Al Dhahira (EZAD). **>B1**

REAL GDP GROWS 1.9%

Omani economy shows resilience

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) has issued the 2024 Macroeconomic Stability Report, a key communication tool alongside other reports the bank regularly publishes.

This report provides an in-depth analysis of the macroeconomic performance of the Sultanate of Oman and evaluates its stability, considering the most prominent risks and vulnerabilities. It also presents forecasts for key economic indicators over the medium term.

Despite the spillover arising from global developments such as inflation, disruptions in energy supplies, elevated interest rates, and increased uncertainty, the Omani economy has demonstrated resilience in withstanding



shocks. Despite fluctuations in oil prices and global economic pressures, the report highlights continued growth in real GDP and improvements in economic activity.

Real GDP grew by approximately 1.9% during the first half of 2024 compared to the same period last year. This growth is largely attributed to a 3.6% increase in non-oil activities.

The contribution of oil-related activities remains significant, ac-

counting for about 32.5% of total real GDP in the first half of 2024.

This indicates the high level of vulnerability of the Omani economy to external shocks, particularly fluctuations in energy prices and global oil supply and demand dynamics.

The medium-term outlook for the Omani economy remains positive, with expectations that economic activities will continue to recover and grow, in line with national priorities and the utilisation of emerging economic opportunities. Regarding public finance, the report emphasises the government's efforts in fiscal reforms, including expenditure rationalisation, reducing public debt, and diversifying revenue sources. **>A3**

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Dhuhr.....	12:26pm
Asr.....	3:43pm
Maghrib.....	6:09pm
Isha.....	7:20pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5:21am

88% TOTAL LOAD FACTOR

Oman Air records highest ever seat occupancy

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Air has recorded its highest ever seat occupancy, achieving a record 88% total load factor in January 2025, reflecting the percentage of available seats filled with passengers and demonstrating how efficiently the airline has utilised its capacity.

Of the 41 destinations Oman Air flew to last month, several achieved load factors as high as 95%.

The airline has surged ahead of the global average, which was 83.5% for 2024, according to the latest numbers from the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

An impressive 77% occupancy was also achieved for its Business Class seats. Simultaneously, the airline is also growing its point-to-point market share to attract more tourists into Oman and contribute to the country's economic goals

Con Korfiatis, Chief Executive Officer of Oman Air, said: "We're extremely proud of this record load factor, which reflects the strength of our network and shows that the changes we have made to



the business are starting to come to fruition. As we look towards the summer season, we can see a strong booking momentum and we continue to focus on sustaining this growth by delivering exceptional service to our guests and providing more options for travel."

Oman Air began a major transformation in 2023 with a mandate to achieve financial breakeven within three years while feeding positively into the socio-economic objectives of Oman.

The airline recently reported its performance highlights for 2024, the first full year of the transformation, with significant progress made owing to a comprehensive

network study, a focus on profitable routes, and a fleet modernisation programme that introduces efficient new aircraft while retiring older, costlier ones.

Oman Air serves over 40 destinations with a mix of wide-body and narrow-body aircraft, offering three cabin classes and a diverse range of fare options. Meanwhile, the airline continues to be uncompromising in its commitment to quality and reliability, maintaining one of the highest On-Time Performance rankings globally throughout 2024 and earning a string of prestigious global awards, solidifying its reputation as a trusted airline.

Role of Islamic law for global peace discussed

Representatives of 20 countries are taking part in the 3-day conference organised by the College of Sharia Sciences



MUSCAT: The third international conference titled "International Humanitarian Law in View of Islamic Jurisprudence" kicked off at Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre on Monday.

Representatives of 20 countries are taking part in the 3-day conference organised by the College of Sharia Sciences from 17 to 19 February.

The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Sheikh Abdulmalik Abdullah Al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council. The event is attended by ministers, senior state of-

ficials and other international guests.

The conference aims to explore the relationship between international humanitarian law and the principles of Islamic jurisprudence (law), with special emphasis on issues related to armed conflicts and the protection of human rights in times of war.

As many as 167 abstracts, in addition to 90 research papers, will be presented by researchers from Oman and abroad.

The conference explores the role of Islamic jurisprudence in promoting international peace and preserving the rights of victims of armed conflicts.

It also looks into the basic principles of international humani-

tarian law and options to activate them in the legal context. In this context, the conference will highlight the efforts of Muslim scholars in developing a theoretical framework for these rules, with the prime aim of diminishing the impacts of wars on individuals and societies.

The conference will elaborate on four aspects within the context of international law and jurisprudence, namely the protection of victims of armed conflicts; legitimate methods of combat; mechanisms for establishing criminal responsibility at individual and international levels; and the contributions of Ibadi jurisprudence to the rules governing armed conflicts. -ONA

CHIPS

< FROM A1 Semiconductor market is likely to reach \$1tn by 2030

Dr. Al Shidhani also highlighted the rapid growth of the semiconductor and microchip market, driven by the increasing global demand for these chips—particularly with the rise of artificial intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), 5G networks, and autonomous driving technologies.

According to forecasts by McKinsey & Company, the global semiconductor market is expected to reach \$1 trillion by 2030.

Given these projections, the Ministry has placed significant emphasis on equipping Omani talent with essential knowledge and

skills in semiconductor and microchip technology.

This includes collaborating with local and international universities and colleges, incorporating semiconductor-related curricula into relevant academic programs, and developing specialised training initiatives with leading global institutes and training centers.

Expressing his enthusiasm for the MoU signing, Ali Steve Chao, Chairman of AONH Private Holdings, stated: "Our decision to partner with Oman stems from its strategic location, investment-friendly environment, and the

incentives and facilities provided by the relevant authorities. Additionally, Oman possesses the necessary infrastructure to support such projects, including energy, water, road networks, and maritime, land, and air gateways. This project will enhance manufacturing capabilities, from high-performance memory solutions to the next generation of AI chips. Moreover, it will elevate Oman's position in the global semiconductor industry, particularly in manufacturing processes designed to meet the growing demand for AI-driven technologies."

FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION

'Need to promote and protect the free global economy'

< FROM A1 He also underlined the need for promoting and protecting the free global economy and ensuring economic security through the development of advanced technology, respect international agreements and enhance maritime security.

Three main sessions were held at the closing day. The first one, titled "Strengthening Global Maritime Cooperation", focused on the importance of joint co-operation among countries to ensure the security and freedom of navigation, enhance maritime and international trade, protect the marine environment, develop the blue economy, the challenges of climate change and the importance of devising new international agreements to regulate navigation.

The second, titled "Innovative Port Security", addressed the importance of technology and innovation in port security and international and regional cooperation in setting standards to enhance maritime security.

Meanwhile, the third session, titled "Global Marine Resource Management - Challenges and Opportunities", addressed the main challenges in marine re-

source management and the opportunities available to enhance cooperation and future solutions.

At the end of the conference, a joint dialogue session was held, bringing together Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Dr. Ram Madhav, Chairman of the India Foundation and Shri Jaideep Mazumdar, Secretary East, Ministry of External Affairs, Republic of India.

The session witnessed interaction from the participants, as the speakers received various questions from the audience about the future of relations among the countries of the region, the role of international cooperation in enhancing maritime security and trade, in addition to mechanisms to address environmental and economic challenges in the Indian Ocean.

Sayyid Badr affirmed that the conference represented an opportunity to enhance regional and international cooperation in the fields of maritime security, trade and sustainable development, expressing his hope that these discussions would be a starting point for more constructive partnerships and purposeful initiatives that benefit the countries and peoples of the region.

In his turn, Sheikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs, said in a statement: "During the conference, many topics were discussed on means of utilizing oceans in general and the Indian Ocean in particular to enhance partnership between all countries. The conference was also an opportunity to review the investment potential provided by the Sultanate of Oman. Bilateral meetings were held with delegations participating in the conference from more than 30 countries and private sector companies. They discussed the Omani capabilities and exchanged experiences on how to benefit from what the oceans provide and exchanged visions on some of the challenges facing maritime routes". He pointed out that all participants agreed on the importance of enhancing cooperation and coordination in this regard.

Hosting this conference reflects Oman's pioneering role in enhancing regional and international cooperation in the Indian Ocean. It also underlines its commitment to supporting constructive dialogue and sustainable partnerships to ensure a more prosperous future for all. -ONA

Tender Announcement

E/2025/04/OPAZ

الهيئة العامة للمناطق الاقتصادية الخاصة والمناطق الحرة
Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones
Sultanate of Oman
سلطنة عمان



The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) invites the reputable and experienced Omani and Saudi companies (JV) for the following tender; through an E-Tendering Portal (Esnad).

Construction of Dry Port and Veterinary Quarantine of Economic Zone at Al Dahira (EZAD)- IP 3

Place of Buying and Collecting the Softcopy of Tender Documents:	Through E-Tendering System https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om
Start of Tender Document Sale (Date):	Monday, 17th February 2025 (09:00AM)
End of Tender Documents Sale (Date):	Monday, 3rd March 2025 (01:00PM)
Site showround / Visit (for all bidders):	Tuesday, 4th March 2025 10:00 am at Oppsite Ibri Wali office
Tender Closing (Submission) and Opening of Technical Bids Date:	Thursday, 17th April 2025 (12:00 PM, Muscat Time)
Cost of Tender Documents:	OMR. 3,000 (Three Thousand Omani Rial only)

All specialized and interested companies that are registered with the Tender Board participate and get the specification and conditions of the above tender from the following website:
<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>

Bidders should submit their bids online on the given website Signed and Sealed. The Bidders shall submit Tender Bond electronically through the e-tendering system, which will verify the validity of the submitted bond and this Bid bond shall be issued from Local Bank in the Sultanate of Oman or it's accredited branches in Saudi Arabia of (2%) of the Tender Value, valid for (180) days from the Proposals submission date, addressed to H. E. THE CHAIRMAN, OPAZ Tender COMMITTEE (OTC).

OPAZ is not bound to accept the lowest or any other bid, and reserves the right to accept or reject any offer without giving reasons.

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Zaree Khasab project to promote Musandam as a tourist destination

In addition to promoting traditional crafts, Zaree Khasab also offers guided tourism services, with its team holding official tour guide licences

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Under the auspices of Sayyid Ibrahim bin Said Al Bussaidi, Governor of Musandam, the new headquarters of the Zaree Khasab project was inaugurated in



the Wilayat of Khasab. The project, funded by the Development Bank, was launched in the presence of Mahmood bin Abdullah Al Aweini, Secretary General of the Ministry of Finance and Chairman of the Bank's Board of Directors, along with Hussein bin Ali Al Lawati, CEO of the Development Bank, and several officials. During the event, the Governor

and attendees toured the new Zaree Khasab headquarters at Bassa Beach, which provides an enriching tourism experience for visitors and tourists in Musandam. The project aims to promote Musandam as a key tourist destination, enhance visitors' experiences, and showcase the cultural heritage of the governorate. It features a range of handcraft-

ed souvenirs made by local artisans, allowing tourists to immerse themselves in the region's traditions through henna experiences, traditional attire, hospitality services, and local cuisine sampling. Iman bint Saleh Al Salti, the founder of Zaree Khasab, provided an overview of the project, emphasising its role in empowering local artisans by encouraging them to continue their craft, develop their products, and bring them to market. She highlighted the project's evolution since its inception in 2012, from a simple idea to a well-established business that has gained recognition through international exhibitions and prestigious awards, making it a model for showcasing Omani handicrafts to the world. In addition to promoting traditional crafts, Zaree Khasab also offers guided tourism services, with its team holding official tour guide licences.

Awards and honours The project has participated in several international and global exhibitions, earning numerous awards and honours. The facility includes a fully equipped pottery studio, an art workshop, and a dedicated section for handcrafted souvenirs, allowing visitors to unleash their creativity and craft personalised, heritage-inspired keepsakes. Al Salti, a licenced tour guide by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, stated that the opening of the new Zaree Khasab headquarters at Bassa Beach represents a significant milestone for the project. She emphasised that it serves as a platform for preserving and presenting Musandam's rich heritage to the world, both through local tourism experiences and international exhibitions supported by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, which has facilitated participation in global events.

Al Salti expressed her gratitude to the Governor for his continuous support and keen interest in the project, as well as to the Development Bank, which has provided essential funding and support for equipping the new headquarters to meet the project's requirements. She also highlighted that Zaree Khasab offers a unique experience for visitors, allowing them to create their own souvenirs inspired by the region. Al Salti noted that Zaree Khasab has participated in various international exhibitions and received multiple local and global awards, including recognition by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism on World Tourism Day, the Al Roya Youth Initiative Award, Tourism Ambassador Award for Musandam, the Women's Excellence Award, the Best Project Award on Omani Youth Day, and the Best Social Responsibility Project Award.

TWO-STATE SOLUTION

Oman participates in Cairo meeting

CAIRO: The Sultanate of Oman yesterday took part in Cairo meeting of the International Alliance for the Implementation of the Two-State Solution. Titled "Supporting UNRWA in the Context of the Two-State Solution", the meeting was hosted by the Arab Republic of Egypt as part of a ongoing conferences of the Global Alliance for the Two-State Solution.



The meeting aimed to discuss practical steps for the establishment of the Palestinian State. Oman was represented at the meeting by Sheikh Faisal Omar Al Marhoon, Head of the Arab Department at the Foreign Ministry. The Cairo meeting was the fourth one of its kind after Riyadh, Brussels and Oslo meetings of the International Alliance to Implement the Two-State Solution. -ONA

OMAN-AFRICA

Business forum held

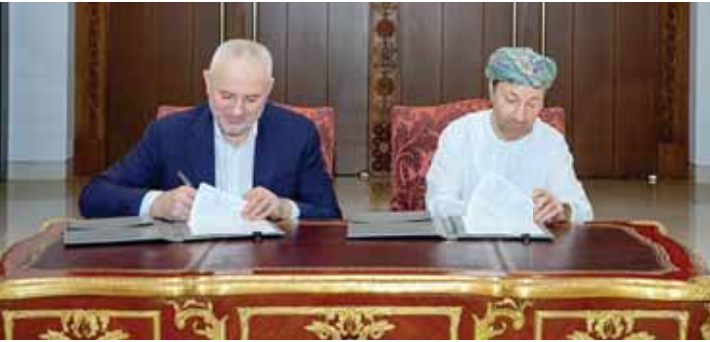
MUSCAT: Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) yesterday organised Oman-Africa Business Forum, which discussed ways to enhance economic and trade partnerships between the Sultanate of Oman and some African countries. The forum laid emphasis on several vital economic sectors such as food security, trade, logistics, energy, the financial sector, communications, civil construction, education, strategic studies,

exhibitions, fisheries and others. The forum stressed the importance of maximising the benefit from the strategic location of the Horn of Africa, South and East Africa markets and their integration with the location of the Sultanate of Oman that overlooks global shipping and lines. During the forum, some presentations were given on the most important exported and imported products between Oman and African countries. -ONA

NATIONAL MUSEUM

Pact inked for Omani Publications' Corner at Chechen State University

MUSCAT: The National Museum signed an agreement yesterday with the Chechen State Pedagogical University to establish "Omani Publications' Corner" at the university. This initiative is part of the celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Russian Federation. On behalf of the National Museum, the agreement was signed by Jamal Hassan Al Moosawi, Secretary-General of the National Museum, while Professor Dr. Ismail Baudinovich Bekhanov, President of the Chechen State Pedagogical University, signed the pact on behalf of the university.



