

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has received a cable of thanks from the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia, in reply to His Majesty's condolences cable on the death of Prince Abdulaziz bin Mishal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. His Majesty has also received a similar cable of thanks from Sheikh Mishal Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah, Emir of Kuwait, in reply to His Majesty's condolences cable on the death of Sheikh Fadhil Khalid Al Salman Al Sabah.

— ONA



Set up your employees' accounts on-site with Bank Muscat

Bank Muscat. Better Everyday.
Terms and conditions apply.

HM'S CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE



HM honoured with Arab security medal

TUNIS: The Council of Arab Interior Ministers has awarded His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik the 'Prince Naif Arab Security Medal of Excellent Class', the loftiest Arab security medal.

The medal was conferred on His Majesty the Sultan in appreciation of HM's constructive role in consolidating bonds of fraternity and cooperation among Arab countries and backing peace and stability in the region.

The medal was received by Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior, when he headed the Sultanate of Oman's delegation at the 42nd meeting of the Arab Interior Ministers, held in Tunisia yesterday.

Al Busaidi said in a statement to Oman News Agency (ONA)

that this high-status medal embodies great recognition for the efforts of His Majesty the Sultan in rallying stands to address security challenges, with full wisdom and proactiveness.

He noted that the gesture expresses deep acclaim for His Majesty the Sultan's endeavours to support the national, regional and international security systems.

He added that, "This honour enhances the Sultanate of Oman's pioneering position within the Arab security action," adding that the Sultanate of Oman will continue to back every effort that enhances security integration among Arab brethren and achieves the Arab people's aspirations to live in peace and dignity". **>A6**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN British Parliament team visits Shura

1 A delegation from the British Parliament visited the Shura Council. The visit aims to strengthen bilateral relations between Oman and the UK and boosting cooperation in parliamentary and legislative fields. **>A2**

OMAN NCDs account for 80% of Oman's deaths

2 In Oman, NCDs contribute to 80% of deaths and cost around OMR1 billion annually, representing a significant burden on the national economy. **>A3**

WORLD 18 killed in New Delhi railway stampede



3 At least 18 people were killed and many others injured in a stampede that occurred at New Delhi Railway Station on Saturday night. Meanwhile, an eyewitness, recounted that despite efforts to convince people to avoid gathering, the crowd remained unmanageable. **>A7**

OMAN'S VISION BALANCES GROWTH WITH CONSERVATION: SAYYID BADR



The conference aims to address the challenges facing the Indian Ocean countries

MUSCAT: Deliberations of the 8th edition of the Indian Ocean Conference began at Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre yesterday under the patronage of Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister.

The two-day event is hosted by Oman, represented by the Foreign Ministry, under the theme "Voyage to New Horizons of Maritime Partnership".

Organised by the foreign ministry in collaboration with the India Foundation and supported by the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore, the conference aims to explore the opportunities and address the challenges facing the Indian Ocean countries and enhance regional cooperation in the maritime, economic and security fields.

In his speech at the opening

Oman, India strengthen ties with new book celebrating shared history

MUSCAT: India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and Oman's Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, jointly released a book titled 'Mandvi to Muscat: Indian Community and the Shared History of India and Oman'. The launch took place on the sidelines of the 8th Indian Ocean Conference, held in Muscat.

The book highlights the deep-rooted historic and cultural ties between India and Oman, tracing the journey of the Indian community from Mandvi in Gujarat to Muscat and beyond.



It explores the contributions of the Indian diaspora to Omani society and trade, reinforcing the strong people-to-people connections that have shaped bilateral relations over the years. The book

has been published by Muscat Media Group. Dr. Jaishankar described his meeting with Sayyid Badr as a productive discussion on key areas of cooperation between the two nations. **>A4**

of the conference, Sayyid Badr stressed that the Indian Ocean is not just a body of water, but rather an artery of economic life, a platform for exchange, and a bridge for communication and friendship. He said: "We have a shared responsibility to address issues such as protecting the marine

environment, ensuring freedom of navigation, and enhancing the ability of coastal communities to mitigate climate change. This conference also represents an opportunity to explore the untapped potential of our ocean."

He said that the economic vision of Oman is based on achiev-

ing a balance between economic growth and environmental conservation, especially in the sectors of the blue economy, port infrastructure, and logistics services, expressing his hope that the conference will develop sustainable and beneficial strategies for all. **>A4**

LARGEST AND MOST DIVERSE

Experience Oman Muscat Marathon to kick off on Friday

MUSCAT: Excitement is at an all-time high as the Experience Oman Muscat Marathon 2025 draws closer in partnership with Al Mouj Muscatas the founding partner and host venue.

This year's edition is set to be the largest and most diverse yet. With thousands of runners from across the world gearing up to participate, the marathon continues to cement its reputation as a premier sporting event in Oman, celebrating endurance, community, and the vibrant spirit of running.

Taking place on 21-22 February 2025, this year's event welcomes runners of all levels—whether you're a seasoned athlete or a first-time runner, there's a place for you at the start line.

This year's marathon features an exciting lineup of races catering



to all ages and abilities, including the 42km full marathon, 21km half marathon, 10km race, 5km race,

Kids' Races, and the highly anticipated 2.5km Fun Run. Sponsored by Ooredoo, the

Fun Run offers a vibrant, inclusive experience designed for families, friends, and individuals

of all abilities. This non-competitive event is perfect for those looking to enjoy a light, scenic run through Muscat, with a focus on fun and participation rather than competition.

Azzan Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism for Tourism, emphasized the importance of this event, stating: "We are proud to be the title sponsor of the Muscat Marathon, an event that not only showcases Oman's stunning natural beauty and rich heritage but also aligns with the country's Vision 2040. This marathon offers a wonderful opportunity for visitors and residents alike to celebrate health, wellness, and the enduring spirit of sportsmanship while also highlighting Oman as a rising hub for sports tourism." **- ONA**

TheGuide
A unique experience
theguideoman.com @guideoman

29th MUSCAT

RAM

Najiz Programme to strengthen Oman’s judicial competencies

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Royal Academy of Management (RAM), in collaboration with the Supreme Judicial Council, has launched the Najiz Programme to strengthen Oman’s judicial competencies.

Designed for 59 presidents of primary and appeal courts and aligning with the nation’s strategic vision to further improve and streamline procedures in the judicial system, the new programme aims to enhance judicial leadership and equip court officials with the knowledge and tools required to ensure swift and effective justice.

The Najiz Programme aims to advance efficiency and foster leadership excellence, which will contribute to reinforcing public confidence in the legal framework and enhancing institutional per-



formance within the judiciary system.

Carefully designed to address adaptive leadership skills and managerial competencies deemed essential for court presidents to fulfill their judicial responsibilities, the Najiz Programme will en-

able participants to practice their strategic and creative thinking, decision-making, change management, and stress management skills while enhancing their ability to communicate with various stakeholders.

The programme integrates

global best practices in judicial governance with practical tools to support participants in effectively navigating and responding to the ever-evolving requirements of their sector.

Additionally, the programme serves as a platform for participants to form a leadership community and exchange experiences and insights, benefiting from the expertise of leading specialists in judicial administration.

The knowledge and skills acquired are directly applicable to their professional roles, enhancing both individual and institutional performance.

“The Najiz Programme is a key initiative in the ongoing efforts of the Royal Academy of Management to invest in national talent, this time by strengthening the ability of court presidents to lead, which will further enhance judi-

cial performance. We are committed to providing participants with the most effective tools and methodologies and the opportunity to apply principles of adaptive leadership, empowering them to navigate future changes with confidence.

“The programme fosters strategic thinking, ensures operational sustainability, and adheres to the highest standards of swift and effective justice,” said Khalid Al Shaqsi, Director of Academic Affairs and International Cooperation at the Royal Academy of Management, who currently leads the programme.

The content of the three-day programme consists of more than 15 hours of intensive learning while a cohort format maximises participant engagement and provides participants with a peer network. The curriculum inte-

grates practical applications with interactive discussions, providing participants with real-world scenarios that reflect actual working environments.

This immersive approach strengthens the decision-making abilities and leadership skills of participants, increasing their ability to contribute to the overall efficiency of judicial and administrative operations.

The Royal Academy of Management remains committed to delivering specialised development programmes across various sectors, reinforcing its dedication to empowering leadership in Oman.

Through its unique offers, RAM aims to foster institutional excellence while it aligns its programmes with contemporary requirements and demands, contributing to driving efficiency in public and private sector performance.

UK Parliament delegation visits Shura Council

The visit comes as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen bilateral relations between Oman and the United Kingdom

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Taher Mukhhoat Al-Junaibi, deputy Chairman of the Shura Council, received a delegation from the British Parliament at the Council’s headquarters on Sunday.

The visit comes as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen bilateral relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the United Kingdom and to advance cooperation in parliamentary and legislative domains.

During the meeting, he warmly welcomed the delegation, extending wishes for a pleasant stay while commending the longstanding historical ties between the two friendly nations.

He stressed the importance of continuously reinforcing these



relations at the parliamentary level between the Shura Council and the House of Commons of the United Kingdom.

In turn, the delegation expressed their gratitude for the warm reception, emphasising the significance of enhancing parliamentary cooperation in a manner that serves the interests of both people.

He provided the delegation with an overview of the Shura Council’s journey in the Sultanate of Oman, outlining the Council’s legislative roles and discussing key draft laws currently under consideration.

The meeting was followed by a tour of the Council building, which included a visit to the delibera-

tion chamber—where the delegation was introduced to the established voting procedures during sessions—and a tour of the Oman Council Library.

This visit is part of sustained efforts to strengthen parliamentary and diplomatic relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the United Kingdom. Such engagements facilitate the exchange of parliamentary expertise and experiences, foster mutual understanding on shared issues, and support the development of bilateral relations across various fields.

The meeting was attended by Abdullah Al-Hinai and Ahmed Al-Shahi, members of the Council.

COLLEGE OF ECONOMY AND POLITICAL SCIENCES

SQU to organise conference on digital transformation

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Under the patronage of Dr. Said bin Mohammed Al-Saqri, Minister of Economy, the College of Economics and Political Sciences at SQU, in collaboration with the Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-Up Office, is organising the 3rd International Conference on Business and Economics.

The event will take place at The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort from 17 to 18 February 2025, under the theme “Driving Digital Transformation and Connectivity for Sustainable Growth.”

This conference aims to bridge the gap between academia and industry by fostering collaborative links between scientific research and business. It provides an excellent platform for identifying new research areas, facilitating partnerships, and offering valuable networking opportunities



across various business sectors.

Key discussions will centre on digital transformation and its impact on the economic cycle, the role of emerging technology enterprises in building an innovation-driven economy, the significance of global partnerships in achieving sustainable development, and strategies for economic diversification within Oman Vision 2040.

The conference will bring to-

gether officials, executives, entrepreneurs, economic researchers, and business leaders. The programme will include panel discussions and presentations, featuring real-world case studies on building technology enterprises and their integration into global markets. Around 50 research papers will be presented, addressing key challenges and opportunities in entrepreneurship and the digital economy.

TWO-DAY CONFERENCE

Oncology meet discusses latest development in treatment

MUSCAT: The 15th Muscat International Oncology Conference, which kicked off on Sunday, seeks to discuss the latest developments in the field of oncology research and treatment, in addition to means of enhancing cooperation, knowledge and expertise among oncology specialists.

The two-day conference is organised by Oman Cancer Association in cooperation with the Royal Hospital and Sultan Qaboos Comprehensive Cancer Care and Research Centre.

The conference includes scholarly lectures and workshops covering various topics in the field of treating various types of cancer.



The conference will study the experience of some East Mediterranean countries in the field of decentralisation in cancer treatment. It will look into ways of applying such experiences in Arab societies and how to deal with the high cost of medicines amid rising demand, in addition to treat-

ment strategies for early lung cancer and means of handling complex and rare cases in radiotherapy and urogenital tumours. The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Dr. Said Harib Al Lamki, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health for Health Affairs. -ONA

TOLL FREE
800 71 222
9275 5522

sifr
SODIUM FREE
DRINKING WATER

Enroll Now

© Oman Oasis Official | Oman Oasis | Oman Oasis Water
OASIS WATER COMPANY SAOC
IBWA® | علامة الجودة المائية | Oman Quality Mark

oman
OASIS
BALANCED DRINKING WATER

**IT'S NOT SMART
ENOUGH
TO HELP YOU DRIVE**

**A TIMES OF OMAN
HANDS-FREE
DRIVING INITIATIVE**

**AT THE
HEART
OF THE
CITY**

Dolphin Village
IT'S WHERE YOU BELONG

UNITS AVAILABLE:

APARTMENTS

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

VILLAS

- » 2 BHK (173MSQ)
- » 4 BHK (259MSQ)

FULLY FURNISHED UNITS AVAILABLE
Ready to Move-In

AMENITIES:

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

A RESIDENTIAL RESORT COMMUNITY

Bausher

@dolphinvillageoman, @dolphinvillage_club

www.facebook.com/DolphinVillage/

dolphinvillageomuscat.com

7274 4460 / 9488 6986

ROHM

A night of musical excellence

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Royal Opera House Muscat hosted a spectacular Pipe Organ Concert on 13 February, featuring renowned organist Claudio Astronio.

A virtuoso celebrated for his expertise in sacred and symphonic organ works, Astronio captivated the audience with his impeccable performance, highlighting his unparalleled technique and expressive depth. The programme showcased the outstanding Royal Oman Symphony Orchestra (ROSO). Under the direction of Gianluca Marciano, the orchestra delivered a dynamic and refined performance, demonstrating their versatility across musical genres. Marciano's engaging presence on the podium elevated the experience, guiding both musicians and audience alike through an unforgettable night of music.

Travel Season is here!

Enjoy your holidays

With BankDhofar Ladies Credit Cards

*Terms & Conditions Apply

Scan to learn more

NCDs account for 80% of deaths, cost OMR1bn

The Ministry of Health launched on Sunday the National Survey for Non-Communicable Diseases



MUSCAT: The Ministry of Health (MoH) in collaboration with the World Health Organization, officially launched on Sunday the National Survey for Non-Communicable Diseases and the preparations for the second phase, as well as the training programme for staff involved in the National Health Survey for the second phase at the Mercure Hotel in Muscat.

The launching ceremony was held under the auspices of HH Sayyida Dr. Mona Fahd Al Said, Assistant Vice Chancellor for International Cooperation at Sultan Qaboos University and Chair of the National Committee for the Prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases(NCDs).

Dr. Ahmed Salem Al Mandhari, MoH Undersecretary for Planning and Health Regulation delivered a speech in which he pointed out that the National Health Survey aims to collect accurate data on the prevalence of non-communicable diseases and the associated risk factors in the community, contributing to the enhancement of public health strategies and evidence-based decision-making.

The MOH Undersecretary for Planning and Health Regulation added that non-communicable diseases are among the greatest challenges facing public health.

He said: “In Oman, these diseases contribute to 80% of deaths and cost around OMR1 billion annually, representing a significant burden on the national economy. Every year, more than 6,500 new cases of diabetes are recorded, over 2,000 new cancer cases are diagnosed, one in three individuals suffers from high blood pressure, and 66% of the population are overweight or obese. These indicators highlight a high and growing health burden that impacts the healthy life expectancy of the population, necessitating strengthened efforts in prevention, early detection, and effective treatment.”

Al Mandhari stressed that Oman Vision 2040 places health at the forefront of its priorities in order to build a sustainable health system that promotes prevention and reduces the burden of non-communicable diseases.

He explained that the Sultanate of Oman has strengthened its healthcare system to address the challenges of these diseases through early screening programs for diabetes, high blood pressure, kidney failure, tobacco control strategies, and promoting physical activity and healthy nutrition.

He added that the national survey is a vital step in providing accurate data on the risk factors associated with these diseases. This data will enable policymakers,

researchers, and healthcare professionals to develop effective policies to improve citizens' health and reduce morbidity and mortality rates.

In his turn, Dr. Jan Jabbour, WHO Representative in Oman indicated that the burden of non-communicable diseases in Oman is experiencing a rising trend, presenting a significant challenge to the healthcare system and negatively impacting the health and well-being of the entire community. Therefore, he affirmed, addressing this growing challenge requires a deep and comprehensive understanding of the risk factors contributing to the spread of these diseases within our communities.

