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OMAN RECORDS 400 PERCENT SURGE IN GOVERNMENT DIGITAL PERFORMANCE

The forum will continue as an open platform for exchanging views, visions and ideas, said Sayyid Theyazin

MUSCAT: HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, emphasised the importance of the opinions, ideas, and proposals presented at the fourth edition of “Together Forward” forum.

He expressed his thanks and appreciation to the participants in the forum's activities, which was organised by the Secretariat General of the Council of Ministers.

In a special dialogue session of “Together Forward” forum, HH Sayyid Theyazin stated: “We meet in an open space of transparency and responsibility, stemming from a belief in the importance of dialogue as a firm national approach to listen, converse, and share visions and ideas.”

He added: “In previous editions of the forum, we have consistently held dialogue sessions to listen to various proposals presented by participants. With our assignment in the recent ministerial restructure to oversee the economic portfolio, we affirm that this event will continue as an open platform for exchanging views, visions, and ideas on issues that concern you.”

He furthered: “Your insights are important, and your experiences and aspirations constitute real inputs for the continuous development of policies and procedures.

With you and through you, we progress.” Sayyid Theyazin pointed out that among the key tasks of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs is the general supervision of public policies and strategies for economic development in cooperation with the Ministry of Economy, other ministries, and relevant bodies, and ensuring policy alignment and unified efforts among all related parties to achieve national goals.

He noted that the economic work system is based on the principle of institutional integration,

where policies are formulated based on precise scientific analyses and implemented within a government framework characterized by harmony and effectiveness.

A number of Ministers participated in the special dialogue session to respond to questions, inquiries, and aspirations that constitute real inputs for the continuous development of policies and procedures.

The activities of the fourth edition of “Together Forward” forum continued for the second day.

1,600

digital transformation projects across 57 government entities

200

Omani companies exported goods worth OMR500 million

2,500

persons with disabilities employed in private sector

100MN

worth of fines waived in 2025 to correct labour law status

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Management of biosphere reserves

1 The Environment Authority organised on Monday a national workshop titled “Man and the Biosphere Reserves.” The opening of the four-day event was held under the auspices of Sheikh Hilal Said Al Hajri, Governor of Al Dakhiliyah. The event features participation from representatives of government and private entities, members of the National Committee for Man and the Biosphere Reserves. **>A2**

OMAN Schmid claims stage 3 win at Tour of Oman

2 Swiss rider Mauro Schmid of Team Jayco AlUla delivered a promising performance to win Stage three of the 15th edition of the Tour of Oman, completing the challenging 191.5 Km stage. **>A4**

SPORTS Zimbabwe beat Oman by 8 wickets

3 Zimbabwe beat Oman by eight wickets in match 8 of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 in Colombo. Zimbabwe opener batter Brian Bennett remained unbeaten on 48 runs off 36 balls. **>A8**

FROM 5 TO 7 MARCH

Dragon Auto Fest 2026 to showcase premium Chinese cars in Muscat

MUSCAT: Oman is set to witness a vibrant show of automotive innovation with the launch of Dragon Auto Fest 2026, a three-day, family-friendly festival showcasing the latest premium cars from China's leading auto manufacturers.

The event will take place from 5 to 7 March at Active Oman (Oman Automobile Association), Muscat, starting 7.00 pm onwards, making it an ideal post-Iftar destination during Ramadan.

A first-of-its-kind automotive festival in Oman, Dragon Auto Fest 2026 will feature an impressive lineup of premium sedans,

SUVs, electric vehicles and hybrid models from some of China's most prominent brands.

Visitors can look forward to new model launches and exclusive showcases, highlighting high-end design, advanced features and enhanced driving experiences.

Built around the theme “Dragon Power,” the festival represents strength, innovation and the rapid rise of Chinese automotive technologies, particularly in the EV and hybrid segments.

Attendees will be able to experience the future of mobility through interactive zones, VR simulations, expert consultations and



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Oman-specific previews and launches.

Beyond the automobiles, Dragon Auto Fest promises a lively and inclusive atmosphere with Ramadan-appropriate entertainment, dedicated family and play zones, dragon-themed photo booths, and a wide selection of international and local food stalls offering Iftar-inspired meals and beverages.

With free entry, ample parking and activities for all age groups, the festival aims to bring together car enthusiasts, families and the wider community, while supporting Oman's growing automotive and leisure ecosystem.

Organised by Gulf Leaders Circle, in partnership with Times of Oman, Shabiba and Muscat Media Group, Dragon Auto Fest 2026 is set to become a must-visit annual fixture on Oman's events calendar – blending innovation, culture and family entertainment under one roof.

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SUSTAINABLE LABOUR MARKET

OMR100 million fines waived in 2025 as part of regularising workforce status

< FROM A1 Several dialogue sessions focused on improving government services to enhance productivity and competitiveness, self-employment and entrepreneurship to build a productive national economy and a sustainable labour market, and the role of the Five-Year Plan and priority sectors in building a diverse and sustainable economy.

During the first session of the forum, Eng. Said Hamoud Al Maawali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, affirmed that there is continuous improvement in government performance in digital transformation, which has increased by 400% since the beginning of 2022 until 2025.

Dr. Mansour Talib Al Hinai, Chairman of the Authority for Public Services Regulation indicated that the volume of investments in the sectors supervised by the Authority ranges between OMR6 billion to OMR7 billion.

For his part, Dr. Ali Amer Al Shithani, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology for Communications and Information Technology, stated that the number of projects included in digital transformation plans is about 1,600 distributed across 57 government institutions, varying between internal regulation, electronic platforms, service improvement, and process re-engineering, with about 75% of them completed.

He noted that the satisfaction rate with electronic government services reaches 78%, and there are 4,100 electronic government services provided to all segments of society.



He pointed out that there are 32 projects in the National Programme for Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Technologies in the Sultanate of Oman to improve and accelerate productivity in economic sectors.

Meanwhile, Ibtisam Ahmed Al Farooji, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion for Investment Promotion, pointed out that there are 200 Omani companies exporting their products to foreign markets with a value of RO 500 million during the period from 2024 to 2025.

On his turn, Hilal Abdullah Al Hinai, General Supervisor of the National Platform for Proposals, Complaints, and Reports "Tajawob" and Director General of Government Services Quality Development Center at the Secretariat General of the Council of Ministers, said that a voice recording feature has been launched on the platform to enable broader segments of society to access it and facilitate the process of submitting requests through clear and quick steps to improve the quality of interaction by receiving real-life experiences.

During the second session, Dr. Mahad Said Ba'awain, Minister of Labour indicated that a total of OMR100 million in fines were waived in 2025 as part of regularising the status of the workforce in the Sultanate of Oman.

For her part, Halima Rashid Al Zari'ee, Chairperson of the Public Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development "Riyada" stated that as many as 11,000 Omani small and medium enterprises participated in external exhibitions last year.

She added that the number of micro-enterprises increased during the period from 2022 to 2025 by approximately 45,000 enterprises that entered the market, and the number of home-based business owners reached 14,000 people, including 7,000 from craft businesses.

Meanwhile, Khalid Salim Al Ghamarai, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Labour for Labour pointed out that 2,500 people with disabilities were employed in the private sector by the end of 2025, and there are 2,000 from this category in the government sector. 100 job opportunities for them will be offered in the same sector during the coming period, he added.

It is worth to mention that "Together Forward" forum is accorded a Royal attention of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik. It aims to be a joint communication channel between the government and society, through which transparency, credibility, and partnership between the decision-maker and the citizen are achieved, in addition to enhancing mutual trust and providing the opportunity for all segments of society to express their opinions, proposals, and share their concerns. -OMA

OMAN - CEBU

Investment Forum held to strengthen economic ties



MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman hosted the Oman-Cebu Investment Forum on Monday, with the participation of officials and business sector representatives from both Oman and the Republic of the Philippines.

The forum was held as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen economic and investment relations between the two nations.

The forum was inaugurated under the auspices of Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, in the presence of Theresa Lazaro, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines, and in cooperation with the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

In his opening remarks, the Foreign Minister emphasised that convening the second edition of the forum reflects the shared commitment of both countries to build upon the outcomes of the inaugural forum held in Cebu City last year.

He noted that the forum serves as an effective platform for expanding cooperation in several vital sectors, including trade, investment, tourism, logistics, renewable energy, and education, as well as innovation and modern technologies.

Furthermore, he praised the positive role undertaken by the Philippine community in the Sultanate of Oman, estimated at approximately 50,000 people, and their contributions to various sectors, affirming Oman's aspiration to enhance partnerships and attract professional competencies for mutual benefit.

For her part, Theresa Lazaro, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines, underscored the significance of the long-standing bilateral relations between the two countries.

She lauded the vital role of the Philippine community in Oman as a fundamental pillar for fostering trust and joint cooperation. She expressed her country's desire to elevate the economic



partnership with the Sultanate of Oman in the fields of investment, trade, tourism, renewable energy, and the maritime economy.

She confirmed the Philippines' readiness to provide an attractive investment environment and invited Omani companies to capitalize on promising opportunities in the Philippines, particularly in light of its current chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Eng. Hamoud Salim Al Saadi, Second Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, explained that the forum reflects the growing development of economic relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of the Philippines.

He emphasised the private sector's dedication in both countries to enhancing dialogue and building sustainable partnerships that serve common interests.

The forum concluded with a reaffirmation of the commitment to continue strengthening economic and investment cooperation, supporting the role of the private sector, and building on the forum's outcomes to achieve the mutual interests of the two friendly nations. -OMA

Role of youth in digital empowerment discussed

The symposium aims at consolidating the values of belonging and active citizenship by engaging youth in tackling strategic national issues



MUSCAT: The National Defence College is organising a 4-day symposium on the role of youth in national decision-making.

The symposium discusses key steps "from empowerment to influencing". It kicked off yesterday at the Academy of Strategic and Defence Studies under the auspices of Rear Admiral Saif Nasser Al Rahbi, Commander of the Royal Navy of Oman.

The symposium, which runs until 12 February 2026, forms part of the curriculum of the National

Defence College's 13th session attended by representatives of government departments.

It covers the themes of participation in decision-making, citizenship and belonging, innovation and sustainable digital empowerment.

The symposium aims to affirm the central role of youth in forging national initiatives and integrating their visions and aspirations into a national decision-making

process. It touches on measures of consolidating the values of belonging and active citizenship by engaging youth in tackling strategic national issues.

In addition, the symposium elaborates on methods of enhancing the sustainability of national decisions and policies by integrating the voice of youth in designing future policies in a manner that responds to the aspirations of future generations. -OMA

The symposium also seeks ways of harnessing young people's energies of innovation in devising practical solutions and generating innovative initiatives that promote sustainable national development.

It deals with prospects of empowering youth technically and intellectually in areas of digital transformation and artificial intelligence (AI) applications so that youth could become an active force in the national economy. -OMA



FOUR-DAY EVENT

Environment Authority organises workshop to boost national capacities in managing biosphere reserves

MUSCAT: The Environment Authority organised on Monday a national workshop titled "Man and the Biosphere Reserves."

The opening of the four-day event was held under the auspices of Sheikh Hilal Said Al Hajri, Governor of Al Dakhiliyah.

The event features participation from representatives of government and private entities, members of the National Committee for Man and the Biosphere Reserves, and various community segments, alongside an international expert specializing in the field of Man and the Biosphere (MAB) reserves.

The workshop aims to enhance national capacities in managing biosphere reserves following the inclusion of the Jabal Akhdar and



Al Sareen reserves in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves under the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The first day included introductory sessions on Man and the Bio-

sphere reserves presented by Dr. Nabiba Mubarak, an international expert in natural systems and biodiversity.

She discussed the concept and objectives of the reserves, their functional zones (core, buffer, and



transition), and their legal and administrative frameworks, while also reviewing successful Arab and international experiences.

Additionally, Eng. Majid Hamad Al Khanbashi, a Nature Reserves Management Specialist at the En-

vironment Authority, delivered a presentation on the economic services provided by ecosystems.

The second and third days will focus on practical aspects, including workshops on developing management plans, engaging relevant stakeholders and local communities, and analysing outcomes from field visits.

Participants will also design simplified templates for the periodic reports submitted to UNESCO every five and ten years, in addition to addressing performance indicators and evaluation components.

The fourth day will feature a field visit to the Jabal Al Akhdar Biosphere Reserve, where participants will tour the core, buffer,

and transition zones. This will be followed by a dialogue session with the reserve management team and the local community to reinforce the concept of participatory management and bridge the gap between theory and practical application.

This workshop reflects the Sultanate of Oman's commitment to strengthening the management system of nature reserves according to international best practices, contributing to the protection of ecosystems, supporting local communities, achieving sustainable development goals, and consolidating Oman's position in regional and international environmental initiatives. -OMA



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ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS

Information Minister: ‘Together Moving Forward’ Forum embodies nation’s commitment to constructive dialogue

MUSCAT: Dr. Abdullah bin Nasser Al Harrasi, Minister of Information, affirmed that the “Together Moving Forward” forum constitutes a tangible manifestation of the Sultanate of Oman’s unwavering commitment to fostering constructive dialogue between state institutions and civil society.

He stated that the forum, organised by the Secretariat General of the Council of Ministers, serves to enhance public awareness and facilitate responsible national discourse on government policies and programmes.

In a press statement, the minister elaborated that the forum provides a comprehensive national platform designed to promote meaningful engagement, listen to diverse viewpoints, and safeguard responsible freedom of expression.

He emphasised that this initiative reflects the foundational principles established by the nation’s wise leadership, which are rooted in transparency, open dialogue,



and respect for a plurality of perspectives.

He further noted that the forum operationalises the “One Team” ethos championed by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik.

This concept is built upon the seamless integration of roles, the unification of efforts between the state and its people, and a shared sense of responsibility—all critical to advancing national development and realising Oman’s aspirations for a prosperous future across all sectors.