The "Omani Publications' Corner" aims to enable Arabist students specialising in Omani studies to acquire valuable knowledge about the cultural and intellectual heritage of Oman.

It, thus, fosters deeper connections and mutual understanding between the two nations while promoting further collaboration in academia and research. -ONA

ECONOMY

Diversification efforts had a positive impact on economy

<FROM A1 These efforts reflect the Sultanate of Oman's proactive approach to strengthening its economic and financial foundations. The launch of the Social Protection Programme has provided a balanced approach to addressing social care needs while ensuring long-term fiscal sustainability. Despite a decline in the average price of Omani crude oil in 2024 compared to 2023, Oman's diversification efforts have had a positive impact in mitigating risks associated with oil price fluctuations. This reinforces the importance of further investment in



non-oil sectors to increase their contribution to economic activity and diversify national income sources. These reforms have been recognised by credit rating agencies, which have improved the sovereign credit rating of the Sultanate of Oman. This improvement

underscores the confidence of international institutions in the country's fiscal policies and the pace of its economic reforms. On the front of monetary stability, the report highlights that total foreign reserves held by the Central Bank of Oman remained stable, amounting to approximately OMR7.5 billion. This reserve level is sufficient to cover about 6.6 months of merchandise imports as of September 2024 as compared to the international benchmark of 3 months. The report emphasises the continued importance of maintaining adequate foreign currency reserves to ensure the stability of the exchange rate system. -ONA

TWO-DAY CONFERENCE

Conference to focus on ethics in age of Artificial Intelligence

MUSCAT: Tasks of the 2nd international conference titled "The Future of Humanities, Social Sciences and Sharia Sciences in View of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Shaping an Up-to-Date Human Being" kicked off in Muscat on Monday. The two-day conference is organised by "Ishraq Foundation for Press and Publishing" in co-operation with the Arab Open University. As many as 200 experts, researchers and academics from the Sultanate of Oman and abroad are taking part in the conference. The opening ceremony was held



under the auspices of Dr. Mohammed bin Said Al Maamari, Minister of Endowments and Religious

Affairs. The conference seeks to provide comprehensive visions and



practical recommendations that contribute to the development of scholarly domains in a manner

that responds to the requirements of AI, namely by enhancing educational research and improving educational practices in accordance with the latest technical developments. Research papers in the conference focus on 6 main topics, which are: "Values and Ethics in the Age of Artificial Intelligence"; "Humanities, Social Sciences and Sharia Sciences within the context of Opportunities and Challenges of Artificial Intelligence"; "The Future of Humanities, Social Sciences and Sharia Sciences in the Age of Artificial Intelligence"; "Artificial intelligence and sustain-

able development"; "The future of education in the age of artificial intelligence"; and "Ways to enhance scholarly research in the age of artificial intelligence. **Arab Open University** The conference included an exhibition for Master's students from the Arab Open University. The exhibition showcases modern applications that contribute to developing the process of education and research. The exhibits include the HeyGen application, an AI Video Generator used in compiling professional video clips. -ONA



Bima Oman League finalists to be decided ahead of Ramadan break



MUSCAT: The intense battle for qualification in the Bima Oman Football Academy League is moving towards its final stages, with the last set of matches set to conclude next week.

A total of 72 teams from ten governorates will compete in the finals, which will be held in Muscat in mid-April

firming their places in the under-16 category.

Sport Sporta Academy topped Group 1 with 32 points, followed by Al Muhtarif Academy (24 points) and Al Noor Academy (22 points).

In Group 2, Al Shamali Academy led with 24 points, while Al Gharafa Academy (23 points) and Al Nukhba Academy (22 points) also qualified.

Al Dhahirah Governorate wrapped up its competition last week, with four teams booking their spots in the finals.

Tiki Taka Academy advanced in the under-16 category, Al Tadamon Academy in under-14, while Al Fahad Academy dominated the under-12 and under-10 age groups.

The regional tournament featured 15 matches, with 43 goals scored.

In South Al Batinah, eight teams secured qualification after a three-week competition. Hamdan Academy and Al Ajyal Academy topped their respective groups in the under-16 category.

Al Rumais Academy and Iron Academy led the under-14 groups, while Al Rumais and Al Ajyal took the top spots in the under-12 category. Iron Academy and Al Ajyal Academy also qualified in the under-10 category.

Meanwhile, competition remains fierce in Muscat, where the under-14 category is still open. Al Mawaleh Academy leads Group 1 with 42 points, trailed by Seeb Academy (40 points) and Al Noor Academy (36 points).

In Group 2, Al Ibda'a Academy leads with 40 points, followed by Team Sport Sporta Academy (37 points) and Al Khoudh Academy (36 points). Pro Academy (35 points) remains in contention, with four matches left.

In the under-12 category, Seeb Academy leads Group 1 with 36 points, with Al Mawaleh Academy (34 points) and Al Muhtarif Academy (32 points) following closely. In Group 2, Al Khoudh Academy tops the table with 36 points, while Al Hishn Academy (25 points) and MFA Team (24 points) round out the top three.

The under-10 category remains highly competitive. In Group 1, Al Muhtarif Academy (31 points), Al Mawaleh Academy (28 points), Juniors Academy (19 points), and All Star Academy (15 points) are vying for qualification.

Group 2 has a four-way contest among Seeb Academy (33 points), Sport Sporta Academy (31 points), Al Khoudh Academy (28 points), and Al Shamali Academy (23 points), with three teams set to qualify.

The final qualifying rounds will also conclude in North Al Batinah and Dhofar, where 16 teams will advance.

Dhofar has seen strong participation, with 30 academies competing for spots. Matches in Dhofar are being held at Sultan Qaboos Youth Complex, while the grand finals in April will take place at Seeb Stadium in Muscat.



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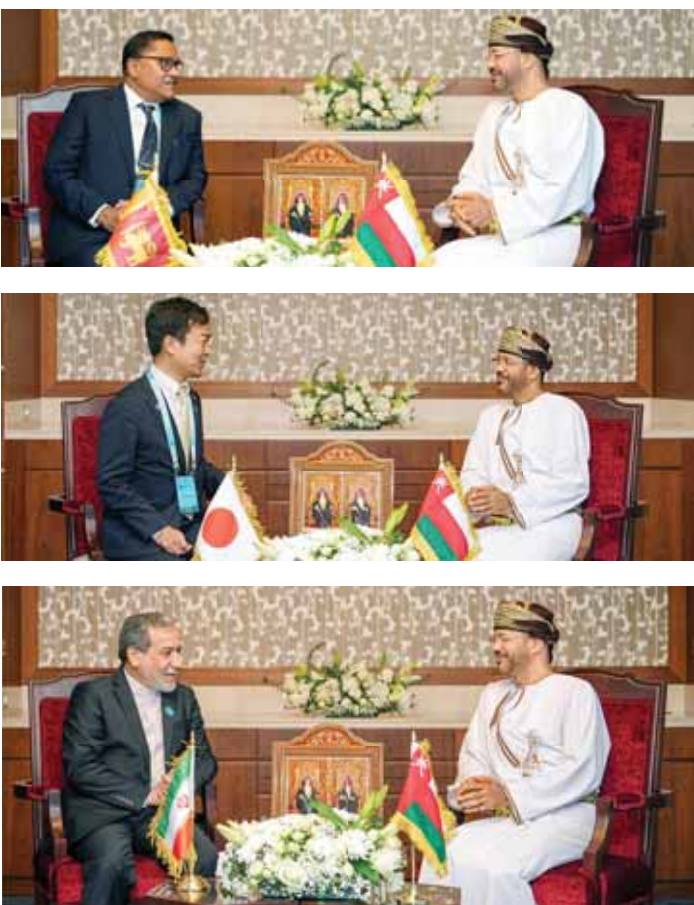
Foreign minister holds meetings with counterparts

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister held meetings on Monday with his counterparts, on the sidelines of the 8th Indian Ocean Conference.

The meetings were held with the following: Vijitha Herath, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism in the Republic of Sri Lanka, DN Dhungyel, Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade of the Kingdom of Bhutan, Miyaji Takuma, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Touhid Hossain, Adviser for Foreign Affairs in the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Dr. Rana Arzu Deuba, Foreign Minister of Nepal and Dr. Abbas Araghchi, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran in addition to Indra Mani Pandey, Secretary General of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation(BIMSTEC).

The meetings focused on means of promoting economic and investment relations. They underlined the importance of cooperation in the fields of blue economy, trade, energy and tourism. They also discussed opportunities for expansion in the fields of marine technology, infrastructure, and youth empowerment, in addition to exchanging expertise in natural resource management to ensure their sustainability.

The Foreign Minister also discussed with his counterparts ways to enhance maritime security in the Indian Ocean region, as a strategic corridor for global trade. The stressed the impor-



tance of cooperation to address regional challenges, such as piracy, smuggling and organized crime, in addition to the impact of climate change on the marine environment. The meetings also reviewed the diplomatic efforts to enhance regional stability through dialogue and joint coordination.

During the meetings, Sayyid Badr underscored Oman's keenness to enhance cooperation with various countries, pointing to the importance of developing partnerships through mutual visits and participation in international events, including Expo 2025 in Osaka, which represents an opportunity to support economic and technological cooperation. -ONA

SYMPOSIUM

Protecting Oman's digital infrastructure

MUSCAT: The National Defence College (NDC) is organising its annual symposium about strategic issues, titled "Digital sovereignty and its impact on national security".

The 4-day symposium kicked off at the NDC premises yesterday under the auspices of Maj. Gen Musallam bin Mohammed Jaaboub, Commander of the Sultan's Special Force (SSF).

Representatives of government departments participate in the symposium, which last until 20 February 2025 and forms part of the NDC's 12th course. The course covers various topics, including infrastructure, technological independence, international cooperation, policies and legislation.

The symposium explores the

strategic dimension of protecting digital infrastructure, the importance of protecting national data, the strategic importance of developing technology products and services, the State's ability to control national content and information flow, policies and laws that support digital sovereignty, strategic planning and ways of devising national initiatives. -ONA

MARITIME ENVIRONMENT

Japanese official visits MSC

MUSCAT: Miyaji Takuma, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan and his accompanying delegation yesterday visited the Maritime Security Centre (MSC). The Japanese delegation was greeted upon their arrival at the MSC by Commodore Adil Hamoud Al Busaidi, Head of the MSC.

Members of the visiting delegation were briefed on the tactical roles carried out by the centre in the safety of the Omani maritime environment. They also toured the centre's facilities and viewed its latest equipment and technologies used in carrying out its duties. -ONA



PAKISTAN SCHOOL MUSCAT

Pakistan School Muscat, P.O. Box 987, P.C. 112, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman, Phones: +968 2470 2489, +968 9369 0691 Emails: tulaib@pakistanschool.edu.om , bodschairman@gmail.com

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Pakistan School Muscat (PSM), Sultanate of Oman announces the following Tender:

Tender No	Tender's Name	Tender's Fee	Tender Documents Available Period	Last date of Tender Submission
2025/004	Construction of Pakistan School in Mabelah	OMR 300/-	February 19, 2025, to February 26, 2025 08:30 AM to 01:00 PM (Working Days/Hours)	Before and Until 01:00 PM, March 10, 2025

Tender Conditions:

- Contracting Companies (Excellent Grade Only) registered specialized in the field of construction having a minimum of 10 years of experience in Oman may obtain tender documents.
- Interested companies will receive the Tender Document through email after paying the non- refundable Tender Fees at the School Administration office.
- Bidders must submit the completed tender documents along with Technical Qualification Documents.
- The tender document must be submitted in an envelope with wax seal and must be dropped in the Tender Box located at the Administration Office before the final submission deadline clearly marked with the following:
 - Tender Number and Title
 - Company Name
 - Point of Contact (POC) Name and Phone Number
- PSM is not obliged to accept the lowest or any tender that may be received.
- Tenders not meeting the required specifications and conditions will not be considered.
- The last date for inquiries about the above-mentioned tender is 06/03/2025

For further information or inquiries, please contact the Administration Office at the provided phone numbers or via email.



Sultan Qaboos University

ANNOUNCEMENT

Sultan Qaboos University announces their desire to sell used vehicles and their in sealed envelopes. Those wishing to enter the auction must adhere to the following conditions:

- Interested parties can view used vehicles in auction yard and receive the bidding on Tuesday and Wednesday (18-19/02/2025) from 03:00 pm to 05:00 pm.
- Deposit of (500) Omani riyals in cash as an insurance. This amount will be refunded to the unsuccessful bidders.
- Submitting the offer in a sealed envelope after viewing the used vehicles, entitled by the name of the head of the committee for selling used vehicles, and put the envelope in bid box.
- The presented offer is binding on its owner if it is placed on it, and in the event that the buyer does not pay the purchase price on time, the insurance amount will be forfeited, and the sale will be awarded to another applicant.
- Those who win the bidding will be contacted. They must pay the remaining sum, and they are responsible for moving their items within 3 days from 09:00 am to 03:00 pm.
- The used vehicles are sold in their current condition and SQU is not responsible for any loss or damage to the sold vehicles if the shifting is not completed until 25/02/2025 and we applied (10) Omani riyals as a penalty for each day after 25/02/2025.

Note:

- Prices are sorted according to each vehicles and the higher price is taken.
- Funds will be collected electronically through visa cards.
- Entering the auction yard through Gate No (5).
- For more information, contact on 24142611 /94094918/97172110



MUSCAT GOVERNORATE

MUSCAT MUNICIPALITY

Advertisement No. 4/2024

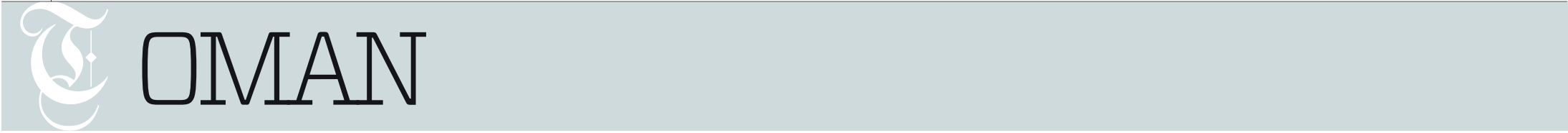
International Companies specialized in the field and registered with Tender Board, may obtain tender documents for the website through the following link:
(https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om) against non- refundable fees as mentioned below starting from the date of this announcement and until the end of deadline stipulated below.

Tender Number	Tender Description	Last date to collect the tender	Tender return date
PRE/25/004	Rehabilitation of Roads at Muscat Governorate 2025-2026	09/03/2025	29/03/2025
PRE/24/328	Roads paving at Hay Al Sad in al Khoud	09/03/2025	29/03/2025
PRE/25/007	Proposed paving road at Al Mwaaaleh South	09/03/2025	29/03/2025
PRE/25/039	Supply of Spase spray Equipment	09/03/2025	29/03/2025
PRE/24/253	Construction of entrances to the rainwater drainage channel in the Wilayat of Muttrah	09/03/2025	29/03/2025
PRE/25/042	Consultancy Services To Provide Periodical Guideline to Evaluate Rental Prices For Variuos Types of Units & Uses in Muscat Governorate	09/03/2025	29/03/2025
PRE/25/033	Muscat Municipality Data center Maintenances	09/03/2025	29/03/2025
PRE/23/168 (Re-Tender)	Design & Construction of Internal Roads in Al Seeb and Boshier- (Re-Tender)	09/03/2025	29/03/2025
PRE/24/208 (Re-Tender)	Supply of lighting poles in Al-Sahwa park- (Re-Tender)	09/03/2025	29/03/2025
PRE/24/217 (Re-Tender)	Maintenance of Hallways "Al-Rawaqiyyin" in Muttrah Jibroh (Re-Tender)	09/03/2025	29/03/2025
PRE/24/093 (Re-Tender 2)	Consultancy Services for Supervision of Roads in AL Khoudh Village (Re-Tender 2)	29/02/2025	04/03/2025

1. Bidders shall submit their offers electronically.

2. Clarification and Support:

- For any inquiries regarding tenders, please visit e-tendering website: (https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om)
- For technical support of e-tendering system please send an email to (etenderhd@mtcit.gov.om) or call (+96824402200).