He said: “The STEPS survey will focus on key behavioural risk factors, such as tobacco use, physical inactivity, and unhealthy diets, in addition to biological risk factors, including overweight, obesity, high blood pressure, and elevated blood sugar levels. By systematically and accurately collecting this data, a comprehensive understanding of health behaviours and the prevalent health conditions in society could be developed.”

The WHO Representative in Oman emphasized that the importance of this survey lies in the results revealed by the 2017 STEPS survey in Oman, which showed concerning trends in the risk factors for non-communicable dis-

eases. For instance, the prevalence of overweight and obesity (BMI ≥25) reached 66%, with a notable increase from 54% in 2008 to 67% in 2017. Alarming, the rate of obesity (BMI ≥30) reached 35%, with a significant rise among women, where the percentage reached 41%. The results also revealed that 39% of the population suffers from physical inactivity.

He added that these current statistics highlight the urgent need for targeted interventions to promote healthy lifestyles and reduce risk factors associated with non-communicable diseases. The data collected through the national survey will support the design and implementation of evidence-based strategies tailored specifically to national needs.

The first phase of the national survey began on 29 December 2024, focusing on updating household lists in various governorates of Oman in preparation for selecting the random sample of participating households.

The second phase is scheduled to begin next April and will last for three months, during which field data will be collected from the selected households through health questionnaires and clinical measurements, including height and weight, blood pressure, and blood tests to determine sugar and cholesterol levels.

Following the launch ceremony, an intensive five-day training program will be conducted, targeting the participation of 165 field teams from various governorates of Oman.

The training aims to enhance the participants' skills in conducting the survey according to the highest international standards. It will include a practical component, where a pilot study will be conducted on a selected group of households before the actual field survey begins. -ONA



REVIEW: The committee reviewed the plan's current standing, which reflected good progress in its preparation. - ONA

Meeting assesses 11th Five Year Plan preparation

MUSCAT: The Supervisory Committee of the 11th Five-Year Development Plan (2026-2030) yesterday held its 2nd meeting of the year (2025) in Muscat.

The meeting, aimed to follow up and assess the development plan's course of action, was chaired by Dr. Said Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy, Head of the committee.

The committee reviewed the plan's current standing, which reflected good progress in its preparation, thanks to the efforts undertaken by 14 central teams comprising 281 members from 100 government and private entities, civil society institutions and individuals. The teams worked in accordance with a prescheduled timetable covering three basic stages: (1) Analysing the current situation; (2) Identifying the challenges and (3) Devising strategic programmes in line with the goals of Oman Vision 2024.

In its discussion of priorities of the 11th Five Year Plan within the context of Oman Vision 2024, the committee laid emphasis on enhancing the growth of projects that are expected to provide greater added value to the national economy and generate more employment opportunities for Omani citizens

The committee discussed the latest developments in preparing the plan's financial and economic framework, as well as future approaches and practical steps to ensure the compilation of a comprehensive development plan. The committee also stressed the importance of integration among various sectors to ensure realization of sustainable development in line with the goals of Oman Vision 2040. -ONA

SEND US YOUR VIEWS AND COMMENTS

editor@timesofoman.com

webeditor@timesofoman.com

COMMENTARY

Are they faking dementia?

SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

When my cousin told me that our father-in-law exhibits signs of dementia, I said I was not surprised at all considering his very advanced age.

He is 95 and you do not get to live that long without a few hiccups along the way. But it got me thinking. Old age is not just a physical challenge but the biggest hurdle is the thinking process when a person sits on the chair all day long and the only distraction is the television.

As I was writing these lines, my thoughts tried to analyse the routine of my father-in-law whenever I go to visit him. People who have dementia forget the present events but always remember the past. That is the reason why old people talk a lot about their youth. However, there could be another reason that some older people appear forgetful about the present.

They may not want to be reminded about certain people or occasions because the topic is very uncomfortable or even painful for them to talk about. So, they fake dementia by pretending that they do not remember the names or even the subjects. I guess it is a natural protective mechanism for their mental wellbeing. If my theory is right, why do they do that?

They may well want to be left alone with their own thoughts and do want anyone to interfere. They create a formidable mental barrier to keep the rest of us away. In our case, meaning my cousin and I, we are sometimes too intrusive and for him to fake dementia, is a legitimate way to keep us at bay. When you come to think of it, the mental activities, in all of us, are always underestimated.

And again, in my capacity as a non-medical person, neurologists are often too quick to come to a conclusion. They claim that the devastations of old age lead to dementia when they ignore the fact that some older people choose to forget to blank out bad memories. Let's look at it this way. When you wield a knife in front of people, they have the natural tendency either to run away or defend themselves.

I always say that physical violence is no match to mental abuse. Harsh words can lead to mental torture and can lead to intolerable pain. Mind you, harsh words, when they keep ringing in our mind years after they were spoken, can do considerable damage to our health. So, an innocent word spoken now can trigger memories of the past that some of us would rather forget.

This is the reason why I came to a conclusion that at least half of the older people who neurologists diagnosed them as having dementia, are really faking it. You cannot really hold responsible old people for pretending that they don't remember what they ate yesterday when they really do. It is just they don't want to get into the subject.

That does not mean their minds are empty or locked in the past. I am convinced that they use their idle time, while trapped into an armchair, to let their thoughts wander to an imaginary world to keep themselves amused. While all this time, we say they suffer from dementia. I bet they laugh silently when they read the signs in our faces and they say quietly to themselves, "what an idiot for getting it wrong."

1.5L Turbo Engine, 175 hp, 7-Speed DCT, 2WD

SUPER WARRANTY 6 YEARS / UNLIMITED MILEAGE*

*Terms and Conditions Apply

OMR 155*

for 6 years

*Easy Monthly Installment is calculated based on 20% down payment for 6 years loan tenure. Subject to credit approvals from Banks only. Images shown are for illustrative purpose only. Specification may vary as per the model variant. To know more, please visit the CHANGAN AUTO Showroom.

Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment LLC

Showrooms : Qurum 94641010, Mawalah 97888180, Nizwa 96628940
Sohar 95351200, Salalah 96629050, Ibbi 96628930

Sales Centers : Barka 96629010, Sur 96628920

800 50800
9662 8909

www.changanoman.com



TWO-DAY SUMMIT

ICEF Middle East Scholarship and Partnership Summit commences

MUSCAT: The 2nd ICEF Middle East Scholarship and Partnership Summit 2025 began in Muscat on Sunday, with the participation of more than 60 international universities and institutions with leading scientific programmes.

The summit was opened under the patronage of HH Sayyid Dr. Kamil bin Fahd Al Said, Secretary General at the Secretariat General of the Council of Ministers.

The two-day summit aims to explore opportunities for student exchange, scientific and research partnerships, and the challenges of scholarships.

In his speech, Dr. Rahma Ibrahim Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, underscored the importance of the summit in exchanging expertise, developing agreements with regional and international educational institutions, and opening new horizons that include supporting the transformation of the Sultanate of Oman into a knowledge-based economy. The summit reviews important international indicators related to higher education and national capacity building and discusses ways to sustain it, share best practices in the fields of scholarships and training.

It seeks to strengthen relations among the parties concerned with education in the participating countries. The summit includes panel discussions on national, regional and international trends, innovations and future steps, enhancing the cultural influence of international students in shaping global citizens, highlighting the importance of cultural adaptation and learning the languages of host countries such as Arabic, and building cross-cultural relationships.

The 2nd ICEF Middle East Scholarship and Partnership Summit 2025 highlights examples of successful practices from the Sultanate of Oman, the GCC countries and other non-GCC countries.

It focuses on the role of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in promoting innovation and providing internship opportunities for international students. -ONA



tion, underscored the importance of the summit in exchanging expertise, developing agreements with regional and international educational institutions, and opening new horizons that include supporting the transformation of the Sultanate of Oman into a knowledge-based economy. The summit reviews important international indicators related to higher education and national capacity building and discusses ways to sustain it, share best practices in the fields of scholarships and training.

It seeks to strengthen relations among the parties concerned with education in the participating countries. The summit includes panel discussions on national, regional and international trends, innovations and future steps, enhancing the cultural influence of international students in shaping global citizens, highlighting the importance of cultural adaptation and learning the languages of host countries such as Arabic, and building cross-cultural relationships.

The 2nd ICEF Middle East Scholarship and Partnership Summit 2025 highlights examples of successful practices from the Sultanate of Oman, the GCC countries and other non-GCC countries.

It focuses on the role of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in promoting innovation and providing internship opportunities for international students. -ONA

gional and international trends, innovations and future steps, enhancing the cultural influence of international students in shaping global citizens, highlighting the importance of cultural adaptation and learning the languages of host countries such as Arabic, and building cross-cultural relationships.

The 2nd ICEF Middle East Scholarship and Partnership Summit 2025 highlights examples of successful practices from the Sultanate of Oman, the GCC countries and other non-GCC countries.

It focuses on the role of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in promoting innovation and providing internship opportunities for international students. -ONA

‘Social media has become a major factor in shaping communication’

The evolution session is being organised by the Ministry of Information in cooperation with Oman 2040 Vision Implementation Follow-up Unit



MUSCAT: The Ministry of Information on Sunday started an evolution session themed “Towards a National Framework for Dealing with Social Media”.

The session, which lasts until 25 February 2025, is being organised in cooperation with Oman 2040 Vision Implementation Follow-up Unit. The session seeks to address digital challenges involved in raising children, enhance public

awareness about the safe use of social media and achieve the goals of Oman Vision 2040 in building an enlightened society and developing efficient policies and strategies that reflect the needs of the community. The session stems from the Royal speech of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on the responsibility of the family and society towards children's upbringing in an atmosphere of social media.

The session will round up a programme undertaken earlier by the

Ministry of Information to engage academics, researchers, educators, media professionals and specialists in drafting research and studies and to conduct a survey and a poll in cooperation with official bodies. Mohammed bin Said Al Balushi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information, said in a speech at the session that the Royal directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik underscored the need to accord a special attention to the influence of social



media has become a major factor in shaping the communication map in modern societies. He observed that, through social media networks and other applications, one can access the world by pressing a button. “This tremendous transition in methods of human communication has had major implications to the nature of our social relations and it influences the way we interact with our surroundings,” said Al Balushi.

The session saw the screening of a short film featuring Omani citizenship, the national identity and how to locally deal with social media by establishing clear-cut mechanisms for this purpose. The presentation also dealt with the extent to which the efforts of media agencies could help unify and integrate joint action.

Dr. Amal Mohammed Al Nofli, Director General of Electronic Media, Head of the Working Group, said that the Ministry of Information formed a team comprising members from the Ministry of Information and representatives of government departments to study the current situation, explore the reasons for change, identify the challenges and converting them into opportunities to substitute the negative outcomes from the use of social media with positive outcomes.

The team is also entrusted with enlightening families and youth about the best ways to use social media, she added. Dr. Amal explained that the team will take steps to prepare a set of initiatives that will contribute to realizing the strategic objectives of the workshop and achieving optimal interaction among means of social media.

The evolution session discusses strategic approaches by raising awareness among families and youth about the importance of responsible use of social media sites. The workshop envisages the implementation of public awareness campaigns and programmes targeting families and young people.

It also includes programmes to eradicate digital illiteracy, consolidate digital citizenship and ethics and introduce social media education to help inculcate the concepts of digital citizenship and digital ethics through educational curricula designed to enhance positive digital conduct. -ONA

tify the challenges and converting them into opportunities to substitute the negative outcomes from the use of social media with positive outcomes.

The team is also entrusted with enlightening families and youth about the best ways to use social media, she added. Dr. Amal explained that the team will take steps to prepare a set of initiatives that will contribute to realizing the strategic objectives of the workshop and achieving optimal interaction among means of social media.

The evolution session discusses strategic approaches by raising awareness among families and youth about the importance of responsible use of social media sites. The workshop envisages the implementation of public awareness campaigns and programmes targeting families and young people.

It also includes programmes to eradicate digital illiteracy, consolidate digital citizenship and ethics and introduce social media education to help inculcate the concepts of digital citizenship and digital ethics through educational curricula designed to enhance positive digital conduct. -ONA

INDIAN OCEAN

‘Oman believes in promoting dialogue’

<FROM A1 He added that the policy of the Sultanate of Oman is based on pursuing points of convergence, promoting dialogue, respecting pluralism, and avoiding interference in the internal affairs of countries, calling on everyone to adopt an approach based on trust, leading by example, engaging in constructive dialogue, and mutual respect. “Through these principles, we can achieve a deeper understanding of different points of view, maximise the benefit from the experiences of our partners, and build a more stable and prosperous future,” affirmed Sayyid Badr.

He pointed out that the Sultanate of Oman has been a maritime nation for thousands of years, as the ocean was a gateway for trade and cultural exchange for our ancestors, and it remains so today, noting that “The Indian Ocean is a bridge, not a barrier, and the Sultanate of Oman considers all countries as partners, with whom we share common interests and are committed to strengthening a comprehensive partnership in the Indian Ocean, ensuring a fair share for all countries, north and south, in the security and prosperity of this vital region.”

In his turn, Dr. Ram Madhav, President of the India Foundation said that the Indian Ocean is the third largest ocean in the world, covering an area of approximately 74 million cubic meters. The population of the countries bordering the Indian Ocean is approximately 3 billion and are witnessing a major transformation and development in the world, as 70% of trade passes through this region, he added.

In his speech, he explained that the Indian Ocean is the link among different countries, but there are many challenges such as piracy, maritime terrorism, climate challenges, human and commodity trafficking, overfishing. He further noted that there are challenges related to humanitarian affairs such as rising sea levels and rescue efforts, all of which require enhancing cooperation among the countries in order to confront these major challenges and create partnerships and develop cooperation between the various participating countries and organizations.

Meanwhile, Khamis bin Mohammed Al Shamakhi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology for Transport stressed the importance of hosting the 8th Indian Ocean Conference by the Sultanate of Oman due to its distinguished geographical location and the relations it enjoys with the countries bordering the Indian Ocean.

He pointed out in a statement that the conference comes at an important time, especially since the Sultanate of Oman is currently seeking to enhance its role in international organizations in the maritime aspect, noting that there are efforts being exerted between several parties, including the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, to shift to green transportation, green ports and sea lanes.

Within the same context, Dr. Abdullah bin Ali Al Amri, Chairman of the Environment Authority, said in a statement that the conference is very important, especially since the world is heading towards making great efforts to adapt to climate change, reduce its effects, protect the environment and ensure its sustainability, which is in line with the Sultanate of Oman's presidency of the United Nations Environment Assembly.



He added that the conference provides an opportunity to exchange views on the possibility of finding the best ways to achieve environmental targets in the Indian Ocean, which is one of the most important and largest bio-oceans in the world and contains crustaceans, small fish and whales, in addition to long-lived organisms and coral reefs that play an important role in absorbing carbon dioxide.

The conference discusses the opportunities and challenges facing the Indian Ocean countries, with a focus on cooperation in the fields of maritime trade, renewable energy, maritime security and technological innovation.

The first day includes five sessions: the first titled “Journey Towards New Horizons / The Evolution of the Maritime Landscape in the 21st Century”.

Moreover, foreign ministers of 27 countries will deliver speeches during the conference, presenting their countries' visions on common security challenges and ways to enhance maritime partnerships.

Several foreign ministers of the Indian Ocean countries and representatives from 60 countries and international organisations are taking part in the event. -ONA

He added that the conference provides an opportunity to exchange views on the possibility of finding the best ways to achieve environmental targets in the Indian Ocean, which is one of the most important and largest bio-oceans in the world and contains crustaceans, small fish and whales, in addition to long-lived organisms and coral reefs that play an important role in absorbing carbon dioxide.

The conference discusses the opportunities and challenges facing the Indian Ocean countries, with a focus on cooperation in the fields of maritime trade, renewable energy, maritime security and technological innovation.

The first day includes five sessions: the first titled “Journey Towards New Horizons / The Evolution of the Maritime Landscape in the 21st Century”.

Moreover, foreign ministers of 27 countries will deliver speeches during the conference, presenting their countries' visions on common security challenges and ways to enhance maritime partnerships.

Several foreign ministers of the Indian Ocean countries and representatives from 60 countries and international organisations are taking part in the event. -ONA

MEETING PLACE

Green Park and Walkway project in Seeb completed

Times News Service

MUSCAT :The General Directorate of Muscat Municipality has completed the “Green Park and Walkway” project in Maabala South in the Wilayat of Seeb.

