

Times

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OF OMAN



50

YEARS OF LEGACY

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Sayyid Theyazin graces opening of ‘Together Moving Forward’ Forum

MUSCAT: HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, on Sunday graced the inauguration of the fourth edition of the “Together Moving Forward” forum.

The annual forum, convened by the Secretariat General of the Council of Ministers, is held in fulfilment of the Royal directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to strengthen the dialogue between government and society and to actively listen to the views, proposals, and aspirations of citizens across all fields.

The two-day event is attended by HH Sayyid Bilarab bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of State and

Governor of Muscat, alongside a distinguished assembly of Their Highnesses, Excellencies, dignitaries, and forum participants.

The forum’s agenda features several pivotal discussion and dialogue sessions centered on themes of vital societal interest that contribute to holistic national development.

Key topics include the “Oman Vision 2040”, investment opportunities within priority economic sectors, and governorate-level development and its role in catalysing investment.

The forum will also witness the announcement of the winning teams in the “Ideas Makers – Hamat” programme. **>A7**



Royal Decree appoints ambassador at Foreign Ministry

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik yesterday issued Royal decree No. (24/2026) on appointing an ambassador at the Foreign Ministry.

Article (1) appoints Nasser bin Sulaiman bin Hamad Al Harthy to the position of an ambassador at the Foreign Ministry. He shall be granted the special grade.

Article (2) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from its date of issue. — **OWA**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Foundation stone for Sur Waterfront

1 The Wilayat of Sur will celebrate on 11 February 2026, the laying of the foundation stone for the ‘Masar’ Waterfront Development Project in the Al Barr area. **>A4**

SPORTS England edge past Nepal by 4 runs

2 England narrowly defeated Nepal by four runs in a T20 World Cup match full of twists and turns in Mumbai on Sunday. **>A8**

MARKET Omani-Italian Business Forum

3 The Omani-Italian Business Forum, organised by the OCCI discussed ways to enhance economic cooperation between Oman and the Italy. **>B1**



OMAN’S INDUSTRIAL WORKFORCE TO HIT 277,000 BY 2030

The Sultanate of Oman will observe Industry Day on Monday

MUSCAT: Oman’s industrial sector continues to strengthen its role as a key engine of employment generation, with the workforce reaching 248,000 in 2025, marking a 3 percent increase over 2024 figures. Projections indicate that the number of workers in the sec-

tor will rise further to around 277,000 by 2030, underscoring the sustained expansion of industrial activities and the sector’s growing capacity to support the national labour market.

The steady rise in industrial employment reflects the impact of the Industrial Strategy 2040, which prioritises technology-driven manufacturing, value addition, and the development of competitive industries capable of accessing regional and global markets.

The Sultanate of Oman will observe Oman Industry Day on Monday, an annual occasion held on the ninth of February.

This year’s celebrations will be held under the theme “From Oman to the World: Com-

petitive Industry, Global Vision,” aimed at showcasing the competitive geographic and economic advantages of the nation’s industrial zones and their vital role in advancing export performance.

The event further highlights the strategic efforts to provide the enablers, incentives, and facilitative measures that underpin the sustained expansion of the industrial sector.

Oman Industry Day serves as a distinguished platform to present the international achievements of Omani industrial exports, while encouraging national manufacturers to enhance product development and elevate quality standards to meet globally recognized specifications. **>A2**

OMAN VS ZIMBABWE

Stage set in Colombo as Oman begin their T20 World Cup test

MUSCAT: With the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup 2026 already underway in India and Sri Lanka, all eyes turn to Oman on Monday as the Jatinder Singh-led team walk into their opening match against Zimbabwe carrying momentum rather than nerves.

Nearly two weeks in Colombo, purposeful acclimatisation, and back-to-back wins in official warm-up games over Sri Lanka A and Zimbabwe have given the Men in Red a rare swagger.

For Oman, this isn’t just a tournament opener, it’s an early chance to announce intent on cricket’s biggest T20 stage.

The clash at the historic Sinhalese Sports Club, starting at 1:30 pm Oman time (3pm, local time), offers Oman a shot at momentum in a tough Group B, which also features hosts Sri Lanka, Ireland, and heavyweights Australia.

The stage is set, the squad is

ready, and the build-up has left them confident, and fearless with a sharpened belief within Duleep Mendis’s camp.