Powering Dhofar

شركة ظفار لتوليد الكهرباء

Dhofar Generating Company SAOG

PO Box: 1571, PC: 211, Salalah, Sultanate of Oman,

www.dgcoman.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPORT

Dear Shareholders,

The Board of Directors is pleased to present the performance of your company, Dhofar Generating Company SAOG (DGC or "Company") for 2024.

At the core of our Company lies an unwavering commitment to safety. For over 9 years, we have maintained an impeccable safety track record with zero Lost Time Incidents (LTIs). Our team remains ever vigilant, never granting safety a day off. Under the guidance by the Board, we uphold safety principles and ambitious goals. This dedication to safety directly impacts our operational performance. Our assets boast an extraordinary reliability factor of over 99.54%. This excellence ensures not only smooth operations but also enables us to meet our financial obligations.

The directors convened all necessary meetings during the year, along with Audit Committee and Nomination and Remuneration Committee meetings, as required.

Strategic positioning

DGC is one of two independent power plants owners in the Dhofar region, with a 62% share in the southern power grid of the Sultanate of Oman. It owns and operates two power plants: a 273MW Open Cycle Gas Turbine (OCGT) power plant (Existing Plant) and a 445MW Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) Power Plant (New Plant).

The Company has one customer, the Power and Water Procurement Company SAOC ("PWPC"), and one supplier for the primary fuel (natural gas), the Integrated Gas Company SAOC. Plant operations and maintenance for both plants have been contracted to Dhofar O&M Company LLC and further sub-contracted to the First National Company for Operation and Maintenance Services LLC (NOMAC Oman) with an agreement that is co-terminus with the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA).

Operational performance

NOMAC Oman has demonstrated operational excellence during the year by maintaining excellent reliability of 99.54% for OCGT and CCGT power plants (2023: OCGT plant 99.2%; CCGT plant 99.6%). The operator has adopted a strategy of continuous improvement and reliability of supply programs to ensure consistent performance. The advanced Monitoring Performance System is an excellent initiative which has helped secure stable and top-notch performance.

Cash Sweep mechanism

As per DGC's financing agreements, the Cash Sweep Mechanism requires that 95% of the free cash flows, after accounting for the operating costs and debt service payments, shall be paid to the lenders towards prepayment of the balloon repayment ("Cash Sweep Mechanism") of the loan. The Cash Sweep Mechanism could be avoided, if the Backstop DSRA letters of credit ("Back Stop DSRA LC") is provided for amounts that increase over time as specified in the financing agreements. The Company continued to work diligently to arrange the Backstop DSRA LC however was not able to arrange it as no international lender has agreed to provide an acceptable Backstop DSRA LC due to the country credit ratings and they have also declined to accept any Backstop DSRA LC facility from a local bank due to lower credit ratings of the local banks.

As a result, the Cash Sweep Mechanism commenced from 31 July 2021 impacted the ability of the Company to make any future dividend distributions.

The Cash Sweep Mechanism will remain effective until the balloon amount is fully prepaid, which is expected to continue for the remaining term of Power Purchase Agreement (i.e. expiring on 1 January 2033).

In view of the above, the Company will not be able to make future dividend distributions unless the Cash Sweep Mechanism is reversed, which is subject to (1) arrangement of acceptable Backstop DSRA LC, and (2) unanimous approval of project lenders.

Financial Performance

Overall financial performance of the business clearly reflects the continuous strong operational performance of the entire 718MW facility. Profit after tax is OMR 1.45m (2023: OMR 1.6m). The Company has met its obligations to the lenders by the timely debt service of OMR 16.8m during the year (2023: OMR 16.3m).

Your Company remains in compliance with the Code of Corporate Governance of the Capital Market Authority. Also, the company complies with CMA-EI/2022 security guidelines issued for Public Joint stock companies.

Our people

A business's results are directly linked to people performance. Whether it is equipment, financial, administrative or HSE performance, excellence can only be achieved if the entire team cumulatively works together for a common goal. We are pleased to report that the excellent coordination and alignment of the entire business team, including the operator, led by the Board and management team with excellent support from the founder shareholders has reaped good results. The Board and management commit to continue developing the strong framework which allows for this successful collaboration. Development of Omani talent remains a key consideration of the entire business value chain.

I, along with the Board, would like to extend my gratitude to the entire team who have worked diligently throughout the year to deliver business commitments.

Social Responsibility

The Board has developed a Corporate Social Responsibility ("CSR") policy to help guide us to be a better and more effective corporate citizen while recognizing the scale of our footprint. By its very nature, the Company is a responsible corporate citizen as it focuses in providing clean and reliable power. The scope of the policy includes:

- Practical financial assistance, sponsored programs, free products and services to a wide range of educational, charitable, cultural, health, community and environment causes in Oman, and
- Community support through sponsorship of worthy initiatives in the field of education.

In line with the vision developed in the CSR policy and within the approved budget by shareholders, the Company invested OMR 15,000 during 2024 as following:

#	Beneficiary	Amount (OMR)	Description
1	Ministry of Education (Dhofar Directorate) Oman Charitable Organization	12,000	(i) Enhancing Digital Learning in Dhofar Region: collaboratively worked with Ministry of Education (Dhofar Governorate) to supply WIFI access points across schools in Salalah, Taqah, Mirbat, Sadih, Thumail, Dhakul, Rakhyl, Al Mazroun, and other Wilayats. This project will sustain and support over 6,700 students and educational staff to enhance digital learning and strengthen digital infrastructure. Also, promote equal access to technology across Dhofar Region, and empower schools to deliver modern, technology-driven education.
2		3,000	Contributed 20% of CSR budget to Oman Charitable Organization complying to CMA circular 172/2021.
	Total	15,000	

In addition to that, the company along with NOMAC had initiated further support to local community by:

- Train 4 engineers for two months each.
- Accommodate visit of 18 students specialized in engineering field for one day visit.
- Blood donation campaign with the plant employees and contractors.

Medium term outlook

The Dhofar Grid is experiencing a substantial increase in demand due to emerging industries in the Dhofar region as seen in 2024. The demand is expected to continue in the future. This increase in demand will trigger a revision in the maintenance regime for the 273MW plant to ensure safe and reliable operations. The Company and operator will continue their proactive approach towards plant operations to ensure a high reliability factor which is of paramount importance for all stakeholders.

Acknowledgements

We appreciate the support of all our key stakeholders especially our customer (the Power and Water Procurement Company SAOC), our fuel supplier (Integrated Gas Company SAOC), the Authority for Public Services Regulation and the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion.

Finally, on behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to take the opportunity to express our gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq and His Government for their vision, guidance, wisdom and continued support. We would also like to acknowledge the progressive and enlightened vision of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said which continues to be a model for others to emulate and without it, the success being achieved by many would not have been possible.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	31-Dec-24 RO	31-Dec-23 RO
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	134,059,390	138,381,140
Right of use assets	1,630,045	1,679,440
Finance lease receivable	31,674,585	35,059,980
Trade and other receivables	2,870,300	1,753,308
Prepayments of connection charges	932,851	812,853
Derivative financial instrument	1,366,552	1,563,221
Total non-current assets	172,533,431	179,249,941
Current assets		
Inventories	5,501,376	5,537,659
Finance lease receivable	3,205,488	2,970,242
Trade and other receivables	623,260	4,582,735
Advances and prepayments	485,488	230,411
Derivative financial instrument	386,438	440,908
Cash and cash equivalents	3,339,633	4,684,314
Total current assets	18,739,059	18,455,269
TOTAL ASSETS	191,272,490	197,705,210
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Equity		
Share capital	22,224,000	22,224,000
Legal reserve	1,225,563	1,079,778
Retained earnings	27,938,386	28,426,317
Equity before hedging reserve	53,187,949	51,730,095
Hedging reserve	14,892,192	1,703,509
Total equity	54,677,141	53,433,604
LIABILITIES		
Non-current liabilities		
Term loan	100,368,951	110,609,444
Lease liabilities	1,941,257	1,962,300
Deferred tax liabilities	12,635,421	11,998,741
Provision for decommissioning costs	5,142,287	5,467,092
End of service benefits	67,401	54,695
Total non-current liabilities	120,155,307	130,092,472
Current liabilities		
Term loan	8,008,830	7,646,662
Lease liabilities	21,049	19,905
Trade and other payables	8,410,163	6,508,571
Income tax payable	-	2,993
Total current liabilities	16,440,042	14,179,134
Total liabilities	136,595,349	144,271,606
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	191,272,490	197,705,210
Net assets per share (RO)	0.246	0.240

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	31-Dec-24 RO	31-Dec-23 RO
Revenue	59,514,670	52,316,361
Operating costs	(50,364,425)	(42,572,668)
Gross profit	9,150,245	9,743,693
Other income	11,857	-
General and administrative expenses	(988,635)	(756,423)
Profit before interest and tax	8,174,067	8,987,270
Finance income	177,674	175,985
Finance cost	(6,222,388)	(6,789,432)
Profit before tax	2,129,353	2,373,823
Income tax expense	(671,499)	(750,720)
Profit for the year	1,457,854	1,623,103
Other comprehensive income		
Items that are or may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss		
Fair value of cash flow hedge adjustments - gross	1,502,117	528,563
Reclassification to profit or loss - gross	(1,754,254)	(1,275,504)
Deferred tax on change in fair value of cash flow hedge	37,820	112,042
Other comprehensive (loss) for the year - net of tax	(214,317)	(634,899)
Total comprehensive income for the year	1,243,537	988,204
Basic and diluted earnings per share (RO)	0.007	0.007

BOOSTING TRANSPARENCY



Government Communication Centre holds its 27th meeting

MUSCAT: The Government Communication Centre on Monday held the 27th meeting themed "Guidelines and Regulatory Frameworks for Government Communication Practices". The meeting was attended by government units' communication and media officials.

The Centre gave a presentation about the guidelines and regulatory frameworks that the centre recently used to achieve organised and effective government communication.

The meeting focused on the importance of adopting standard government communication plans that enhance transparency and bolster community confidence in government performance.

The presentation also included a 'reference document' on preparing communication plans.

The document outlined steps for preparing and implementing communication plans for government institutions.

The meeting also included panel discussion about major challenges facing government institutions in the fields of communication and media.

The aim was to develop the system of government communication in a manner that keeps pace with rapid developments in the media and communication sector. — **OMA**

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فانكس

فانكس

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OCCI INITIATIVE



Symposium focuses on 'GCC Economic Diversification Indices'

MUSCAT: Tasks of a two-day symposium titled "GCC Economic Diversification Indices" kicked off in Muscat on Monday.

The two-day symposium is organised by Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) in partnership with Konrad Adenauer Foundation's Regional Programme for GCC states, in cooperation with Smart Investment Gateway consultants.

The symposium lays emphasis on achieving tangible progress in economic diversification at the level of GCC states and ways of measuring economic diversification indicators.

The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Sheikh Rashid Amir Al Musalhi, First Deputy Chairman of the OCCI Board of Directors. — **OMA**

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Israeli aggression continues on Jenin for the 28th day in a row

Local sources said that the occupation detained more than 150 people in Jenin camp, and subjected dozens to field investigation, while a large infantry force raided a house belonging to Al-Amer family in the vicinity of Al-Assir Mosque

GAZA: Israeli occupation continues its aggression on the city of Jenin and its camp for the twenty-eighth consecutive day, which has so far killed 25 Palestinians, and left dozens of injuries, and widespread destruction of infrastructure and property.

WAFA correspondent reported that the occupation bulldozers began paving new streets in Jenin camp, extending from Mahyoub Street to Jouret Al-Dhahab neighborhood, and from the west of the new camp to Abdullah Azzam neighbourhood, and from Al-



Wahdan neighbourhood towards Jouret Al-Dhahab, in addition to paving a road from the mountain area to the middle of the camp, and other streets were expanded inside the camp.

She added that the occupation closed part of Mahyoub Street with dirt mounds, and the occupation closed the entrance to the new camp.

Local sources said that the occupation detained more than 150 people in Jenin camp, and subjected dozens to field investigation, while a large infantry force raided a house belonging to Al-Amer family in the vicinity of Al-Assir Mosque.

The occupation forces also stormed and searched the house of the slain youths Hammam and Harith Hashash in the Saada Forest in the city of Jenin, which had previously been notified of demolition last Friday, while the occupation forces continue to deploy in Kharouba neighborhood and the vicinity of the Battikha and Interior roundabouts, and in the vicinity of the Yahya Ayyash roundabout, where the occupation soldiers detained citizens, checked their identities, and searched their vehicles and bicycles.

With the continuation of the aggression on Jenin camp, the massive destruction is revealed day after day in the homes, properties, and shops of citizens in the neighborhoods and streets of the camp, while the occupation continues to send military reinforcements accompanied by bulldozers and fuel tankers to the entrances and surroundings of the camp, and the occupation bulldozers continue the work of destruction and demolition and opening streets in several neighborhoods of Jenin camp, and

drones continue to fly at low altitudes in the skies of the camp.

Tulkarm: Israeli aggression continues for the 22nd day in a row

The Israeli occupation continues its aggression on the city of Tulkarm and its camp for the 22nd consecutive day, and the ninth day on Nour Shams camp, amidst a military escalation accompanied by widespread destruction of infrastructure and demolition of homes.

WAFA correspondent said that the occupation forces sent additional military reinforcements of vehicles and infantry soldiers to the city and its camps, amidst a heavy deployment on Nablus Street that connects the Tulkarm and Nour Shams camps, coinciding with its seizure of two houses on the aforementioned street, and turning them into military

barracks.

She added, quoting eyewitnesses, that the occupation army carried out a large-scale raid campaign on homes in Tulkarm camp last night, and searched them and destroyed their contents, and subjected the residents who remained in their homes to field investigation.

Infantry soldiers were also deployed heavily in the camp's neighborhoods, which they turned into military outposts, while a number of them were stationed in Al-Hadaida neighborhood, while they were randomly firing live bullets and flash bombs, while the occupation bulldozers destroyed the infrastructure in Al-Murabba'a neighborhood in the camp, which is now surrounded by rubble in all its roads and neighborhoods.

Meanwhile, the occupation forces continue the tight siege on Nour Shams camp, which is witnessing a dangerous military escalation, as the occupation bulldozers continue to demolish homes, causing significant damage to the infrastructure and property, accompanied by the firing of live bullets and hearing the sound of explosions.

On Sunday, the occupation forces demolished at least three homes in Al-Manshiya neighborhood on the main street of the camp, including the homes of the slain Palestinian Muhammad Jaber and Imad Al-Din Shahada, accompanied by searches and vandalism operations in the homes while their residents were present, which increases their suffering and the seriousness of the humanitarian situation.