The project covers a total area of 3.4 square kilometres and will serve a large segment of society.

Engineer Musa bin Salem Al Saqri, Assistant Director General for Technical Affairs at the General Directorate of Muscat Municipality in Seeb, said that the project aims to provide sustainable services to members of society, and provide a healthy natural outlet that encourages the practice of physical and sports activities.

It will help in improving the health of the population and also serve as a meeting place for families to gather and relax.

Al Saqri added that the project was implemented as a community initiative by one of the private sector companies in the Sultanate of Oman within the framework of partnership and social responsibility between public and private sector institutions under the supervision and follow-up of Muscat Municipality in Seeb.

It is one of the largest parks in the Wilayat of Seeb and its path begins from east of Al Noor Street and ends to the west of the old car market.” Al Saqri explained that the project includes multiple service facilities to serve different segments of society, including people with disabilities, most notably a sports walkway and a bicycle path with a length of (3,400) meters each, pedestrian overpasses, special sites for children's games, physical sports equipment, multi-use sports fields, a site for skateboarding, in addition to a number of rest areas, restaurants, cafes and sites prepared for mobile vehicles.



pervision and follow-up of Muscat Municipality in Seeb.

It is one of the largest parks in the Wilayat of Seeb and its path begins from east of Al Noor Street and ends to the west of the old car market.” Al Saqri explained that the project includes multiple service facilities to serve different segments of society, including people with disabilities, most notably a sports walkway and a bicycle path with a length of (3,400) meters each, pedestrian overpasses, special sites for children's games, physical sports equipment, multi-use sports fields, a site for skateboarding, in addition to a number of rest areas, restaurants, cafes and sites prepared for mobile vehicles.

The green spaces of the project were also created to add an aesthetic character and picturesque views to the place, in addition to providing the park with lighting, noting that the project was designed according to principles that took into account quality and sustainability standards.

It is worth noting that the idea of implementing the project comes with the municipality's vision to provide environments that enhance health and support the strategy of modern cities.

This project is also the result of experiments implemented by the municipality in several locations to benefit from some open sites with good spaces, and can be exploited in an ideal way.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

Official logo of 70th anniversary unveiled

<FROM A1 Sharing his thoughts on social media platform X, he stated: “Delighted to meet FM @badralbusaidi of Oman this morning. Appreciate his personal efforts in successfully hosting the 8th Indian Ocean Conference. Held wide-ranging discussions on our cooperation in trade, investment, and energy security. So glad we could jointly release the logo celebrating the 70th anniversary of our diplomatic relations. Also jointly released a book ‘Mandvi to Muscat: Indian Community and

the Shared History of India and Oman.”

In addition to the book release, the ministers also unveiled the official logo marking the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Oman, celebrating seven decades of strong bilateral cooperation in trade, investment, and energy security.

Dr. Jaishankar, who also addressed the inaugural session of the Indian Ocean Conference, underscored India's commitment to fostering maritime partnerships in the region. He

highlighted India's role in promoting connectivity, ensuring maritime security, and supporting regional stability through various initiatives, including the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC) and partnerships in naval security.

The 8th Indian Ocean Conference, hosted in Muscat, brought together regional leaders and experts to discuss pressing maritime challenges and collaborative solutions for economic and security cooperation in the Indian Ocean region.



HONGQI



ACERE

OUSADO

OMR 90 PER MONTH

7 YEARS SERVICE | WARRANTY |

ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE



Hongqi Oman

80080777

Azaiba

MEETING

Copy of credentials of Bangladesh envoy received



MUSCAT: Khalid Hashil Al Musalhi, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Administrative and Financial Affairs received here on Sunday a copy of credentials of Rear Admiral Khondkar Misbah-ul Azim, appointed-ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Sultanate of Oman.

The Foreign Ministry's Under-secretary welcomed the ambassador, wishing him success in carrying out his duties. The Foreign Ministry's Under-secretary also wished relations between Oman and Bangladesh further progress. -ONA



WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW.

Plastic takes 1,000 years or more to break down





Ministry of Health

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Health invites specialized companies to participate in the following Tenders:

Tender Ref.	Description	Last Date for Collection of Tender Document	Bid Submission Closing Date on/ Before 11:00 am Thursday	Eligibility	Tender Fee (Non-Refundable)
497/2025/MOH/NIZH-1	SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF ELECTRICAL PANELS AT BLOOD BANK IN NIZWA HOSPITAL	02/March/2025	27/March/2025	Specialized Companies registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board	R.O 25.000 Per set R.O 10.000 for SME

- Tenders should be submitted on line on <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> enclose Electronic Bank Guarantee issued by a Local bank for not less than One percent (1%) for the Tender value validity for (90) days from the Tender Submission date, addressed to The Chairman of the Tender Committee.
- Ministry is not bound to accept the lowest tender and reserves the right to accepts or reject any tender.
- For any Clarification, you may contact via Telephone: **24402200** , Email id: etenderhd@ita.gov.om



الباطنة للطاقة

AL BATINAH POWER

AL BATINAH POWER COMPANY SAOG

P.O. Box 39, P.C 103, Bareeq Al Shatti, Sultanate of Oman, albatinahpower.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPORT

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Al Batinah Power Company SAOG (the "Company"), I have the pleasure of presenting the Company's Directors' Report for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Operational Highlights

The plant crossed 4,926 lost time accident-free days since inception, maintaining its excellent track record of zero lost time accidents and zero environmental incidents, which reflects our continued focus on health, safety, security, and environment.

The plant's operation was excellent during the period, achieving a reliability of 99.26%. The plant delivered 4,155 GWh to the grid, translating to a load factor of 64.23% compared to 47.29% for the corresponding period of 2023.

Financial Results

	12-month-2024 RO'000s Audited	12-month-2023 RO'000s Audited	Percentage change
Revenues	78,967	66,332	19.0%
Direct costs	(57,433)	(45,263)	
Gross profit	21,534	21,069	2.2%
Other income	566	477	
General and administrative expenses	(883)	(842)	
Profit before interest and tax	21,217	20,704	2.5%
Finance costs	(4,915)	(6,016)	
Finance income	290	260	
Profit before tax	16,592	14,948	11.0%
Tax	(2,490)	(2,243)	
Net profit for the period	14,102	12,705	11.0%

Higher revenues and direct costs, as compared to the previous year were attributed mainly to a higher plant load factor. The variability of the plant load factor influences the fuel and energy charges received from Nama Power & Water Procurement Company SAOC ("PWP"), however, these charges are passed through to the gas supplier and the O&M service provider hence there is no material impact on the Company's profitability. Higher gross profit was mainly attributed to lower maintenance costs. In addition, the steady reduction in the finance costs positively contributed to higher profit before tax. As a result, the net profit was 11.0% higher than the corresponding period of the previous year.

The share price was 65 Baizas at the end of December 2024.

Corporate Social Responsibility:

Striving to ensure that the Company positively impacts people and the country, the Company allocated an amount of OMR 50,000 for the CSR initiatives for the year 2024 and is undertaking the following CSR activities:

- Contributed 20% of its CSR budget to Oman Charitable Organization as per the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion decision number 205/2021.
- In collaboration with Al Suwadi Power Company SAOG (ASPC), the Company engaged Sohar University to run a Student's Competition between Oman Universities and Colleges on Problem Solving related to Power Plants.
- In collaboration with ASPC, the Company signed a contract with Ministry of Education to sponsor Green Schools Project and Inclusive classrooms Initiative.
- Signed a contract with Ministry of Education to sponsor STEM Oman Program.

- Sponsored interactive Boards initiatives through the Ministry of Education
- Sponsored Educational Planting Project.
- Signed an agreement to install Solar PV project with A/C at waiting stations for taxi drivers and car users.
- Provided health centres with refrigerators for storing vaccines.

Medium term Outlook:

All reasonable measures are taken by the management to maintain high availability and reliability levels. Any change in the power supply and demand landscape in the Sultanate has substantially no impact on the financial performance of the Company since its profitability is mainly derived from its plant availability.

Acknowledgement:

I would like to extend my personal thanks to all personnel associated with the operation of the power plant and the staff of the Company for their hard work and dedication, as well as to those others, such as our contractors, whose expertise has assisted us in achieving these excellent results.

Finally, on behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to extend our deep appreciation and gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq and His Government for their continued support and encouragement to the private sector by creating an environment that allows us to participate effectively in the growth of the Sultanate's economy and to dedicate our achievements to the building of a strong nation.

Muhammad Fawad Akhtar
Chairperson of the Board

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024 RO'000s	2024 USD'000s	2023 RO'000s	2023 USD'000s
ASSETS				
Non-current assets				
Property, plant and equipment	209,182	544,040	216,618	563,379
Right-of-use assets	3,084	8,018	3,292	8,560
Derivative instruments	652	1,696	1,366	3,552
	212,918	553,754	221,276	575,491
Current assets				
Inventories	2,710	7,049	2,548	6,627
Trade and other receivables	7,144	18,580	5,285	13,745
Cash and cash equivalents	4,661	12,123	8,290	21,560
	14,515	37,752	16,123	41,932
TOTAL ASSETS	227,433	591,506	237,399	617,423
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Equity				
Share capital	67,489	175,523	67,489	175,523
Legal reserve	11,540	30,013	10,130	26,345
Retained earnings	50,108	130,322	45,177	117,498
Equity before hedging reserve	129,137	335,858	122,796	319,366
Hedging reserve	(572)	(1,487)	179	466
Total equity	128,565	334,371	122,975	319,832
LIABILITIES				
Non-current liabilities				
Term loans	37,739	98,149	55,169	143,482
Lease liabilities	3,626	9,431	3,755	9,765
Derivative instruments - current	1,325	3,446	1,155	3,004
Deferred tax liability	24,657	64,127	24,772	64,426
Asset retirement obligation	314	816	355	923
End of service benefits	12	32	10	26
	67,673	176,001	85,216	221,626
Current liabilities				
Current tax liabilities	2,472	6,429	2,033	5,288
Trade and other payables	8,802	22,895	8,104	21,078
Lease liabilities - current	147	381	134	348
Short term borrowings	1,990	5,176	1,050	2,731
Term loans - current	17,784	46,253	17,887	46,520
	31,195	81,134	29,208	75,965
Total liabilities	98,868	257,135	114,424	297,591
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	227,433	591,506	237,399	617,423
Net assets per share (Baizas / cents) - adjusted	191.35	497.65	181.95	473.21

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	2023 RO'000s	2023 USD'000s	2022 RO'000s	2022 USD'000s
Revenues	78,967	2,05,376	66,332	1,72,516
Direct costs	(57,433)	(149,370)	(45,263)	(117,718)
GROSS PROFIT	21,534	56,006	21,069	54,798
Other income	566	1,472	477	1,241
General and administrative expenses	(883)	(2,299)	(842)	(2,190)
OPERATING PROFIT	21,217	55,179	20,704	53,849
Finance costs	(4,915)	(12,781)	(6,016)	(15,650)
Finance income	290	754	260	676
PROFIT BEFORE TAX	16,592	43,152	14,948	38,875
Income tax expense	(2,490)	(6,475)	(2,243)	(5,832)
PROFIT FOR THE YEAR	14,102	36,677	12,705	33,043
Earnings per share				
Basic and diluted earnings per share (Baizas / cents)	20.90	54.35	18.83	48.96

Sayyid Badr holds bilateral meetings

The meetings aimed to enhance joint cooperation and discuss issues of common interest. The meetings took place on the sidelines of the 8th Indian Ocean Conference, hosted by Oman

MUNICH: Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, held a series of bilateral meetings on Sunday with a number of his counterparts and officials from countries and regional and international organisations. The meetings aimed to enhance joint cooperation and discuss issues of common interest. The meetings took place on the sidelines of the 8th Indian Ocean Conference, hosted by the Sultanate of Oman. The meetings included Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India, Osman Saleh Mohammed, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Eritrea, Jassim bin Mohammed Al Budaiwi, GCC Secretary General, Hassan Ali Joho, Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs of the Republic of Kenya, Zhai Jun, Special Envoy of the Chinese Government to the Middle East, Dr. Erywan Yusof, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam, Dhananjay Ramful, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and National Trade of the Republic of Mauritius and Youssef Mohamed Ali, Director of the Office of the President of the Union of the Comoros, Acting Minister of Defence. The meetings addressed

ways to enhance bilateral relations and cooperation in various spheres, including the blue economy, trade, energy, tourism and education, in addition to sustainable development and youth empowerment. Investment opportunities and strengthening economic partnerships were also discussed, with emphasis laid on the importance of developing infrastructure and facilitating cooperation between the public and private sectors. The Foreign Minister also discussed with his counterparts the regional and international challenges facing the Indian Ocean region, including maritime security, climate change and joint efforts to enhance regional stability. The meetings underscored the importance of dialogue and diplomacy as a means to enhance cooperation and resolve issues of common interest. During the meetings, Sayyid Badr stressed the Sultanate of Oman's keenness to boost cooperation with various countries and regional and international partners, in a manner that contributes to achieving sustainable development, enhancing stability and opening new horizons for cooperation in a way that serves the common interests of all parties. -ONA



MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Circular issued on awarding government tenders to SMEs



MUSCAT: The Ministry of Finance yesterday issued Financial Circular No. (1/2025) in which it instructed all ministries, units, public authorities and institutions and government companies to commit to awarding government tenders for supplies, implementation of works and provision of services whose value does not

exceed RO 25,000 to small and medium enterprises whose owners have obtained Riyada card. Through this circular, the Ministry of Finance called for coordination with the Follow-up Committee of the National Local Content System regarding the challenges facing the awarding of tenders. It also stressed the

need to follow up with internal audit units in ministries, government units, public authorities and institutions and government companies, to commit to implementing this decision and to take into account the implementation of the provisions and rules stipulated in the relevant systems and laws. -ONA



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

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

EDITORIAL: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24813153, E-mail: editor@timesofoman.com
ADVERTISING: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24812624, E-mail: advertising@timesofoman.com
CIRCULATION: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24818270, E-mail: circulation@timesofoman.com

AWARDS

Honour for HM from Arab Interior Ministers Council



< FROM A1

The ministerial meeting was opened with a speech by the representative of the President of the Tunisian Republic, Khaled Al Nouri, Tunisian Minister of Interior, who welcomed the Arab Ministers of Interior. Al Nouri underlined his country's keenness to support all initiatives aimed to strengthen the bonds of cooperation and Arab action in all fields, notably in the security field. Dr. Mohammed bin Ali Kuman, Secretary-General of the Arab Interior Ministers Council, said in a speech that 2024 saw good progress in security action within the purview of the Arab Interior Ministers Council and its affiliate bodies. He added that the Secretariat General of Arab Interior Ministers Council introduced necessary measures to enhance efforts towards the prevention of drug abuse, to spare our Arab societies the dire consequences of related action.

The ministerial meeting discussed other matters related to enhancing the intactness of joint Arab security cooperation and coordinating security policies among member states to confront current challenges like terrorism and organized crime. The meeting also touched on

means of exchanging expertise in the field of cybersecurity and enhancing security and stability in the region. The meeting discussed the projects of the 11th phased plan of the Arab Strategy to Combat the Illicit Use of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, the 7th phased plan of the Arab Strategy for Civil Protection (Civil Defense) and the draft version of the second phased plan of the Arab Strategy to Confront Cybersecurity Crimes. The meeting was attended by Margarida Blasco, Minister of Interior of the Portuguese Republic. The meeting was attended by Arab Interior Ministers, representatives of the GCC, the Arab Maghreb Union, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Europol. The Omani delegation accompanying the Minister of Interior included Maj.Gen Abdullah bin Ali Al Harthy, Assistant Inspector General of Police and Customs for Operations, Dr. Hilal bin Abdullah Al Sinani, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Republic of Tunisia, and other officials from the Ministry of Interior and the Royal Oman Police. -ONA

GREETINGS OF HIS MAJESTY

Tunisian President receives Interior Minister in Tunis



TUNIS: President Kais Saied of the Tunisian Republic received at the Presidential Palace yesterday Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior. This meeting took place when the Tunisian President received the Arab Interior Ministers, participating in the 42nd session of the Arab Interior Ministers Council.