The minister highlighted that

the forum’s agenda addressed several strategic themes central to national progress.

These included investment prospects in priority economic sectors and the pivotal role of governorate development in stimulating such investments, aligning directly with the overarching objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

He reported that the discussions throughout the forum were both substantive and objective, serving to build mutual understanding, reconcile differing viewpoints, and demonstrate an effective partnership between the government and the public in tackling issues of national priority.

Special emphasis was placed on engaging the nation’s youth, the minister added. The forum actively sought their opinions and involved them in deliberations on various developmental pathways, particularly economic ones.

This engagement is intended to heighten their awareness of pre-

vailing challenges and opportunities and to affirm their central role in shaping both the present and the future.

The Minister of Information commended the exceptional quality of contributions from young participants, especially students from schools, colleges, and universities. Their presentations showcased profound and promising ideas, reflecting a keen awareness of their own potential and the vast opportunities available to them in diverse fields, notably entrepreneurship and business innovation.

In conclusion, the minister extended his profound gratitude and appreciation to all media organisations, digital platforms, and social media influencers for their professional and responsible coverage of the forum’s proceedings.

Their work, he stated, was instrumental in amplifying the forum’s reach within the community and in bolstering its core national mission. -ONA

MEETING

OOC board approves national team lists for 2026 Asian Beach Games in Sanya

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Board of Directors of Oman Olympic Committee held its first meeting of the year on Monday, under the chairmanship of HH Azzan bin Qais Al Said, President of the Committee.

At the outset, he welcomed the Board members and expressed his appreciation for their efforts over the past year and the achievements accomplished in support of Olympic work in the Sultanate of Oman.

He also emphasised the importance of the upcoming phase and the sporting and organisational commitments of the current year, calling for continued teamwork to achieve the Committee’s set objectives.

At the beginning of the agenda, the Board approved the minutes of the first Executive Office meeting of Oman Olympic Committee held on 6 January 2026, along with the decisions and recommendations contained therein.

As part of discussions related to institutional organisation, the Board reviewed the Unified Statutes of Gulf sports federations, highlighting the key regulatory provisions aimed at standardising institutional work among sports federations in the GCC countries.

The Board also reviewed the minutes of the 23rd General Assembly meeting of the Union of Arab National Olympic Committees, held on 8 November 2025 in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the sidelines of the 6th Islamic



Solidarity Games, and the resulting recommendations and decisions related to the Arab Olympic movement.

The meeting addressed the administrative status of members of boards of sports federations accompanying national teams within the official delegations of Oman Olympic Committee, to ensure clarity of administrative roles and responsibilities during international participations.

In another agenda item, members of the Omani Committee for Sports Dispute Resolution and Arbitration at Oman Olympic Committee were appointed.

The Board also discussed a proposal to form a Public Relations, Programmes, and Events Team, aimed at enhancing the Committee’s institutional presence and organising events and accompanying activities with efficiency and professionalism.

Regarding external participation, the Board approved the lists of national teams participating in

the Asian Beach Games to be held in Sanya, People’s Republic of China, in 2026.

Oman will participate in six sports: beach soccer, beach handball, beach athletics, modern pentathlon, beach volleyball (Team A), in addition to aquatic sports.

The Board reviewed the annual administrative report of Oman Olympic Committee for 2025, which included the main programmes, initiatives, and activities implemented during the past year.

The Board also reviewed the financial position of the Committee as of 31 December 2025 and discussed financial matters related to the progress of work.

At the conclusion of the agenda, the date of the Ordinary General Assembly Meeting of Oman Olympic Committee for 2026 was set for 14 March, along with a review of the meeting agenda, before addressing any other business and taking the appropriate decisions accordingly.

AUTHORED BY FALIH SAIF AL MAAMARI



OHA launches book on Oman’s history and military heritage

MUSCAT: Acting in cooperation with the National Museum, Oman Historical Association on Monday launched a new book titled “Oman’s History and Military Heritage”, authored by Falih Saif Al Maamari.

The ceremony was held under the auspices of Eng. Ibrahim bin Said Al Kharousi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, for Heritage.

The book serves as a comprehensive scholarly study of Oman’s history and its military heritage, spanning a broad range of time, right from the 4th millennium BC to the Renewed Renaissance Era led by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik.

The book lays emphasis on



the study of wars and highlights the development of weapons, armies, fortifications and military tactics and strategies used throughout the ages. The book quotes a variety of sources, including discourse on archaeological discoveries, written evidence, rock inscriptions, manuscripts and historical documents, in addition to references in Omani, Arab and foreign publications.

The book launch reflects the efforts undertaken by Oman Historical Association and the National Museum to document Oman’s national history, preserve its cultural memory and raise public awareness about the importance of military heritage as a pillar of Omani identity. -ONA

SOUTH AL BATINAH

‘Oman, identity and civilisation’ event at Nakhal Fort attracts school students



NAKHAL: The Directorate of Endowments and Religious Affairs in South Al Batinah, represented by the Department of Islamic Awareness and Cultural Exchange organised an event titled “Oman, Identity and Civilization” at Nakhal Fort.

This event is part of the Ministry’s efforts to strengthen national identity and activate community partnerships in spreading cultural and religious knowledge, aligning with Oman’s future vision of building a generation aware of its roots, open to the world, and proud of its values and civilisational heritage.

The event witnessed significant attendance and interaction, with visits from a number of school students who were engaged in such cultural activities. This has a profound impact on developing national awareness, enhancing pride in the Omani identity, and connecting the younger generations with the history and ancient civilization of their country, as part of an awareness and educational program aimed at strengthening national identity and instilling authentic Omani values in the youth. -ONA

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

Empowering people with disabilities

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth is organizing a workshop on managing sports events.

The workshop, which kicked off on Monday, runs until 11 February 2026. It is attended by 30 members of sports committees entrusted with the affairs of people with disabilities.

Professional skills

The workshop aims to empower sports committees tasked with empowering people with disabilities by providing the panels

with professional skills in a manner that contributes to raising the quality of sports programmes and activities, highlighting the abilities of athletes and consolidating institutional partnerships between sports establishments and social institutions.

Forming national teams

The workshop programme includes lectures on the management of sports events and the technical aspects of forming national teams dedicated to people with disabilities. -ONA

RECOGNITION

Sayyid Theyazin presents awards to winning teams of Hamat programme

MUSCAT: HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, on Monday presented awards to the winning teams of the “Ideas Makers - Hamat” programme, affiliated to Oman Investment Authority. This took place at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre as part of “Together Forward” forum.

The programme is a national initiative built on challenges derived from actual needs across various sectors, enabling the transformation of real-world challenges into innovation opportunities and applicable technological solutions.

In the Corporate Track, first place was awarded to the “Mubiin for Solutions” team for their smart data receivers that provide an accurate picture of water networks.

Second place went to the “Azdara” team for their innovation of an organic product capable of preventing chemical compounds from inhibiting seed growth. Third place was secured by the “Rabt” team for their asset tracking device that addresses and analyses challenges.

In the Governorates Track, first place was won by the “Al-Neim Camp” team, which presents an innovative model blending terrestrial tourism with interactive experiences. Second place was awarded to the “Wa’oub” team, specialising



in model farms for agritourism in the mountains of Musandam Governorate. Third place was granted to the “Dar Al-Qaydh” team, a project to revive agricultural and touristic identity.

In the Research and Universities Track, first place went to the “Digital Twin” team for their project converting solar energy into a digital twin system for prediction, monitoring, and rapid decision-making. Second place was secured by the “Sultan Qaboos University” team for their project using precise inspection devices controlled via a drone. Third place was awarded to the “Mohammad Mahyub” team for their project of a drone vehicle

operating inside high-pressure pipes to avoid obstacles.

The implementation of the “Hamat” programme was carried out in partnership with the Secretariat General of the Council of Ministers and encompassed all governorates of the Sultanate of Oman. It aims to enhance the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem while contributing to enabling administrative and economic decentralisation in the governorates.

The programme was designed with integrated phases, starting with the preliminary project screening in the governorates during January 2026, followed by the training camp phase for

project development from February 1 to 7, then the “Together Forward” forum phase on February 8 and 9, culminating in the phase for implementing ideas and developing prototypes from April to December 2026.

The current edition of the “Hamat” program witnessed extensive participation, exceeding 1,413 teams of innovators, entrepreneurs, researchers, and employees from across Oman’s governorates. This competitive participation reflected strong interest and contributed to enhancing the quality and diversity of the solutions presented.

The participating teams went through several competitive stag-



es, with 90 teams selected for the training camp phase, from which 38 teams qualified for the incubation phase. Among these, 9 teams qualified for the “Together Forward” forum based on an evaluation focusing on solution quality, scalability, and relevance to targeted needs. The qualifying teams moved on to advanced support stages within the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem, contributing to linking innovative solutions with development and application opportunities and transforming ideas into value-added projects.

The programme also included a new category represented by

employees capable of developing innovative solutions. This step aims to leverage practical expertise within institutions, stimulate innovation from within work environments, and link operational knowledge with implementable technological solutions.

The organisation of the programme was based on an integrated supportive ecosystem, including partnerships with academic institutions, companies affiliated to Oman Investment Authority, government units, and the community. This reinforced the integration of efforts and connected innovative projects with the actual needs of various sectors.

Schmid claims stage three victory at Tour of Oman

With his win, Schmid claimed the red jersey as the overall race leader

MUSCAT: Swiss rider Mauro Schmid of Team Jayco AlUla delivered a promising performance to win Stage three of the 15th edition of the Tour of Oman, completing the challenging 191.5 Km stage in a timing of 4 hours, 13 minutes and 17 seconds on Monday. Stage three began from Al Fayhaa Rest House in Wilayat Samail and concluded at Misfat Al Abriyeen in the Eastern Mountain, featuring a demanding route that tested riders with long distances, varied terrain, and a decisive uphill finish. Schmid’s well-timed effort on the final climb allowed him to secure the stage victory and move into the overall lead of the race.

With his win, Schmid claimed the red jersey as the overall race leader. The green jersey for the points classification went to French rider Baptiste Veistroffer of Lotto-Intermarché while Polish rider Patryk Goszczurny of Team Visma | Lease a Bike earned the golden jersey as the most aggressive rider. The white jersey for Best Young Rider (Under 23 years) was claimed by Norwegian rider Martin Tjøtta of Uno-X Mobility.

The stage awards ceremony was held under the patronage of His Excellency Sheikh Sulaiman bin Said al Azri, Wali of Al Hamra.

Speaking after the race, stage winner Mauro Schmid described the stage as one of the toughest of the Tour. “It was a really hard race as it was harder than we expected,” Schmid said.

“The pace was high throughout but my team supported me perfectly especially at the bottom of the climb. They protected me well, controlled the race and gave me everything I needed.” He added

“In the final, I was not in the best position but the team helped me a lot and I am happy with this result. There is still a long way to go. Tomorrow (Tuesday) should be easier but stage five will be very tough and the priority now is to stay safe and be ready to defend in the final days.” He said

White jersey holder Martin



Tjøtta expressed his delight at competing in Oman. “This is my first time in Oman and I am really grateful for the opportunity,” he said. “It is a strong team and for me as a young rider, it is special to be team captain. The climb suited me well as it was long, not too short and in the final I was among the strongest. Tomorrow should be quite safe but the final stage at Green Mountain will be extremely tough. I believe I can deliver a good performance.”

The Tour of Oman will continue on Tuesday with Stage Four as it will cover 146.8 Km from Al Sawadi Park in Wilayat Barka to the Sohar Corniche. The stage is expected to be one of the fastest and most tactical of the race, featuring a coastal route that will demand precise wind reading, strong team coordination, and high physical and mental readiness until the final meters.





National platform Tajawob boosts quality of government service

To expand access channels and facilitate access for various segments of society, the platform launched its electronic application in September 2025

MUSCAT: Cumulative indicators show that the National Platform for Suggestions, Complaints, and Reports Tajawob (Response) has recorded over 1.7 million visits and 629,000 active users.

The total number of requests submitted through it has reached



156,000, varying between over 63,000 complaints, approximately 53,000 reports, more than 12,000 suggestions, in addition to over 27,000 inquiries as of the end of January 2026.

As part of efforts to expand access channels and facilitate access for various segments of society, the platform launched its electronic application in September 2025.

The application has garnered notable engagement and usage, achieving a rating of 4.4 out of 5, with the number of downloads exceeding 40,000.

The “Tajawob” platform continues to enhance community participation in developing government services through a unified national digital channel that supports the quality of government perfor-

mance and institutional communication with beneficiaries.

Through a unified operational and regulatory framework, the platform enables government institutions to systematically handle suggestions, complaints, reports, and inquiries, transforming them into practical inputs that contribute to improving institutional performance and addressing challenges.

The platform currently includes 54 government institutions, which handle incoming requests according to clear regulatory frameworks and methodologies, reflecting an improvement in processing and response efficiency.

Interactions and suggestions received through the “Tajawob” platform have contributed to implementing several improvements and developmental initiatives across various sectors.

The Ministry of Education implemented a package of developments, including adding student absence notifications to the Par-

ent's Application and issuing the Health Guide for the School Environment.

Muscat Municipality responded to suggestions received via “Tajawob” platform to regulate traffic flow at the Al-Hail Street exit near Al-Bahja Centre in the Wilayat of A'Seeb, to reduce congestion and improve traffic flow. The National Centre for Statistics and Information worked on developing an instant electronic verification service for survey licenses to enhance transparency and ease of access to data.

The Ministry of Information launched a service to classify educational content for children by age group on “Ayn” platform, ensuring content suitability for the needs of different age groups based on a suggestion received by the platform. Additionally, the Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology launched Oman Maritime Portal by unifying maritime and port services within a single digital window and imple-

mented a project to organize and develop the entrances, exits, and urban surroundings of the Saa'ra Border Crossing in the Al Buraimi Governorate, contributing to enhancing traffic safety and movement efficiency.