The bulldozing also extended to large parts of the roads in the Dhnaba suburb east of the city, including the vicinity of the Martyrs' Cemetery, near the old mosque, in addition to destroying the Martyrs' Monument, and causing severe damage to the infrastructure.

At the same time, the occupation forces continue to close the gate of the Jabara checkpoint at the southern entrance to the city of Tulkarm for the tenth consecutive day, isolating the city from the villages and towns of Al-Kafriyat, and the rest of the West Bank governorates.

Gaza death toll from Israel's deadly aggression surpasses 48,284

The death toll in Gaza has risen to 48,284, the majority being women and children, since the Israeli genocidal war began in October 2023, according to local health authorities.

Over the past 48 hours, hospitals in Gaza have received the bodies or remains of nine victims after being pulled out from the rubble, the sources confirmed.

According to the same sources, the number of injuries has also climbed to 111,709. Meantime, many victims remain trapped under the rubble, with emergency and civil defense teams unable to reach them.

A ceasefire in Gaza took effect on January 19, but casualties have continued to be reported across various parts of the region since its implementation.— WAFA

MYKOLAIV REGION



Despite war, ethnic Koreans 'feel at home' in Ukraine

KYIV: "Why did we Koreans come to Ukraine? To work in the countryside! The conditions here are good for growing vegetables," said Olena Pak, a resident of the rural Shevchenkove settlement in southern Ukraine.

Her parents, like those of her husband Oleh, also an ethnic Korean, came to Ukraine from Uzbekistan in the 1970s, when both countries were part of the Soviet Union. "They leased land from the state, which they worked on, while making plans. There were many Korean farm workers," recalled Oleh Pak.

The Mykolaiv region, in southern Ukraine, has been home to one of the largest settlements of ethnic Koreans in Ukraine for over half a century now. Most moved there in the 1950s and 1960s from Central Asia, to which they had been deported in the 1930s from the Russian Far East, where many had fled to at the beginning of the 20th century to escape the Japanese occupation of Korea.



in February 2022. Half of the community was under Russian occupation for nine months, while the other half was in the line of fire. Today, only one greenhouse remains, in which the family continues to grow vegetables and herbs.

Olena Pak volunteers in her free time, and every day she goes to the local cultural center to weave camouflage nets for the Ukrainian army. "We don't want to leave, we feel at home here. This is our home and our country," she said.

To South Korea and back to Ukraine

But many homes have been destroyed, and much of the land is now contaminated by land mines. About a third of the families of ethnic Korean descent have left the settlement. Some families went to South Korea as part of voluntary programmes.

A few have since returned, including the Kogai family, which was evacuated to Seoul, where 12-year-old Ksenia attended school and began to learn the language. However, like her mother, she did not want to stay in South Korea. "I wanted to go back because I realise that this is our home, and I don't want to leave," she said. — DW

UNITED STATES

What are reciprocal tariffs? US President Donald Trump's trade agenda explained

WASHINGTON DC: US President Donald Trump has ordered his officials to develop reciprocal tariffs on imports to the United States, keeping to an "eye for an eye" election campaign promise on matters of world trade.

"I have decided for purposes of fairness, that I will charge a reciprocal tariff, meaning whatever countries charge the United States of America, we will charge them. No more, no less," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office.

The statement is the latest in a line of tariff announcements by the president, including a new 10% tariff on imports from China that took effect last week and the prospect of new tariffs on imports of steel and aluminium from March.

Trump has also threatened 25% levies on imports from neighbours Canada and Mexico, which have been paused for a month to allow for further negotiations.



Why does Trump want to impose reciprocal tariffs?

Trump has a longstanding belief that the US is being treated unfairly in global trade. He argues that many countries impose higher tariffs on US goods than the US does on theirs, creating an imbalance.

For example, India levies tariffs that are typically between 5 and 20% higher than the US on 87% of imported goods, according to data from Global Trade Alert, an organisation which assesses commerce policies.

Trump has said he wants to match the levy on US imports that other countries apply to US products.

As well as forcing major powers like China and the European Union to lower their duties, the president believes reciprocal tariffs will boost his "America First" economic policy by narrowing the country's trade deficit while improving the competitiveness of US manufacturers.

"This is every country, and essentially, when they treat us fairly, we treat them fairly," Trump told reporters Thursday when signing proclamations ordering the reciprocal tariffs.

However, economists have pointed out that the US benefits from having large trade imbalances with the rest of the world, as the dollar — the global reserve currency — is used in most trade, which offers major tailwinds to the US economy.

Countries use those dollars earned in trade to invest back into

the US, often in government bonds, stocks and real estate. This keeps US interest rates lower, and allows US businesses and consumers to borrow and spend more.

How will Trump's plan work?

US federal authorities have been given 180 days to identify countries that impose higher tariffs than the US and recommend tariffs on a country-specific basis, according to a White House memo.

However, the tariffs could take effect before that deadline. Trump's nominee to lead the US Commerce Department, Howard Lutnick, has said the proposals could be ready by April 2.

The countries with the highest trade deficits are to be targeted first, including close US allies.

Once approved, the reciprocal tariffs could be invoked for reasons of national security, unfair trading or under emergency economic powers.

A tally of existing tariffs by Bloomberg Economics suggests that emerging markets would be hardest hit, including India,

Argentina, much of Africa and Southeast Asia. The White House singled out Brazil on Thursday, pointing to a 2.5% ethanol tariff imposed by the US, versus an 18% rate levied by the Brazilian government. Trump also wants to target other factors he says put US producers at a disadvantage, including subsidies, regulation, value-added taxes (VAT), currency devaluation and lax intellectual property protections.

What is the likely impact of reciprocal tariffs?

Economists have warned that the tariffs previously announced by Trump will raise consumer prices for imported goods to the US, stoking inflation.

After a bout of decades-high inflation in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, US inflation has fallen sharply. But in January, the consumer prices index rose to 3% — the highest rate in six months.

S&P Global Ratings has estimated a one-time rise of up to 0.7% in US consumer prices as a result of the tariffs on China, Canada and Mexico, if the levies take full

effect. Until they are formally announced, it remains unclear what impact the reciprocal tariffs could have on US inflation.

While some US domestic producers and retailers will benefit from Trump's tariff strategy, they will also face higher import costs for raw materials, as well as supply chain disruptions.

US exporters could also be hurt by retaliatory measures initiated by trading partners. Some governments, including the EU and China, have already announced countermeasures, while others are expected to follow suit.

How will countries try to avoid these new tariffs?

Trump's use of tariffs has rattled up fears of a global trade war, and has created deep uncertainty across many industries and in many countries. The announcement of reciprocal tariffs is set to spark a new flurry of negotiations that could bring reductions in levies imposed on US exports.

India, for example, has already cut tariffs on dozens of goods in anticipation of Trump's threat. Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said after a meeting between Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday in Washington that a deal to resolve the trade concerns could be made within the next seven months.

Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te called Friday for a "win-win scenario" in talks with Washington, "not just to ensure benefit to the US but also to ensure that Taiwan's industries have room for growth."

— DW

SPORTS

Champions Trophy: A crucial test for Pakistan’s resilience as hosts

The cricket fiesta will begin on February 19, with hosts Pakistan taking on New Zealand in Karachi

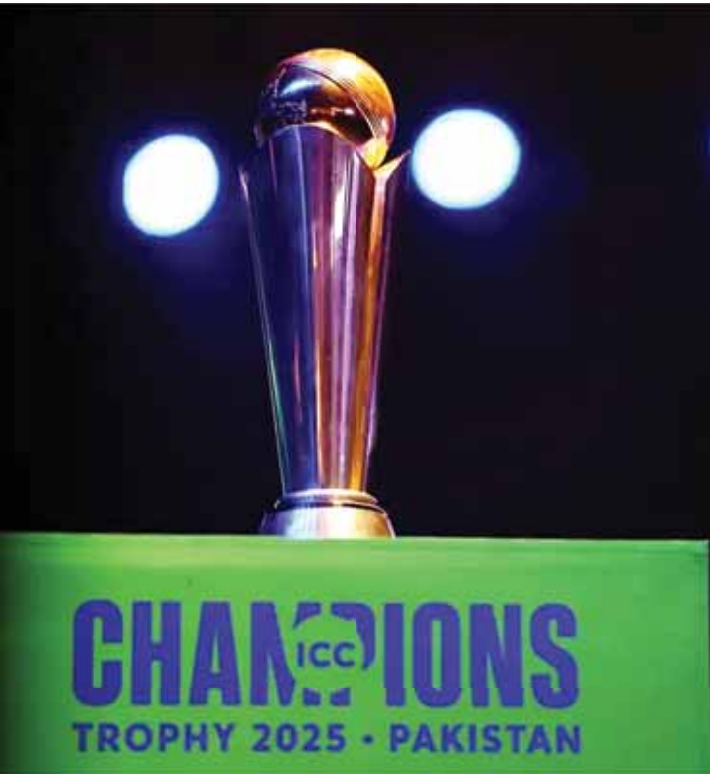
KARACHI: After a journey filled with hurdles, the much-anticipated Champions Trophy has finally arrived in Karachi. The cricket fiesta will begin on February 19, with hosts Pakistan taking on New Zealand in Karachi. The final will be played on March 9.

Cricket has woken up, deciding that it's time for the Champions Trophy to make its return. While some global tournaments are eagerly awaited for years, this one has felt hastily arranged. Yet, the host nation itself offers a reminder that sometimes, chaos can result in something memorable.

The timing of this event, between men's World Cups, has made it an important yet unexpected fixture. The 2025 World Test Championship (WYC) final looms, but the Champions Trophy is the competition that fills the gap, providing ample opportunity for sponsors and advertisers.

With so much money on the line, leaving it unclaimed would be a missed chance for the ICC.

The build-up to this tournament has been marked by controversy



and confusion. From last-minute qualification rules, to geopolitical tensions, to uncertainties surrounding venue readiness, this event has not been without its drama. The signs are familiar, a characteristic of sporting spectacles held in developing nations, but it's clear that the road to Karachi hasn't been smooth.

Yet, Pakistan's hosting of this chaotic yet exciting event offers a chance to turn this turmoil into something valuable for cricket. It also holds the potential for a disaster. As defending champions of a trophy that has been dormant for seven years, Pakistan finds itself in

a paradox: celebrating the return of a global tournament to their shores while navigating the complex dynamics of India's cricket economy.

The participating teams bring their own storylines. Australia, while focused on their other triumphs, has set up ODI matches against Sri Lanka for practice. India seeks dominance in the ODI format as a way to recover from their Test setback. England, after their ODI World Cup exit, are eager to maintain their white-ball dominance. South Africa continues to grapple with their "losing in the final" fate, while New Zealand,



Afghanistan, and Bangladesh aim to assert themselves on the global stage.

And, of course, there's Pakistan, where a victory would send the nation into a euphoria that could last for a decade.

This Champions Trophy offers a unique uncertainty - the lack of clear narratives, the unpredictability of outcomes, and the geopolitical elements that will shape the next few weeks. For Pakistan, hosting the tournament isn't just about cricket; it's about embracing the chaotic energy that could very well make this event unforgettable.

(With inputs from espncrikinfo.com)

FINAL ON FEBRUARY 20

Seeb to face Al Shabab in HM’s Cup football final showdown



Times News Service

MUSCAT: A thrilling clash is set to unfold in the final of the 54th edition of the His Majesty's Cup football competition this Thursday when Seeb Club will seek to capture their fifth title while their opponents, Al Shabab, will look for their maiden crown.

The highly anticipated final will take place on February 20 at the Ibra Sports Complex in Al Sharqiyah North Governorate.

The finalists were confirmed on Saturday with Seeb edging past gritty Saham 1-0 in the second leg at the Sohar Sports Complex and Shabab knocking five-time winners Al Nasr in a penalty shootout.

Al Shabab made history by reaching their first-ever final, continuing their dream run in the tournament.

Seeb and Saham had played out a goalless draw after the first leg, and both teams started cautiously in the second leg.

Seeb created an early opportunity in the 5th minute when Jameel al Yahmadi's powerful shot was cleared for a corner by Saham's defence.

Saham responded with a chance of their own in the 11th minute, when Mohammed al Maamari fired a powerful shot, but it went wide of the goal. Both sides con-



tinued to exchange opportunities without breaking the deadlock, and the first half ended in a 0-0 stalemate.

After the break, Seeb came out with greater intensity, determined to make the breakthrough. Saham, meanwhile, looked to exploit counterattacks.

Despite Seeb's relentless pressure, their finishing lacked precision, with several attempts missing the mark.

The decisive moment came in the 81st minute when Seeb were awarded a penalty after Abdulrahman al Mushaifri was fouled by Marwan al Ghafri inside the box. Arshad al Alawi stepped up and confidently converted the penalty, giving Seeb a 1-0 lead.

Saham pushed hard in the final minutes for an equaliser, with Rabie al Maamari coming close in the 88th minute with a powerful shot that narrowly missed the post. Despite their late efforts, Saham couldn't find the net, and Seeb held on to secure their spot in the final.

Al Shabab win in a dramatic penalty shootout

In another gripping semi-final, Al Shabab secured their place in the final after overcoming Al Nasr in a penalty shootout (4-3), following a 1-0 win for Al Nasr in regular

and extra time.

The first leg had ended in a 1-0 victory for Al Shabab, meaning Al Nasr needed to overturn the deficit.

The match, held at Seeb Sports Stadium, began with a flurry of attacking play from both teams. Al Nasr took the lead in the 6th minute when Marwan Taib rose highest to head in a precise cross from Awadh al Shihri.

The goal gave Al Nasr a 1-0 advantage, but Al Shabab pushed forward in search of an equaliser. However, Al Nasr's solid defence and a string of excellent saves from goalkeeper Ibrahim al Rajhi kept them at bay. Al Nasr also continued to pose a threat on the counterattack.

The first half ended with Al Nasr leading 1-0, leaving the aggregate score tied at 1-1. The second half saw Al Shabab pushing hard for the goal that would send them to the final, while Al Nasr looked to extend their lead. Despite several promising chances for both sides, neither team could score. With the aggregate score still level, the match went into extra time, which also ended in a stalemate.

The drama culminated in a penalty shootout, where Al Shabab held their nerve and won 4-3, securing a historic first-ever final appearance.

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by April 2025 reaching \$77.56, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by 14 cents from the price of Friday, which was \$77.70. - OMA

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,465.49 points, down by 0.3% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.21% at 414.95 points. Gulf Hotels, up 10.00%, was the top gainer while Financial Corporation, down 9.62%, was the top loser

Opaz announces third tender package for EZAD development

The dry port is the main driver of the Economic Zone at Dhahira (EZAD), located near the Omani-Saudi border (Rub' al Khali) and is being developed in collaboration between Oman and Saudi Arabia

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz) announced the launch of the third package tender for the development of Economic Zone at Al Dhahira (EZAD), which includes the construction of dry port facilities and a veterinary quarantine.

Opaz has invited experienced Omani and Saudi companies (JV) to purchase the tender documents and submit their bids before, 17th April, the upcoming deadline. The dry port is the main driver

of the Economic Zone at Dhahira (EZAD), located near the Omani-Saudi border (Al Rubaa Al Khali). It is being developed in collaboration between Sultanate of Oman and Saudi Arabia. The total area allocated for the dry port is 4 square kilometres, the first phase of the dry port will be constructed on 1 square kilometre, in addition the tender covering the construction of a veterinary quarantine.