During the meeting, the minister conveyed greetings and best wishes of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to President Saied and the people of Tunisia. On his turn, President Saied asked the minister to convey his greetings and best wishes to His Majesty the Sultan and the Omani people. The Tunisian President lauded

the effective and important role of the Arab Interior Ministers Council in coordinating security cooperation among Arab countries, wishing the 42nd session success to meet the aspirations of the Arab leaders and peoples. The meeting touched on the efforts made by the Council to maintain the security and safety of Arab countries. -ONA



TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Nama Dhofar Services invites the specialized companies to participate and submit their offers for the below said tenders:

Tender Number	Tender Name	Last Date for Collection of Tender Documents	Time & Last Date for Proposal Submission	Tender Fee (OMR) Including VAT (5%)
DISC/2025/007	Construction of 2 nos 33 kV Feeders from Saih Al Khairat GSS (Grade-B and above)	03-Mar-2025	12-Mar-2025	2625.000
DISC/2025/008	Extension of 2 nos 33 kV Feeders to Farshat Qatbeet PSS. (Grade-B and above)	03-Mar-2025	12-Mar-2025	2625.000
DISC/2025/009	Upgrading the existing Fushi Primary Substation from 1x6MVA to 2x6MVA Capacity, including associated 33kV works (Grade-A)	03-Mar-2025	12-Mar-2025	1575.000
DISC/2025/010	Construction of 33/11kV, 2x10MVA Primary Substation designated as Hasik PSS (Grade-A)	03-Mar-2025	12-Mar-2025	1575.000
DISC/2025/011	EXTENSION OF 33KV FEEDERS FROM FUSHI PSS TO HASIK AREA (Grade-B and above)	03-Mar-2025	12-Mar-2025	2625.000
DISC/2025/012	Construction of 33/11kV, 1x3 MVA Distribution Substation Designated as Sharbathat as Part of the Interlink with the NDS Network. (Grade-B and above)	03-Mar-2025	12-Mar-2025	1575.000

- To purchase the tender document website via the link or the Barcode below:
https://isupplier.nama.om:4443/OA_HTML/OA.jsp?OAFunc=XTEN_TENDER_FLOAT_DISC_F
- Every company wishing to participate in this tender must attach with its bid a bid bond in the form of a bank guarantee from one of the banks operating in the Sultanate of Oman. Any bid that does not contain the bid bond will be disqualified.
- The original bid bond must be submitted in an envelope sealed with red wax and addressed to the chairperson of the minor tender committee and written on outside the Tender name and the Tender number and it should be paced in the tender box in Nama Dhofar Services in Salalah before 03:00 pm of the last day for submitting Bids.
- Bids shall be submitted online through using "isupplier portal". No hard copies are accepted.
- The Tender fees are not refundable. However, Tenderers who are holding "Riyada" card issued from public authority for SME development will be exempted from providing the tender fee and the Bid bond.
- The company is not obliged to accept the lowest or any other bid.
- In the event of receipt of the tender document on behalf of another company, the interested purchasers in the above tender document should provide details of the person's name and the company details.

Israelis continue major offensive against Palestinians in Tulkarm

Israeli occupation forces have taken control of several homes particularly those near Tulkarm refugee camp, turning them into military outposts after forcibly evacuating residents

GAZA: Israeli occupation forces are continuing their offensive in the city of Tulkarm and its refugee camp for the 21st consecutive day, with an intensified assault on Nour Shams camp for the eighth straight day. The attack has been marked by a full siege, increased troop deployment, and widespread destruction.

According to Wafa correspondent, Israeli forces reinforced their presence in the city overnight, deploying additional troops and military vehicles while reconnaissance drones flew at low altitudes. The forces have taken control of several homes in the eastern and northern neighbourhoods, particularly those near Tulkarm refugee camp, turning them into



military outposts after forcibly evacuating residents.

Large contingents of Israeli infantry units have stormed homes in both Tulkarm and Nour Shams refugee camps, particularly in the neighborhoods of Al-Manshiyya, Al-Jami', Al-Joura, Al-Shuhada, and Al-Madaris in Nour Shams camp. The incursions have led to extensive property destruction, forced evacuations, and the displacement of over 15,000 residents from both camps.

Eyewitnesses reported to Wafa that Israeli forces have been using explosives to break into homes in Nour Shams, destroying doors, windows, and furniture. In some cases, residents were used as human shields during raids, while surveillance drones were flown into houses, spreading fear and panic among civilians.

In a particularly distressing incident, Israeli soldiers ransacked

homes they had occupied in the Jabal Al-Nasr neighborhood of Nour Shams camp. Witnesses stated that copies of the Quran were torn apart and thrown to the ground in the home of a resident.

On Saturday night, Israeli forces fired flares over Tulkarm refugee camp, particularly in the Al-Matar neighborhood, while simultaneously carrying out live-fire attacks and searches in the area.

Meanwhile, Israeli bulldozers continued to demolish what remains of the infrastructure in both camps, targeting water, electricity, sewage, and telecommunications networks. The destruction has been accompanied by the sound of heavy gunfire and explosions.

As a result of the ongoing offensive, schools and kindergartens across Tulkarm and its refugee camps have remained closed since the beginning of the assault. Authorities have shifted to online

learning to ensure the safety of students and teachers amid the presence of Israeli occupation forces throughout the city and its surroundings.

Israeli forces detain multiple Palestinians in widespread raids across the occupied West Bank

Israeli occupation forces carried out a series of raids across the West Bank over the last few hours, detaining several Palestinians, including men and a woman. The detentions took place in multiple areas, including Hebron, Ramallah, Bethlehem, and Qalqilya, as part of an ongoing military crackdown on Palestinian communities.

In Hebron, Israeli forces detained seven Palestinians during raids in the towns of Yatta and Halhul. The detentions involved members of the same family in Yatta, while two others were de-



tained in Halhul. The Israeli forces also raided the town of Samu' and several neighborhoods within Hebron city itself. These attacks involved extensive house searches, with Israeli forces reportedly ransacking the homes they entered.

Further north, in the Ramallah area, Israeli forces detained three Palestinians, including a 26-year-old woman, identified as Emar Mohammad al-Ghaliz, from the Jalazon refugee camp. She was detained after Israeli troops raided her family home and caused significant damage to the property. The two men were also detained in the nearby town of Ni'lin during the raids. In the southern part of the West Bank, Israeli forces detained a Palestinian man from the village of Husan, west of Bethlehem. Israeli troops conducted a raid on his home, searching it before taking him into custody.

Additionally, Israeli forces set

up a checkpoint at the entrance to the Ash al-Gharab area, east of Bethlehem, where they stopped vehicles, checked IDs, and disrupted traffic.

Gaza death toll from Israel's deadly aggression surpasses 48,271

The death toll in Gaza has risen to 48,271, the majority being women and children, since the Israeli genocidal war began in October 2023, according to local health authorities. Over the past 48 hours, hospitals in Gaza have received the bodies or remains of six victims after being pulled out from the rubble, the sources confirmed.

According to the same sources, the number of injuries has also climbed to 111,693. Meantime, many victims remain trapped under the rubble, with emergency and civil defence teams unable to reach them. — Wafa

OVER CRYPTO POST

Argentina's Milei faces impeachment threat

BUENOS AIRES: Argentina's President Javier Milei faced criticism and threats of impeachment on Saturday after he made a post on social media promoting a cryptocurrency that quickly tanked in value.

Milei promoted a new cryptocurrency on social media platform X (formerly known as Twitter) which increased in value to \$5 (€4.75) before quickly tanking to below \$1.

Argentina's fintech chamber acknowledged that the case could potentially be a "rug pull" — a scheme where a cryptocurrency's creators quickly generate real investment to pump up the value before dumping their own stake.

"This scandal, which embarrasses us on an international scale, requires us to launch an impeachment request against the president," said opposition lawmaker Leandro Santoro.

Local media reported that Milei posted about a "private project" aimed at "stimulating the growth of the Argentine economy, by financing small businesses and Argentine entrepreneurs."

"The world wants to invest in Argentina. \$LIBRA," the post reportedly said.

The cryptocurrency then increased in value, before tanking. Milei deleted his post a few hours later.

"I was not aware of the details of the project and once I found out, I decided to not continue giving it publicity," he said on X.

Some opposition lawmakers said they would lodge an impeachment request against Milei.

Maximiliano Ferraro, of the center-right Civic Coalition, said Argentina's parliament must create a "special inquiry commission" to "clarify the facts and determine responsibility." — DW

US DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY

Elon Musk-led DOGE cancels \$22mn US funding intended for 'voter turnout in India'

WASHINGTON DC: The US Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), led by Elon Musk has announced cancelling a \$22 million funding intended for "voter turnout in India" on Saturday.

In a post on X, the official DOGE handle listed the number of spendings by the US taxpayer that have been cancelled, including "USD 21M for voter turnout in India."

"US taxpayer dollars were going to be spent on the following items, all of which have been cancelled," the Musk led department announced.

BJP's Amit Malviya took to his X to react to the announcement. "\$21M for voter turnout? This definitely is external interference in India's electoral process. Who gains from this? Not the ruling party for sure!" his post read.

Other funding cancelled by the US department included, USD 10 million for "Mozambique voluntary medical male circumcision."

"USD 486M to the 'Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening,' including



USD 22M for an 'inclusive and participatory political process' in Moldova and USD 21M for voter turnout in India," DOGE said.

A USD 29 million intended for "strengthening the political landscape in Bangladesh" and a USD 39 million for "fiscal federalism" and "biodiversity conservation" in Nepal was also cancelled.

Similarly, USD 1.5 million for "voter confidence" in Liberia, USD 14 million for "social cohesion" in Mali, USD 2.5 million for "inclusive democracies in Southern Africa," and USD 47 million for "improving learning outcomes in Asia" were also cancelled by DOGE.

This comes as DOGE has

continued to outline significant changes in government spending over the last few weeks.

The effort by what the Donald Trump administration calls the Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE, is intended to cut government costs drastically but has sought access to critical computer systems, including the Treasury payment system, at the objection of others in the agencies, as CNN previously reported.

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit he held a meeting with Musk the two discussed strengthening collaboration between entities in India and the US in innovation, space exploration, artificial intelligence, and sustainable development.

PM Modi and Elon Musk also spoke about opportunities to deepen cooperation in emerging technologies, entrepreneurship, and good governance. Musk, who heads the US Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), was accompanied by three of his children. — ANI

RAILWAY STATION

Stampede kills at least 18 people in New Delhi

NEW DELHI: At least 18 people were killed and over 10 were injured in a stampede at a railway station in India's capital, New Delhi, late Saturday as crowds rushed to catch trains to the world's largest religious congregation, the Maha Kumbh Mela.

Delhi's caretaker chief minister Atishi, who uses only one name, was the first official to confirm the death toll. She said the bodies had been taken to the capital's Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narain Hospital in the capital. Mostly women and children

were among the dead.

The incident occurred at about 8pm local time on two platforms as passengers were waiting to board trains to Prayagraj city, a temporary township created for the festival.

Authorities had reported 15 deaths before the revised toll.

"I can confirm 15 deaths at the hospital. They don't have any open injury. Most [likely died from] hypoxia or maybe some blunt injury but that would only be confirmed after an autopsy," Dr Ritu Saxena, deputy medical su-

perintendent of Lok Nayak Hospital in New Delhi told AFP news agency earlier on Sunday.

Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said in a post on social media that he was "extremely pained by the loss of lives due to stampede" at the New Delhi railway station.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that he was "distressed" by the stampede. "I pray that the injured have a speedy recovery. The authorities are assisting all those who have been affected by this stampede," he wrote on X. — DW



سلطنة عُمان

وزارة النقل والاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات

Sultanate of Oman

Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology

إعلان مناقصة

Tender Notice

The Internal Tenders Committee at the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology invites for the Following Tender:

TENDER NUMBER	TENDER NAME	DATE OF PUBLISHING	LAST DATE TO PURCHASE TENDER DOCUMENT	SUBMISSION DATE	COMPANIES WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THIS TENDER	DOCUMENT PRICE
MTCTIT/14/2025	REMAINING WORKS OF EXISTING ASPHALT ROAD ON AL-HAJR/BILAD ALSHAHOOM (WILAYAT IBRI) (AL DAHIRAH GOVERNORATE)	10-2-2025	20-2-2025	3-3-2025	EXPERIENCED COMPANIES AND REGISTERED WITH THE SECRETARIAT GENERAL OF TENDER BOARD (FIRST& SECOND CLASS)	ONE HUNDRED-FIFTY OMANI RIALS AND FIVE HUNDRED BAISA (LOCAL, REGIONAL) (15/-) FIFTEEN OMANI RIAL FOR SME NON-REFUNDABLE

Interested Companies registered with the Secretariat General of Tender Board may obtain Tender documents from the E-Tendering website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> against non-refundable payment as mentioned above for each set of documents. Tenders should be submitted online on given website

CORRESPONDANCE:

1. Tender Inquiry: All correspondence pertaining to the TENDER Inquiry must be online at e-Tendering System. (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>)

2. E-Tendering System Inquiry: All correspondence pertaining to the e-Tendering System technical support must be directed to the following helpdesk email address and phone number:

Tel: +968 24402200

e-mail: etenderhd@gstb.gov.om

INTERNAL TENDERS COMMITTEE

@mtctitoman

www.mtcit.gov.om

SPORTS

Oman climb to second spot in WCL 2 with narrow win over Namibia

Duleep Mendis' men held their nerve to scrape to a two-wicket victory in a low-scoring match at the Oman Cricket Academy ground, securing their second successive triumph in the ongoing tri-series

MUSCAT: Oman avenged their earlier defeat to Namibia in the ongoing ICC Men's Cricket World Cup League (WCL) 2 tri-series with a tense two-wicket victory at the Oman Cricket Academy ground in Al Amerat on Sunday.

The win, secured in a low-scoring contest dominated by spinners, propelled Oman to second place in



the standings with 18 points from 15 matches, trailing leaders USA (20 from 15), while Canada sits third with 16 points from 12 games.

Namibia's decision to bat first backfired as they were left reeling at 19/4 within the first 10 overs. Oman's spinners exploited the conditions brilliantly, with left-arm orthodox bowler Shakeel Ahmed leading the charge once again. Continuing his fine form, he picked up 4/25, adding to his four-wicket haul in the previous game against the USA.

Jay Odedra set the tone early, trapping Zane Green (6) lbw before dismissing JP Kotze (1) soon after.

Shakeel then dismantled the middle order, bowling Jan Frylinck (9) and later returning to clean up tail-ender Jan-Izak de Villiers (1).

Namibia captain Gerhard Erasmus (15 off 43) and Jan Nicol Loftie-Eaton (30 off 54) briefly revived the innings with a 35-run fifth-wicket stand, but Aamir Kaleem (2/16) broke the partnership by dismissing Erasmus. From 54/5, Namibia continued to lose wickets at regular intervals.

Siddharth Bukkapatnam (1/26) and leg-spinner Samay Shrivastava (1/4) ensured that all ten wickets fell to spin, as Namibia were bundled out for just 96 in 33.1 overs.



Chasing a modest 97, Oman started confidently with a 42-run opening partnership between skipper Jatinder Singh (14 off 25 balls) and Aamir Kaleem (21 off 33). The pair looked in control until Erasmus (5/34) broke the stand by removing Kaleem in the 10th over.

Four balls later, Bernard Scholtz (2/31) dismissed Jatinder, triggering a collapse that saw Oman slump from 42/1 to 87/8. Erasmus ran through the middle order with a brilliant spell, trapping Hammad Mirza (4) lbw, and removing Su-fyan Mehmood (0) with Wasim Ali sent back for 10 by Scholtz.

Vinayak Shukla (18 off 19)

played a crucial hand, striking a boundary and a six to ease the pressure before falling to JJ Smit in the 19th over—the only wicket to fall to pace in the match.

With Oman still needing 16 runs, Erasmus struck twice in quick succession, dismissing Shakeel Ahmed (6) and Jay Odedra to leave the hosts on the brink at 87/8. However, Hashir Dafedar (5* off 19) and Siddharth Bukkapatnam (4* off 2) held their nerve, guiding Oman home in 22.4 overs. Dafedar struck a crucial boundary with six needed, and four byes sealed the win for the hosts.

Kaleem was named the player of



the match for his all-round performance.