Preparation pays off

Oman’s preparations for this World Cup have been meticulous. Departing Muscat on 22 January, the team opted to beat Sri Lankan heat and humidity by settling early into Colombo life and engaging in targeted practice matches. That planning has already yielded two valuable wins in official ICC warm-up games and tough outings against Canada and the USA.

For Oman’s captain, Jatinder Singh, the build-up has been about more than just run scoring. Having recovered from an injury during the early days of the camp in Sri Lanka, he slammed a half-century in the warm-up win over Zimbabwe and is happy that his ‘players are in a good space and confident’.



With an aim to play and display fearless cricket against higher-ranked opponents, Jatinder said: “We are in a group which is the toughest for associate team, but

we believe we have to play fearless and positive cricket. That is what we are going to showcase in Sri Lanka.”

Speaking on the eve of the Zim-

babwe opener from Colombo, Oman’s all-time leading T20I run scorer said: “The plans put in by Oman Cricket board to bring the team early and acclimatise to the wickets and weather conditions have really done a lot of good to us. We tried out various combinations and had a good test of playing conditions here on different types of wickets. The players are in a good space and confident lot after two successive wins in the official warm-ups.”

He stressed that the blend of seasoned campaigners and 11 World Cup debutants give the squad a balanced outlook heading into their fourth appearance on cricket’s biggest T20 stage.

“Overall, we have had near perfect preparations, and we go into the World Cup with confidence and hope to leave an impact as an associate nation,” said team Captain Jatinder.

The Mendis effect

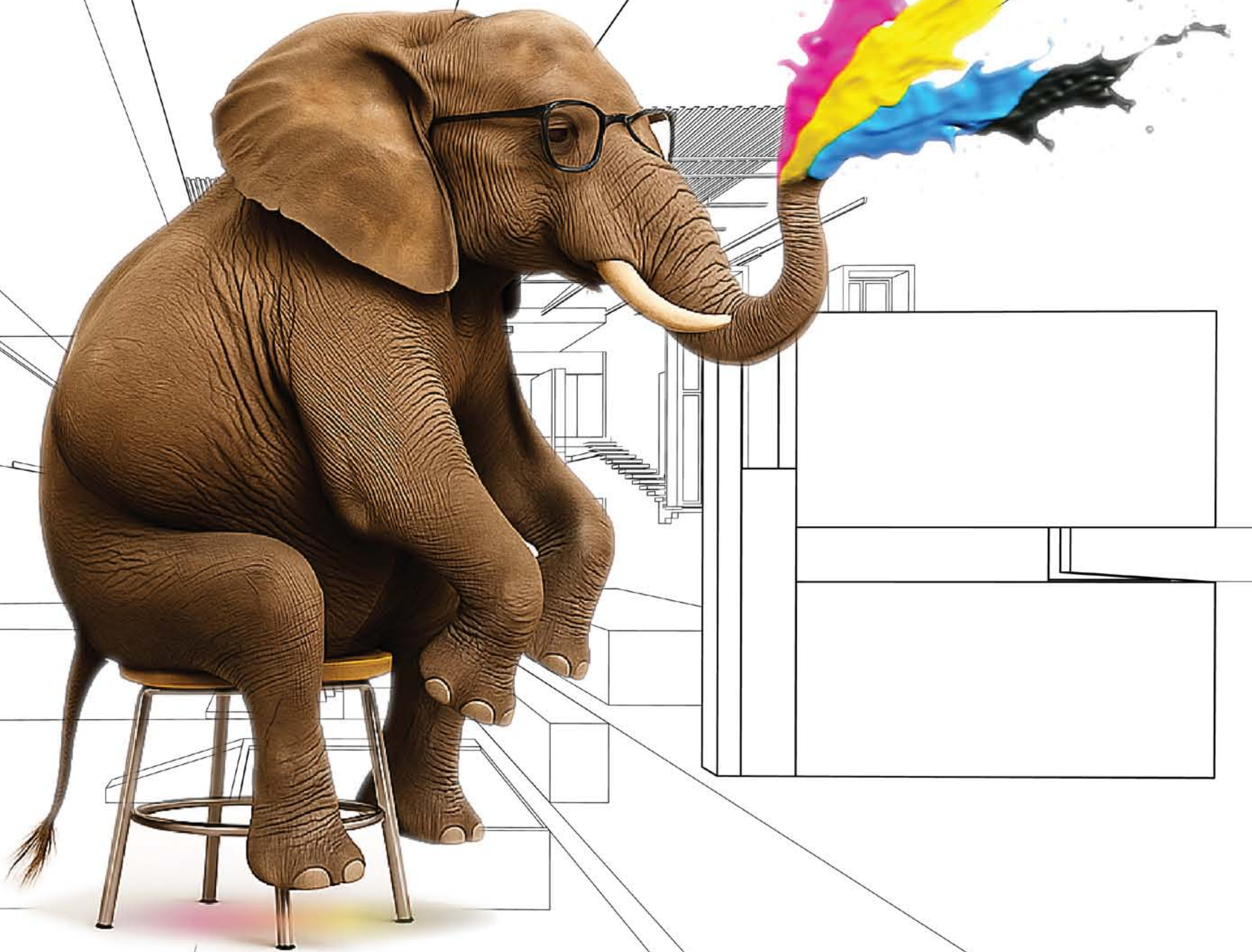
At the helm of Oman’s cricketing journey over the past decade is coach Duleep Mendis, the former Sri Lankan great whose tenure has coincided with Oman’s rise from an obscure ranking to consistent World Cup qualification since 2016.