Eng. Ibrahim Yousuf Al Zadjali Project Manager - Economic Zone at Al Dahirah stated that the new tender will enable the Economic Zone at Dhahira (EZAD) to achieve

its objectives of enhancing trade between Sultanate of Oman and Saudi Arabia. The design incorporates the latest facilities and ensures the port is built with the highest standards and top-quality specifications taking into consideration all the stakeholders requirements.

He affirmed that the dry port, in integration with the border crossing, will shorten the time required for goods transported to and from the Sultanate of Oman via other entry points. This will be achieved by reducing the number of transit points, thereby decreasing the



time needed for goods to reach their final destination.

He also noted that the dry port will facilitate the smooth flow of goods between the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, enhance bilateral trade, strengthen investment partnerships, and attract further investment.

The tender includes the execution of civil, mechanical, electrical, plumbing and structural works for the dry port and veterinary quarantine. According to the tender specifications, the project will include the construction of a cus-

tom's gate, inspection platforms, customs clearance areas, sub-station facilities, a maintenance workshop, laboratories, a water tank, fire protection systems, X-ray and scanning equipment, as well as the administration building, mosque, offices, rest areas, staff accommodations, fencing, and surveillance cameras and various other facilities. The dry port will be operated by Asyad Group a subsidiary of Oman Investment Authority (OIA), due to its experience in managing and operation such facilities.

Last year, the Opaz awarded a consultancy services contract for the design and supervision of the first phase's infrastructure facilities in the Economic Zone at Dhahira (EZAD) to a consortium of an Omani and a Saudi company. The first phase covers an area of 20 square kilometres.

Also, last year, Opaz floated a tender for the construction of the main roads, protection channels, and surface water drainage systems for (EZAD), along with associated services and expected to award the tender before end of quarter 1 - 2025.

The total area of (EZAD) is 388 square kilometres, located 20 kilometres from the Rub Al-Khali border crossing. The establishment of this zone aims to stimulate trade between the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, support economic diversification and development efforts, open new economic opportunities for the Sultanate of Oman and the wider Gulf region, and capitalise on the competitive advantages and strategic geographic location of the zone.

NATIONAL BANK OF OMAN



NBO's Market Outlook 2025 offers key insights into financial growth opportunities

MUSCAT: The National Bank of Oman (NBO) hosted the third edition of its Annual Market Outlook event for 2025 titled 'Financial Markets in the Trump Era: Disruption or Opportunity'.

The event featured Stefan Hoffrichter, Head of Global Economics and Strategy at Allianz Global Investors, offering valuable insights into the 2025 macro-outlook, exploring how financial markets are responding to the evolving global economy influenced by political factors.

Speaking about the event, Ali Mustafa Al Lawati, Assistant General Manager and Head of Private Banking at NBO, stated, "This event reaffirms our commitment to support and enhance the investment landscape in Oman, as we aim to provide our clients and stakeholders with the insights needed to address these

complexities and make appropriate investment decisions. We also take pride in hosting the Market Outlook Event for the third consecutive year and have Stefan Hoffrichter with us to share his expertise. His insights have given us with invaluable perspectives on the challenges and opportunities for the year ahead."

Held at NBO's Head Office, the event brought together industry leaders, investors, and financial experts to examine the global economic climate and its impact on financial markets in 2025. Attendees had a unique opportunity to engage directly with leading financial experts, gaining awareness on political impacts on global markets and its associated risks, as well as learning how to strategically position themselves in a dynamic market environment.

ANNUAL FOOD AND BEVERAGE SOURCING EVENT

Oman participates in Gulfood 2025 to promote investment in food industry

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn), is participating in the 30th edition of Gulfood, one of the world's largest annual food and beverage sourcing events. Gulfood 2025 is taking place from February 17 to 21, at the Dubai World Trade Centre in the United Arab Emirates, with over 129 countries joining the exhibition.

Khalid Al Salehi, Director General of Marketing and Commercial Affairs at Madayn, highlighted Madayn's strategic focus in Gulfood 2025 on attracting and localising foreign investments in Oman's thriving food sector. "On the sidelines of Gulfood 2025, Madayn is organising an event targeting CEOs, investors, and industrialists interested in expanding their businesses or launching new projects in the Sultanate's food sector. The event will showcase the diverse opportunities available in the food sector within Madayn's industrial cities across the Sultanate's governorates, while a discussion session will bring together Omani and international experts to spotlight strategies for food security, resilience, and innovation in sustainable food solutions," stated Al Salehi.

Supporting entrepreneurs and SMEs

On another note, and as part of its efforts to support Omani entrepreneurs and SMEs, Madayn has coordinated with the SMEs De-



velopment Authority to provide a dedicated space for non-exhibiting Omani entrepreneurs to connect and meet with investors and business leaders attending the event.

Additionally, Madayn has provided a platform for a number of entrepreneurs who graduated from the 'Industrial Innovation Specialist' programme in the Food and Beverage (F&B) industry, implemented by the Industrial Innovation Academy in Sur and Raysut Industrial Cities. Their presence at Gulfood 2025 offers a valuable opportunity to showcase their products on a global stage, thereby enhancing their visibility and supporting long-term sustainability.

Al Salehi further emphasised that Madayn's participation in Gulfood for the 13th consecutive year reflects the exhibition's importance as a global platform for promoting Omani products. "This long-stand-

ing presence opens new doors for Omani businesses, enabling them to access international markets and showcase their high-quality offerings to thousands of visitors and over 5,500 global exhibitors. The increasing demand for Omani products in recent years, both locally and internationally, highlights their growing appeal and competitiveness," he added.

This year, several government bodies and Omani food-related companies and factories are showcasing their products and services in the Sultanate of Oman's Pavilion at Gulfood, aiming to expand their international market presence and drive business growth. Alongside Madayn, the key participating bodies include the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), and the SMEs Development Au-

thority. Additionally, leading Omani F&B companies and factories taking part in the exhibition include Areej Vegetable Oils and Derivatives, Oman Foodstuff Factory (Al Mudhish), Food World for Industry, Omani Gulf Food Company, A'Saffa Foods, Luban Foods (Delicio), Unique Food Solutions (Zaheb), AlJood Food Factory, Mohammed Riaz and Partner, and Oman Milk Products (Dairy).

Officials from participating Omani companies and factories will engage with exhibition visitors to introduce their products and highlight the advanced technologies used in their manufacturing processes. This participation also provides the officials in the Sultanate's pavilion with an ideal opportunity to explore the latest developments in the global food and hospitality industries and gain insights into cutting-edge production technologies, innovative packaging solutions, and effective product display techniques. Moreover, the event serves as a platform for building connections, securing new contracts, and identifying potential agents to support the global expansion of businesses.

It is noteworthy to mention that Gulfood 2025, now in its 30th edition, is the largest in the event's history, featuring 24 exhibition halls for the first time and covering more than one million square feet. Gulfood is renowned for bringing together industry leaders and offering unparalleled opportunities to build trade relations, secure business deals, and unveil the latest innovations in the global food industry.

AGREEMENT WITH NETWORK INTERNATIONAL

Bank Nizwa inks pact to advance its digital transformation journey



MUSCAT: Driving the nation's digitalisation agenda forward, Bank Nizwa, the leading and most trusted Islamic bank in the Sultanate of Oman has signed a strategic agreement with Network International to enhance compliance initiatives.

This partnership underscores Bank Nizwa's commitment to pioneering innovative solutions that enhance banking convenience for customers, fostering trust and security, and elevating the overall banking experience while aligning with the nation's vision for a digitally empowered economy.

Transactional security

By embedding this comprehensive fraud management system into its operations, Bank Nizwa seeks to enhance transactional security, minimise fraud-related risks, and

ensure uninterrupted banking services for its customers. This initiative underscores the bank's dedication to maintaining transparent banking practices and operational resilience, setting a benchmark for advanced fraud prevention in Oman's financial sector.

Pivotal milestone

Highlighting the importance of this partnership, Mohammed Al Hashmi, Chief Compliance Officer, at Bank Nizwa, stated, "This collaboration marks a pivotal milestone in Bank Nizwa's digital transformation journey. We are steadfast in our mission to set benchmarks for secure banking practices. Robust fraud prevention measures are indispensable in today's dynamic financial landscape, where digital threats con-

tinue to grow in complexity and scale. By integrating Network International's cutting-edge fraud management solutions, we are not only fortifying our operations but also reaffirming our commitment to delivering superior banking services."

This partnership highlights Bank Nizwa's leadership in digitalization and its commitment to fostering an inclusive and innovative banking environment. As a pioneer in introducing advanced digital solutions to diverse segments in the Sultanate, the bank combines global best practices with local expertise to provide customers with intuitive platforms that enhance efficiency, reliability, and tailored financial services. The bank's robust mobile banking application enables customers

to open accounts and complete a plethora of transactions securely on the go. The bank's website also brings banking to customers' fingertips, enhancing access and convenience for all. Furthermore, the bank's groundbreaking digital only branch in Mall of Oman features cutting-edge interactive tech that enables customers to access banking operations beyond regular banking hours.

Through this collaboration, Bank Nizwa highlights its forward-thinking approach, reinforcing its dedication to delivering a secure, seamless, and trailblazing banking experience. The bank remains focused on continuously refining its processes and responding to the diverse preferences of its clientele, ensuring elevated and personalized levels of customer service.

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Gulf Hotels, up 10.00%, was the top gainer while Financial Corporation, down 9.62%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,465.49 points, down by 0.3% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.21% at 414.95 points. Gulf Hotels, up 10.00%, was the top gainer while Financial Corporation, down 9.62%, was the top loser. Shares of Ahli Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 689 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 12.82 million, with more than 12.56 million shares changing hands. Out of 50 traded securities, 10 advanced, 18 declined, and 22 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for RO 51K while domestic investors were net sellers for RO 37K, followed by foreign investors for RO 14K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,775.27 points, down 0.56%. Prices of National Finance were

up by 0.75% respectively. Prices of Financial Corporation, Ahli Bank, Oman & Emirates Investment, Al Anwar Investment, Bank Nizwa were down by 9.62%, 2.26%, 1.49%, 1.45%, 0.97% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,566.68 points, down 0.29%. Prices of Muscat Thread Mill, Oman Flour Mills were up by 0.71%, 0.23% respectively. Prices of Galfar Engineering, Al Maha Ceramics, Jazeera Steel Products were down by 2.70%, 0.79%, 0.54% respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.11% before closing at 1,661.01 points. Prices of Gulf Hotels, Abraj Energy, Sembcorp Salalah, Oman National Engineering, Shell Oman Marketing were up by 10.00%, 2.13%, 1.08%, 0.83%, 0.17% respectively. Prices of Al Suwadi Power, Sharqiyah Desalination, Al Batinah Power, Al Jazeera Services, Muscat Desalination were down by 2.90%, 2.88%, 2.86%, 2.30%, 1.52% respectively.

— United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,485.68	4,460.00	4,465.49	4,479.03	-13.54	-0.30
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,827.93	7,766.00	7,775.27	7,818.84	-43.58	-0.56
Industry Index	5,602.63	5,566.68	5,566.68	5,583.06	-16.38	-0.29
Services Index	1,666.88	1,658.72	1,661.01	1,662.87	-1.86	-0.11
MSX Shariah Index	415.89	414.95	414.95	415.83	-0.88	-0.21
MSX TR INDEX	6,284.38	6,248.41	6,256.10	6,275.07	-18.97	-0.30
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,893.34	8,822.98	8,833.50	8,883.50	-49.99	-0.56
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	4,644.10	4,622.63	4,622.63	4,641.52	-18.90	-0.29
SERVICES TR IDX	1,999.03	1,989.25	1,992.00	1,994.23	-2.23	-0.11
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,166.89	1,166.89	1,166.89	1,166.89	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
12,565,446	12,818,758	689	27,341,739,553	10	18	22	50

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17

ISINSECURITY NAMEVOLUMETURNOVERTRADESOPEN PRICEHIGHLOWCLOSE PREV. PREV. CLOSEDIFF (RD)DIFF %LAST PR.LAST BIDLAST OFFERPREV. VALUEMARKET CAP

REGULAR MARKET

OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	288,516	68,468	36	0.235	0.240	0.235	0.240	0.235	0.005	2.128	0.240	0.239	0.240	184,848,000
OM0000004735	SEBMO CORP SALALAH	58,596	5,507	11	0.094	0.094	0.093	0.094	0.093	0.001	1.075	0.094	0.094	0.094	89,729,763
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVESTMENT	25,000	3,035	2	0.123	0.123	0.121	0.121	0.120	0.001	0.833	0.121	0.117	0.123	18,150,000
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	5,000	2,970	2	0.594	0.594	0.594	0.594	0.593	0.001	0.169	0.594	0.594	0.594	56,430,000
OM0000001987	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	100	24	1	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.000	0.029	0.240	0.232	0.240	24,000,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	28,081	11,520	8	0.411	0.415	0.410	0.410	0.410	0.000	0.000	0.410	0.409	0.419	135,657,811
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	154,700	9,282	4	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.000	0.000	0.060	0.060	0.060	21,367,638
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO.	10,000	760	1	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.000	0.000	0.076	0.076	0.076	6,840,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	622,859	158,680	28	0.257	0.257	0.253	0.254	0.254	0.000	0.000	0.254	0.253	0.254	1,906,624,854
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	205,859	179,925	26	0.878	0.878	0.866	0.878	0.878	0.000	0.000	0.878	0.866	0.877	658,500,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	73,499	6,394	5	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.000	0.000	0.087	0.086	0.087	17,400,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	21,100	4,304	3	0.204	0.204	0.204	0.204	0.204	0.000	0.000	0.204	0.184	0.204	132,792,623
OM0000004769	MADINA TAKAFUL	111,600	9,374	6	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.000	0.000	0.084	0.084	0.084	14,700,000
OM0000009072	QO GAS NETWORKS	683,621	88,966	59	0.130	0.131	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.000	0.000	0.130	0.130	0.130	562,981,110
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	59,600	22,135	17	0.370	0.375	0.370	0.370	0.372	-0.002	-0.538	0.370	0.370	0.395	46,212,245
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	76,160	24,630	16	0.326	0.326	0.320	0.324	0.326	-0.002	-0.613	0.324	0.325	0.324	216,550,398
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	591,949	79,658	17	0.135	0.135	0.134	0.134	0.135	-0.001	-0.741	0.134	0.129	0.139	886,711,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	32,113	11,100	7	0.350	0.350	0.345	0.345	0.349	-0.004	-1.146	0.345	0.346	0.345	81,561,450
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	13,400	884	4	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.067	-0.001	-1.493	0.066	0.063	0.066	100,000,000
OM0000004825	ALBATHINAH POWER	413,282	28,362	31	0.070	0.070	0.068	0.068	0.070	-0.002	-2.857	0.068	0.068	0.068	45,892,345
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	358,282	24,019	19	0.068	0.068	0.067	0.067	0.069	-0.002	-2.899	0.067	0.064	0.067	47,865,225
Total	21	3,832,697	739,997	303											