In the context of digital transformation, the Royal Oman Police launched a service to update mobile phone numbers in its electronic application, in addition to enabling the display of family documents and sponsorship data within the application, facilitating access to services and official documents.

These examples have been documented and highlighted in a dedicated tab on the platform's website under the name “Success Stories,” affirming the approach of community participation and the importance of government institutions' interaction with user suggestions, transforming them into developmental actions that contribute to improving government services. -**ONA**

13 TO 14 FEBRUARY 2026

Oman to host Ironman Oman 70.3 Middle East Championship

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman is all set to host the Middle East Championship “Experience Oman—Ironman 70.3 Muscat” from 13 to 14 February 2026.

The event seeks to highlight Oman as a major adventure destination and a leading hub for sports tourism in the region.

The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism is organising the championship in cooperation with the Middle East International Events Foundation.

The event forms part of the Ironman 70.3 World Series of races under the banner of IRONMAN Group, being one of the most prominent triathlon races in the region. It offers qualifiers an opportunity to compete in the 70.3 World Championships.

The hosting of the championship stems from a partnership between the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism and the IRONMAN Group International that extends until 2030.

Haitham Mohammed Al Ghasani, Director General of Tourism Promotion at the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, said that hosting the “Experience Oman Ironman 70.3 Muscat” Championship constitutes a significant opportunity to highlight the unique tour-



ism assets that abound in the Sultanate of Oman and contributes to enhancing Oman's presence on the global sports tourism map.

Al Ghasani added that a 100% Omani staff looks after the implementation of this global championship, which meets the highest international standards and affirms the ability of national cadres to manage major sporting events.

He pointed out that the championship achieves a tangible economic impact by attracting participants, visitors and media

personnel from different countries of the world.

The championship features a standard distance of 70.3 miles (approximately 113 kilometres), distributed over three main stages set for the triathlon: Swimming, cycling and long-distance races. He explained that the events comprise a 1.9-km swim in the waters of the Gulf of Oman, a 90-km cycling race alongside Oman's coast and picturesque landscapes and a 21.1-km run (half marathon) that concludes along the beaches. -**ONA**

EXCHANGED VIEWS

Foreign Minister, Russian counterpart review relations

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister made a phone call with Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.

During the call, the two ministers reviewed the bilateral relations between the two countries and means of enhancing them.

They exchanged views on several regional and international issues. Both ministers affirmed the importance of supporting dialogue and diplomacy in a bid to bolster security and stability. -**ONA**



SOUTH AL BATINAH

Creative models of girl students displayed

A'RUSTAQ: The General Directorate of Education in the South Al Batinah Governorate organised the Fourth Talent Forum for female students on Monday, with the participation of girls from 17 schools across the governorate's wilayats.

The forum featured a collection of student talents and distinguished creative models in various fields.

The forum aimed to nurture outstanding student talents and showcase their achievements, contributing to boosting self-confidence and developing students' creative abilities.

It also sought to motivate them



towards creativity, innovation, and active participation, enhance cooperation and the exchange of expertise and experiences among participants, and activate community partnership to support student innovations. -**ONA**

Bank Dhofar GCC Equity Fund (Shariah Compliant)
P.O. Box 1507, P.C. 112, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman Email: assetmanagement@bankdhofar.com

Invitation to Attend the Ordinary General Meeting of Bank Dhofar GCC Equity Fund (Shariah compliant)
دعوة لاتخاذ اجتماع الجمعية العامة العادية لاتخاذ قرارات
العامة لاتخاذ قرارات

The Fund Management Body of Bank Dhofar GCC Equity Fund (Shariah compliant) (the "Fund") has the pleasure in inviting the shareholders to the Ordinary General Meeting ("OGM") to be held on Monday, 23rd February 2026, at 3:00 pm, through online platform using MS Teams, to discuss and consider the following agenda:

1. To elect the new members of the Fund Management Body.

Any person who wishes to nominate himself/herself for the position should complete a nomination form available with the Fund. The nomination form can be obtained from the Fund's head office. The completed forms should be delivered to the Fund minimum five (5) days prior to the OGM date. Nomination forms received after 5pm on Wednesday, 18th February 2026 shall not be considered. The candidate should observe the conditions required for the membership of the Fund Management Body.

Every shareholder has the right to appoint any other person in writing as his proxy to attend the meeting and vote on his behalf, by way of a proxy card attached to the notice. Any such natural person should attach to the proxy card a copy of their ID for adults, their passport for minors or those who do not have a civil card or resident card, and resident card or passport for non-Omanis. For corporations, the proxy form shall be signed by one of the authorized signatories and sealed by the company's stamp accompanied with copies of the commercial registration certificate and the specimen signature form.

The respected shareholder is requested to log on to the Teams meeting at least 30 minutes prior to the OGM.

Tender Notice

The Ministry of Agricultural, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources Announces the following Tenders: -

Tender no.	Tender Title	Tender Document Sales Start Date	Tender Document Sales End Date	Bid Submission Closing	Companies that are eligible to participate	Tender Document fee (R.O)
73/2026/MAFWR/HQ-7	Construction of Two Recharge Dam at Alrahabah Village Al munzafa Village in Wilayat Ibri, AL-Dhaharah Governorate	Thursday 5/2/2026	Wednesday 25/2/2026	Tuesday 17/3/2026	Specialized companies registered with second and Third grades	(25/-) Omani riyals for local companies (10/-) Omani riyals for SMEs
79/2026/MAFWR/HQ-9	Implementation of the project to fence the livestock pens in the Al-Ghalila area of Sur, South Sharqiyah Governorate	Thursday 5/2/2026	Wednesday 25/2/2026	Tuesday 17/3/2026	Specialized SMEs companies registered with second and Third grades	(10/-) Omani riyals for SMEs
78/2026/MAFWR/HQ-8	Supply of magnesium phosphide insecticide (fumigation plates)	Thursday 5/2/2026	Wednesday 25/2/2026	Tuesday 17/3/2026	Specialized companies registered with, Excellent, First Second, Third, fourth grades	(25/-) Omani riyals for local companies (10/-) Omani riyals for SMEs
80/2026/MAFWR/HQ-10	Supply and Installation of Shelves and a Temperature Monitoring System for 11 Cold Rooms	Thursday 5/2/2026	Wednesday 25/2/2026	Tuesday 17/3/2026	Specialized companies registered with Excellent, First, Second Third and Fourth grades	(10/-) Omani riyals for SMEs

● above mentioned Grade) may obtain Tender documents from the E-Tendering website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>.

● The value of the document will be paid & submitted on line on given website.

● The Tenderer should attach Bid Commitment Declaration for local companies.

● All correspondence pertaining to the tender inquiry must be online at e-tendering System.

● All correspondence pertaining to the e-tendering System technical support must be directed to the following helpdesk email address and phone number: +968 24402244 or etenderhd@ptlc.gov.om.

TENDERS COMMITTEE
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources

AL BURAIMI GOVERNORATE

Final qualifications for Holy Quran Competition begin

AL BURAIMI; The Holy Quran Competition Committee for the 2025–2026 academic year has commenced the final qualifications for the Holy Quran Competition across schools in Al Buraimi Governorate.

The competition includes two branches: the Memorisation of the Holy Quran and the Mastery of Recitation and Melodious Voice,

with the participation of 29 government schools and 9 private schools, reflecting an ongoing commitment to enhancing religious values and consolidating the status of the Holy Quran among students.

The Holy Quran Memorisation branch witnessed competition across six levels this year. The Distinguished Level, open to all

grades, requires the memorisation of ten parts. The First Level, designated for students in grades 11–12, involves memorising five consecutive parts; the Second Level for grades 8–10 requires four consecutive parts; and the Third Level for grades 5–7 involves three consecutive parts. The Fourth Level includes grades 3–4 with the memorization of two consecutive parts,

while the Fifth Level is for students in early education through grade 2 and requires memorizing one part. The first-place winners from each level for both genders, totaling 18 students, will qualify to compete at the national level across Oman in April.

A total of 110 students participated across the six levels of the memorisation competition. — **ONA**



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EDITORIAL: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24813153, E-mail: editor@timesofoman.com
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Copies of credentials of several ambassadors to Oman received

The Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs welcomed the ambassadors, wishing them success in carrying out their diplomatic duties



MUSCAT: Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs, received on Monday copies of the credentials of several ambassadors-designate to the Sultanate of Oman.

The ambassadors included the following:

- Shebba Shumbayawonda, Ambassador of the Republic of Zimbabwe.
- Pavel Kafka, Ambassador of

the Czech Republic.

- Zuraidah Binte Abdullah, Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore.
- Ekaterini Fafarioutou, Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic (Greece).
- Adam Bagoudou Zakari, Ambassador of the Republic of Benin.
- Ricardo Silva-Santisteban Benza, Ambassador of the Republic of Peru.
- Saimir Bala, Ambassador of



the Republic of Albania.

- José Rafael Agüero Avila, Ambassador of the Republic of Paraguay.
- Mohamed S. Barrie, Ambassador of the Republic of Sierra Leone.
- Prof. Muktar Kadir Abdu, Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.
- Raymond Sarsero, Ambassador of the Republic of Malta.
- Isaac Biruma Sebulime,

Ambassador of the Republic of Uganda.

The Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs welcomed the ambassadors, wishing them success in carrying out their diplomatic duties and reaffirming the Sultanate of Oman’s commitment to enhancing cooperation and friendship with their respective countries across various fields.

— **ONA**

PORTUGAL

Seguro wins big in election

LISBON: Antonio Jose Seguro of the centre-left Socialist Party won the second round of the presidential election in Portugal on Sunday.

With 99% of ballots counted, Seguro had won 66.7% of votes to secure a five-year term.

Seguro saw off a challenge from the far-right populist Chega party’s Andree Ventura, who won 33.3% of the vote. The 63-year-old will succeed conservative President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa.

The Portuguese president is largely a figurehead with no executive power but can veto legislation, dissolve parliament and call early elections.

Ventura said he will keep working to bring about a political “transformation” in Portugal. — **DW**

VENEZUELA

Opposition leader kidnapped after release from prison

CARACAS: Venezuelan opposition leader María Corina Machado said Juan Pablo Guanipa, one of her closest allies, was kidnapped.

This came just hours after his release from prison.

“Heavily armed men, dressed in civilian clothes, arrived in four vehicles and violently took him away,” she posted on her X account, demanding his release.

A close ally of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Machado, Guanipa had been held in a detention facility in the capital Caracas since his arrest in May 2025.

The Public Prosecutor’s Office said it had “requested.. the revocation of the precautionary measure” granted to Guanipa, saying the 61-year-old had not followed “strict compliance with the obli-



gations imposed” on him to stay in house arrest “in order to safeguard the criminal process.”

The conditions for his release remain unclear.

The politician had been accused by Interior Minister Dios-

dado Cabello of leading a terrorist plot to sabotage the legislative election that same month.

Guanipa’s son Ramon posted a video on social media in which he described the kidnapping as an ambush by ten heavily armed, uni-

dentified men.

‘Much to discuss’ about Venezuela’s future, says Guanipa

Before being held again, Guanipa spoke about his release on social media, with officers and armored vehicles being seen behind him.

“Much to discuss about the present and future of Venezuela, always with the truth at the forefront,” Guanipa said.

Prisoner rights group Foro Penal said 18 people were released on Sunday and that it was verifying additional cases.

“Let’s go for the freedom of Venezuela!” she posted on X.

Machado also posted photos of several of those released, pictured with smiling family members.

“We will not rest until every single political prisoner is freed

and until all of them return home,” Machado said.

Rodriguez under pressure to release prisoners

Venezuela’s acting President Delcy Rodríguez — who assumed the interim role following the US capture of Nicolas Maduro — has faced increasing pressure to release hundreds of political prisoners.

The government denies holding people for their political beliefs, and says those held in prison have committed crimes.

Rodriguez’s government announced on January 8 that it would free a significant number of prisoners, which had been a key demand from Venezuela’s opposition and human rights organizations, with the calls backed by the US. — **DW**

HARROWING EXPERIENCE

Migrants from Africa brave deadly Canary Islands crossing

CANARY ISLANDS: The boat carrying Ismael Outtara and his family had been adrift in the Atlantic Ocean between southern Morocco and the island of Tenerife for several days. And then within 24 hours his 1-year-old daughter and his wife died.

“My daughter died in my arms,” Outtara told DW. “The next morning, my wife simply didn’t wake up. I think it was because of the shock of her death.”

Like thousands of people, Ouattara and his family had left Cote d’Ivoire to find more sustainable conditions in Europe. He never imagined what would unfold during the crossing. “The dead were simply thrown into the sea immediately,” the Ivorian remembers. “The others didn’t ask for permission.”

The tragedy happened four years ago. It still pains Ouattara how other passengers treated the bodies of his family. At least there were no outbreaks of violence among the surviving boat passengers afterward, according to the Ivorian. This is not unusual in such extreme situations on board.

Mohammed Manga told DW that he had survived a harrowing experience while crossing to the Canary Islands, an archipelago that is part of the EU member Spain. “There was a lot of violence on our boat,” the young Gambian, who arrived on the Canary Islands in 2023, said. “On the fourth day at sea, some panicked and accused each other of being witches.”



Many migrants who have made the voyage describe similarly explosive experiences.

Although no one died in the violent outburst on Manga’s boat, he said there were many injuries. To his knowledge, no one was held accountable — not even later, when the boat finally reached the Canary Islands.

“It’s very difficult to do anything then,” Manga said. “That’s why some people think they can get away with anything on the high seas.”

Thrown into sea

Crossings on the so-called Atlantic route between Western Africa and the Canary Islands have declined significantly. While official figures show that more than 40,000

migrants arrived on the islands in 2024, the number dropped to around 18,000 a year later. Observers attribute the drop to increased cooperation between Europe and traditional transit countries like Mauritania and Morocco, and, consequently, to stricter border controls in these countries.