Mendis has emphasised performance over participation. “This time, it is time for Oman to make their presence felt. It is time for us to get some positive results,” he said.

That intent drives every training session and tactical discussion in Colombo, with Sulakshan Kulkarini, deputy head coach from India, providing key inputs.

The Sri Lankan conditions, dry tracks and spin-friendly surfaces, may play to Oman’s strengths, particularly their variety of slow bowlers and clever spin operators. **>A4**

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COMMENTARY

Man on the bench



SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

I will let you into a secret and tell you how curious I was about a certain man. I see him almost everyday sitting on a bench as I speed past him on my way home. He always looks peaceful as he sits there watching the world go by.

One evening, I decided to join him so I could see what he found interesting there. I parked my car a distant away and walked towards the bench and sat quietly three feet away from him. At first, I saw people walking past meaninglessly but as I watched closely, a picture formed in my mind. Most of the people I saw

were expatriates. They all had one story to tell but with a few variations. They were all very far from home, most terribly missing their families. These are labourers and semi-skilled workers who keep each other company to while away the time. They throw themselves in their work in the morning where they have very little time to brood but the evenings are difficult.

Although they know exactly where they are going, their faces betrayed their feelings. You could tell that they are lost in a jungle of loneliness. The only thing that keeps them going is a thought that they keep their families well provided for.

They hold hands as they walk as if they needed to feel each others' souls to strengthen the belief of their course. They are people in a mission who gave up luxuries and comfort knowing what they denied themselves is passed to their loved ones. I watched a building material's shop and the shining bald head of Raju, its owner.

Raju, an expatriate himself, has a television outside his shop to entertain at least a hundred people who closely huddle together to watch it. Their shoulders touched and their eyes fixed on the screen, hanging on every word that is

said about their homelands. As the sun goes down, the hours of the night seemed to bring little comfort to them. They get tired of the television and disperse to their homes for a troubled sleep. They would end up in wooden shacks with no comfort.

When I went home that night, I saw just enough what the man repeatedly see every evening. I am not sure what history would record about people like them that we pass without noticing everyday in our lives. Collectively, their contribution in the region is immeasurably. We pay rich tributes to bureaucrats, businessmen, and engineers for the development but nobody gives a second thought to the real power of progress. When I drove past the same spot the following morning, the place looked different.

Raju had stored away his television and the labourers busy in the construction sites, building bridges and sweeping roads. The bench I had sat the night before with a stranger was empty. I did not need to be in the same place that evening because my curiosity was satisfied. However, I had more questions than answers. The kind of questions perhaps would never be answered.

MEETINGS

Royal Office Minister meets Lebanese envoy, US official

MUSCAT: General Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, received in his office on Sunday Majdi Ramadan, Ambassador-designate of Lebanon to Oman.

During the meeting, Al Nu'amani wished the ambassador success in carrying out his duties.

The meeting reviewed the bilateral relations between Oman and Lebanon and explored avenues to strengthen joint cooperation and coordination to achieve the aspirations of the two countries' leaderships and peoples.

General Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, received Vice Admiral Curt A. Renshaw, Commander of the United States Naval Forces Central Command and his accompanying delegation, who are on an official visit to Oman.