Oman now take on the USA in the concluding game of the tri-series on Tuesday. A win for Duleep Mendis' men, who defeated the USA by seven wickets last Wednesday, will propel them to the top of the table.

Brief scores: Namibia 96 all out in 33.1 overs (Jan Nicol Loftie-Eaton 30, Gerhard Erasmus 15; Shakeel Ahmed 4/25, Aamir Kaleem 2/16, Jay Odedra 2/24) lost to Oman 100/8 in 22.4 overs (Aamir Kaleem 21, Vinayak Shukla 18; Gerhard Erasmus 5/34, Bernard Scholtz 2/31).

OPENER ON MARCH 22

Eden Gardens to host IPL 2025 final on May 25



MUMBAI: The iconic Eden Gardens in Kolkata is set to stage the IPL 2025 final on May 25, marking the first title clash at the historic venue in a decade.

The stadium, home to defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), will also host the tournament opener on March 22, featuring KKR against Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) in a high-stakes evening clash. Additionally, Qualifier 2 is scheduled to take place in Kolkata on May 23.

Meanwhile, Hyderabad, home to 2024 runners-up Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH), has been chosen to host Qualifier 1 on May 20 and the Eliminator on May 21.

The IPL 2025 season will span 74 matches over 65 days, including 12 double-headers. The second day of the tournament, March 23, will feature a Super Sunday double-header: SRH will take on Rajasthan Royals (RR), followed by a marquee battle between five-time champions Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and Mumbai Indians (MI)—a rivalry that has defined the IPL over the years.

Other key matches include a second showdown between CSK and MI on April 20, when Mumbai hosts Chennai at the Wankhede Stadium.

A total of 13 venues have been listed for the tournament, including the 10 home bases of the franchises and three additional locations: Guwahati (Rajasthan Royals' second home),

Visakhapatnam (Delhi Capitals' second home), Dharamsala (Punjab Kings' second home). Punjab Kings will play three matches in Dharamsala between May 4 and 11, making them the only team with a stretch of three consecutive home games.

The IPL will continue with its two-group format, first introduced in 2022. The groups are as follows:

Group A: Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), Rajasthan Royals, Chennai Super Kings (CSK), Punjab Kings

Group B: Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH), Delhi Capitals, Gujarat Titans, Mumbai Indians (MI), Lucknow Super Giants (LSG)

Each team will play the other four teams in its group twice, one team from the opposite group twice (based on seeding), and the remaining four teams from the opposite group once.

Some teams, including RCB, MI, Punjab, and LSG, will start their campaign with away matches, playing their first home games only in April. RCB, who made a stunning late-season comeback in 2024 to reach the playoffs, will benefit from a strong finish, playing four of their last six league matches at home at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

With high-intensity clashes, strategic scheduling, and the return of the final to Eden Gardens, IPL 2025 promises another thrilling season of cricketing action. - Agencies



PERFORMANCE
REDEFINED
WITH HYBRID
CAPABILITIES...



THE ALL-NEW
LEXUS LX700h

Embark on your next journey with the all-new Lexus LX, now available with hybrid capabilities. Crafted with exceptional luxury standards, the new LX700h is equipped with a sustainable 3.5L V6 Turbocharged engine. Experience thrill and high performance of the 4WD with improved fuel efficiency and reduced carbon emissions. Visit your nearest Saud Bahwan Automotive Showroom today to witness the innovation.

• 3.5L V6 TURBOCHARGED ENGINE • 341 KW HP • FUEL MILEAGE UP TO 10.6KM/L



Saud Bahwan Automotive LLC (Lexus Division)
(ISO 9001:2015 Certified) | C.R. No: 1703412
Muscat: 24578913, 99427102, Al Mawaleh: 92482917
Barka: 93201966, Buraimi: 91298576, Sohar: 99374199
Ibri: 99898249, Nizwa: 91297256, Salalah: 99103579



Oman.Lexus



Lexus Oman



www.lexusoman.com



Lexus Oman

ALIZZ ISLAMIC BANK
Alizz Islamic Bank has announced a special Ramadan offer for auto finance. The offer includes attractive profit rates; no mortgage requirement, no salary transfer requirement, a finance period of up to 10 years.

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER
The MSX index closed at 4,479.03 points, up by 0.02% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.22% at 415.83 points. Al Batinah Power, up 2.94%, was the top gainer while Al Jazeera Services, down 8.90%, was the top loser

Oil prices continue to slide on US policy uncertainty, supply risks

Factors that affected crude oil prices recently included higher inventories in the US, higher Russian crude purchases by Asian buyers prior to the sanctions coming into effect and a strong USD, according to a new report

Times News Service

MUSCAT: After declining for three consecutive weeks, crude oil prices were flattish last week and traded at levels seen towards



the end of last year, prior to the announcement of Russian sanctions, according to a new report.

“The declines reflected fears related to the uncertainty in US policies regarding tariffs as well as news that the US may be initiating talks to enable a peace deal between Russia and Ukraine that could restart crude oil supplies from Russia,” the Kuwait-based

Investment Strategy & Research firm Kamco Invest said in its latest oil market update.

Other factors that affected crude oil prices recently included higher inventories in the US, higher Russian crude purchases by Asian buyers prior to the sanctions coming into effect and a strong USD, the report further said. [On the other hand, factors such as talks of strict-

er sanctions on Iran and the recent attacks on oil facilities in Russia and Ukraine provided temporary support to prices,” it further added.

On the demand side, the Kamco Invest report said, “There were concerns related to the economic impact of the trade wars with the implementation of tariffs and counter measures by the trading partners. In addition, with elevat-

ed inflation levels as seen in last week’s release from the US as well as higher-for-longer rates, oil demand is forecasted to be impacted.”

“According to estimates, the tariff-led trade war could affect world GDP by around 1%. On the other hand, the escalating price of natural gas has once again reignited talks of higher usage of oil for electricity generation. This came after cold weather and fast depleting inventories in Europe pushed the price of natural gas to a two year high last week,” it further added.

Meanwhile, the sanctions imposed by the US on Russia and Iranian crude oil have resulted in a steep increase in crude oil held on sanctioned ship tankers. This has caused an escalation in the cost of tankers that are non-sanctioned. The cost to refiners has increased between \$2 to \$3 per barrel while transport costs have soared to almost three times as compared to pre-sanctions rates. A Reuters report that quoted data from Kpler showed Iranian oil in floating storage reaching the highest in more than a year, estimated at more than 25 million barrels, while Russian crude-on-water increased to a two-month high to reach 88 million barrels at the end of January-2025. Some of these cargoes have since been discharged, some-

what easing the glut on waters, but a decline in Russian exports also helped in this regard.

Reports showed Asian buyers, mainly India and China, accelerating purchases of Russian crude oil during the first two months of the year before the sanctions are in effect.

Buyers in the crude oil market are also switching sellers in order to comply with the sanctions and, as a result, there is expected to be a structural change in the crude oil market. China is expected to buy more US crude oil and LNG to address the trade imbalance in the coming months while India may make up for any tariff-led decline in the coming months. Asian crude oil imports from Angola and Brazil are also forecasted to see a sharp increase in February-2025.

Crude oil prices reached lowest levels since the start of the year and traded around \$74 per barrel last week led by consistent declines. The declines were also reflected in the time spreads, indicating a weakening market. According to Bloomberg, the Brent prompt spread narrowed to its weakest since November-2024 last week, while the equivalent WTI measure also softened to merely 11 cents a barrel in backwardation as compared to a differential of more than \$1 per barrel a month ago.

SEAMLESS BANKING SOLUTIONS



BankDhofar elevates government financial management with Treasury Single Account integration

MUSCAT: BankDhofar, the second-largest bank in Oman by branch network size, continues to lead in financial innovation by leveraging cutting-edge technology to enhance customer experience, empower businesses, and streamline operations. By aligning with key government initiatives, the bank contributes significantly to effective financial management and operational efficiency.

As part of its commitment to providing seamless banking solutions for government entities, BankDhofar has successfully integrated its internal systems with the Ministry of Finance’s Unified Treasury Accounts platform. This sophisticated integration ensures that the bank’s systems operate in perfect synchrony with any government agency—an intricate task that BankDhofar accomplished in under two weeks. Additionally, the Bank has updated its financial infrastructure to align with the Treasury Single Account (TSA) framework, enabling real-time synchronization with government revenue and expenditure accounts.

The Treasury Single Account (TSA) is a pivotal financial management reform spearheaded by the Ministry of Finance to optimize the handling of public finances. By centralizing government cash resources, the TSA enhances efficiency, minimizes idle funds, and provides greater oversight of revenue and expenditure. This unified structure not only reduces banking fees and transaction costs but also strengthens the government’s ability to monitor budget execution and cash flows effectively. The TSA enables the government to con-

solidate cash balances, optimize fund utilization to reduce short-term borrowing costs, improve cash flow forecasting, and enhance transparency by ensuring real-time oversight of budgeted revenue and expenditures.

As a leading financial institution, BankDhofar has ensured that its banking systems remain state-of-the-art while fully integrated with Oman’s financial ecosystem. In compliance with the Ministry of Finance’s Treasury Single Account framework, the Bank now seamlessly processes government payments, reinforcing its role as a key partner in the country’s economic infrastructure.

The year 2024 has been a landmark for BankDhofar, marked by expansion, innovation, and strong financial performance. The Bank now boasts a national network of 131 branches, including Dhofar Islamic branches, further strengthening its presence across the Sultanate. BankDhofar remains at the forefront of digital transformation, being among the first banks in Oman to introduce Apple Pay and Samsung Pay, while also offering wholesale cash deposit machines and EasyBiz, a digital collection and settlement platform. It leads in integrated direct debit operations, allowing businesses to manage transactions seamlessly through digital banking channels.

A significant milestone this year was BankDhofar’s success as the Issue Manager for the Initial Public Offering (IPO) of OQ Basic Industries, marking a first for the Bank. The Bank also closed fiscal 2024 with a 12.5% increase in net profits, reaching OMR 43.6 million compared to OMR 38.7 million in 2023.

REVOLUTIONISING FUEL LOGISTICS

Shell launches Oman’s first-ever state-of-the-art 7.5KL mobile fuel tanker

MUSCAT: In a momentous move that underscores its commitment to safety, efficiency, and operational excellence, Shell Oman Marketing Company (Shell Oman) recently announced the launch of Oman’s first-ever 7.5KL mobile fuel tanker.

Equipped with state-of-the-art safety and operational features, the new tanker is set to redefine fuel transportation—ensuring on-time, in-full deliveries while adhering to the most stringent industry standards.

Commenting on the launch, Said Mohamed Al Rawahi General Manager – Low Carbon Products & Sectors, Shell Oman, said, “Innovation is not just a driving force for us - it is fundamental to how we evolve and lead in a rapidly changing industry. As energy demands rise, our capacity to enhance critical fuel transportation infrastructure becomes more important than ever. This will contribute to improving efficiency whilst ensuring safety and environmental responsibility that are integral to our operations.”

Recognising that safety is a



holistic concept - encompassing both vehicle integrity and human well-being - Shell Oman has integrated advanced features that not only improve driving performance but also actively protect lives. The electronic stability control (ESC) augments vehicle handling by detecting and correcting traction loss, while the Rollover Prevention Device and integrated Electronic Braking System (EBS) ensure superior stability, even in demanding conditions. The tanker is also equipped with a Driver

Fatigue Monitoring System to track real-time performance and identify risky behaviors for timely intervention. Moreover, the Active Fatigue Detection System continuously assesses alertness, issuing real-time alerts to prevent fatigue-related hazards. In addition, both front & side curtains airbags further bolster driver and passenger protection. Fully compliant with OPAL V2 Road Safety Standards, the tanker sets a new benchmark for fuel transportation safety in the Sultanate, reinforcing

industry-wide best practices.

Beyond its robust safety framework, the mobile tanker operates as a fully equipped fuel station. Its Automatic Tank Gauging System provides precise fuel level monitoring, while the Fuel Transaction Record-Keeping Technology increases transparency and accountability through accurate tracking and reporting. Recognizing the importance of environmental responsibility, the tanker also integrates over-spill prevention technology, effectively minimizing risks associated with fuel handling and spillage. Optimising operations, the self-fuel loading & offloading system reduces turnaround time and enriches productivity, while a 15-meter nozzle extends reach for greater accessibility. A high-performance bulk fuel pump enables rapid fuel transfer, ensuring uninterrupted supply for time-sensitive industries. Enhancing operational control, a real-time monitoring screen provides live insights into stock levels and fuel transaction data, empowering operators with greater control and operational intelligence.

COLLABORATION

Takaful Oman and OAB forge strategic partnership to enhance financial services

MUSCAT: Takaful Oman Insurance, a leading provider of insurance solutions, and Oman Arab Bank (OAB), one of Oman’s foremost financial institutions, announced a strategic partnership. This collaboration is set to redefine the financial services landscape by providing customers with enhanced access to innovative, integrated solutions.

This partnership will enable OAB customers to seamlessly access Takaful Oman’s comprehensive suite of insurance products through OAB’s extensive network of branches and advanced digital platforms. The collaboration reflects both the organisations’ commitment to innovation, customer satisfaction, and delivering tailored financial solutions that address the evolving needs of Oman’s diverse market.

Neelmani Bhardwaj, CEO of Takaful Oman Insurance, stated, “This partnership with Oman Arab Bank reflects our shared commit-



ment to serving the community with exceptional financial and insurance solutions. “We aim to provide Oman Arab Bank’s customers with products that align with their values while ensuring peace of

mind and security for their families and businesses. Together, we aim to build a stronger, more inclusive financial ecosystem.”

Juma Al Fulaiti, Deputy Head of Retail Banking in Oman Arab

Bank, commented, “At Oman Arab Bank, we offer comprehensive financial solutions that empower our customers and contribute to Oman’s economic progress. This partnership with Takaful Oman Insurance is a testament to our shared commitment to innovation, quality, and customer-centric services.”

Al Fulaiti further affirmed, “Together, Takaful Oman Insurance and Oman Arab Bank are ready to create a more secure and prosperous future for Oman’s individuals and businesses, cementing their positions as leaders in financial services.”

The partnership is scheduled to commence in the first quarter of 2025, with plans to roll out various insurance products catering to individual and corporate clients. Both organisations are focused on ensuring a seamless and efficient customer experience by leveraging their combined expertise, resources, and capabilities.