Parallel Market

OM0000001111	GULF HOTELS (OM)	200	770	2	3.849	3.850	3.849	3.850	3.850	0.000	10.000	3.850	0.000	0.000	13,199,040	
OM0000009759	QO EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	1,307,888	409,717	112	0.311	0.316	0.311	0.315	0.310	0.005	1.613	0.315	0.315	0.315	601,002,520,000,000	
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	3,899	526	2	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.134	0.001	0.746	0.135	0.132	0.136	0.000	77,450,078
OM0000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	86,160	12,159	6	0.150	0.150	0.141	0.141	0.140	0.001	0.714	0.141	0.141	0.150	0.000	2,311,569
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	13,527	5,948	3	0.438	0.440	0.438	0.439	0.438	0.001	0.228	0.439	0.395	0.440	0.000	10,142,500
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL INDUSTRIES	40,000	3,280	6	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.000	0.000	0.082	0.077	0.082	0.000	5,125,000
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	54	13	1	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.000	0.000	0.245	0.235	0.245	0.000	11,212,621
OM0000002333	SALALAH PORT SERVICES	177	45	1	0.252	0.252	0.252	0.252	0.252	0.000	0.000	0.252	0.000	0.252	0.000	45,319,025
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	123,284	7,038	7	0.059	0.059	0.057	0.058	0.058	0.000	0.000	0.058	0.057	0.060	0.000	839,885
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	2,505	193	2	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.000	0.000	0.077	0.074	0.077	0.000	39,164,610
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	5,800	696	2	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.000	0.000	0.120	0.116	0.120	0.000	70,972,426
OM0000009908	QO BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	2,388,394	239,965	177	0.100	0.101	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.000	345,949,085
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	32,589	11,049	15	0.340	0.340	0.338	0.338	0.340	-0.002	-0.588	0.338	0.320	0.338	0.000	67,476,833
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	12,378	1,547	3	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.126	-0.001	-0.794	0.125	0.125	0.126	0.000	4,875,000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	7,967	813	2	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.103	-0.001	-0.971	0.102	0.102	0.113	0.000	228,169,209
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	10,182	937	1	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.093	-0.001	-1.075	0.092	0.090	0.098	0.000	18,400,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	318,000	21,624	9	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.069	-0.001	-1.449	0.068	0.067	0.068	0.000	19,659,009
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	19,041	1,238	2	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.066	-0.001	-1.515	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.000	10,111,776
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	3,509,500	607,144	6	0.173	0.173	0.173	0.173	0.177	-0.004	-2.299	0.173	0.172	0.173	0.000	408,490,742
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	15,000	2,550	2	0.170	0.170	0.170	0.170	0.174	-0.004	-2.299	0.170	0.161	0.170	0.000	7,283,308
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	191,600	13,798	8	0.075	0.075	0.071	0.072	0.074	-0.002	-2.703	0.072	0.072	0.081	0.000	14,615,024
OM0000004689	SHARQIYAH DESALINATION	26,000	3,375	1	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.139	-0.004	-2.878	0.135	0.126	0.135	0.000	13,203,292
OM0000002911	FINANCIAL CORPORATION	9,820	462	2	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.052	-0.005	-9.615	0.047	0.047	0.051	0.000	3,291,408
Total	23	8,122,965	1,344,905	372												

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN

CBO announces auction results of 73rd GDB issue



MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman announced the auction results of the 73rd Government Development Bonds (GDB) issue worth RO 100 million. According to a media release issued by CBO's Market Operations Department, the issue, which received overwhelming response from investors, has received applications amounted RO 244,679,500.

The average yield was 4.59 percent at an equivalent price of RO 100.045, while the highest yield was 4.60 percent at an equivalent price of RO 100 and the lowest was at 4.50 percent at an equivalent price of RO 100.445. The 5-year Bond will be issued on February 18 and it will mature on February 18, 2030, carrying a coupon rate of 4.60 % p.a. - **ONA**

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Indian, BE Civil Engineer with 10 years experience (8 years in Oman & 2 years in India) in commercial and residential project with valid oman D/L. Currently available in Oman with local NOC / Release.
Contact: +968 7900 6803
Email: thirumurugan9360@gmail.com

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Female, well-versed in **Project Administration** with 13 years of proven experience in training, recruitment, administration, finance, and secretarial support.
As an **Executive MBA** holder, I can contribute effectively to your organizational goals and looking forward to an interview call and the opportunity.
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Looking for Structural designer having experience in design of Structural steel building mainly in PEB industry. Minimum 3 year of experience with M Tech-Structural Design. Please send CV to: hrjob191@yahoo.com

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

Indian (male), 20 yrs Oman exp, knowledge of finalisation of accounts, VAT, TAX, LCLTR, & ERP Oracle. Contact: 92383882

Group finance manager, Indian, 25yrs of experience, looking job change, Contact: 78399621

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

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

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

Indian MBA graduate having 2 yrs experience in accounting department. Contact : 79819938 Email: mohammedasim955@gmail.com

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

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Indian male with 4+ yrs exp. in Oman, worked as Accounts & admin executive Bachelor Degree in Management (BBA) with valid D/L, ready to join immediately. Contact: 93536020, Email: naseemtm24@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATION

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

Dynamic and well-experienced professional: 5 yrs of Dubai and 4.5 yrs of Muscat experience in operations management, business excellence or key account management looking for new challenges. Contact: 96766702, Email: ilyas3299@gmail.com

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

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

ARCHITECT

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

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

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

EDUCATION/TRAINING

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

ENGINEER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IT

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

LOGISTIC

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

Indian, female, MBA in HR & finance, Diploma in logistics & supply chain management with 6mths exp as CS.I mth internship in logistics, looking for job. Contact 98233405, Email- nivyakraj123@gmail.com

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

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

MEDICAL

Veterinary doctor having BVSC & AH degree from India with 5 yrs experience in animal health, poultry and meat production processing, Seeking a suitable position. Contact: 76409087, Email: dramitchauhan0@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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Indian, MBA, 20 yrs of experience in Sales. Previously held supervisory, managerial position with. D/L seeks suitable placement. Contact: 945548480

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

Indian, MBA, graduate having 2 yrs experience in sales department. Contact : 78115007 Email: abdullahgawai@gmail.com

Meta certified social media marketer 5 yrs of experience. Looking for a suitable digital media social media position. Currently in Muscat. Contact: 94201134

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

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



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BAFTA 2025

The Bafta winners for 2024 were announced at a high-profile ceremony in London on Sunday, with Vatican drama *Conclave* scoring four wins, including for best film and outstanding British film, the same number of honours as Brady Corbet's *The Brutalist*, which earned the best director and best actor awards for Corbet and Adrien Brody, respectively.

The awards were held at London's Royal Festival Hall. Doctor Who star David Tennant hosted the gala, which was streamed in India on Lionsgate Play.

Runners-up with two awards each were Emilia Perez, *A Real Pain*, *Wicked*, *Dune: Part Two*, *Anora* and *Wallace & Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl*, as per Billboard.

Adrien Brody and Mikey Madison took home awards Best Actors awards.



COMPLETE LIST OF WINNERS

Best film

Anora -- Alex Coco, Samantha Quan, Sean Baker
The Brutalist - Nick Gordon, Brian Young, Andrew Morrison, DJ Gugenheim, Brady Corbet
A Complete Unknown -- Fred Berger, Alex Heineman, James Mangold
WINNER: *Conclave* -- Tessa Ross, Juliette Howell, Michael A. Jackman
Emilia Perez - Pascal Caucheteux, Jacques Audiard

Leading actress

Cynthia Erivo, *Wicked*
Karla Sofia Gascon, *Emilia Perez*
Marianne Jean-Baptiste, *Hard Truths*
WINNER: Mikey Madison, *Anora*
Demi Moore, *The Substance*
Saoirse Ronan, *The Outrun*

Leading actor

WINNER: Adrien Brody, *The Brutalist*
Timothee Chalamet, *A Complete Unknown*
Colman Domingo, *Sing Sing*
Ralph Fiennes, *Conclave*
Hugh Grant, *Heretic*
Sebastian Stan, *The Apprentice*
Supporting actress
Selena Gomez, *Emilia Perez*
Ariana Grande, *Wicked*
Felicity Jones, *The Brutalist*
Jamie Lee Curtis, *The Last Showgirl*
Isabella Rossellini, *Conclave*
WINNER: Zoe Saldana, *Emilia Perez*

Supporting actor

Yura Borisov, *Anora*
WINNER: Kieran Culkin, *A Real Pain*
Clarence Maclin, *Sing Sing*
Edward Norton, *A Complete Unknown*
Guy Pearce, *The Brutalist*
Jeremy Strong, *The Apprentice*

Director

Anora -- Sean Baker
WINNER: *The Brutalist* -- Brady Corbet
Conclave -- Edward Berger
Dune: Part Two -- Denis Villeneuve
Emilia Perez -- Jacques Audiard
The Substance -- Coralie Fargeat

Original screenplay

Anora -- written by Sean Baker
The Brutalist -- written by Brady Corbet and Mona Fastvold
Kneecap -- written by Rich Peppiatt, story by Rich Peppiatt, Naoise O Caireallain, Liam Og O Hannaidh, JJ O Dochartaigh
WINNER: *A Real Pain* -- written by Jesse Eisenberg
The Substance -- written by Coralie Fargeat

Adapted screenplay

A Complete Unknown -- screenplay by James Mangold and Jay Cocks
WINNER: *Conclave* -- screenplay by Peter Straughan
Emilia Perez -- screenplay by Jacques Audiard
Nickel Boys -- screenplay by RaMell Ross and Joslyn Barnes
Sing Sing -- screenplay by Clint Bentley and Greg Kwedar, story by Clint Bentley, Greg Kwedar, Clarence 'Divine Eye' Maclin, John 'Divine G' Whitfield

Original score

WINNER: *The Brutalist* -- Daniel Blumberg
Conclave -- Volker Bertelmann
Emilia Perez -- Camille, Clement Ducol
Nosferatu -- Robin Carolan
The Wild Robot -- Kris Bowers

Film not in the English language

All We Imagine as Light -- Payal Kapadia, Thomas Hakim
WINNER: *Emilia Perez* -- Jacques Audiard
I'm Still Here (Ainda Estou Aqui) -- Walter Salles
Kneecap -- Rich Peppiatt, Trevor Birney
The Seed of the Sacred Fig -- Mohammad Rasoulof, Amin Sadraei

Documentary

Black Box Diaries -- Shiori Ito, Hanna Agvilin, Eric Nyari
Daughters -- Natalie Rae, Angela Patton
No Other Land -- Yuval Abraham, Basel Adra, Hamdan Ballal, Rachel Szor
WINNER: *Super/Man: The Christopher Reeve Story* -- Ian Bonhote, Peter Ettedgui, Lizzie Gilliett, Robert Ford
Will & Harper -- Josh Greenbaum, Rafael Marmor, Christopher Leggett, Will Ferrell, Jessica Elbaum

Animated film

Flow -- Gints Siibalodis, Matiss Kaza
Inside Out 2 -- Kelsey Mann, Mark Nielsen
WINNER: *Wallace and Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl* -- Nick Park, Merlin Crossingham, Richard Beek
The Wild Robot -- Chris Sanders, Jeff Hermann

Children's & family film

Flow -- Gints Siibalodis, Matiss Kaza
Kensuke's Kingdom -- Kirk Hendry, Neil Boyle, Camilla Deakin
WINNER: *Wallace and Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl* -- Nick Park, Merlin Crossingham, Richard Beek
The Wild Robot -- Chris Sanders, Jeff Hermann

Casting

WINNER: *Anora* -- Sean Baker, Samantha Quan
The Apprentice -- Stephanie Gorin, Carmen Cuba
A Complete Unknown -- Yesi Ramirez
Conclave -- Nina Gold, Martin Ware
Kneecap -- Carla Stronge

Cinematography

WINNER: *The Brutalist* -- Lol Crawley
Conclave -- Stephane Fontaine
Dune: Part Two -- Greig Fraser
Emilia Perez -- Paul Guillaume
Nosferatu -- Jarin Blaschke

Editing

Anora -- Sean Baker
WINNER: *Conclave* -- Nick Emerson
Dune: Part Two -- Joe Walker
Emilia Perez - Juliette Welfling
Kneecap -- Julian Ulrichs, Chris Gill

Costume design

Blitz -- Jacqueline Durran
A Complete Unknown -- Arianne Phillips
Conclave -- Lisy Christl
Nosferatu -- Linda Muir
WINNER: *Wicked* -- Paul Tazewell

Makeup & hair

Dune: Part Two -- Love Larson, Eva Von Bahr
Emilia Perez -- Julia Floch Carbonel, Emmanuel Janvier, Jean-Christophe Spadaccini, Romain Marietti
Nosferatu -- David White, Traci Loader, Suzanne Stokes-Munton
WINNER: *The Substance* -- Pierre-Olivier Persin, Stephanie Guillon, Frederique Arguello, Marilyne Scarselli
Wicked -- Frances Hannon, Laura Blount, Sarah Nuth

Production design

The Brutalist -- Judy Becker, Patricia Cuccia
Conclave -- Suzie Davies, Cynthia Sleiter
Dune: Part Two -- Patrice Vermette, Shane Vieau
Nosferatu -- Craig Lathrop
WINNER: *Wicked* -- Nathan Crowley, Lee Sandales

Sound

Blitz -- John Casali, Paul Cotterell, James Harrison
WINNER: *Dune: Part Two* -- Ron Bartlett, Doug Hemphill, Gareth John, Richard King
Gladiator II -- Stephane Bucher, Matthew Collinge, Paul Massey Danny Sheehan
The Substance -- Valerie Deloof, Victor Fleurant, Victor Praud, Stephane Thiebaut, Emmanuelle Villard
Wicked -- Robin Baynton, Simon Hayes, John Marquis, Andy Nelson, Nancy Nugent Title

Special visual effects

Better Man -- Luke Millar, David Clayton, Keith Herft, Peter Stubbs
WINNER: *Dune: Part Two* -- Paul Lambert, Stephen James, Gerd Nefzer, Rhys Salcombe
Gladiator II -- Mark Bakowski, Neil Corbould, Nikki Penny, Pietro Ponti
Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes -- Erik Winquist, Rodney Burke, Paul Story, Stephen Unterfranz
Wicked -- Pablo Helman, Paul Corbould, Jonathan Fawcner, Anthony Smith

Outstanding British film

Bird -- Andrea Arnold, Tessa Ross, Juliette Howell, Lee Groombridge
Blitz -- Steve McQueen, Tim Bevan, Eric Fellner, Anita Overland
WINNER: *Conclave* -- Edward Berger, Tessa Ross, Juliette Howell, Michael A. Jackman, Peter Straughan
Gladiator II -- Ridley Scott, Douglas Wick, Lucy Fisher, Michael Pruss, David Scarpa, Peter Craig
Hard Truths -- Mike Leigh, Georgina Lowe
Kneecap -- Rich Peppiatt, Trevor Birney, Jack Tarling, Naoise O Caireallain, Liam Og O Hannaidh, JJ O Dochartaigh
Lee -- Ellen Kuras, Kate Solomon, Kate Winslet, Liz Hannah, Marion Hume, John Collee, Lem Dobbs
Love Lies Bleeding -- Rose Glass, Andrea Cornwell, Oliver Kassman, Wereonika Tofilksa
The Outrun -- Nora Fingscheidt, Sarah Brocklehurst, Dominic Norris, Jack Lowden, Saoirse Ronan, Amy Liptrot
Wallace and Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl -- Nick Park, Merlin Crossingham, Richard Beek, Mark Burton

Outstanding debut by a British writer, director or producer

Hoard -- Luna Carmoon (Director, writer)
WINNER: *Kneecap* -- Rich Peppiatt (Director, writer)
Monkey Man -- Dev Patel (Director)
Santosh -- Sandhya Suri (Director, writer), James Bowsher (Producer), Balthazar de Ganay (Producer), also produced by Alan McAlex, Mike Goodridge
Sister Midnight -- Karan Kandhari (Director, writer)

British short animation

Adios -- Jose Prats, Natalia Kyriacou, Bernardo Angeletti
Mog's Christmas -- Robin Shaw, Joanna Harrison, Camilla Deakin, Ruth Fielding
WINNER: *Wander to Wonder* -- Nina Gantz, Stienette Bosklopper, Simon Cartwright, Maarten Swart

British short film

The Flowers Stand Silently, Witnessing -- Theo Panagopoulos, Marissa Keating
Marion -- Joe Weiland, Finn Constantine, Marija Djikic
Milk -- Miranda Stern, Ashionye Ogene
WINNER: *Rock, Paper, Scissors* -- Franz Bohm, Ivan, Hayder Rothschild Hoozeer
Stomach Bug -- Matty Crawford, Karima Sammout-Kanellopoulou

EE rising star award (voted for by the public)

Marisa Abela
Jharrel Jerome
WINNER: *David Jonsson*
Mikey Madison
Nabhaan Rizwan --ANI

SPORTS

Liverpool hold off Wolves to restore seven-point lead



Mohammed Salah's red-hot form continued as he scored his 101st league goal at Anfield

LONDON: Mohamed Salah's rich vein of form continued as Liverpool edged past Wolves 2-1 at Anfield on Sunday, restoring their seven-point lead at the top of the Premier League.