Reports of extreme violence and murders on board the boats are on the rise, however.

Passengers on a journey in 2024 said three Senegalese men severely abused numerous people on their boat, causing some to suffer permanent injuries. In the autumn of 2025, Spanish police arrested 19 people after around 50 passengers on a boat died between Senegal and Gran Canaria Island. The suspects are accused of aggravated as-

sault and murder.

Survivors of that journey report that the men attacked dozens of passengers, beating them to death and, in some cases, throwing them into the sea while they were alive. It remains unclear whether they were members of smuggling networks or simply passengers.

The Spanish National Police declined to comment on the incidents when contacted by DW.

‘They are terrified’

Louella Sin Ahmed Ndiaye, a lawyer in the Canary Islands, regularly handles cases of violence on boats. She explained that a whole range of reasons make the prosecution of violent crimes on the migrant boats extremely difficult.

First, Sin Ahmed NdiayeIt said,



there are questions of jurisdiction, as the crimes usually do not take place on Spanish territory and do not involve Spanish citizens. In addition, there are massive challenges with witness statements.

“The numerous police reports we have read show that people lose their sense of time. The cold, the uncertainty, no land in sight, the fear. All of this can significantly impair their mental health,” Sin Ahmed Ndiaye told DW.

Sin Ahmed Ndiaye said that often led to contradictions in witness statements.

“It makes a difference whether someone was sitting at the front or the back of the boat,” Sin Ahmed Ndiaye said, “so the statements often don’t paint a coherent picture.”

Furthermore, many surviving passengers refuse to cooperate with the Spanish authorities. Some don’t trust the lawyers provided to them. “After 10 to 14 days at sea, they are terrified, and the last thing they want is to be sub-

jected to a court case and burden their fellow passengers.”

The most vulnerable people on board tend to suffer the most. “Children, unaccompanied minors and women,” the lawyer stressed.

No compensation, compensation

In many cases, not only is there no prosecution for people who commit violence, but also no compensation for victims or their families.

Ouattara said financial compensation would not be the most important thing after losing his wife and daughter. Four years after the horrific incident in the Atlantic, he has built a new life on the Canary Islands with his older daughter, who, like him, survived the crossing. He longs for a place where he can mourn the loved ones he lost.

“I only have the memories left, no grave to which I could bring flowers,” Outtara said. “That makes the situation particularly difficult for me to bear.” — **DW**

ANCIENT FESTIVAL OF BASANT

Lahore kite festival returns after decades-long ban

LAHORE: Residents of the Pakistani city of Lahore are once again flying kites to mark the ancient festival of Basant this weekend.

The festival originally began as an agrarian event marking the arrival of spring, though in post-colonial days it came to be an urban phenomenon, taking on the character of a city festival — full of sweets, music and competitive kite flying.

Due to the large numbers of deaths and injuries suffered at the festival each year — bullet wounds from errant gunfire, death and injury caused by dangerous kite wires coated with chemicals or sharp objects in order to cut other kite lines during competition, electrocutions, people falling off of rooftops — it was cancelled in 2008.

This year's festival began Thursday at midnight and will end on Sunday evening. Until then, friends and families will gather on rooftops to sing, eat and give flight to their colorful kites.

The ban was officially lifted in December 2025, in recognition of the Basant festival's importance to Punjabi culture, although a number of security measures were first put in place. Authorities say the event will be closely monitored and that lawbreakers will receive fines or prison time.

In a message on X, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz posted a view of video monitors at Lahore's Basant Control Room while imploring residents to "stay away from electrical wires and transformers" and to make sure that their "rooftops are secure."

Among the steps taken by authorities was the outlawing of so-called killer string — kite string sheathed in metal, glass or chemicals.

Kites and strings are also required to have QR codes so that they can be easily traced. More



than 4,500 manufacturers registered their products with the government.

Motorcyclists, one of the groups most impacted by deadly wires, are now required to install safety rods akin to antennae on their vehicles to deflect string and wire.

Authorities also require residents with rooftops to register if they plan on having 30 or more people on them. Subsequent rooftop inspections resulted in the closure of dozens of these over safety concerns say local officials.

Additionally, the state government declared a two-day public holiday to reduce traffic and injuries.

The Basant festival is a major economic boon for the city, with families booking out hotels and restaurants, as well as purchasing some \$10 million (€8.45 million) in kites and string.

Despite the joy experienced by many in Lahore, the festival has been overshadowed by a terror attack in the capital Islamabad in which an apparent suicide bomber killed at least 31 people and injured scores more.

Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz took to X on Friday to announce the cancellation of a concert at Lahore's Liberty Square on Saturday evening, citing the attack and urging Pakistanis to come together to defend the country.

MSC braces for more of Donald Trump's 'wrecking-ball politics'



The Munich Security Conference will bring together about 65 world leaders, including German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, along with nearly 100 foreign and defence ministers, top military brass and high-level policymakers for three days of discussions

MUNICH: The organisers of the Munich Security Conference (MSC) did not hesitate to name who they think is behind the "period of wrecking-ball politics."

"The most powerful of those who take the axe to existing rules and institutions is US President Donald Trump," they wrote in the Munich Security Report 2026 released on Monday.

The release came as organisers announced that US Secretary of State Marco Rubio will lead "a sizable delegation" of officials to the MSC this weekend.

"At the moment, trans-Atlantic relations are, in my view, in a considerable crisis of trust and credibility," conference chairman Wolfgang Ischinger said on Monday.

"That is why it is particularly gratifying that the American side is showing such strong interest in



Munich," Ischinger said.

The MSC will bring together about 65 world leaders, including German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, along with nearly 100 foreign and defence ministers, top military brass and high-level policymakers for three days of discussions.

Strained trans-Atlantic partnership

At the 2025 MSC, Vice President JD Vance launched a blistering attack on the US's European allies , accusing EU leaders of curbing free speech, permitting too much migration and ignoring voters' views.

The MSC, set to kick off Friday, has in the past acted as an indicator of how good transatlantic relations are, but it is clear from Monday's report that there has been a deterioration since Trump began

his second term.

Against this backdrop, the 2026 Munich Security Report focuses squarely on what Ischinger called "the elephant in the room," the broader backlash against the principles that have underpinned global governance since 1945.

"For generations, US allies were not just able to rely on American power but on a broadly shared understanding of the principles underpinning the international order," Ischinger wrote in his foreword to the report.

"Today, this appears far less certain, raising difficult questions about the future shape of transatlantic and international cooperation," he added.

'Sweeping destruction' rather than 'careful reforms'

The report warns that across Western democracies, public trust in institutions is eroding, and parties promising radical change are gaining ground.

"The result is a new climate in which those who employ bulldozers, wrecking balls, and chainsaws are often cautiously admired if not openly celebrated," the report says.

Trump's disruptive approach appeals to supporters who believe breaking established institutions can overcome political gridlock, as seen in moves on NATO spending

and an Israel-Hamas ceasefire.

But the long-term result may be a shift toward transactional, interest-driven global politics.

"Ironically, this would be a world that privileges the rich and powerful, not those who have placed their hopes in wrecking-ball politics," the report stresses.

The recalibration of US foreign policy

Globally, the US "renunciation of core elements of the existing international order" is straining systems already under pressure, from the WTO to humanitarian aid, the report states.

In Europe, Washington's wavering support for Ukraine and shifting security signals are deepening fears as Russia intensifies military and hybrid attacks.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is among the most prominent guests expected in Munich.

In the Indo-Pacific, partners face growing uncertainty as China pushes for dominance and US commitments appear increasingly unpredictable.

Ischinger emphasized that regardless of how one views current US foreign policy, it is already reshaping the world in profound ways, with consequences that are only beginning to unfold. —**mw**

SEND US YOUR VIEWS AND COMMENTS

editor@timesofoman.com
webeditor@timesofoman.com



MUSCAT GOVERNORATE MUSCAT MUNICIPALITY

Advertisement No.(4/2026)

International Companies specialized in the field and registered with Authority of Projects, Tenders & Local Content, 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	Description of Tender	Last date to collect the tender	Tender return date
PRE/26/012	Provision of Technical Support Services for Muscat Municipality – Unit Rate	01/03/2026	22/03/2026

- Bidders shall submit their offers electronically.
- 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@gstb.gov.om) or call (+96824402200).

Website: www.mm.gov.om



MUSCAT GOVERNORATE MUSCAT MUNICIPALITY

Advertisement No.(3/2026)

Muscat Municipality invites you to participate in the following bids:

Sr.	Bidding No.	Bidding description	Document fee		Deadline for obtaining bidding docs.	Deadline for inquiries submission	Deadline for submission
			LO/RE	SMEs			
1	1/2026	Management & Operation of Café (A) at the Oman Botanic Garden – Wilayat Al Seeb	25/- OMR	10/- OMR	16/02/2026	18/02/2026	25/02/2026
2	2/2026	Management & Operation of Café (B) at the Oman Botanic Garden – Wilayat Al Seeb	25/- OMR	10/- OMR	16/02/2026	18/02/2026	25/02/2026
3	3/2026	Management & Operation of Four (4) Pop-Up Carts at the Oman Botanic Garden, Wilayat Al Seeb	25/- OMR	10/- OMR	16/02/2026	18/02/2026	25/02/2026
4	4/2026	Management & Operation of the Gift and Souvenir Shop at the Visitor Center of Oman Botanic Garden (Shop No. 1)	78/- OMR	10/- OMR	16/02/2026	18/02/2026	25/02/2026
5	5/2026	Management & Operation of Restaurant No. (3) at Oman Botanic Garden – Wilayat Al Seeb	25/- OMR	10/- OMR	16/02/2026	18/02/2026	25/02/2026

Registered companies with Muscat Municipality which are Specialized in above bids are invited to participate as per the following procedures:

- Company registration with Muscat Municipality must be valid to obtain the bid document.
- Pay the specified document fee for the requested bid via bank deposit to Muscat Municipality's Bank account as follows:

Bank Muscat	0423010702710024
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- A copy of the transaction's receipt MUST be sent to the following e-mail (SQ.QS@mm.gov.om), provided with the company data (name and bid number, delegate name, office phone number, mobile number, email address approved by the company and commercial registration number of the company).
- The tender document will be provided to the company via email.
- 2:00 PM on the above mentioned dates, is the last timing for obtaining Bidding Documents.
- Submission details will be shared later.

NOTES:

- Companies which are not registered in Muscat Municipality or their registration has been expired shall register through the municipality's website (www.mm.gov.om).
- For technical support, please contact Muscat Municipality through this email (crm@mm.gov.om).
- If the bidders have any inquiries regarding the scope of the work, they have to sent their inquiries through the following e-mail (mais.h.alnofli@mm.gov.om)
- 10:00 AM on the above submission mentioned dates, is the last timing for receiving bids. Offers submitted after the above mentioned date & time shall not be accepted for any reason.
- Muscat Municipality has the right to accept or reject any offer without assigning any reason.

Website: www.mm.gov.om

OMAN OIL PRICE FALLS
The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by April 2026 reaching \$66.77, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by \$1.01 from the price of Friday, which was which was \$67.78. -**ONA**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER
The MSX index closed at 6,761.10 points, up by 2.98% from previous close. The Shariah Index ended up by 0.91% at 606.89 points. Salalah Mills, up 9.76%, was the top gainer while, A'Saffa Foods, down 6.42%, was the top loser.

Treasury bills worth OMR17.48mn issued

Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds



MUSCAT: Oman's central bank raised OMR17.48 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Monday..

The value of the allotted Treasury bills amounted to OMR 13.18 million, for a maturity period of 28 days. The average accepted price reached OMR 99.713 for every OMR 100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR 99.710 per OMR 100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 3.74356 per cent and

3.75435 per cent, respectively. The value of the allotted Treasury bills amounted to OMR 3.7 million, for a maturity period of 91 days. The average accepted price reached OMR 99.049 for every OMR 100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR 99.040 per OMR 100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 3.81586% and 3.85254 per cent, respectively. Whereas, the value of the allotted Treasury bills amounted to OMR 0.6 million, for a maturity period of 182 days. The average ac-

cepted price reached OMR 98.250 for every OMR 100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR 98.250 per OMR 100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 3.50962 per cent and 3.57213 per cent, respectively. Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds. The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready li-

quidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo). It may be noted that the interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 4.25 per cent while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 4.75 per cent. Furthermore, Treasury Bills promote the local money market by creating a benchmark yield curve for short-term interest rates. Additionally, the Government may also resort to this instrument whenever felt necessary for financing its recurrent expenditures. -**ONA**

India's forex reserves touch fresh record high of \$723.8 billion

MUMBAI: India's foreign exchange reserves reached another new all-time high in the week ended January 30, according to the Reserve Bank of India's latest data. Foreign exchange reserves rose sharply by USD 14.361 billion in the week to USD 723.774 billion, driven by a jump in gold reserves while foreign currency assets dropped. Over the past few weeks, the forex kitty has been largely in an uptrend. Its previous high was USD 709.403 billion, touched in the previous week.

For the reported week (that ended January 30), India's foreign currency assets (FCA), the largest component of foreign exchange reserves, stood at USD 562.392 billion, down USD 493 million.

The RBI data showed that gold reserves currently stand at USD 137.683 billion, up USD 14.595 billion from the previous week.

After the latest monetary policy review meeting in early December, the RBI had said that the country's foreign exchange reserves were sufficient to cover more than 11 months of merchandise imports.

Overall, India's external sector remains resilient, and the RBI is confident it can comfortably meet external financing requirements.