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Al Batinah Power, up 2.94%, was the top gainer while, Al Jazeera Services, down 8.90%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,479.03 points, up by 0.02% from previous close. The Sh-ria Index ended down by 0.22% at 415.83 points. Al Batinah Power, up 2.94%, was the top gainer while, Al Jazeera Services, down 8.90%, was the top loser. Shares of Al Batinah Power were the most active in terms of number of shares traded while Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 834 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turn-over of RO1.57 million, with more than 12.6 million shares changing hands. Out of 52 traded securities, 13 advanced, 20 declined, and 19 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for RO 77K while foreign investors were net buyers for RO 64K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 13K worth of shares.. — United Securities

OMAN STOCKS														
MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE														
INDICES														
Index			High			Low			Value		Prev. Value		Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,496.81		4,471.63			4,479.03			4,478.28		7,807.70		0.75	0.02
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,832.15		7,807.70			7,818.84			7,818.84		5,614.49		11.15	0.14
Industry Index	5,606.11		5,567.15			5,583.06			5,583.06		1,666.71		-31.43	-0.56
Services Index	1,671.48		1,656.98			1,662.87			1,662.87		416.75		-0.92	-0.22
MSX Shariah Index	417.58		415.42			415.83			415.83		6,274.02		1.05	0.02
MSX TR INDEX	6,299.98		6,264.70			6,275.07			6,275.07		8,870.35		12.66	0.14
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,898.13		8,870.35			8,883.01			8,883.01		6,477.79		-36.26	-0.56
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,468.11		6,423.17			1,994.23			1,994.23		1,166.89		0.00	0.00
SERVICES TR IDX	2,004.55		1,987.16			1,166.89			1,166.89		12,605,649		1,568,689	834
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,166.89		1,166.89			27,320,577.210			27,320,577.210		13		20	19
Trading Summary														
Volume	12,605,649		1,568,689			834			27,320,577.210		13		20	19
Turnover	1,568,689		834			27,320,577.210			13		20		19	52
Trades	834		27,320,577.210			13			20		19		52	
Market Cap	27,320,577.210		13			20			19		52			
Up	13		20			19			52					
Down	20		19			52								
Equal	19		52											
Sec. Traded	52													
SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16														
ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF. BD.	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BD.	LAST OFF.
REGULAR MARKET														
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	3,908,034	275,212	139	0.069	0.072	0.069	0.070	0.068	0.002	2.941	0.070	0.069	0.070
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	474,984	111,013	53	0.230	0.240	0.230	0.235	0.230	0.005	2.174	0.235	0.235	0.236
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	17,000	1,123	5	0.066	0.067	0.066	0.067	0.066	0.001	1.515	0.067	0.064	0.067
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	1,902,550	132,456	72	0.069	0.071	0.068	0.069	0.068	0.001	1.471	0.069	0.068	0.069
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	24,200	9,922	5	0.410	0.410	0.410	0.410	0.405	0.005	1.225	0.410	0.410	0.410
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	1,013,922	131,127	155	0.129	0.130	0.128	0.130	0.129	0.001	0.775	0.130	0.130	0.130
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	863,425	116,531	10	0.134	0.135	0.134	0.135	0.134	0.001	0.746	0.135	0.133	0.136
OM0000002188	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	7,186	766	5	0.105	0.108	0.102	0.108	0.108	0.000	0.000	0.108	0.102	0.108
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	800	474	1	0.593	0.592	0.593	0.593	0.592	0.000	0.000	0.593	0.593	0.600
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	156	9	1	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.000	0.000	0.060	0.059	0.063
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO.	20,000	1,520	2	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.000	0.000	0.076	0.076	0.077
OM0000002804	ASAPPA FOODS	3,750	1,489	2	0.397	0.397	0.397	0.397	0.397	0.000	0.000	0.397	0.397	0.397
OM0000004769	MADINA TAKAFUL	119,796	10,963	11	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.000	0.000	0.084	0.084	0.085
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	2,826	2,481	5	0.878	0.878	0.878	0.878	0.883	-0.005	-0.566	0.878	0.870	0.878
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	8,112	2,645	2	0.326	0.326	0.326	0.326	0.328	-0.002	-0.610	0.326	0.326	0.326
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	1,365,575	349,300	37	0.257	0.257	0.254	0.254	0.256	-0.002	-0.781	0.254	0.253	0.255
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVESTMENT	46,183	5,902	8	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.121	-0.001	-0.826	0.120	0.120	0.120
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	7,036	2,474	6	0.355	0.355	0.349	0.349	0.352	-0.003	-0.852	0.349	0.349	0.358
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	44,870	9,158	10	0.205	0.205	0.204	0.204	0.206	-0.002	-0.971	0.204	0.198	0.205
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	590,578	51,400	25	0.088	0.088	0.087	0.087	0.088	-0.001	-1.136	0.087	0.087	0.087
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	184,080	68,890	27	0.385	0.385	0.370	0.372	0.380	-0.008	-2.105	0.372	0.372	0.372
OM0000004735	SEMBOORP SALALAH	233,350	21,539	16	0.093	0.093	0.090	0.093	0.096	-0.003	-3.125	0.093	0.090	0.093
Total	22	10,841,713	1,305,597	597										
Parallel Market														
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	50,250	2,463	2	0.049	0.050	0.049	0.050	0.049	0.001	2.041	0.050	0.049	0.049
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	25,000	1,650	1	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.065	0.001	1.538	0.066	0.065	0.069
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	45,000	3,105	2	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.068	0.001	1.471	0.069	0.065	0.074
OM0000009447	OMAN REIT FUND	100	107	1	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.076	0.001	1.316	0.077	0.077	0.080
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	376,383	38,958	19	0.102	0.104	0.102	0.103	0.102	0.001	0.980	0.103	0.103	0.103
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FINANCIAL SERVICES	100	16	1	0.156	0.156	0.156	0.155	0.155	0.001	0.645	0.156	0.140	0.160
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	9,000	2,205	3	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.000	0.245	0.240	0.289	0.100
OM0000002372	OMAN OIL MARKETING	7,000	5,184	2	0.743	0.742	0.740	0.740	0.740	0.000	0.740	0.743	0.740	0.740
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	14,100	4,794	11	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.000	0.000	0.340	0.338	0.340
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	3,000	378	1	0.126	0.126	0.126	0.126	0.126	0.000	0.000	0.126	0.126	0.130
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	2,800	260	1	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.000	0.000	0.093	0.090	0.093
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	1,200	2,298	2	2.625	2.625	2.615	2.615	2.630	-0.015	-0.570	2.615	2.540	2.800
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	422,954	131,510	99	0.312	0.312	0.310	0.310	0.312	-0.002	-0.641	0.310	0.310	0.340
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	4,626	2,563	5	0.555	0.555	0.550	0.550	0.555	-0.005	-0.901	0.550	0.550	0.555
OM0000009908	QUBASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	278,405	27,866	31	0.101	0.101	0.100	0.100	0.101	-0.001	-0.990	0.100	0.100	0.101
OM0000005983	PHOENIX POWER	35,224	2,031	5	0.058	0.058	0.057	0.058	0.059	-0.001	-1.695	0.057	0.058	0.057
OM0000001180	NATIONAL GAS	121,550	9,119	4	0.076	0.076	0.075	0.075	0.077	-0.002	-2.397	0.075	0.073	0.080
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	237,804	17,404	18	0.075	0.075	0.071	0.074	0.076	-0.002	-2.632	0.074	0.072	0.081
OM0000007407	DHOOFAR GENERATING	71,790	4,593	10	0.064	0.064	0.063	0.063	0.065	-0.002	-3.077	0.063	0.059	0.064
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	2,600	195	1	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.078	-0.003	-3.846	0.075	0.074	0.075
OM0000003036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	3,900	294	1	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.133	-0.007	-4.497	0.140	0.138	0.150
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	4,900	845	4	0.172	0.174	0.172	0.174	0.191	-0.017	-8.901	0.174	0.174	0.172
Total	22	1,715,246	258,947	224										

LATEST INNOVATIONS

Genetco and Arçelik Hitachi host dealer convention in Oman



MUSCAT: Genetco and Arçelik Hitachi Home Appliances hosted a prestigious dealer convention at the Intercontinental Hotel, Muscat, bringing together key regional distributors and retail partners. The event served as a platform to showcase the latest innovations in home appliances while reinforcing our

strong partnerships with our partners in the Omani market. The convention was attended by our authorized retailers, along with senior executives from both organizations. Representing Genetco LLC were Chairman Muratadha Hassan Ali, Dr. Muthanna Al DurrahCEO & Board Advisor, Dr. AmbujKhare, COO , and Prod-

uct Manager Satheesh Chandran. From Arçelik Hitachi Middle East, the event was attended by Atsushi Yamanaka, Managing Director; Mohamed Farjad, Director – Sales; Ahmed Rashwan, Director – Product & Marketing; and Mohammed Masood, Sales Manager. Dr. Muthanna stated in his presentation that Genetco after 54

years of its operations in Oman positioned itself as the market leader in home appliances and electronics The event featured insightful presentations on Hitachi's latest product lineup, emphasizing advancements in energy efficiency, smart home integration, and cutting-edge technology. Attendees engaged in live prod-

uct demonstrations and discussions focused on market strategies to enhance customer experience and business growth. This gathering reinforced Hitachi's dedication to providing innovative, high-performance home appliances designed to meet the demands of consumers in Oman and across the Middle East.

Elevate Your Business and Events with Us!

EVENT MANAGEMENT

- Corporate Events
- Weddings & Celebrations
- Product Launches
- and more

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

- Custom Website Design
- E-commerce Solutions
- User-Friendly Interfaces

SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLING

- Strategy & Campaign Management
- Creative Content Creation
- Analytics & Performance Insights
- 24/7 Online Presence

BRANDING

- Logo & Visual Identity Design
- Marketing Collaterals
- Brand Strategy Development
- Consistent Brand Messaging

The New 4th Dimension LLC
Po Box 86, Postal code 115
Sultanate of Oman

+968 92839679 +968 99321290

ATTRACTIVE

Alizz Islamic bank launches Ramadan auto finance campaign

MUSCAT: Alizz Islamic Bank has announced a special Ramadan offer for auto finance. The offer includes attractive profit rates; no mortgage requirement, no salary transfer requirement, a finance period of up to 10 years and customers making their first payment after 2 months of purchasing new or used cars during the campaign period. The offer is available to all retail banking customers – Omanis and residents - from the public sector, semi-governmental or private sector. It is also available for customers who would like to avail the auto finance offer via post-dated cheques (PDCs) without the need to transfer their sal-

ary. The customer will make their first installment after 2 months where terms and conditions apply. This also includes the bank's waiver on all processing fees for any eco-friendly auto finance deal for an electric car or a hybrid car. **Smart branch** In line with Alizz Islamic Bank's dedication to providing customers with a seamless experience the bank's smart branch in Wilayat Baushar will be open to serve customers from 8am until 10pm enabling them to finalise their auto finance requirements at their convenience. Commenting on the launch of the Ramadan campaign, Saif Al

Yahyai, Acting Chief Retail Banking Officer at Alizz Islamic Bank, said: "The Alizz Islamic Bank Ramadan Auto Finance offering reflects the bank's commitment towards the diverse needs of our customers. We continuously strive to understand the market and cater to our customers' requirements. Accordingly, we enhance our value propositions and develop our offers, services and products based on a comprehensive approach to ensure we meet our customer's experience. We believe that the variety of attractive offerings in our Ramadan campaign will enable our customers to fulfill their aspirations of owning a car through our bank.

PROMOTION

Mercedes-Benz Oman introduces exclusive Ramadan offers

MUSCAT: In celebration of the holy month of Ramadan, Mercedes-Benz Oman invites customers to experience unmatched comfort and luxury and



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

CONNECT

PRINT EDITION

WWW.TIMESOFOMAN.COM
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2025

PLACE YOUR ADVT HERE

Email to classifieds @ timesofoman.com



RENT

CARGO

VACANCY

RENT OR SALE?

PLACE YOUR ADVT HERE

Email: classifieds@timesofoman.com

REEFER / ISO DRY CONTAINER SALES, MODIFICATIONS & RENTALS

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

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



For High Impact Professional

WEBSITES GULFCYBERTECH E-Solutions

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

Oman Web Award Winner

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

WJ Towell Group Company



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

Quality car rentals at competitive prices.

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

أوربیت ORBIT
Car Rental & Lease

JOB WANTED

STORE MANAGER
Seeking job as a **STORE MANAGER** (retail) **FASHION & FMCG.**
Experienced in store operations, inventory management and business growth at Raymond Lifestyle. Ready to contribute skills to a dynamic team.
Contact: +968 7967560 WA +91 8055514441

FINANCE
Indian, MBA, Finance with 20 yrs experience in business with complete knowledge in Finance, VAT, Credit Control, Admin, HR, Warehouse with SAP knowledge & D/L.
Contact: 78031718

JOB VACANCY

JOB VACANCY

A Reputed Company dealing in Fire Protection hiring:

SALES & PROJECT ENGINEERS

- Graduate in Mechanical or Electrical Engineering
- Experience in fire detection, firefighting or MEP
- Oman driving license

TECHNICIAN - Fire extinguishing cylinder filling

- ITI or relevant qualification
- Experience in refilling of Fire extinguishers, Novec, FM200 cylinders

Email: reliant@reliantoman.com

SERVICE

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

100% Professional & Competitive rate!!!

Anti Termite, Cockroaches, Bed Bugs, Ants, Rodent, On monthly, yearly or one time service.
All We use quality products which approved by oman ministry.
Harmless & Odourless
CALL US: 91 45 22 33
Email: albasheqgrey@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

OMANI HSE ENGINEER
Approved Omani HSE Engineer 7+ yrs (Approved, PTW holder, OPAL valid license, IOSH, NEBOSH IGC & other required courses).
Contact: +968 79975864

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

PROJECT LEAD
Female, well-versed in **Project Administration** with 13 years of proven experience in training, recruitment, administration, finance, and secretarial support.
As an **Executive MBA** holder, I can contribute effectively to your organizational goals and looking forward to an interview call and the opportunity.
Contact: 98260708 meena.v24@gmail.com

URGENTLY REQUIRED

Experienced **CHEF/COOK** (Arabic & Indian Dishes) for a reputed family in Muscat.
Contact: 99735820



RENT OR SALE?

Send email to: classifieds@timesofoman.com

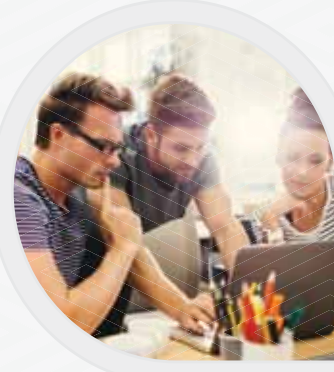
Services of Carpet Shampoo, marble & tile polishing, pest control & Anti-termite treatment, General cleaning painting, Plumbing, Electrical, shifting. Glow Services Trading LLC
Contact: 24810137, 99450130

Pest control
Contact: 92326955
Gulfa International LLC.

SEARCHING JOB ?

Send email to: classifieds@ timesofoman.com

Let Your Brand Grow
with our Creative Services



LOGO DESIGN
CREATIVE CAMPAIGNS
BRANDINGS
PACKAGING
PRINT COLLATERALS

NEXUS NOVEL
ADVERTISING

99440826
digital@nexusnovel.com

RENT

RENT

OFFICE CUM WAREHOUSES & STORES WITH OPEN YARD FOR RENTAL (KARSHA, NIZWA)
Office in a double story building, warehouses, stores and open yard around 7000 square meter area in Karsha Industrial area, Nizwa for **partial or whole area rental.**
This is the prime corner location facing two-sided industrial area roads with ample parking facility. This is suitable for showroom cum service centers and office cum warehouses and stores.
Contact: +968 99345407, +968 99642563



CARGO AND LOGISTIC

PROMOTE YOUR SERVICE WITH US

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

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

CONNECT

JOB VACANCY

ADMINISTRATION

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

BEAUTY/HEALTH

Urgently wanted experienced Indian, Nepali beautician for the reputed ladies beauty center at Qurum, Muscat Contact: 99791572/97453246 Email:diasdivya@gmail.com

DESIGNER/ AUTOCAD DRAUGHTMAN

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

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Accountant with 5 yrs expertise in accounts payable, receivables, financial reporting, VAT, payroll, and bank & cash reconciliation. Actively looking for new opportunities. Contact: 79791746 Email:IbrahimSaw52@gmail.com

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A skilled professional MBA (Finance & marketing) with more than 2 yrs experience in India seeks suitable accountant or sales positions. Contact: +91 6238349738 (WA), Email: thaaha2255@gmail.com

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

Indian, male, Accountant, M.com (finance), 12 yrs experience in India seeks suitable accountant or sales positions. Contact: 99859141

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

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

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

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

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

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

Indian male with 4+ yrs exp. in Oman, worked as Accounts & admin executive Bachelor Degree in Management (BBA) with valid D/L, ready to join immediately. Contact: 93536020, Email: naseemt24@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATION

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

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

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

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

ARCHITECT

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

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

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

DRIVER

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

Looking for driving job have car. Contact: 98586920

Looking for driving job. Contact: +968 99532361

JOB WANTED

DRIVER

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

EDUCATION/TRAINING

Indian, male, M.Sc chemistry with M.Phil having 11 yrs experience various field as Indian oil & gas analytical chemist(5) yrs & professor in college 6+yrs looking for suitable post (practical with teaching skills), Contact 76403993, Email rajafchemist@gmail.com

Msc Chemistry graduate, Indian female, looking for jobs in Oman. Preferably in Sohar. Contact: 77198123, Email: deenafrancis75@gmail.com,

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

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

ENGINEER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ENGINEER

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

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

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

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

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

IT

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

LOGISTIC

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

Indian, female, MBA in HR & finance, Diploma in logistics & supply chain management with 6mths exp as CS,1 mth internship in logistics,looking for job.Contact 98233405,Email-nivyakraj123@gmail.com

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

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

MANAGER

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

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

MECHANICAL/ TECHNICAL

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

MEDICAL

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

PROCUREMENT/ PURCHASE

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

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

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

SALES/MARKETING

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

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

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

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

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

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

Find Job

Send email to:
classifieds@timesofoman.com



PLACE YOUR
ADVT HERE

RENT OR SALE?