The Egyptian talisman slotted

home from the penalty spot, marking his 101st league goal at Anfield and his fifth in four league games, as Arne Slot's side survived a tense second half to secure the win.

With Slot serving a touchline ban following his red card in the

Merseyside derby, Liverpool knew they needed a strong response after conceding a last-gasp equalizer to Everton in midweek. And they started on the front foot, taking the lead inside the opening 15 minutes through Luis Díaz.

The Colombian forward, who had endured a frustrating 10-game goal drought, finally found the net with a scrappy but determined finish. Salah's cutback deflected off Wolves defender Toti Gomes, and Díaz pounced, forcing the ball over the line to give the hosts a deserved advantage.

Liverpool's early momentum

continued, and they doubled their lead in the 37th minute after Díaz was brought down in the box by Wolves goalkeeper José Sá. The referee wasted no time in pointing to the spot, and Salah made no mistake, calmly slotting down the middle for his 23rd league goal of the season.

At halftime, it seemed like a routine victory was on the cards, but Wolves had other ideas. The visitors, managed by Vitor Pereira, came out with renewed intent, and in the 67th minute, Matheus Cunha pulled a goal back with a superb curling strike—his 12th

league goal of the season.

Liverpool were handed a chance to restore their two-goal cushion on the hour mark when they were awarded another penalty, but VAR intervened, overturning the decision after replays showed no contact between Emmanuel Agbadou and Diogo Jota.

Wolves, sensing an opportunity to snatch a result, pressed forward in the closing stages and nearly equalised. Debutant Marshall Munetsi forced an excellent one-on-one save from Alisson, while João Gomes wasted a golden opportunity, blasting over from close range.

As tension grew around Anfield, Liverpool were forced into a defensive stand, with Wolves piling on late pressure. But the Reds held firm, grinding out a vital three points to keep their title charge on course.

The win sets up a defining week for Liverpool, who now prepare for a Premier League clash at Aston Villa on Wednesday - a fixture moved forward due to their upcoming Carabao Cup final. Four days later, they travel to the Etihad Stadium for a blockbuster showdown with defending champions Manchester City. - Agencies

ITALIAN SERIE A



Inter miss chance to go top after defeat at Juventus

TURIN: Inter Milan missed the chance to go top of Serie A as the defending champions fell to 1-0 defeat at Juventus on Sunday.

After leaders Napoli were held to a 2-2 draw at Lazio on Saturday, victory would have left Simone Inzaghi's Inter side first at the end of a matchday for the first time since September.

But Francisco Conceicao's 74th-minute finish proved decisive in Turin to leave Inter two points behind 2022-23 champions Napoli.

Atalanta are three points further back in third after their goalless draw against Cagliari, while

Juventus climbed back into the top four on goal difference from Lazio.

While it was only Inter's third defeat of the campaign, it was their second loss in three games - and they have won just once in four.

Conceicao settled a close encounter after Randal Kolo Muani turned brilliantly inside the penalty area with quick feet to trick a couple of defenders, before rolling the ball into the path of his teammate to slam home.

That came shortly after Juventus goalkeeper Michele di Gregorio had pushed Marcus Thuram's first-time shot on to the post to

keep the score level.

Denzel Dumfries also produced a superb goalline clearance from Teun Koopmeiners' shot to keep Inter in contention, but Inzaghi's title chasers were unable to salvage a point despite their pressure in the closing stages.

It was a third consecutive league win for Juventus, who have still only lost once in 25 league games this season.

They will now turn their attention to progressing in the Champions League on Wednesday, having won the first leg of their knockout phase play-off against PSV Eindhoven 2-1. - Agencies

PREMIER LEAGUE

Maddison strikes decisive goal as Spurs edge United

LONDON: James Maddison marked his return from injury with the decisive goal as Tottenham secured a 1-0 victory over struggling Manchester United on Sunday.

Maddison, back after a four-week absence due to a calf injury, capitalised on a rebound from Andre Onana's save in the 13th minute, ensuring Spurs' first league win in three matches.

United had their chances to equalise, most notably through Alejandro Garnacho, who lofted an effort over the bar when through on goal. However, their lack of attacking threat ultimately proved costly.

The win lifts Spurs to 12th in the table, easing pressure on manager Ange Postecoglou. Meanwhile, United's struggles continue, with Ruben Amorim's side suffering their third loss in four league games, leaving them 15th, 12 points clear of the relegation zone.

Before the match, over 1,000 Tottenham supporters protested against the club's ownership and chairman Daniel Levy.

Maddison's return provided a timely boost, while Mathys Tel impressed on his first league start since joining on loan from Bayern Munich. Despite some shaky moments, Spurs held on for a much-needed victory.

'My job is so hard,' says frustrated Amorim
Manchester United boss Ruben



Amorim admitted his frustration following his side's defeat to Tottenham, lamenting the difficulty of his role as the club sits 15th in the Premier League.

The Portuguese coach has overseen eight losses in 12 league games, with James Maddison's goal condemning his side to another defeat on Sunday.

"I have a lot of problems," Amorim told Sky Sports. "My job is so hard, but I am here to continue with my beliefs and will try to win again."

Despite trailing for over 70 minutes, Amorim made just one substitution, bringing on 17-year-old Chido Obi in stoppage time. The manager defended his decision, stating he wanted to protect the club's young players from undue pressure.

"The Premier League is the hardest competition in the world," he told *BBC Sport*.

"I don't want to rush them in. I felt the team was pushing for a goal, so I didn't want to change much." - Agencies

SPANISH LA LIGA ROUND-UP

Espanyol-Bilbao match halted briefly over alleged racist abuse

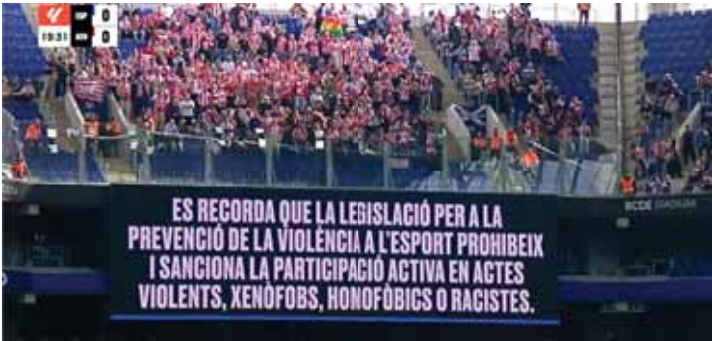
MADRID: Sunday's La Liga clash between Espanyol and Athletic Bilbao was temporarily halted following allegations of racist abuse directed at Bilbao's Maroan Sannadi.

Bilbao forward Inaki Williams informed the referee of the abuse, prompting officials to activate La Liga's anti-racism protocol. The match resumed after a stadium announcement warned that further incidents could lead to abandonment.

The game ended 1-1, with both clubs condemning the abuse post-match.

Bilbao boss Ernesto Valverde commented, "It's a situation that unfortunately happens in more places. We must work to eliminate it."

Elsewhere, Real Betis cruised to a 3-0 victory over Real Sociedad,



with Manchester United loanee Antony scoring for a third consecutive match.

The Brazilian midfielder struck a stunning volley in the 51st minute and later assisted Marc Roca's second goal.

The 23-year-old Brazilian's adaptation to Manuel Pellegrini's tactical setup has been closely

watched, and his latest performance suggests he is beginning to find his rhythm in La Liga.

Betis, who have had an inconsistent campaign, will hope Antony can maintain his momentum and provide the attacking spark needed to challenge for a top-six finish.

Meanwhile, Barcelona boss



Hansi Flick criticised Jude Bellingham's red card in Real Madrid's 1-1 draw with Osasuna, calling the England midfielder's behaviour "disrespectful." Bellingham was sent off for dissent, but Madrid manager Carlo Ancelotti defended him, calling the incident a "misunderstanding."

The England midfielder was

shown a straight red card in the 39th minute for something he was adjudged to have said to referee Jose Luis Munuera Montero.

The 21-year-old later said the incident was a "misunderstanding" and he did not insult the referee, an explanation supported by his manager Carlo Ancelotti.

Asked for his reaction to the in-

cident, Flick said: "It is disrespectful but I'm not the one who should comment on it."

"And that's what I've always told the players. Why waste time and energy arguing with the referee regarding the decisions he makes?"

"There is a player, who is the captain, who has the right to argue with the referee."

"I don't like the behaviour I saw. It's a weakness when you get a red card."

After Saturday's game, the former Birmingham City player said he was expressing his frustration at himself.

"He's believed that I've said [something insulting] to him," added Bellingham. "There was no intent to insult him, there was no insult, and for that reason I think you can see there was a misunderstanding." - Agencies

ROUND-UP

SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION

Sohar International, Sohar Islamic honoured for support at Al-Bashayer Festival



MUSCAT: In recognition of their significant contribution as strategic sponsors, Sohar International and Sohar Islamic were honoured with an award at the 8th Al-Bashayer Festival 2025.

This prestigious award celebrates the bank's unwavering support in ensuring the success of the festival. Held at the Bashayer Track in Al Dakhiliya, the festival is a landmark event in Oman's sporting calendar. The event culminated in a grand closing and award ceremony on 15 February,

under the patronage of His Highness Sayyid Asaad bin Tariq Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Co-operation Affairs, and Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan. Abdul Wahid Al Murshidi, Acting Chief Executive Officer of Sohar International, represented the bank at the closing ceremony and received the honorary award. This recognition underscores Sohar International's dedication to preserving Oman's rich cultural heritage while fostering commu-

nity engagement and economic development.

Al Murshidi stated, "More than a celebration of heritage and culture, the Al-Bashayer Festival also serves as a catalyst for progress, seamlessly intertwining tradition with opportunity. While the exhilaration of competition captivates audiences, the festival's true impact extends far beyond the race-track, driving tourism, encouraging talents, and promoting local business growth."

The final day of the festival de-

livered a thrilling spectacle as Oman's finest camel racing talents competed for top honours. Drawing participants and spectators from across the GCC, the event reinforced its role as a unifying force, strengthening cultural ties and positioning Oman as a premier destination for regional tourism. Sohar International's involvement, far from being symbolic, was deeply embedded in the festival's objectives—bridging heritage with progress and unlocking new avenues for sustainable growth.

GAC, Mitsubishi Motors and Fuso celebrate 50 years of success in Oman

The evening brought together dignitaries, business leaders, and industry pioneers to honour a legacy built on trust, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to progress

MUSCAT: General Automotive Company (GAC), a part of The Zubair Corporation, celebrated a landmark occasion—50 years of partnership with Mitsubishi Motors and Mitsubishi Fuso Truck & Bus Corporation in Oman.

The grand anniversary event took place on 16 February at the prestigious Al Bandar Ballroom, Shangri-La Barr Al Jissah in Muscat. The evening brought together dignitaries, business leaders, and industry pioneers to honour a legacy built on trust, innovation, and an unwavering commitment



to progress.

The event was attended by the presence of several distinguished guests, including the German Ambassador to Oman, Dirk Lölke, Chairman of Mobility & Equipment Sector within The Zubair Corporation, Hani Al Zubair, senior dignitaries from Mitsubishi Motors, Minoru Kinoshita – Corporate Office, Moteki Takahiro – GM, Middle Division and Junya Takami – President MMMEA as well as Daimler Truck – Fuso, Michael Dietz, CEO & President MEA and Stavros Stavropoulos – Head of Network Development & Training, further underscoring the significance of this important milestone celebration.

Reflecting on the 50-year journey, Hani Al Zubair stated, "Fifty years is not merely a measure of

time; it is a testament to the enduring spirit of partnership, resilience, and shared vision. Together, we have built a foundation of trust and excellence that has shaped Oman's mobility landscape. As we celebrate this milestone, we also look ahead with renewed commitment to innovation and progress, ensuring that Mitsubishi Motors and Fuso brands remain the trusted mobility solutions for generations to come in Oman."

Since 1974, when Mohammad Al Zubair introduced Mitsubishi cars and Fuso trucks to Oman, this partnership has played a pivotal role in shaping the nation's automotive landscape. From the first Mitsubishi Galant to the legendary Pajero and Canter, Mitsubishi and Fuso vehicles have become an integral part of Oman's roads,

industries, and everyday life. Over the decades, this collaboration expanded its presence with state-of-the-art showrooms, service centers, and industry-leading customer service initiatives, setting new standards in reliability, performance, and excellence.

Addressing the attendees, Manoj Ranade, General Manager of GAC, highlighted the role of customer trust in this success: "Over the years, our network has expanded to 9 sales outlets, 14 service centers, and 18 parts outlets across Oman, ensuring that we are always within reach of our customers. But more than just numbers, what truly defines us is the trust our customers have in us, knowing that we stand by them at every step of their journey. Our commitment to after-sales excellence has been recognised re-

gionally, reinforcing our mission to continuously set new benchmarks in customer satisfaction."

Speaking on behalf of Mitsubishi Motors, Minoru Kinoshita, Corporate Officer of Mitsubishi Motors Corporation, reaffirmed the strength of this long-standing partnership, stating, "Fifty years is a testament to a relationship built on trust, mutual respect, and a shared vision." Together, we have not only delivered vehicles that conquer Oman's diverse terrains but have also met the evolving needs of its people. Mitsubishi Motors is proud to have played a role in the nation's development, and through our collaboration with General Automotive Company, we have created a legacy of reliability, innovation, and customer excellence. As the future of mobility evolves, we remain committed to pioneering advanced technologies and sustainable solutions, ensuring this partnership continues to thrive for years to come.

Representing Fuso, Michael Dietz, President & CEO of Daimler Truck MEA - Fuso, emphasized the brand's integral role in Oman's growth, stating, "Our enduring partnership with General Automotive Company isn't built on products alone; it's built on trust—the trust of drivers who rely on Fuso's dependability every day, and the trust of businesses

that count on our vehicles to power their success. Over the last 50 years, Fuso has become deeply woven into Oman's progress, supporting industries, transporting goods, and enabling businesses to thrive. Looking ahead, backed by Daimler's continued investment in innovation and sustainability, we remain committed to delivering future-ready commercial vehicles that will further drive Oman's mobility sector forward."