In 2025, the forex kitty has increased by about 56 billion,



according to data. In 2024, reserves rose by just over USD 20 billion. In 2023, India added around USD 58 billion to its foreign exchange reserves, contrasting with a cumulative decline of USD 71 billion in 2022. Foreign exchange reserves, or forex reserves, are assets held by a nation's central bank or monetary authority, primarily in reserve currencies such as the US dollar, with smaller portions in the Euro, Japanese yen, and Pound Sterling. The RBI often intervenes by managing liquidity, including selling dollars, to prevent a steep depreciation of the rupee. The RBI strategically buys dollars when the Rupee is strong and ideally sells when it weakens. -**ANI**

IN SOUTH AL BATINAH



11 investment pacts signed to enhance food security

MUSCAT: The Directorate General of Housing and Urban Planning in the South Al Batinah Governorate, in cooperation with the Directorate General of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources in the governorate, signed today a number of agreements with investors to implement 11 investment projects in the field of food security in South Al Batinah Governorate.

The agreements, with a total investment value exceeding OMR 750,000 and covering a combined area of over 120 acres,

come within the framework of national efforts to enhance the food security system and support investment in productive sectors. The agreements included 4 small and medium enterprises holding the Riyada (Entrepreneurship) Card. The projects aim to boost agricultural and food production, achieve optimal land utilization, enhance the efficiency of food supply chains, contribute to adding value to the local economy, and provide job opportunities, in line with sustainable development goals. -**ONA**

EARLY ASIAN TRADING

Oil slides over 1% on easing geopolitical tensions

SINGAPORE: Oil prices slid by more than 1% in early Asian trading yesterday, weighed down by easing geopolitical concerns. Brent crude futures fell 89 cents, or 1.31%, to \$67.16 a barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures dropped 79 cents, or 1.24%, to \$62.76 a barrel. Market sentiment was pressured by reduced concerns over supply disruptions, prompting investors to reassess recent gains in crude prices.

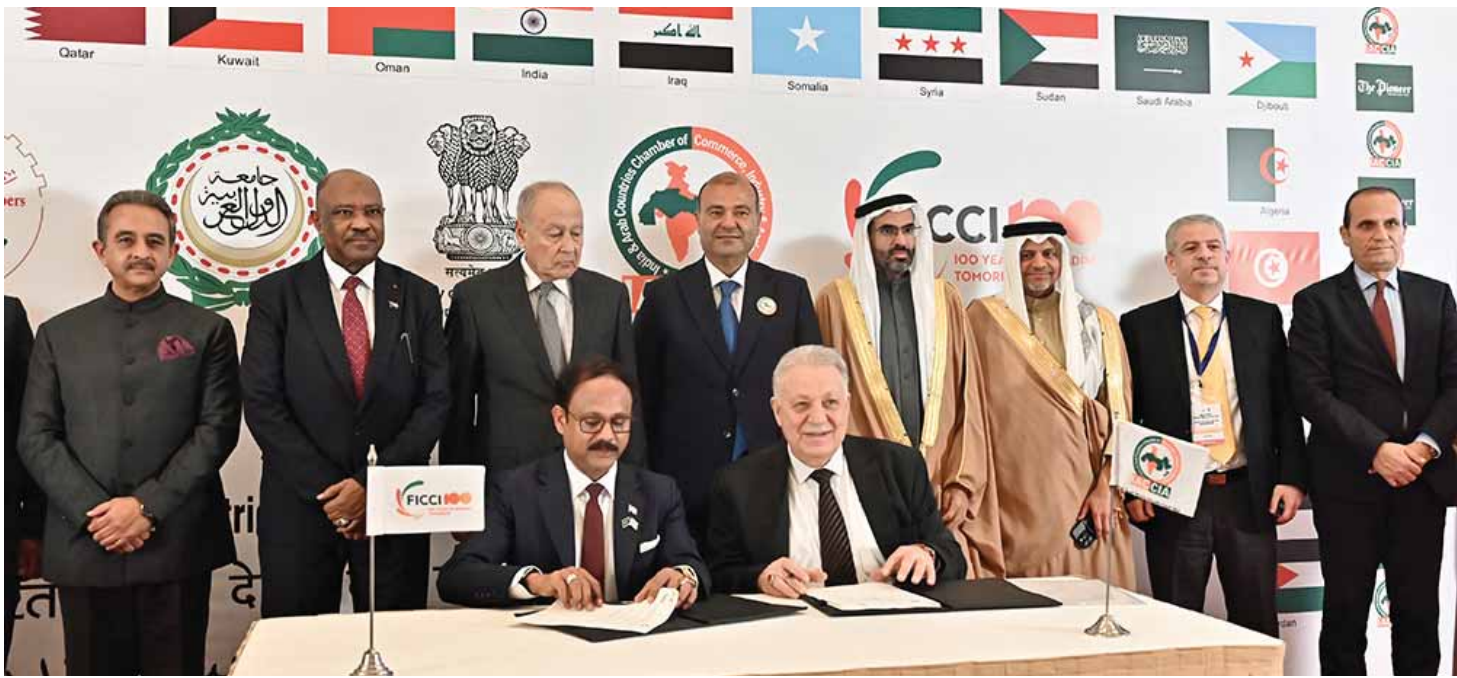


Gold, silver extend gains
Gold and silver prices extended their gains in early Asian trading yesterday, buoyed by a weaker US dollar, while investors looked ahead to a key US jobs report later this week for clues on the future

path of interest rates. Spot gold rose 1.4% to \$5,029.09 an ounce, after surging nearly 4% in the previous session. US gold futures for April delivery also advanced 1.4% to \$5,051.00 an ounce. Spot silver jumped 2.5%, following a sharp 10% rally on Friday. Among other precious metals, spot platinum gained 1.8% to \$2,134.18 an ounce, while palladium rose 1.8% to \$1,737.75 an ounce. -**ONA**

SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE

Arab economic partnership accelerates with \$215bn trade and launch of IACCIA India



Times News Service

NEW DELHI: The inaugural ceremony of the India & Arab Countries Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (IACCIA) marked a significant milestone in strengthening India-Arab economic and strategic cooperation. The event brought together senior leaders and dignitaries from India and the Arab world, underscoring centuries-old ties rooted in trade, culture & people-to-people connections.

Distinguished guests at the ceremony included Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary General of the League of Arab States; Kirti Vardhan Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs and Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India; and Dr. Khaled Mohamad Hanafy, Secretary General of the Union of Arab Chambers, along with visiting ministers and senior officials from Arab countries.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Siddeek Ahmed, Co-Chair, Arab Council, FICCI, and Chairman & Managing Director, ERAM Holdings, highlighted the depth and momentum of India-Arab relations, which has evolved into comprehensive partnerships spanning diplomacy, trade, investment, energy, infrastructure and strategic cooperation. Several Arab nations today share comprehensive strategic partnerships with India, supported by platforms such as the Arab-India Cooperation Forum and

regular high-level engagements. "India and the Arab world are entering a new phase of economic partnership - one driven by shared growth ambitions, strategic trust & long-term collaboration across trade, investment, energy, technology and skills," said Dr. Siddeek Ahmed. "The launch of IACCIA is both timely and strategic, providing a strong institutional platform to translate our shared vision into tangible outcomes for businesses and economies on both sides."

Strengthens bilateral ties
Recent developments reflect this growing momentum, including the visit of the President of the UAE to India, which further strengthened bilateral ties and led to a new agreement on defense cooperation. India is also hosting the 2nd India - Arab Foreign Ministers' Meeting, reinforcing a shared commitment to regional stability and global cooperation. Economic engagement between India and the Arab world continues to expand rapidly. Trade between India and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) reached approximately US\$ 180 billion in 2024-25, while total trade with Arab League countries stood at US\$ 215 billion.

Under the India-UAE CEPA, bilateral trade has crossed US\$ 100 billion, with a target of US\$ 200 billion by 2032. Saudi Arabia remains one of India's largest trading partners with trade exceeding US\$ 41 billion, while commerce with Oman and Qatar continues to grow

through long-term energy agreements and new trade frameworks. India's non-oil exports to the Arab region - particularly electronics and engineering goods are rising steadily. Significant potential also exists in renewable energy, food security, advanced technology, logistics and resilient supply chains, aligned with major national development initiatives such as Viksit Bharat @2047, PM Gati Shakti, Saudi Vision 2030, Qatar National Vision 2030 and the UAE's We the UAE 2031. Beyond trade, India & Arab countries are deepening cooperation in space, infrastructure & energy. India and the UAE have recently agreed to jointly develop commercial launch facilities, while initiatives such as the India- Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) aim to enhance regional and global connectivity. The UAE has committed US\$ 75 billion in infrastructure investments in India, and long-term energy agreements, including the 10-year HPCL-ADNOC LNG deal, reflect growing strategic alignment. Investment flows from the Arab world into India remain robust. In 2024-25, India received US\$ 81 billion in FDI, with the UAE ranking as India's seventh-largest investor. Saudi Arabia has announced plans to invest US\$ 100 billion, while Qatar has committed US\$ 10 billion and established a new investment office in India. The India- UAE Bilateral Investment Treaty further strengthens investor confidence.

People-to-people ties remain a cornerstone of the relationship, with nearly 9 million Indians living and working across the Arab world, including 3.5 million in the UAE and 2.75 million in Saudi Arabia, contributing significantly to economic growth and cultural exchange. Highlighting the role of the Indian-origin enterprises, ERAM Holdings showcased its cross-border presence across manufacturing, skills development, technology & travel management and event services, aligned with national initiatives such as Make in India, Saudi Vision 2030, and the UAE's National In-Country Value Program. On behalf of FICCI, Dr. Siddeek Ahmed reaffirmed the organization's full support to IACCIA in advancing its objectives and recommended measures such as visa-on-arrival facilitation for Indian business delegations, which would further enhance trade and investment flows. The address concluded with an invitation to the Global Economic Cooperation (GEC) 2026, scheduled to be held in Mumbai, India from 17-19 February 2026. Organized by the Ministry of External Affairs and the Government of Maharashtra, the invitation-only forum will bring together global political leaders, investors and business leaders, including participation from the Prime Minister of India, the External Affairs Minister, and other senior leaders, to shape the next chapter of India-Arab economic cooperation.

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Salalah Mills, up 9.76%, was the top gainer while, A'Saffa Foods, down 6.42%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 6,761.10 points, up by 2.98% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.91% at 606.89 points. Salalah Mills, up 9.76%, was the top gainer while, A'Saffa Foods, down 6.42%, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover. A total number of 8090 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 80.34 million, with more than 322.42 million shares changing hands. Out of 83 traded securities, 49 advanced, 17 declined, and 17 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for RO 3554K while GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for RO 2734K, followed by foreign investors for RO 819K worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 11,593.11 points, up 2.35%. Prices of Oman & Emirates Investment, Global Financial Investments, Muscat Finance, Sohar International Bank, DIDIC were up by

9.26%, 8.43%, 6.85%, 5.91%, 5.25% respectively. Prices of Financial Services, Bank Nizwa were down by 6.25%, 0.76% respectively. Industrial Index closed at 9,181.31 points, down -0.10%. Prices of Salalah Mills, Gulf International Chemicals, Oman Cables Industry, Galfar Engineering, Dhofar Cattle Feed were up by 9.76%, 3.57%, 2.98%, 1.94%, 1.37% respectively. Prices of A'Saffa Foods, Oman Fisheries, Voltamp Energy, Oman Chlorine, Oman Flour Mills were down by 6.42%, 3.33%, 0.57%, 0.44%, 0.41% respectively. Services Index was up by 2.41% before closing at 2,655.02 points. Prices of Oman Telecom, Oman National Engineering, Barka Desalination, Phoenix Power, Muscat Desalination were up by 8.50%, 3.97%, 3.85%, 3.66%, 3.33% respectively. Prices of Sembcorp Salalah, Al Maha Marketing, Sharqiyah Desalination, Barka Water & Power Company were down by 0.92%, 0.91%, 0.67%, 0.57% respectively.

United

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	6,761.85	6,561.91	6,761.10	6,565.20	195.90	2.98
FINANCIAL INDEX	11,596.72	11,311.02	11,593.11	11,326.70	266.42	2.35
Industry Index	9,230.76	9,142.94	9,181.31	9,190.79	-9.48	-0.10
Services Index	2,657.70	2,592.35	2,655.02	2,592.58	62.44	2.41
MSX Shariah Index	609.46	600.65	606.89	601.44	5.45	0.91
MSX TR INDEX	10,163.44	9,862.92	10,162.31	9,867.86	294.45	2.98
FINANCIAL TR IDX	13,777.30	13,437.89	13,773.02	13,456.51	316.52	2.35
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	11,380.73	11,272.45	11,319.77	11,331.45	-11.68	-0.10
SERVICES TR IDX	3,465.84	3,380.61	3,462.34	3,380.91	81.43	2.41
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,206.85	1,206.85	1,206.85	1,206.85	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
322,423,437	80,341,764	8,090	34,639,105,538	49	17	17	83