Send email to [classifieds@ timesofoman.com](mailto:classifieds@timesofoman.com)



LIFESTYLE

STUDY
OFFERS
NEW HOPE
AGAINST

CHRONIC
PAIN
FOR DIALYSIS
PATIENTS

A new study finds that offering these patients pain coping skills training (PCST) significantly reduced their suffering and improved their quality of life

People receiving haemodialysis for kidney failure frequently feel chronic pain associated with their disease, which can be difficult to manage with opioid medication and other traditional treatments.

A new study finds that offering these patients pain coping skills training (PCST) significantly reduced their suffering and improved their quality of life.

Twenty-two New Mexicans - many of them Native American - participated in UNM's arm of the study, said Mark Unruh, MD, Chair, UNM Department of Internal Medicine.

"This is particularly important for these patients since the therapeutic choices for pain management are limited and the use of opioids has been

shown to be associated with poor outcomes in this group."

The randomised controlled study enrolled 643 participants from 16 medical centers and 103 dialysis clinics in The HOPE Consortium, an ongoing multi-site study exploring new treatments for dialysis patients.

"New Mexico played a large role in the trial," he said. "We served as the primary outcomes measurement core and New Mexico had a supplement to recruit from rural clinics with a focus on our underrepresented populations."

Multiple factors likely contribute to dialysis-related pain. Patients tend to be older and living with arthritis, diabetes, peripheral neuropathy and back pain, he said.

"Dialysis by itself may contrib-

ute, either directly or indirectly, like having uremic toxins in your bloodstream," Unruh said. "The process of going to dialysis and having a needle stuck in your arm may be challenging for some people to deal with."

Doctors face challenges in treating dialysis-related pain because patients have kidney failure. "We are kind of loathe to use nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory agents, and in general we avoid opioids," he said. "Certain opioids are better than others, but a lot of them are cleared in part from the kidneys. You kind of have your hands tied."

Half of the study participants were randomly assigned to receive the PCST intervention, while the other was assigned to receive usual care.

The PCST consisted of 45-minute coaching sessions by counselors delivered via phone or video for 12 weeks, followed by an additional 12 weeks of daily automated interactive voice response sessions to monitor the participants' progress.

The content included modules addressing pain-related anxiety, stress and sleep difficulties along with CBT, mindfulness, pain education, experiential training, with the overarching goal of enhancing self-efficacy for applying the acquired coping skills.

"It's like a recipe with 12 components," Unruh said. "You talk about strategies, and focus on reframing and limiting catastrophising. You'll do some mindfulness meditation, and then you'll talk about addressing,

anxiety and depression and strategies to prevent backsliding."

The study found that patients who underwent the PCST intervention showed modest improvements in the extent to which pain interfered with their daily activities, he said. "The relevance would be that, if I'm seeing someone in a clinic who has chronic pain, rather than prescribing an opioid, I could refer them to a psychologist who practices CBT, and they could kind of adopt it."

The study is an example of how research can lead to improvements in clinical care, Unruh said. "It is great to see these results in press and offer alternatives other than opioids to our patients on dialysis for treatment of chronic pain." - **ANI**

SPORTS

Marmoush magic: Egyptian nets hat-trick as City rout Newcastle

A quickfire treble from the striker lifts Pep Guardiola's side to fourth place in Premier League

LONDON: Omar Marmoush introduced himself as Manchester City's latest sensation with a scintillating 14-minute hat-trick against Newcastle, propelling Pep Guardiola's side to a commanding 4-0 win at the Etihad Stadium on Saturday and lifting them to fourth in the Premier League.

Marmoush, who joined City for £59 million from Eintracht Frankfurt last month, ended his goal drought in emphatic fashion after four matches without a breakthrough. In just 13 minutes and 54 seconds, the Egyptian forward went from a promising new recruit to a roaring Etihad hero.

The scoring spree began when Marmoush capitalised on Kieran Trippier's failure to read a long ball from City goalkeeper Ederson. Marmoush seized the opportunity, coolly slotting home to break the deadlock.

His second goal showcased his technical finesse, as he applied a precise finish to Ilkay Gundogan's defence-splitting pass into the penalty area.

Marmoush completed his treble in style, sweeping home from 10 yards after a fluid City attack.



This blistering hat-trick ranks as the fourth-quickest in Manchester City's Premier League history, with Sergio Aguero's nine-minute treble in 2015 still holding the record.

Following Marmoush's first-half fireworks, substitute James McAtee added the finishing touch with City's fourth goal in the 84th minute, connecting with a flick-on from stand-in skipper Erling Haaland.

Even with defensive stalwarts Manuel Akanji, Ruben Dias, and Nathan Ake missing, City delivered a performance reminiscent of their title-winning form, offering the perfect warm-up ahead of their high-stakes Champions League showdown with Real Madrid on Wednesday.

However, Guardiola will be hop-

ing the knock that forced Haaland off four minutes from time proves minor, with the Norwegian striker walking straight down the tunnel.

For Newcastle, the Etihad Stadium remains a fortress they cannot breach. The Magpies have now lost 16 successive matches at the ground and failed to score on their past six visits.

Bassey heads Cottagers to victory

At Craven Cottage, Calvin Bassey's first goal of the season gave Fulham a deserved 2-1 victory over third-placed Nottingham Forest, marking their first Premier League home win of 2025.

The hosts struck early, with Adama Traore's creative brilliance setting up Emile Smith Rowe in

the 15th minute. Traore, instead of hitting the byline, cut inside on his left foot and delivered an inch-perfect cross to the back post, where Smith Rowe rose above Morato and Ola Aina to head Fulham into the lead.

Forest found an equaliser eight minutes before half-time through Chris Wood, whose intelligent forward play saw him chase a Morgan Gibbs-White pass, turn smartly, and curl a low effort into the corner, deflecting off Bassey.

But Fulham dominated the second half, with Raul Jimenez and the influential Traore both going close before Bassey restored their lead in the 62nd minute.

Jimenez flicked on an outswinging corner, and Bassey out-jumped Aina to head back across goal, beating Matz Sels and sending the



home crowd into raptures.

Fulham climbed to eighth in the table, five points behind fourth-placed Manchester City, while Forest are now just three points above Pep Guardiola's side.

Cherries leapfrog Newcastle with clinical win

At St. Mary's Stadium, Bournemouth claimed a 3-1 victory over Southampton, with goals from Dango Ouattara, Ryan Christie, and Marcus Tavernier moving them up to fifth in the Premier League standings.

Andoni Iraola's side asserted early control, scoring twice in the first half. Ryan Christie's cross was nodded in by Ouattara, who has emerged as a reliable goal threat in the absence of injured duo Evanilson and Enes Unal. Christie then

doubled the advantage with a precise strike from the edge of the box after Southampton gifted possession away.

Kamaldeen Sulemana offered the Saints a glimmer of hope in the 72nd minute, finishing low to make it 2-1, but Tavernier sealed the win with a clinical counter-attack goal.

Despite Southampton's late surge, they lacked the cutting edge to truly test the Bournemouth defense and were ultimately undone by Tavernier's finish on the break.

With the win, Bournemouth leapfrogged both Newcastle and Chelsea in the table, while Southampton remain rooted to the foot of the standings, 10 points from safety and in desperate need of a turnaround. - Agencies

SPANISH LA LIGA

Bellingham sees red as Real stumble at Osasuna

Madrid: Jude Bellingham's controversial red card proved costly as Real Madrid squandered a chance to extend their lead at the top of La Liga, settling for a frustrating 1-1 draw against Osasuna on Saturday.

The England midfielder, fresh off his Champions League heroics against Manchester City, was sent off in the 39th minute for alleged foul and abusive language toward referee Jose Luis Munuera Montero. The dismissal left Real playing with 10 men for over half the match, allowing Osasuna to claw back into the contest.

It was France forward Kylian Mbappé who initially put Real ahead, clinically finishing Federico Valverde's pinpoint cross to net his 17th league goal of the season. However, Osasuna found a way back after Eduardo Camavinga was penalized for a challenge on Ante Budimir inside the box. The Croatian striker calmly converted from the spot in the 58th minute to level the score.

Bellingham, who had only been sent off once before in a Real Madrid shirt - after the final whistle in a dramatic 2-2 draw at Valencia in March 2024 - was adamant that his words were misinterpreted.

"It's difficult when a referee isn't sure, to determine that I've said



something that I haven't, and as a result, it kind of hinders the team," Bellingham said post-match. "I think you can see clearly in the video... It was an expression to myself. I'm not even directing myself towards the referee, but obviously, there was a misunderstanding."

Real manager Carlo Ancelotti also defended his star midfielder, suggesting the referee had overreacted.

"I think with Bellingham's red card, the referee didn't understand the English well. I don't think it's something offensive," Ancelotti remarked. "The red card came out because the referee was nervous. Bellingham did nothing today to be sent off, absolutely nothing."

Despite their numerical disadvantage, Real continued to press for a winner. Mbappé squandered a golden opportunity to set up Vinicius Jr., while the Brazilian himself saw a goal-bound effort cleared off the line by Alejandro Catena. Luka Modric also had a late chance but failed to keep his volley on target.

The result leaves Real Madrid vulnerable at the summit of La Liga. Atletico Madrid, ay two points behind, after they drew 1-1 against Celta Vigo later on Saturday. Meanwhile, Barcelona, under Hansi Flick, could leapfrog Los Blancos on goal difference if they triumph against Rayo Vallecano on Monday night. - Agencies

Kiplimo runs sub-57 to shatter half marathon record

BARCELONA: Uganda's Jacob Kiplimo became the first person to run a half marathon below 57 minutes as he shattered the world record by 48 seconds in Barcelona.

The 24-year-old ran 56 minutes and 42 seconds to eclipse Ethiopian Yomif Kejelcha's previous world record of 57:30 set in Valencia in October.

Kiplimo's time is the best single improvement on the men's world half-marathon record.

"I am very excited about



what I did today," said the former 10,000m Olympic and World Championships bronze medallist.

"I wanted to have a great race, but I didn't expect to break the world record.

"I started very strong in the first two kilometres to get away from my rivals. As the kilometres passed and I saw that I was going at record pace, I told myself that I had to maintain that pace no matter what it took."

He also set a world best of 39:47 for 15km during the World Athletics event, which was held in perfect conditions of 13°C with no wind.

Kiplimo's compatriot Geoffrey Kamworor finished second (58:44) ahead of Kenya's Samuel Mailu (59:40). - Agencies

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

Bayern hold Leverkusen to keep eight-point lead

MUNICH: Bayern Munich held firm at the top of the Bundesliga with a hard-fought goalless draw against Bayer Leverkusen at the BayArena on Saturday, maintaining their eight-point lead in the title race.

Leverkusen, who ended Bayern's 11-year dominance by lifting the Meisterschale last season, dominated possession and created the better chances.

However, Xabi Alonso's side failed to break down a resilient Bayern defense led by goalkeeper Manuel Neuer.

The hosts came closest in the



first half when Jeremie Frimpong and Nathan Tella both struck the crossbar within five minutes. Tella remained a constant threat, with an acrobatic effort drifting wide and a close-range header cleared

off the line by Hiroki Ito.

Bayern, on the other hand, struggled offensively, failing to register a shot until the 73rd minute. Star striker Harry Kane, who has netted 21 league goals this season, endured a quiet evening under the watchful eye of England manager Thomas Tuchel, heading his only real chance over the bar.

Leverkusen nearly snatched victory in stoppage time when Amine Adli's close-range effort forced a crucial save from Neuer. Despite their dominance, the hosts lacked the clinical edge needed to claim all three points. - Agencies

OOC GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Oman Olympic Committee board elections set for April 22

MUSCAT: The Oman Olympic Committee (OOC) has confirmed that its board elections will be held on April 22, 2025. The announcement came during the OOC General Assembly meeting held on Sunday at the JW Marriott Hotel, under the chairmanship of Khalid bin Mohammed Al Zubair, OOC President.

Al Zubair emphasised the significance of the assembly in preparations for the upcoming elections, noting that the session also approved the formation of electoral committees and minor amendments to the election regulations.

He expressed his gratitude for the continuous support from the General Assembly members and the media, acknowledging the collective effort in advancing Omani sports governance.



"We extend our deepest gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik for his generous support, which guides us towards a sustainable sports renaissance," Al Zubair stated.

The electoral process will be overseen by two committees: the Elections Committee, chaired by Dr. Hamad bin Mohammed

Al Hadhrami, and the Appeals Committee, led by Sheikh Abdulwahab bin Abdullah Al Hinai.

The committees also include a distinguished list of members, including Mohammed bin Saif Al Rashdi, Nasser bin Suleiman Al Zaidi, and others.

In addition to electoral discussions, the first meeting of 2025 by

the OOC Board of Directors highlighted key international and domestic initiatives.

Among the major decisions, the OOC confirmed Oman's participation in significant sporting events in 2025 including as the third Asian Youth Games in Bahrain, the sixth Islamic Solidarity Games in Saudi Arabia, and the first West



Asian Youth Games in Iraq.

The Oman Olympic Committee Board also discussed the preparations for the upcoming third GCC Beach Games in Muscat, from April 5- 11, 2025.

Jhdhamy named head of Oman delegation

Ahmed bin Faisal Al Jhdhamy



has been appointed as the head of the Omani delegation for the upcoming GCC Beach Games, with administrative officials selected to support the delegation.

The meeting concluded with a comprehensive review of the OOC's recent activities, including the 2024 Olympic Day and other key events in the past year.

Alila Jabal Akhdar achieves EarthCheck Gold Certification: A testament to sustainable excellence



Nestled in the rugged beauty of Oman’s Al Hajar mountains, Alila Jabal Akhdar has long been a pioneer in sustainable hospitality, harmonising luxury with environmental responsibility



MUSCAT: Alila Jabal Akhdar announced its achievement of EarthCheck Gold Certification in 2025, marking five consecutive years of dedication to sustainable tourism and environmental stewardship. This prestigious milestone places the resort among an exclusive group of leading global operators that adhere to the internationally recognised EarthCheck Company Standard, reinforcing its commitment to responsible travel and ecological integrity.

Alila Jabal Akhdar, part of the Hyatt brand portfolio, is paving the way with sustainability initiatives. Nestled in the rugged beauty of Oman’s Al Hajar mountains, Alila Jabal Akhdar has long been a pioneer in sustainable hospitality, harmonising luxury with environmental responsibility. Through innovative sustainability initiatives, the resort has continuously demonstrated excellence in conservation efforts, eco-friendly operations, and community engagement.

Sustainability at the heart of Alila Jabal Akhdar

Alila Jabal Akhdar’s commitment to sustainability is more than a pledge—it is a way of life embedded into every aspect of the guest experience. The resort has seamlessly woven environmental responsibility into its daily operations, ensuring that luxury and conservation go hand in hand. Through an extensive audit by EarthCheck, a global leader in sustainable tourism certification, the resort has demonstrated excellence across key environmental pillars. Solar-heated water systems and an advanced greywater recycling program are reducing overall consumption, while a smart energy management system optimizes efficiency without compromising



comfort. Waste is meticulously managed through organic composting and landfill diversion initiatives, supporting a resort-wide commitment to eliminating single-use plastics. Meanwhile, robust farm-to-table culinary ethos sources fresh, organic ingredients from local Omani farmers fostering a circular economy that keeps

the resort deeply connected to its surrounding community. Apart from sourcing from local farmers, Alila Jabal Akhdar proudly hosts Oman’s first luxury hotel hydroponics farm and its own organic garden, ensuring the freshest produce in every dining experience.

Beyond operational efficiencies, Alila Jabal Akhdar is actively

shaping the future of sustainable hospitality through leadership and conservation efforts. Alila Jabal Akhdar has met the EarthCheck’s requirement to benchmark playing an integral role in preserving Oman’s natural and cultural heritage, engaging in plantation programs and local artisan collaborations. At the heart of this commitment is a dedicated EarthCheck Coordinator, who leads extensive staff training programs to instill a culture of continuous environmental progress. As a result, sustainability at Alila Jabal Akhdar is not just a practice but a philosophy—one that invites guests to immerse themselves in a world where mindful travel and breathtaking landscapes exist in perfect harmony.