A captivating artistic tribute by acclaimed sand artist Shaima Al Mughairi brought the history of this remarkable partnership to life, celebrating the impact GAC, Mitsubishi Motors, and Fuso have had on Oman's mobility sector.

Adding to the excitement, the 50th Anniversary Campaign Raffle Draw awarded a total of 250 grams of gold to lucky winners, symbolising the appreciation for customers who have been a part of this incredible journey.

As GAC, Mitsubishi Motors, and Fuso look ahead, the commitment to innovation, sustainability, and advanced mobility solutions remains stronger than ever. This celebration was not just about reflecting on the past but about embracing the future—a future driven by ambition, progress, and a continued promise to redefine Oman's mobility landscape for generations to come.

BRIEFS

KMCC Thrikaripur hosts Delta Power & AH Group Sponsored Cricket Fest



MUSCAT: Muscat KMCC Thrikaripur Constituency hosted the Delta Power & AH Group Sponsored Cricket Fest 2025 – Season 2, marking another thrilling season of competitive cricket and sportsmanship. The tournament witnessed intense matches, showcasing exceptional talent, teamwork, and passion for the game. After an exhilarating final, MIS Fighters emerged as the champions, while AKCT secured the runners-up position. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to both teams for their outstanding performances. We also express our sincere appreciation to all 16 participating teams for their enthusiasm, dedication, and unwavering support, which played a vital role in making this event a grand success.

Musical harmony unites all



MUSCAT: Rashmi and Uday Junnarkar, one of the founder members of Jhankar Beats for trained singers, later created Aalap group – a welcoming space for amateur singers to perform fearlessly, without judgment. With a growing family of 130 members, the group is now divided into Backbenchers (below 60 years) and Young at Heart (aged 60+ and above), hosting monthly events for all together and an annual showcase for each group. For the first time, both groups came together for stage show named "Hum Aur Tum", a duet-themed musical evening featuring 25 singers. It was held on February 15, at Star of Cochin Banquet Hall. The event was attended by chief guests Vinit Pandit and Amodi, both trained singers and Gajesh Dhariwal, ISC Hindi wing's convener. With an audience of nearly 110, the event received glowing appreciation.

POPULAR CHOICE

Make every drive an adventure with Toyota Prado

MUSCAT: Toyota's reliable Prado has been a popular choice for 4x4 SUV enthusiasts who have always looked forward to making the most of every terrain without a worry. From desert drives to rocky paths to city streets and country sides, the Prado has always stood tall whenever put to the task.

For over seven decades, the Toyota Prado has stood as a symbol of rugged reliability and off-road mastery. Its journey began with the Toyota BJ, a vehicle that made history by conquering Mount Fuji's sixth station at 2,700 meters, an achievement that cemented Toyota's reputation for unparalleled durability. Today, the all-new Prado continues this legacy, blending legendary Land Cruiser DNA with cutting-edge technology for an exceptional driving experience, both on and off the road.

The latest generation of the Toyota Prado embraces a striking



retro-inspired design, exuding strength and adventure. Beneath its bold exterior, the Prado retains its robust body-on-frame construction while integrating Toyota's advanced GA-F platform enhancing stability, durability and off-road prowess. Whether navigating rocky trails or city streets, the Prado delivers unmatched confidence and control.

Built to thrive in the toughest conditions, the all-new Prado is engineered for both extreme off-roading and refined daily driving. It introduces Electric Power Steering (EPS) for smoother handling, reduced kickback on rough terrain and improved manoeuvrability at all speeds. Under the hood, drivers can choose between a 2.4L Turbo Petrol or a 2.8L Tur-

bo Diesel engine, both mated to an efficient 8-speed automatic transmission delivering power, precision and fuel efficiency in one dynamic package.

Inside, the Prado offers a spacious seven-seat configuration, designed for both practicality and comfort. Its intelligently crafted cabin echoes the strength of a true off-roader while incorporating the latest in Toyota innovation. The Toyota Safety Sense suite, provides state-of-the-art driver assistance features, enhancing safety and reducing driver fatigue on long journeys.

In Oman and across the world, the Toyota Prado remains a trusted companion for adventure seekers and families alike. With its unmatched durability, powerful performance and modern features, the all-new Prado reaffirms its status as the go-to SUV for those who demand reliability without compromise.

MCBS

Hackathon focuses on innovating future of aviation, logistics and supply chain

Muscat: The Modern College of Business and Science (MCBS) successfully organised the MCBS Hackathon 2025 from February 13 to 15, uniting industry leaders, students, and academics to tackle challenges in aviation, supply chain, and logistics. The event received 100 team submissions from higher education institutions (HEIs) and industry leaders across Oman, Malaysia, and Georgia. Participants engaged in expert-led sessions, collaborative brainstorming, and hands-on mentoring, focusing on creating innovative solutions using cutting-edge technologies.

The Hackathon featured key sessions on artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity, and advanced



air mobility, offering valuable insights into emerging trends. Experts including Adrian Hamilton-Manns, CEO of Al Salam Air, Firas Al-Muharrami, Technology Strategy & Innovation Lead at Omantel, Sanjeev Madavi, Chief

Innovation Officer at Kale Info Solutions, and Captain Fahad Ibn Masoud, Faculty at MCBS, discussed the future of technology in aviation, AI, and air logistics. Additional insights were provided by Eng. Adil Al Shaibani, Director of

Engineering at Al Salam Air, and Mohammed Murad Albalushi, Senior Cybersecurity Engineer at the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

The event culminated in mentoring and coaching sessions, where teams refined their business models and prototypes under expert guidance, ensuring their ideas were fully developed and ready for real-world application.

The event demonstrated the power of teamwork, combining industry expertise with academic knowledge to create sustainable solutions. It reinforced MCBS's role in Oman's technological development and its commitment to fostering sustainable innovation across industries.

ROUND-UP

Alizz Islamic Bank partners with Visa to elevate customer experience

Alizz Islamic Bank will be introducing instant issuance new Visa debit cards, new Visa credit cards and Visa prepaid cards

MUSCAT: Alizz Islamic Bank has partnered with Visa, a world leader in digital payments, to offer an enhanced Sharia compliant card value proposition to the bank's customers. The new premium offering from Alizz Islamic Bank and Visa comes as part of the bank's recent transformational journey that focuses on 'Personalising every experience through innovative and smart solutions'.

As part of this partnership Alizz Islamic Bank will be introducing instant issuance new Visa debit cards, new Visa credit cards and Visa prepaid cards. The new set of cards offers unmatched features



and privileges that will provide cardholders with exclusive benefits. Customer can choose between physical & digital cards and the cards will all be tokenization enabled for Apple Pay, Samsung Pay, Google Pay and other OEM Pay Options. The cards will offer seamless global acceptance worldwide and Alizz Islamic bank cardholders will have access to more than 1,000 airport lounges around the world, along with premium benefits and luxury retail shopping advantages offered by Visa.

Additionally, for the first time ever for an Islamic bank in Oman; Alizz Islamic Bank is introducing a multi-currency Visa prepaid card that is available in multiple currencies including all GCC currencies, USD, GBP, EUROS, Yen and much more. The card will offer a safe, easy, and cashless way to carry multiple foreign currencies in a single card. Wherever the customer travels the card will support transactions in the relevant currency and customers can avoid the hassle of visiting exchange houses.



Visa is a world leader in digital payments, facilitating transactions between consumers, merchants, financial institutions and Government entities across more than 200 countries and territories. Visa's mission is to connect the world through the most innovative, convenient, reliable and secure payments network, enabling individuals, businesses and economies to thrive. This stems from their belief that economies that include everyone, everywhere, uplift everyone, everywhere and see ac-

cess as foundational to the future of money movement.

Ali Al Mani, CEO of Alizz Islamic Bank said, "We have strategically partnered with Visa to ensure we are able to cater to the dynamic customer demands when it comes to our Sharia compliant debit, credit and prepaid cards that are tailored to deliver personalized experiences, streamline operations and offers value added services that cater to customers' evolving needs . This launch represents a milestone in our ambitious plans

to become Oman's leading Islamic Bank. Our vision is to provide our customers with innovative financial services and solutions that are exceptional and responsive to customers' requirements, and our collaboration with Visa is a testament on our successful move towards achieving this vision. We are committed to providing innovative, digital banking solutions and exceptional customer experiences to our customers and as we continue to expand, our focus remains on delivering the highest standards of personalised banking solutions."

Manish Gautam, Visa's Country Manager for Oman, said:"We are thrilled to partner with Alizz Islamic Bank to introduce a suite of premium Visa card products that are designed to elevate the customer experience. By leveraging Visa's advanced technology and global network, Alizz Islamic Bank Visa cardholders will enjoy seamless access to exclusive benefits, enhanced security features, and unparalleled convenience both at home and while traveling abroad. Together, we aim to support the bank in their mission to offer enriched value to customers in Oman, and the government's efforts to grow the digital economy."

NEW ENERGY VEHICLE



BYD ATTO 3 – Pure electric SUV experience

MUSCAT: BYD, the world's #1 leader in new energy vehicles, is making its mark in the Omani market, revolutionising the way we move. Offering a hi-tech range of plug-in hybrid (PHEV) and electric vehicles (EV), the BYD ATTO 3 stands as a powerhouse of innovation with its all-electric capabilities. Designed to embody strength and elegance, the ATTO 3 takes inspiration from the Chinese dragon. This compact electric SUV delivers an exhilarating driving experience with 201 horsepower. It accelerates from 0 to 100 km/h in just 7.3 seconds, making it the fastest SUV in its segment. With a range of 420 km on a full charge, the ATTO 3 offers a smooth and efficient urban ride.

The ATTO 3 boasts a dynamic waistline and 18-inch alloy wheels, ensuring excellent road handling and responsiveness. Designed to appeal to a younger, more energetic crowd, its gym-themed cockpit reflects its commitment to innovation and excitement.

The dashboard features a 5-inch LCD display, complemented by BYD's revolutionary 12.8-inch rotatable touchscreen, dumbbell shaped vertical AC vents, Rhythmic interactive ambient lighting and ergonomic seats enhance comfort, making every ride fun, engaging, and stress-free while displaying important driving information seamlessly. Emphasizing utility and spaciousness, the ATTO 3 offers a double-layered storage compartment with a smart power tailgate with sensors for

Designed to embody strength and elegance, the ATTO 3 takes inspiration from the Chinese dragon

convenient luggage loading.

The safety-feature packed ATTO 3 consists of two front and rear cameras, parking radars by displaying panoramic images of the road to mitigate risks of collision and thwart life threatening situations.

At the heart of its technological advancements is BYD's pioneering Blade Battery, built with the highest safety standards. It has undergone rigorous testing, including nail penetration, crushing, bending, and heating to 300°C, without causing fire or explosion. Compared to conventional battery packs, the Blade Battery provides enhanced energy efficiency, an extended range, and an impressive lifecycle of approximately 5,000 charge cycles.

Indulge and experience the future with BYD ATTO 3 at BYD's state-of-the art showrooms in Wattayah, Al Mouj, and Mall of Oman. The BYD team anticipates your arrival and looks forward to welcoming you. In Oman, BYD vehicles are distributed by World Auto Business.

MODERN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND SCIENCE

MCBS participates in ICEF Middle East Scholarship and Partnership Summit

MUSCAT: The Modern College of Business and Science (MCBS) participated in the 2nd ICEF Middle East Scholarship and Partnership Summit, held in Muscat, under the patronage of HH Sayyid Dr. Kamil bin Fahd Al Said, Secretary General at the Secretariat General of the Council of Ministers. Marking a significant milestone in MCBS's ongoing efforts to enhance its international presence, the summit brought together over 60 international universities and institutions.

This prestigious event created a platform for collaboration and partnership across various academic sectors, focusing on student exchange, scientific and research partnerships, and addressing the challenges surrounding scholarships.

Representing MCBS at the event were Aisha Al Kharusi, Deputy Executive Chairperson, Dr. Moosa Al Kindi, Dean of the College, Dr. Said Al Kitani, Associate Dean of Community Outreach and Engagement, and Ms. Kawthar Al Hartthy, Director of International Relations – Global Engagement.



ment. Their participation reflects MCBS's strategic vision for a strong global presence through partnerships with leading institutions, underscores its dedication to international educational collaboration and academic innovation.

During the summit, Dr. Said Al Kitani moderated a roundtable session titled "Cultural Education – The Omani Approach," where he examined Oman's historical role as a cultural bridge, fostering co-existence and acceptance. He highlighted how Oman's rich cultural heritage is central to its identity, promoting respect among

diverse cultures. In the present, Oman's Basic Law and Vision 2040 position the country as a pioneering society in embracing global integration. Looking to the future, Dr. Al Kitani emphasized the vital role of cultural dialogue in education, stressing the need for increased exchange programs to attract international students and further enrich Oman's educational environment.

The presence of MCBS at the ICEF summit is a reflection of the college's dedication to educational excellence and the materialization of its vision to become a leading institution in the region. MCBS continues to work towards providing quality education that fosters global collaboration. This commitment is well aligned with the purpose of ICEF, which is to create pathways for international partnerships and exchanges that can enhance the educational experience and provide students with access to a wider range of global opportunities.

In line with its mission, MCBS has been committed to providing

students with international exposure and opportunities for growth through various collaborative efforts. The summit provided an ideal platform for discussing future possibilities, ensuring that MCBS not only strengthens its role in Oman's academic landscape but also plays a pivotal part in the global higher education network.

Aisha Al Kharusi, Deputy Executive Chairperson of MCBS, stated, "By participating in the ICEF Summit, MCBS reaffirms its commitment to fostering global partnerships. This enables us to offer our students valuable international opportunities, equipping them with the skills and perspectives needed to thrive in a rapidly evolving world."

Dr. Moosa Al Kindi, Dean of MCBS, added, "The ICEF Summit provides a vital opportunity to engage with top institutions globally, exchange innovative ideas, and strengthen our commitment to academic excellence. At MCBS, we aim to remain at the forefront of education, preparing our students to become the leaders of tomorrow."

NATIONAL BANK OF OMAN

NBO launches graduate programme to empower future leaders in Oman's banking sector

MUSCAT: The National Bank of Oman (NBO) launched its Graduate Program (NBO Tomorrow's Leaders), designed to attract and develop talented graduates from diverse fields. The initiative offers young Omanis an unparalleled opportunity to embark on a discovery journey in the financial services sector, equipping them with necessary skills, technical and interpersonal capabilities as well as the support needed for long-term professional growth.

Speaking on this initiative, Dr. Ali Al Abri, General Manager and Chief Human Resources Officer at



NBO, said: "At NBO, we are committed to empower young Omani professionals by offering them the right tools and knowledge needed

to thrive and succeed in the rather competitive financial landscape. Our graduate programme aligns with Oman Vision 2040 and the directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to foster a promising generation of exceptional talents. Through this initiative, we aim to inspire, train, and develop the future leaders of the banking sector while supporting the country's sustainable economic growth and development. Moreover, we encourage aspiring candidates to apply and take the first step toward a bright and successful career in banking."

Available for Omani graduates with a bachelor's degree and strong passion for banking & financial services, the programme is structured to encourage and nurture skilled professionals who will ultimately contribute to shaping the future of Oman's economy.

Participants will gain in-depth exposure to banking functions, hands-on experience, and mentorship from industry experts, ensuring they acquire valuable insights into banking operations, financial management, and customer service to prepare them for key roles in the industry.

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