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST RD	LAST OFFER	PDA VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM0000003026 OMAN TELECOM	10,183,572	11,837,310	453	1.105	1.200	1.102	1.200	1.106	0.094	8.499	1.200	1.200	1.200	0.100	900,000,000
OM00000003125 GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	1,143,422	298,698	50	0.249	0.270	0.249	0.270	0.249	0.021	8.434	0.270	0.263	0.273	0.100	54,000,000
OM00000003398 SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	93,747,127	18,010,578	1,573	0.197	0.197	0.196	0.197	0.196	0.011	5.914	0.197	0.198	0.197	0.100	1,303,597,515
OM00000002440 AL SHARGHYA INVESTMENT HO	1,140,761	136,112	84	0.118	0.120	0.118	0.120	0.116	0.004	3.448	0.120	0.119	0.120	0.100	10,800,000
OM00000001533 OMINVEST	588,393	225,181	58	0.378	0.380	0.378	0.380	0.377	0.012	3.183	0.380	0.389	0.380	0.100	363,991,811
OM00000002796 BANK MUSCAT	15,132,393	5,871,907	390	0.399	0.399	0.399	0.399	0.396	0.015	3.245	0.399	0.391	0.391	0.100	972,333,237
OM00000001707 OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	14,735	59,361	12	2.645	2.698	2.645	2.698	2.620	0.078	2.977	2.698	2.680	2.698	0.100	242,010,000
OM00000008934 ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	2,771,985	1,094,087	295	0.389	0.400	0.389	0.388	0.388	0.010	2.577	0.398	0.398	0.400	0.100	306,539,600
OM00000002226 AL AZEERA SERVICES	183,895	36,477	46	0.195	0.204	0.195	0.200	0.195	0.005	2.564	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.100	8,568,598
OM00000004925 ALBATINAH POWER	112,735	18,815	13	0.165	0.169	0.165	0.169	0.165	0.004	2.424	0.169	0.168	0.169	0.100	114,055,976
OM00000004933 AL SUWADI POWER	616,458	102,513	46	0.165	0.169	0.164	0.169	0.165	0.004	2.244	0.169	0.168	0.169	0.100	120,734,671
OM00000009072 OQ GAS NETWORKS	22,075,133	4,812,989	527	0.214	0.220	0.214	0.218	0.213	0.005	2.347	0.218	0.218	0.218	0.100	944,076,015
OM00000002374 UNITED FINANCE	3,850,500	330,692	158	0.090	0.093	0.089	0.090	0.088	0.002	2.273	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.100	32,051,457
OM00000003968 OQREDOO	3,452,931	1,087,110	110	0.313	0.317	0.312	0.317	0.312	0.005	1.603	0.317	0.314	0.317	0.100	208,248,321
OM00000001087 OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	1,495,971	601,091	30	0.400	0.405	0.399	0.405	0.400	0.005	1.250	0.405	0.405	0.405	0.100	40,500,000
OM00000002188 AL ANWAR CERAMIC	249,649	48,830	34	0.195	0.197	0.195	0.197	0.195	0.002	1.026	0.197	0.197	0.197	0.100	43,340,000
OM00000001483 NATIONAL BANK OMAN	392,835	140,977	175	0.397	0.400	0.395	0.400	0.396	0.004	1.010	0.399	0.399	0.397	0.100	650,378,542
OM00000004768 MADINA TAKAFUL	1,135,710	144,395	86	0.127	0.128	0.126	0.128	0.127	0.001	0.787	0.128	0.127	0.136	0.100	22,400,000
OM00000003224 RENAISSANCE SERVICES	265,364	87,695	31	0.330	0.332	0.330	0.332	0.331	0.001	0.302	0.332	0.331	0.332	0.100	78,488,120
OM00000002176 JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	49,073	48,273	10	0.960	0.967	0.960	0.966	0.964	0.002	0.207	0.966	0.966	0.969	0.100	120,651,429
OM00000003661 VOLTAMP ENERGY	15,849	27,940	19	1.750	1.770	1.750	1.760	1.770	-0.010	-0.565	1.765	1.755	1.765	0.100	164,758,165
OM00000004420 BANK NIZWA	846,605	111,058	60	0.130	0.133	0.130	0.131	0.132	-0.001	-0.758	0.131	0.131	0.131	0.100	293,040,847
OM00000002804 A'SAFFA FOODS	213,190	149,288	10	0.748	0.748	0.685	0.700	0.748	-0.048	-6.417	0.700	0.700	0.740	0.100	84,000,000
Total	159,659,178	45,280,739	4,270												

Parallel Market

OM00000001889	SALALAH MILLS	15,100	6,470	7	0.425	0.450	0.425	0.450	0.410	0.040	9.756	0.450	0.410	0.450	0.100	28,108,379
OM00000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO	1,466,120	166,544	86	0.108	0.118	0.108	0.118	0.108	0.110	9.259	0.118	0.117	0.117	0.100	14,381,250
OM00000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	5,529,636	424,805	184	0.074	0.078	0.073	0.078	0.073	0.005	6.849	0.078	0.077	0.080	0.100	23,957,413
OM00000001598	DHOFAH INTL DEV'T & INVESTMENT	1,383,451	1,088,515	142	0.289	0.301	0.289	0.301	0.286	0.015	5.245	0.301	0.301	0.301	0.100	149,312,896
OM00000001152	OMAN NAT'L ENG'G & INVESTMENT	244,734	57,814	24	0.152	0.157	0.152	0.157	0.151	0.006	3.974	0.157	0.157	0.158	0.100	23,550,000
OM00000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	15,960	2,491	7	0.155	0.162	0.155	0.162	0.156	0.006	3.846	0.162	0.157	0.162	0.100	12,234,564
OM00000005963	PHOENIX POWER	634,086	107,345	65	0.166	0.170	0.165	0.170	0.164	0.006	3.659	0.170	0.170	0.178	0.100	248,642,248
OM00000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	3,021,189	262,483	158	0.088	0.089	0.085	0.087	0.084	0.003	3.571	0.087	0.086	0.087	0.100	1,827,000
OM00000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	428,884	39,623	49	0.091	0.094	0.090	0.093	0.090	0.003	3.333	0.093	0.089	0.093	0.100	14,468,187
OM00000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	7,440	5,558	9	0.780	0.815	0.780	0.815	0.790	0.025	3.165	0.815	0.781	0.815	0.100	77,425,000
OM00000008868	THE PEARL REIT	185,589	37,980	31	0.200	0.205	0.200	0.205	0.194	0.006	3.093	0.200	0.198	0.200	0.100	119,287,270
OM00000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	48,400	3,869	10	0.080	0.080	0.079	0.080	0.078	0.002	2.564	0.079	0.079	0.080	0.100	16,000,000
OM00000009908	QOBASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	90,159,554	17,995,766	1,370	0.197	0.202	0.197	0.202	0.197	0.005	2.538	0.202	0.200	0.202	0.040	698,817,152
OM00000007407	DHOFAH GENERATING	543,740	48,091	44	0.088	0.090	0.088	0.090	0.088	0.002	2.273	0.090	0.087	0.090	0.100	20,001,600
OM00000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	273,200	39,420	36	0.142	0.145	0.142	0.145	0.142	0.003	2.113	0.145	0.142	0.145	0.100	43,290,175
OM000000010120	ASYAD SHIPPING	26,821,538	5,388,454	648	0.198	0.202	0.198	0.202	0.198	0.004	2.020	0.202	0.202	0.202	0.000	1,052,166,345
OM00000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	19,828,412	8,156,882	337	0.408	0.419	0.407	0.415	0.408	0.017	1.716	0.415	0.416	0.415	0.100	300,000,000
OM00000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	8,205	7,207	5	0.875	0.884	0.875	0.884	0.870	0.014	1.609	0.884	0.884	0.937	0.100	54,167,100
OM00000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	86,483	10,841	8	0.125	0.127	0.125	0.127	0.125	0.002	1.600	0.127	0.127	0.128	0.100	12,573,000
OM00000001178	MUSCAT GASES	79,000	10,556	9	0.133	0.135	0.130	0.135	0.133	0.002	1.504	0.135	0.133	0.135	0.100	4,050,000
OM00000001301	DHOFAH FOODS AND INVESTMENT	139,390	20,420	7	0.146	0.148	0.146	0.148	0.146	0.002	1.370	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.100	29,256,185
OM00000001160	NATIONAL GAS	395,938	57,007	36	0.093	0.095	0.093	0.094	0.093	0.001	1.075	0.093	0.093	0.095	0.100	7,990,000
OM00000002287	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	59,900	24,055	18	0.400	0.404	0.400	0.404	0.400	0.004	1.000	0.404	0.402	0.405	0.100	18,489,282
OM00000002848	NATIONAL FINANCE	29,250	6,253	8	0.213	0.215	0.213	0.215	0.213	0.002	0.939	0.215	0.194	0.215	0.100	130,747,206
OM00000003281	TAAGEER FINANCE	478,224	61,272	28	0.128	0.131	0.127	0.127	0.126	0.001	0.794	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.100	35,461,348
OM00000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	13,800	4,440	6	0.321	0.322	0.321	0.322	0.320	0.002	0.625	0.322	0.324	0.345	0.100	22,665,580
OM00000002200	AHLI BANK	53,220	10,102	5	0.189	0.190	0.189	0.190	0.189	0.001	0.529	0.190	0.185	0.190	0.100	514,292,061
OM00000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	407,009	17,401	26	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.000	0.000	0.044	0.043	0.044	0.100	3,740,000
OM00000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	88,054	16,998	21	0.216	0.215	0.216	0.216	0.216	0.000	0.000	0.216	0.218	0.219	0.100	3,806,711
OM00000002077	AL OMANIYA FINANCIAL SERVICES	99,105	16,158	6	0.164	0.164	0.163	0.163	0.160	0.000	0.000	0.163	0.162	0.170	0.100	514,212,997
OM00000002333	SALAH PORT SERVICES	500	200	1	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.000	0.000	0.400	0.400	0.440	0.100	71,934,962
OM00000002549	BANK DHOFAH	2,282,366	429,330	193	0.188	0.189	0.188	0.188	0.188	0.000	0.000	0.188	0.188	0.188	0.100	57,148,124
OM00000004776	TAIRAFUL OMAN	778,938	63,676	99	0.082	0.082	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.000	0.082	0.080	0.080	0.100	20,000,000
OM00000006000	OMAN ARAB BANK	2,925	4,001	8	0.175	0.175	0.174	0.174	0.170	0.000	0.000	0.175	0.174	0.174	0.100	350,480,000
OM00000006979	OMAN QATAR FINANCE	98	18	1	0.186	0.186	0.186	0.186	0.186	0.000	0.000	0.186	0.186	0.000	0.100	29,996,655
OM00000007043	LIVA GROUP	106,300	39,722	4	0.374	0.375	0.374	0.374	0.374	0.000	0.000	0.374	0.374	0.375	0.100	148,992,004
OM00000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	54,702	5,634	5	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.000	0.000	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.100	67,191,252
OM00000001749	OMAN CEMENT	67,276	33,105	11	0.494	0.494	0.492	0.493	0.494	-0.001	-0.202	0.493	0.493	0.540	0.100	163,120,240
OM00000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	2,550	727	5	0.285	0.286	0.285	0.286	0.286	-0.001	-0.350	0.285	0.281	0.294	0.100	15,675,000
OM00000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	8,853	4,335	4	0.485	0.486	0.484	0.484	0.484	0.000	0.000	0.484	0.484	0.484	0.100	15,675,000
OM00000002345	OMAN CHLORINE	460	105	0.228	0.228	0.228	0.228	0.228	0.229	-0.001	-0.433	0.228	0.228	0.242	0.100	16,504,016
OM00000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	37,001	6,468	11	0.174	0.176	0.174	0.174	0.175	-0.001	-0.571	0.174	0.174	0.178	0.100	27,840,000
OM00000004689	SHARGIAH PETROLEUM	56,650	8,496	5	0.150	0.150	0.149	0.149	0.150	-0.001	-0.667	0.149	0.145	0.149	0.100	14,572,522
OM00000003000	AL MAHA PETROLIN FROD MARKETING	275	300	1	1.090	1.090	1.090	1.090	1.090	-0.010	-0.909	1.090	0.990	1.130	0.100	75,210,000
OM00000004735	SEMBOCORP SALALAH	46,343	9,999	12	0.216	0.218	0.215	0.215	0.217	-0.002	-0.922	0.215	0.213	0.220	0.100	253,232,966
OM00000004348	SMN POWER HOLDING	28,239	6,171	8	0.216	0.221	0.216	0.217	0.220	-0.003	-1.364	0.217	0.217	0.227	0.100	43,320,923
OM00000001049	ALMAN REIF	2,245,124	224,124	24	0.103	0.103	0.101	0.101	0.103	-0.002	-1.942	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.100	17,574,000
OM00000001384	FINANCIAL SERVICES	123,979	9,207	7	0.076	0.076	0.074	0.075	0.080	-0.005	-2.420	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.100	1,500,000
Total		48	180,597,047	34,881,764	-3,740											



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Friday 6 February 2026

Group A - MCT 2013	Pitch 1 - Muscat	Group A - MCT 2013	Pitch 3 - Muscat	Group A - MCT 2013	Pitch 2 - Muscat
 Mohtaref	0	 Etimad	0	 Juventus Oman	2
 Al Hosen	1	 Juventus Oman	2	 Mohtaref	2

Group A - MCT 2013	Pitch 1 - Muscat	Group A - MCT 2013	Pitch 3 - Muscat	Group A - MCT 2013	Pitch 1 - Muscat
 Al Hosen	3	 Golden Boy	0	 Al Hosen	1
 Al Seeb Academy	0	 Etimad	3	 Etimad	3

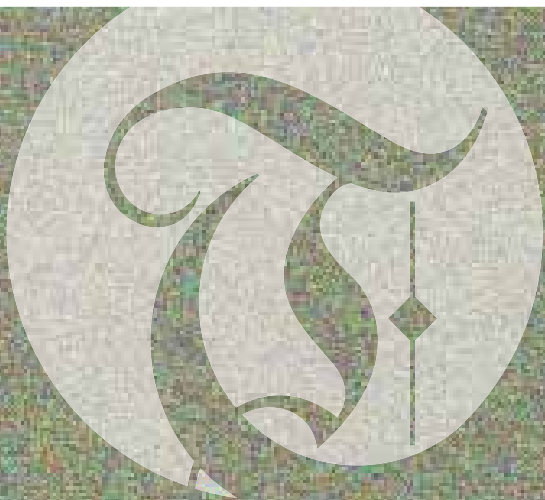
Saturday 7 February 2026

Group A - MCT 2009	Pitch 1 - Muscat	Group A - MCT 2011	Pitch 1 - Muscat	Group A - MCT 2013	Pitch 1 - Muscat
 PLFA Oman	1	 Al Seeb Academy	3	 Al Hosen	2
 Egypt	2	 Juventus Oman	0	 Juventus Oman	0

Group A - MCT 2013	Pitch 2 - Muscat	Group A - MCT 2009	Pitch 1 - Muscat	Group A - MCT 2009	Pitch 1 - Muscat
 Champions (W)	0	 Egypt	3	 Al Noor	2
 Etimad	3	 Qernas	0	 Juventus Oman	1

Group A - MCT 2009	Pitch 1 - Muscat
 PLFA Oman	0
 Al Noor	3





LIFESTYLE



AIR POLLUTION MAY REDUCE HEALTH BENEFITS OF EXERCISE: STUDY

The team found that the protective effect of regular exercise on people’s risk of dying over a specific period - from any cause and from cancer and heart disease specifically - appeared to be reduced, but not eliminated, for those who lived in high pollution areas

Combining the data from seven studies, they found that people who did at least two and a half hours of moderate or vigorous exercise* a week had a

30%
lower risk of dying

during the study period than those who did not meet this exercise threshold. However, if people in this very physically active group lived in an area with high fine particle pollution (above 25 mg/m³), this reduction in risk halved to 12-15 per cent.