A vision for the future

Reflecting on this achievement,

Puneet Singh, General Manager of Alila Jabal Akhdar, commented: “Achieving EarthCheck Gold Certification is a testament to the relentless commitment of our team, who integrate sustainability into every aspect of our operations. This milestone is not just about recognition—it’s about continuing to set industry benchmarks for responsible tourism while ensuring our guests experience luxury in harmony with nature.”

“By integrating the principles of Hyatt’s World of Care into our daily operations, Alila Jabal Akhdar is not just a destination for luxury travel but also a champion of a more sustainable and equitable future,” Singh said.

As an EarthCheck Gold Certified resort, Alila Jabal Akhdar now possesses an invaluable management and reporting tool that en-

hances both environmental and business performance. This distinction brings with it increased global credibility, benchmarking standards, and continuous improvement strategies, further strengthening the resort’s position as a leader in sustainable tourism.

Benchmark for responsible travel

By achieving this globally recognized certification, Alila Jabal Akhdar sets a new benchmark for responsible tourism in the region, demonstrating that luxury and sustainability can seamlessly co-exist. As the resort looks ahead, it remains steadfast in its mission to innovate, evolve, and inspire, ensuring that guests can experience Oman’s unspoiled beauty while leaving a positive environmental footprint.

ROUND-UP

Lulu launches Dream Drive 2025 campaign

The campaign commenced on February 12, giving shoppers a chance to win eight Nissan Pathfinder-S 4WD as grand prizes and several other gifts from Ikon, including smart TVs, cooking ranges, refrigerators, washers and air fryers

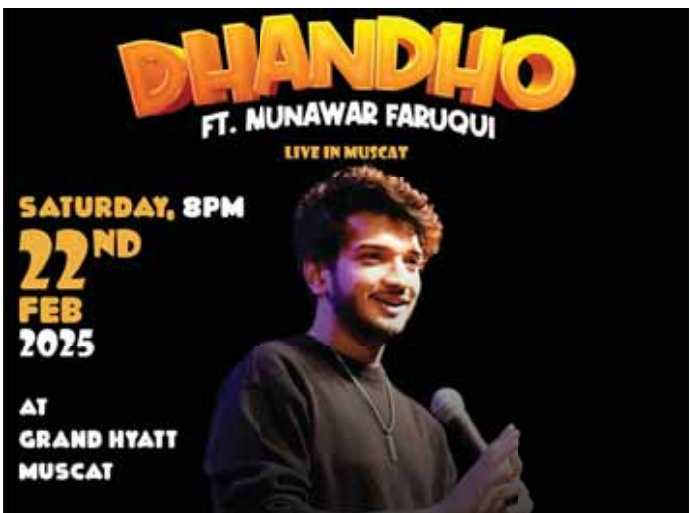
MUSCAT: With Ramadan fast approaching, Lulu Oman has launched its Dream Drive Shop and Win 2025 campaign to reward valued customers throughout this period. The campaign commenced on February 12, giving shoppers a chance to win eight Nissan Path-



finder-S 4WD as grand prizes and several other gifts from Ikon, including smart TVs, cooking ranges, refrigerators, washers and air fryers. The campaign is being held across all outlets of Lulu in Oman. Customers can participate in the e-raffle when they purchase goods worth RO10 or more in a single receipt at any branch of Lulu in Oman. The system will automatically send a whatsapp message or SMS once this eligibility criteria of RO 10 is billed. Upon receiving the message, customer must click the provided link in the SMS to access the registration portal and fill in the details to participate in the e-raffle draw. Customers can download Lulu APP and check their coupons in the e-bills portal. Eight electronic draws will be held on different dates during the promotion period. Speaking about the campaign, Shabeer K.A, Regional Director of Lulu Hypermarkets – Oman, said, “We are excited to launch our Dream Drive campaign this Ramadan to be an active part of the festivities and also give our valued shoppers a chance to drive home their dream. This campaign is one of our several activities to engage with our customers and we are happy to launch it every year. Dream Drive has always been a platform for us to appreciate and thank our customers for their continued support and loyalty. We wish all our customers a blessed month of Ramadan.” Ramadan is the perfect time for us to show our gratitude to our valued customers, and this campaign is truly a reflection of the spirit of the season. We are working round the clock to improve customer

experience and to make shopping easy and enjoyable during Ramadan. We are also taking necessary steps to showcase the best mix of products that are relevant for the season at the fairest prices. We encourage our customers to make use of the online delivery services too, he added. There will also be an exciting range of special deals, promotions and offers for shoppers during Ramadan. Customers can avail special discounts and exclusive offers on all essential commodities, including beverages, frozen foods, fresh produce and other grocery items. Special Ramadan Kits will also be available to make shopping for Ramadan essentials an easy experience for customers. The kits will include essential grocery items, such as milk powder, rice, sugar, instant foods, jellies, ketchup, oil, pulses, pasta, grains, coffee and tea, at the lowest prices. To redefine their shopping experience, customers can also be part of Lulu’s Happiness Loyalty Rewards Program. Through this loyalty program, members can unlock exclusive deals and discounts, with instant savings, on every purchase as well as gain access to special member prices on selected items. Shoppers can earn points on every transaction, with additional bonus points available on a wide selection of Happiness products.

COMEDIAN



Munawar Farouqi set to light up Muscat on Feb. 22

MUSCAT: Renowned comedian Munawar Farouqi is set to deliver an unforgettable evening of laughter and insight at the Afrah Ballroom of the Grand Hyatt Muscat on February 22, 2025. Known for his incisive wit and innovative humor, Munawar has captivated audiences worldwide, solidifying his status as one of today’s most influential comedians. Over the years, Munawar has racked up an impressive list of accolades. Notably, he emerged as the winner of two of India’s most popular reality TV shows—Bigg Boss India and Lock Up—demonstrating his ability to connect with diverse audiences and thrive under pressure. His triumphs on television have only amplified his reputation, complementing his

sold-out live shows and acclaimed comedy specials that blend satire, social commentary, and a refreshing take on everyday life. Presented by Humor Infection and Hustle Entertainment, this special event will be hosted by local comedian Abbas Al-Lawati, who will open the show with his own brand of comedy, setting the perfect stage for an evening of exceptional entertainment. With the official media partnership of the Times of Oman, every highlight of this event will be in the spotlight. Tickets are available on Platinumlist.net—secure your seat now and be part of a night that promises to be as memorable as it is hilarious. Time: 7:30pm - doors open, 8:00pm - show starts.

VINTAGE MACHINES

For classic car lovers in Oman: A tribute to timeless machines

MUSCAT: In a world of fast-paced technology and modern vehicles, classic cars stand out as timeless treasures. These vintage machines, crafted with care and precision in an era of hand-drawn designs, carry a charm and character that modern vehicles simply can’t replicate. They are more than just machines—they are rolling pieces of art, each with a story to tell. Classic cars are the product of skilled hands and pure passion. They were born in a time when design wasn’t just about function—it was an art form. Crafted with care, these vehicles were shaped by artisans who poured their heart and soul into every detail, using simple tools and years of experience. Every line, every curve, tells a story of dedication and love for the craft. These cars aren’t just machines; they’re moving pieces of history, built to inspire and endure. Every classic car is a labor of love, a masterpiece that has weathered



the years with grace and dignity. Take, for example, Sulayem Al Kalbani’s 1986 Toyota Land Cruiser—a true testament to enduring craftsmanship and timeless design. This rugged beauty still runs flawlessly, proudly wearing its original paint and carrying an accident-free history. But what truly sets it apart is its dual starting system. Alongside the standard self-start, it features a manual hand-cranked lever—a brilliant backup that ensures it will never leave you stranded, even with a dead battery. This remarkable feature is more than just practical; it’s a symbol of the resilience and ingenuity of classic cars. It takes us back to a time when vehicles were built with purpose, durability, and a hands-on

connection between driver and machine. This Land Cruiser isn’t just a car; it’s an inspiration, reminding us that true craftsmanship stands the test of time and that simplicity can be profoundly powerful. It’s a celebration of an era where every detail mattered, and every machine told a story. It also highlights the unmatched reliability and durability that Toyota cars are known for. It is a shining example of Toyota’s commitment to building vehicles that endure. Even after decades, it runs flawlessly, proving that Toyota’s engineering isn’t just about innovation but about creating machines that stand the test of time. It’s a reminder that true quality doesn’t fade—it only grows more inspiring with age. This Land Cruiser isn’t just a car; it’s a testament to Toyota’s legacy of crafting vehicles that you can count on, no matter where the road takes you. Driving a classic car is an experience that modern vehicles can’t replicate. While today’s cars are filled with electronic aids and automated systems, classic cars demand skill, finesse, and a true connection between driver and machine. Owning a classic car is more than just owning a vehicle; it’s a statement of passion and exclusivity. Unlike modern cars, which are mass-produced and often lose value over time, classic cars are rare, unique, and often appreciate in value. They are investments in history, craftsmanship, and style. The culture surrounding classic cars is as rich and vibrant as the vehicles themselves. From rallies and road trips to historic racing events and car shows, these gatherings bring together enthusiasts who share a deep appreciation for automotive heritage. The recent Classic Cars Show in Al Hamra, organized by the Oman Automobile Association, was a perfect example. It was a celebra-

tion of timeless design and engineering, where each car on display told its own unique story. In a world where new cars quickly become outdated, classic cars remain symbols of elegance and artistry. They’re not just about transportation—They remind us of a time when life moved a little slower, when craftsmanship was valued, and when driving was an art. In a world where new cars become obsolete within years, classic cars stand as enduring symbols of style, exclusivity, and artistry. For classic car lovers in Oman and beyond, these timeless machines are more than just vehicles—they are a way of life. They connect us to the past, inspire us in the present, and remind us why we fell in love with cars in the first place. As long as there are those who appreciate their beauty and craftsmanship, the legacy of classic cars will continue to thrive, inspiring generations to come.

EMPOWERING TOOL

Omantel unveils Maqroo, first Arabic dyslexic-friendly font



MUSCAT: Omantel officially launched Maqroo, the world’s first Arabic dyslexic-friendly font, in an exclusive event held at The Chedi Muscat. The launch was attended by Dr. Madiha bint Ahmed bin Nasser Al Shibaniyah, Minister of Education, along with prominent officials, educators, and industry experts. As part of its commitment to leveraging technology for social benefit, Omantel is collaborating with the Ministry of Education to explore ways to integrate Maqroo into the education sector, an initiative that aims to enhance accessibility and inclusivity for both students and educators. Commenting on the launch, Talal Al Mamari, Chief Executive Officer at Omantel, said: “At Omantel, we recognise the transformative potential of innovation. Maqroo is more than just a font — it serves as an empowering tool,

offering a more inclusive reading experience for individuals with dyslexia. By making it publicly accessible and collaborating with the Ministry of Education, we are ensuring that this initiative reaches students and educators nationwide, thus broadening its impact and promoting inclusivity within the educational system.” Maqroo was developed after an extensive study of 650 Arabic fonts researched on people with dyslexia. One in every nine people in the Arab world has dyslexia, highlighting the importance of developing specialized educational and technological tools to enhance the ability to learn and actively participate in society. The goal was to optimize readability while preserving the aesthetic integrity of the Arabic script. By improving letter differentiation and spacing, the font assists dyslexic individuals

also in reading with greater ease and confidence. As an open-source font, Maqroo is globally available to educational institutions, designers, and organizations looking to adopt more inclusive communication tools. Omantel continues to explore partnerships to integrate Maqroo into digital platforms, educational resources, and public communication materials, ensuring that its impact extends beyond the classroom and into wider society. The initiative has already received international recognition, earning accolades at the Effie Awards and Dubai Lynx, further cementing Oman’s position as a leader in technology-driven inclusivity. With Maqroo, Omantel reaffirms its role as a pioneer in digital accessibility, shaping a future where communication and education are truly inclusive for all.

ENHANCING LIVES THROUGH INNOVATIONS

New era in cancer care - The Fortis way

MUSCAT: Fortis Healthcare Limited under the banner of Fortis Cancer Institute, in collaboration with Oman Cancer Association and Global treatment services with the accreditation of Oman Medical and Specialty Board successfully hosted an International Accredited Symposium on Advances in Oncology – A Multidisciplinary Approach on 8 February 2025 in Crowne Plaza Hotel, Muscat, Oman. This one-of-its-kind large scale conference aimed at fostering collaboration and innovation in the fight against cancer bringing together leading oncologists, researchers, and healthcare professionals to discuss groundbreaking advancements in cancer treatment and care. The occasion was attended by chief guest Her Royal Highness Sayyida Dr. Mona Al Said. Dignitaries from Ministry of Health and Ministry of Defense were also present to resonate Oman’s commitment to fight against cancer. Fortis Cancer Institute’s clinical team participating in the conference comprised of - Dr. Vinod Raina (Chairman – Oncosciences), Dr Ankur Bahl (Senior Director, Medical Oncology), Dr Rahul Bhargava (Principal Director & Chief, Hematology, Hemato-Oncology & BMT), Dr Vikas Dua (Principal Director & Head, Hematology, Hemato-Oncology & BMT), Dr. Mohan Keshavmurthy (Principal Director – Urology), Dr. Vedant Kabra (Principal Director Surgical Oncology), Dr. Niranjana Naik (Director & HOD – Surgical Oncology & Robotic Sur-



gery), Dr. Vinay Samuel Gaikwad (Director - Surgical Oncology), Dr. Amit Javed (Senior Director - GI, GI Oncology, Minimal Access & Bariatric Surgery), Dr. Anil Kumar Anand (Senior Director & HOD Radiation Oncology) and Dr. Ishita B Sen (Senior Director - Nuclear Medicine) The Conference was led by Dr Vinod Raina who is known to have had two-decade long association with Oman Healthcare as he was sent by Government of India to Oman in the year 2001 to establish the Department of Oncology in Royal Hospital, Muscat, Oman. Participation from Oncologists from Royal Hospital, Sultan Qaboos Cancer Centre, Sultan Qaboos University Hospital, Khawla Hospital, Army Hospital and private hospitals signified Oman’s commitment to enhancing cancer research and treatment infrastructure, in line with the country’s healthcare goals.

The keynote addresses from these renowned experts, panel discussions on emerging trends, and presentations on cutting-edge research in oncology highlighted the emergence of precision medicine, immunotherapy, early detection strategies, and the latest advancements in personalized cancer treatments. This conference provided a crucial platform for knowledge exchange, enabling healthcare professionals to stay updated with the latest developments in oncology. By bringing together global experts, we strive to improve cancer care and patient outcomes in Oman and beyond. Some of the rarest cases performed at Fortis Healthcare were discussed showcasing the advanced skills, technologies and never-say-die attitude of clinicians at Fortis Cancer Institute. This was followed by panel discussions and Q&A sessions.

THIS RAMADAN, DRIVE IN STYLE WITH GEELY GX3 PRO!

STARTING FROM

*RO **4399**



FREE INSURANCE**
1st Year

MANUFACTURER WARRANTY\$
7 Yrs/250,000Km
(Whichever comes earlier, except GX3 PRO)

FREE SERVICE\$\$
50,000kms / 30 months
(Whichever comes earlier on Emgrand only)

FREE REGISTRATION**
1st Year



EMGRAND



COOLRAY



OKAVANGO



TUGELLA



PREFACE



Valid From
Feb 9th - April 9th 2025



مركز تاول للسيارات ش.م.م
Towell Auto Centre LLC

geelyoman.com
9444 0666
/geelyoman

Barka •Sohar •Nizwa •Sur •Salalah

Offer valid from (09/02/2025) till (09/04/2025). *The prices mentioned are for the entry level models only. **Free insurance (Oman only) and registration for 1st year are applicable for Coolray, Emgrand, Preface, Tugella and Okavango. \$Manufacturer warranty of 7 Yrs/250,000 km (whichever comes earlier) is applicable for Coolray, Emgrand, Preface Tugella and Okavango. \$Manufacturer warranty of 5 Yrs/150,000 km (whichever comes earlier) is applicable for GX3PRO. \$\$Free service 50,000kms / 30 months (whichever comes earlier on Emgrand only). #Follow us on Facebook or Instagram and tag 2 friends for a chance to win an iPhone 16 Pro 128 GB! Winners will be chosen through an online raffle. This offer is exclusive to private vehicle purchases and does not apply to Fleet, Ministry, Taxi, Rental, company or any commercial purchases. Vehicles shown are for illustrative purposes. Accessories shown are not a part of the standard equipment. Specifications are subject to change without notice.