A new study led by researchers at University College London (UCL) shows that chronic exposure to toxic air can significantly diminish the health benefits of regular physical activity. The study analysed data from more than 1.5 million adults tracked for more than a decade in countries including the UK, Taiwan, China, Denmark and the United States. The team found that the protective effect of regular exercise on people’s risk of dying over a specific period - from any cause and from cancer and heart disease specifically - appeared to be reduced, but not eliminated, for those who lived in high pollution areas. The researchers looked at levels of fine particulate matter - tiny particles known as PM2.5s with a diameter of less than 2.5 micrometres across. These particles are so small they can get stuck in the lungs and enter the bloodstream.

The health benefits of exercise significantly weakened where the yearly average level of PM2.5s was 25 micrograms per cubic metre (mg/m³) or higher, the team found. Nearly half (46%) of the world’s population live in areas exceeding this threshold.

The lead researcher, Professor Po-Wen Ku of National Chung Hsing University, Taiwan, said, “Our findings emphasise that exercise remains beneficial even in polluted environments. However, improving air quality can greatly enhance these health gains.”

Co-author Professor Andrew Steptoe, from UCL’s Department of Behavioural Science & Health, said: “Our study shows that toxic air can to some extent block the benefits of exercise, although not eliminate them. The findings are further evidence of the damage that fine particle pollution can do to our health.

“We believe clean air and physical activity are both important for healthy ageing and so we encourage greater efforts to curb health-harming pollution levels.”

For the study, the research team looked at data from seven existing studies, including three that were unpublished, combining the summary statistics from each study into one overall analysis. For three of these studies, they re-analysed the raw data at the level of individual participants. Combining the data from seven studies, they found that people who did at least two and a half hours of moderate or vigorous exercise* a week had a 30% lower risk of dying during the study period than those who did not meet this exercise threshold. However, if people in this very physically active group lived in an area with high fine particle pollution (above 25 mg/m³), this reduction in risk halved to 12-15 per cent.

At higher levels of fine particle pollution, above 35 mg/m³, the benefits of exercise weakened further, particularly for risk of death from cancer, where the benefits were no longer robust. About a third of the world’s population (36 per cent) live in areas whose yearly average PM2.5 levels exceed 35 mg/m³.

For study participants in the UK, the average yearly PM2.5 levels were lower than these thresholds, at 10 mg/m³. However, levels of fine particle pollution vary a lot and spikes in pollution in UK cities do exceed 25 mg/m³, the critical threshold identified in the study, mainly during the winter months. Co-author Professor Paola Zaninotto, from UCL’s Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, said, “We don’t want to discourage people from exercising outdoors. Checking air quality, choosing cleaner routes, or easing off intensity on polluted days can help you get the most health benefits from your exercise.”

In their section on limitations, the authors noted that the study was mostly conducted in high-income countries, so the findings might not apply to low-income countries where fine particle pollution is higher, often exceeding 50 mg/m³. Other limitations included a lack of data on indoor air quality as well as participants’ diets. However, a wide variety of other factors were accounted for, including income and education levels, health behaviours such as smoking, and the presence or not of existing chronic diseases. - AMI

SPORTS

Haaland’s late penalty seals 2-1 comeback win for Man City

Manchester City kicked the match off on a positive note and nearly took the lead inside two minutes when Haaland raced through on goal

LIVERPOOL: Erling Haaland scored a dramatic late penalty as Manchester City claimed a thrilling 2-1 comeback victory over Liverpool at Anfield.

Manchester City kicked the match off on a positive note and

nearly took the lead inside two minutes when Haaland raced through on goal, but Alisson Becker reacted quickly to undo his effort, according to the Premier League website. Despite City’s early pressure, clear chances were limited in a tight first half, with both sides cancelling each other out.

Liverpool grew into the game after the break and began to put City under pressure. Their breakthrough came in the 74th minute when Dominik Szoboszlai produced a moment of brilliance, shooting a stunning free-kick from long range, leaving City’s Gianluigi Donnarumma with no chance.

City responded positively and showed their resilience. In the 84th minute, Bernardo Silva timed his run perfectly to slide in and shoot Haaland’s headed pass beyond Alisson to equalise.

During stoppage time, Matheus

Nunes ran into Liverpool’s penalty area and was fouled by the goalkeeper, resulting in a penalty for Manchester City. Haaland kept his composure and dispatched the penalty into the bottom-left corner to secure the win and score his first goal at Anfield.

Liverpool thought they had snatched a late equaliser when Rayan Cherki scored from distance with Alisson out of position, but the goal was ruled out following a VAR review for a foul. To worsen Liverpool’s frustration, Szoboszlai was shown a red card in the closing seconds for a last-man challenge on Haaland.

The victory moves Manchester City up to second in the Premier League table with 50 points to their name, cutting Arsenal’s lead at the top to six points.

Liverpool, on the other hand, remain sixth with 39 points to their name. **-ANI**



20-RUN VICTORY

Shanaka hails team effort, Kamindu Mendis’ cameo in Sri Lanka’s T20 World Cup win

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka captain Dasun Shanaka praised his team’s all-round performance after their 20-run victory over Ireland in the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup match on Sunday.

During the post-match presentation, Shanaka also praised Kamindu Mendis’ cameo, which changed the way their side set a competitive target.

“Well-earned victory. Very happy about the overall performance. The start was a bit of a struggle, but Kusal held it in the end, with Kamindu’s cameo the turning point. He batted like he was on a different wicket. Really happy with his comeback and expect a lot from him in the coming games,” Shanaka said, as quoted by ESPNcricinfo.

Commenting on the wicket, Shanaka added, “I expected the wicket to be flatter with the grass left on the wicket. Initially thought toss would play a crucial part, but it helped us in the second phase – it slowed down a bit. The confidence from the bowling unit, it carries from the last game.”

After losing their match, Ireland captain Paul Stirling reflected on the impact of fielding lapses and spin bowling on the match outcome.

“To be honest, felt they got 15-20 too many. At the start of the day, we would have been happy



chasing it. But you could find 20 runs almost anywhere in the match. When the match was on the line, we were not as clinical. A bit sloppy in the field. Experience taught today. At the end, it was the difference,” Stirling said.

He added, “They defended well at the back end. Spin is going to be a challenge in the competition. It was not coming on as well as we thought it would.”

After winning the Player of the Match, Kamindu Mendis said, “When I went to the middle, wanted to keep my momentum and wanted to score runs and put on a partnership with Kusal Mendis. (On if they were worried during the chase) They played well till 15-16th over. Credit goes to our bowlers. Maheesh and Chameera bowled well.” **-ANI**

T20 WORLD CUP

‘Incredible’: Cricketing fraternity praises Nepal’s effort during clash against England

MUMBAI: Nepal received widespread praise from former cricketers for showcasing resilience following their narrow four-run defeat to England in the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Sunday.

“Huge respect to Nepal. Took on one of the best teams in the world, stayed in the fight till the very last ball and showed what belief and heart can do. This is how teams grow and champions rise. The cricketing world is watching!” Yuvraj Singh wrote in an Instagram story.

Former Indian cricketer Ravichandran Ashwin shared on X, “Incredible from Nepal. They are surely among the best of the emerging cricketing nations. Huge potential and upside.”

“So the finishing touches were missing, but Nepal are clearly on the right path. Great to see them put England under the pump,” tweeted Irfan Pathan.

Dale Steyn also expressed admiration for the team, writing on X, “Nepal, I offer my services to you if you ever need ‘em! Up, up and UP!”

England narrowly defeated Nepal by four runs in a T20 World Cup match full of twists and turns. For Three Lions, Jacob Bethell



and Harry Brook contributed with crucial half-centuries, while Jos Buttler climbed past Mahela Jayawardene to become the third-highest run-scorer in T20 World Cup history.

Nepal’s chase was powered by strong partnerships from Rohit Paudel and Dipendra Singh Airee, but England’s bowlers struck at crucial moments, leaving the underdogs just short of the target.

Batting first, Jacob Bethell and captain Harry Brook’s crucial 71-

run partnership for the fourth wicket helped the Three Lions reach a total of 184. Bethell scored 55 off 34 balls after the left-handed batter fell to the bowling of Dipendra Singh Airee.

Harry Brook completed his half-century, a knock of 53 off 32 balls, before Nandan Yadav got his second wicket of the match by dismissing the English skipper. Jack’s blistering, unbeaten knock of 39 off 18 helped England reach a total of 184. **-ANI**

LA LIGA TITLE RACE

Real Madrid win in Valencia, Betis take Copa revenge in La Liga



MADRID: Second-half goals from left back Alvaro Carreras and Kylian Mbappe gave Real Madrid a 2-0 win away to Valencia on Sunday night, keeping the defending champion one point behind FC Barcelona in the La Liga title race.

Carreras opened the scoring in the 65th minute with an individual effort, riding a pair of weak challenges before finishing. Mbappe sealed the victory in injury time as Madrid, largely subdued before the break, steadily forced Valencia deeper in the second half.

While Madrid stayed on Barcelona’s heels, Valencia slipped closer to the relegation zone in a difficult week that also saw the club eliminated from the Copa del Rey.

Antony scored in the 29th minute as Real Betis avenged its recent Copa del Rey quarterfinal loss to Atletico Madrid with a 1-0 league win at the Metropolitano Stadium.

Betis, beaten 5-0 at home by

Atletico just three days earlier, tightened defensively and was fortunate when a potential second-half equalizer for the hosts was ruled out for offside. Gorka Guruzeta scored twice in the first half as Athletic Club returned to winning ways with a 4-2 home victory over Levante in a match that descended into chaos late on.

Guruzeta headed home in the 29th minute and added a low finish five minutes later after Levante was reduced to 10 men when Alan Maturro was sent off for hauling down Inaki Williams.

Athletic missed chances to extend its lead, and Unai Elgezabal’s overhead kick pulled a goal back for Levante in the 81st minute. Nico Serrano restored a two-goal cushion five minutes later, but Jon Ander Olasagasti struck in the 94th minute to make it 3-2 before Robert Navarro sealed the win in the ninth minute of added time.

Sevilla salvaged a 1-1 draw at



home to Girona thanks to a late goal from Kike Salas and a stoppage-time penalty save by Odysseas Vlachodimos, who denied Cristhian Stuani with the final kick of the match.

Girona had taken the lead in the second minute through Thomas Lemar and was left frustrated after failing to secure all three points

against a Sevilla side that struggled to create chances.

Getafe ended a nine-match winless run with a 2-0 victory away to Alaves. Alaves edged the first half but failed to respond after Luis Vazquez gave Getafe the lead in the 53rd minute, with Mauro Arambarri adding a penalty in the 72nd.

-Xinhua

BACK TO WINNING WAYS

Bayern halt Bundesliga winless streak against Hoffenheim

BERLIN: FC Bayern Munich returned to winning ways with a 5-1 home victory over TSG Hoffenheim that halted a brief wobble and saw the record champion reassert control at the top of the Bundesliga.

After a draw with Hamburg and a surprise defeat to Augsburg, Bayern’s points lead had been trimmed to three points before kick-off. Hoffenheim arrived with five straight wins in the new year and the chance to close the gap.

Bayern started at pace and threatened early through Serge Gnabry and Michael Olise. The match pivoted in the 17th minute when Kevin Akpoguma brought down Luis Diaz in the area and was sent off. Harry Kane converted the resultant penalty to open the scoring.

Despite being reduced to 10 men, Hoffenheim refused to retreat. Manuel Neuer’s misplaced pass gifted Fisnik Asllani an opening, and Andrej Kramaric finished calmly to level in the 35th minute. However, Bayern regained control before the break when Vladimir Coufal fouled Diaz, allowing Kane to strike again from the spot. Deep into stoppage time, Kane then supplied Diaz for a swift third.

After the interval, Bayern controlled possession and limited risk. Oliver Baumann denied Kane with



a sharp save, but Diaz extended the lead on 62 minutes after combination play involving Olise and Kane. Changes followed as Vincent Kompany rotated his side, with Jamal Musiala introduced and Kane later withdrawn.

Hoffenheim continued to play positively, yet chances fell Bayern’s way. Baumann produced further saves to prevent the margin

growing, before Diaz completed his hat-trick late on with a precise finish after a Musiala assist.

The result was Bayern’s first win in three games and restored its six-point lead in the standings. Hoffenheim, beaten for the first time in 2026, missed the opportunity to draw closer after its early momentum was undone by Akpoguma’s dismissal. **-Xinhua**

IN PICTURES



Calligraphy event in celebration of upcoming Spring Festival in Kuala Lumpur

People participate in a calligraphy event in celebration of the upcoming Spring Festival in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Xinhua



Highlight of FIH Hockey Pro League

Players of the Netherlands celebrate a goal during an FIH Hockey Pro League men's match between Spain and the Netherlands in Valencia, Spain. Xinhua



NBA regular season game: Toronto Raptors vs. Indiana Pacers

Ben Sheppard (top) of Indiana Pacers goes for a layup during the 2025-2026 NBA regular season game between Toronto Raptors and Indiana Pacers in Toronto, Canada. Xinhua



A Day with Nature: Early Intervention kids visit Jungle Qurum
Children from the Early Intervention for Children centre spent a joyful and educational day at Jungle Qurum on February 9, taking part in planting activities, a guided jungle tour, and a shared meal.



Daily life in Nuuk, Greenland
This photo shows posters both written "GREENLAND IS NOT FOR SALE!" on a window in Nuuk, Greenland, an autonomous territory of Denmark. Xinhua



Chinese cultural and tourism fair in Amman, Jordan

Jordanians try woodblock prints at a Chinese cultural and tourism fair in Amman, Jordan. Xinhua



Temple fair in Uganda celebrates people-to-people exchanges ahead of Chinese New Year
Ugandan artists perform during a temple fair to launch the China-Uganda Year of People-to-People Exchange and celebrate the upcoming Chinese New Year in Kampala, Uganda. Uganda launched the China-Uganda Year of People-to-People Exchange in the capital, Kampala, during a temple fair held to celebrate the upcoming Chinese New Year, also known as the Spring Festival. Xinhua

ROUND-UP

Toyota Oman unveils ‘Biggest Excitement’ Ramadan campaign

This year’s promotion prioritises exceptional value, starting with the VAT on Us benefit, where the value-added tax is covered by Toyota on behalf of the customer

MUSCAT: Embracing the spirit of giving this holy month of Ramadan, Saud Bahwan Automotive is delighted to announce the return of Toyota’s Biggest Excitement campaign (from February 8 to April 8, 2026).

This year’s promotion prioritises exceptional value, starting with the ‘VAT on Us’ benefit, where the value-added tax is covered by Toyota on behalf of the customer. This is apart from Zero Percent Interest offer for three years, extensive service packages ranging from 5 years / 50,000 kms up to 10 years / 100,000 kms, and one year of free insurance. Additionally, every purchase comes with one year of registration and Thiqah Loyalty Points worth OMR 50. (Terms & Conditions Apply).

“Ramadan is a time for celebration and community. With the ‘VAT on Us’ offer, 0% interest, and the chance to win a Supra GR or one of five Urban Cruisers, we are providing our customers with unmatched value and the thrill of a lifetime. Our goal is to ensure that every Toyota owner enjoys total peace of mind through our extensive service and insurance benefits,” said a representative from Saud Bahwan Automotive.

The campaign highlights Toyota’s diverse and impressive vehicle lineup, which continues to set benchmarks for performance and reliability across the Sultanate.

Since its global debut in 1982, the Toyota Camry has evolved over nine generations to become a true



icon of reliability. The latest model redefines refinement with a striking new look and intelligent hybrid power. Built on the TNGA-K platform, it offers enhanced agility and a choice between a 201 HP 2.5-litre engine or a 226 HP electrified hybrid system, delivering a drive that is both responsive and rewarding.

With its sleek, aerodynamic profile and bold front grille, the Yaris makes a sophisticated impression. Perfect for city maneuvering, it is powered by a 1.5-litre Dual VVT-i engine delivering 104 HP. Paired with a smooth CVT

transmission, the Yaris strikes the perfect balance between sporty energy and exceptional fuel efficiency for daily commutes.

A global symbol of trust, the Corolla continues to raise the bar for sedans. Drivers can choose between the 2.0-litre Dynamic Force engine with 168 HP for a spirited drive, or the 1.6-litre engine for maximum fuel economy. Both options offer the smooth acceleration and enduring reliability that have made the Corolla a household name in Oman.

The Toyota Crown represents the pinnacle of innovation, offer-

ing two powerful hybrid options. The 2.4-litre turbo hybrid delivers a combined 340 HP with All-Wheel Drive, while the 2.5-litre hybrid achieves an impressive fuel efficiency of 21.6 km/l. With multiple driving modes like SPORT+ and ECO, the Crown allows drivers to tailor every journey to their personal style.

Engineered for those who demand strength and elegance, the Fortuner is a true SUV icon. It features two potent petrol options: a 2.7-litre engine for everyday versatility and a 4.0-litre V6 engine producing 235

HP for those who crave off-road exhilaration. Both are paired with a 6-speed automatic transmission, making it the ideal companion for desert dunes or city streets.

Reimagined for the next generation, the Toyota Prado blends rugged off-road capability with refined urban comfort. Built on the cutting-edge GA-F platform, it features Electric Power Steering for effortless handling across all terrains. Whether opting for the 2.4L Turbo Petrol or the 2.8L Turbo Diesel, the Prado remains a trusted partner for Omani families

chasing adventure.

Customers are encouraged to explore the full range of models and take advantage of these seasonal rewards during the campaign period. As a spectacular highlight of the promotion, participants also stand a chance to win the legendary Toyota Supra GR in a Grand Raffle, or one of five brand-new Toyota Urban Cruiser GL SUVs in the Weekly Raffle. This remains a premier opportunity for the public to experience Toyota’s latest innovations while benefiting from exclusive Ramadan value-adds.

STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS



Meethaq hosts special meeting with auto dealers and car showrooms’ partners

MUSCAT: Aiming to enhance relationship with its individual and corporate partners, Meethaq Islamic Banking from Bank Muscat organised a special event for its partnership with auto dealers and car showrooms in Muscat in presence of a number of officials from Meethaq and representatives of these institutions.

On the occasion, Sami Bait Rashid, Assistant General Manager – Meethaq Retail Banking, said: “This event is one of the initiatives undertaken by Meethaq to strengthen partnerships with our valued business partners. Such initiatives create opportunities to explore new horizons for mutual cooperation and reflect Meethaq’s commitment to developing the banking services and facilities offered for individuals and corporates. Ultimately, this will enhance the quality of products offered, promote financial inclusion and provide a wide range of options that meet customers’ needs and aspirations. I

would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation for our automotive partners for their efforts and continuous support.”

Throughout its long journey in the Islamic Banking sector, Meethaq has been keen to establish close relationships with automotive dealers and companies in various governorates of the Sultanate in order to meet customer requirements while working to develop its banking services and facilities. These services were developed based on a detailed study of customer needs, reinforcing Meethaq’s commitment to delivering tailored financial solutions.

During the event, partners were given a briefing on Meethaq Auto Finance product, applicable policies, turnaround time and various campaigns which contribute towards providing world class services to customers and support them in acquiring their dream car. Meethaq customers are eligible for up to 80% financing on their vehicles purchase, with reduced

payments and extended financing tenure of up to 10 years. Customers can benefit from the multiple banking services and quick and flexible procedures to complete the transactions.

As Oman’s leading provider of Sharia-compliant financial services, Meethaq Islamic Banking offers a comprehensive range of products and services. With a network of 32 branches across the Sultanate, Meethaq ensures enhanced accessibility through its dedicated banking network and provides with free access to over 900 ATMs and CDMs under Bank Muscat. Every Meethaq product is created in accordance with the guidelines of the Central Bank of Oman and undergoes Shari’a compliance review and certification by the Shari’a Supervisory Board.

Meethaq has been recognised over the years through numerous local, regional and international accolades, this reflects the bank’s commitment to excellence in Islamic finance.

PROMOTION

Volkswagen Oman celebrates Ramadan with chance to win OMR10,000 in gold

MUSCAT: Volkswagen Oman, represented by Premium Motors, has announced the launch of its exclusive Ramadan 2026 campaign under the theme “A new Ramadan journey starts with Volkswagen.” Designed to offer exceptional value and peace of mind during the holy month, the campaign features competitive starting prices, comprehensive service packages, and a grand prize that promises to make this Ramadan truly memorable.

This year, Volkswagen Oman is adding a glittering touch to the ownership experience. Customers who purchase a new Volkswagen during the campaign period will enter a draw for a chance to win gold worth OMR 10,000. This unique offer reflects the brand’s commitment to celebrating life’s precious moments with its customers.

Unbeatable offers across the range

The Ramadan campaign covers a wide range of models, ensuring there is a Volkswagen for every lifestyle. Customers can drive away in a new vehicle with EMI calculated over 8 years, or take advantage of attractive starting prices. The lineup features the T-Roc starting from OMR 9,955 (EMI OMR 106) and the Jetta starting from OMR 9,995 (EMI OMR 99). The Passat is available from OMR 11,795 (EMI OMR 126), followed by the Tiguan starting from OMR 11,995 (EMI OMR 128).

For those seeking performance and power, the Golf GTI starts from OMR 14,599 (EMI OMR 156), while the Golf R is available from OMR 20,995 (EMI OMR 224). Families requiring more



space can opt for the Teramont, starting from OMR 17,995 (EMI OMR 190), or the flagship Touareg, which starts from OMR 26,499 with an EMI of OMR 282.

Service and warranty bundles

To ensure a worry-free ownership experience, Volkswagen Oman has tailored specific service and warranty bundles for different models. The T-Roc, Jetta, and Passat include 7 years of roadside assistance, a 5-year or 150,000 km warranty, a 3-year or 45,000 km service package, free registration, and a Car Care Bundle.

For the Tiguan, Golf GTI, and Golf R, the offer includes 7 years of roadside assistance, a 3-year unlimited mileage warranty, a 4-year or 60,000 km service package, free registration, and a Car Care Bundle. Meanwhile, the Touareg and Teramont come with 7 years

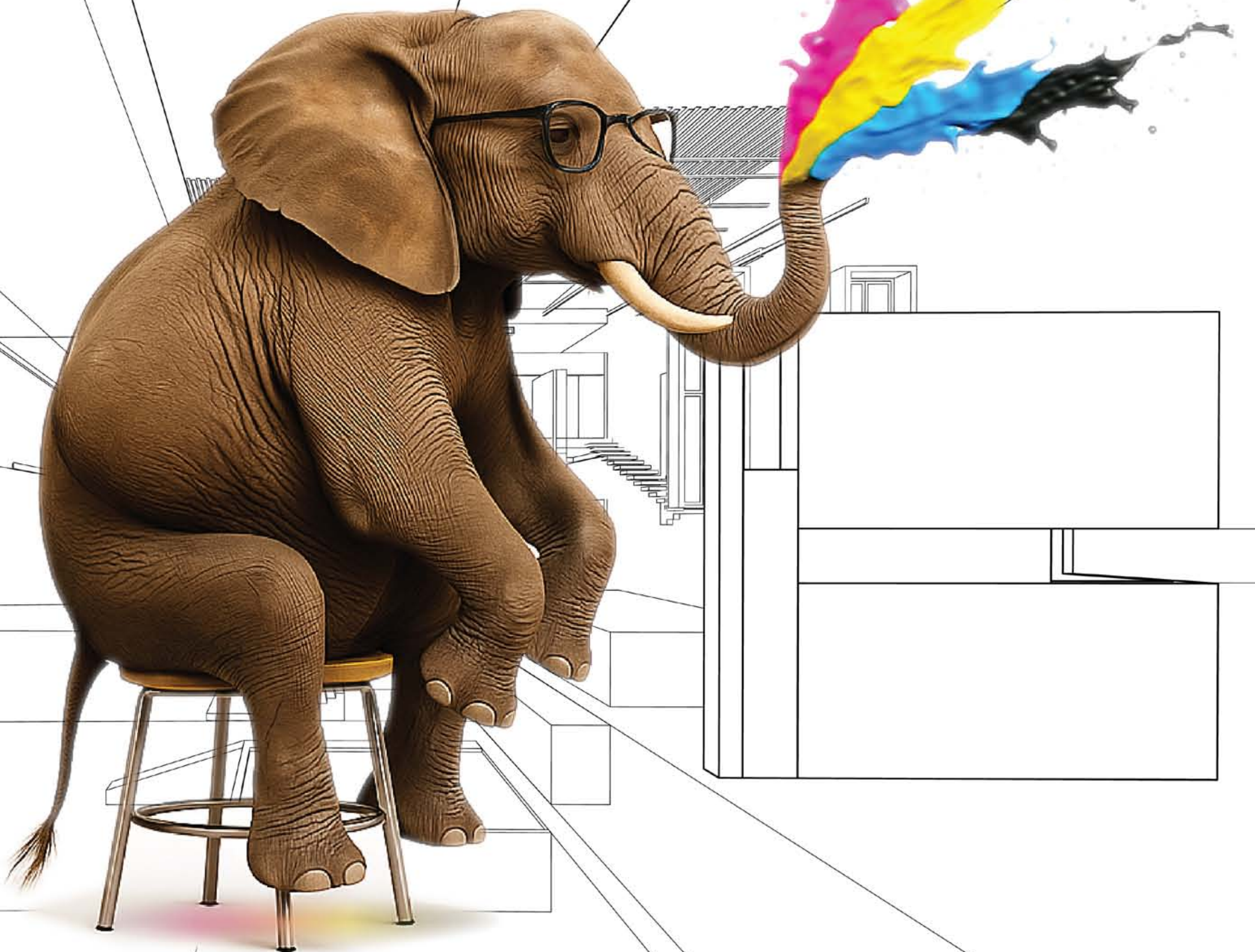
of roadside assistance, a massive 6-year or 1 million km warranty, a 3-year or 45,000 km service package, free registration, and a Car Care Bundle.

The Ramadan offers are valid from February 10 to May 10 on MY 2026 models. Terms and conditions apply, and offers cannot be used in conjunction with other deals.

Muhammad Faisal Nawaz, Strategy Manager at Volkswagen Oman, commented on the occasion saying, Ramadan is a time of new beginnings and gathering with loved ones. With our campaign, we aim to make the journey of owning a German-engineered vehicle more accessible and rewarding than ever.

“By combining flexible payment plans, extensive warranty packages, and the exciting chance to win gold, we are inviting our customers to start their new journey with confidence and joy.”

We make your Business bigger than your problems.



We get you ahead on

- Booth production
- Event conceptualisation
- Event management

Wait, there's more

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