The two sides discussed ways to enhance joint bilateral cooperation to bolster the security of both nations, reaffirming the depth of the historical relations binding the Sultanate of Oman and the United States of America.

The meeting was attended by the Ambassador of the United States of America to the Sultanate of Oman. -OMA



INDUSTRY DAY

Oman industry employment surges, 277,000 jobs targeted by 2030

FROM A1 The occasion also focuses on attracting and stimulating export-oriented industrial investments and sharing the success narratives of Omani enterprises that have attained global market access and international competitiveness.

This year's commemoration reaffirms the central role of industrial exports in amplifying Oman's economic stature worldwide and underscores the quality and competitive strength of Omani products in regional and international arenas. Furthermore, it seeks to strengthen coordination and synergy among government bodies, manufacturers, and exporters to address prevailing challenges, refine export frameworks, and leverage the findings and recommendations from the 2025 Industry Day proceedings to shape future policies and initiatives. These efforts align with the strategic aims of Oman Vision 2040 in fostering economic diversification and augmenting value addition.

The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion will host the signature event, "From Oman to the World: Competitive Industry, Global Vision," on 15 February 2026, under the patronage of Abdulsalam bin Mohammed Al Murshidi, Chairman of Oman Investment Authority (OIA).

The Oman's industrial sector continues to solidify its role as a cornerstone of the national economy, with industrial exports valued at approximately OMR 1.618 billion in the first quarter of 2025—accounting for nearly 28 percent of total exports. The sector has posted strong growth in key areas such as electrical equipment and metal products manufacturing. It contributes an estimated 9.5 percent to the nation's Gross Domestic Product, with non-oil industrial exports continuing an upward trajectory, reaching around OMR 6.2 billion in 2024.

The Ministry further noted that by the close of 2025, the industrial sector had registered substantial milestones, demonstrating both its resilience and its expanding contribution to the national economy. The manufacturing industries' share of GDP reached approximately OMR 3.879 billion, marking a growth of 7.2 percent compared to the OMR 3.620 billion recorded in 2024.

Foreign investment in the industrial sector also rose significantly to around OMR 3.490 billion during 2025, reflecting a notable 24.6 percent increase from the approximately OMR 2.800 billion registered in 2024. This surge underscores growing investor confidence in the sector's prospects and its supportive investment climate.

The non-oil export sector achieved significant growth, reaching approximately OMR 6.885 billion in 2025, marking a 10.5 percent increase from the OMR 6.232 billion recorded in 2024. This expansion underscores the growing

international footprint of Omani-manufactured goods.

Employment within the industrial sector also rose to approximately 248,000 workers in 2025, reflecting a 3 percent increase from the 240,761 workers reported in 2024, thereby affirming the sector's vital role in generating domestic employment.

Furthermore, by the close of 2025, a total of 166 industrial establishments had obtained the National Product Identity designation, with 439 exemption requests approved. These figures demonstrate the tangible impact of government incentives and facilitative measures in bolstering industrial operations and strengthening the competitiveness of locally produced goods.

Ghalib bin Said Al Maamari, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion for Commerce and Industry, stated, "The industrial sector's performance in 2025 validates the success of government policies aimed at cultivating a robust industrial ecosystem and the efficacy of investor-focused incentives and facilities." He emphasized that the concurrent growth in manufacturing output, foreign investment, and non-oil exports signals the sector's capacity to fulfill national economic diversification objectives.

In remarks to the Oman News Agency, he elaborated that the Ministry is committed to advancing the legislative and regulatory framework governing the industrial sector, streamlining administrative procedures, and deepening collaboration with the private sector. These efforts are designed to elevate the global competitiveness of Omani products and attract high-value investments grounded in advanced technology and innovation, aligning with the overarching goals of Oman Vision 2040.

The industrial sector in Oman continues to advance resolutely, reinforcing its status as a primary engine for economic diversification. This progress is guided by the Industrial Strategy 2040, which aims to establish a modern, technology-driven manufacturing base, harness national creative talent, and integrate innovative production techniques to enhance the quality and competitiveness of Omani industrial products in local, regional, and global markets.

The strategy is founded on a clear vision underpinned by four strategic programs and targets five principal objectives: diversifying manufacturing into technology and knowledge-intensive activities; developing industrial products that improve public health and well-being; expanding the regional reach of Omani industry and facilitating entry into new international markets; upgrading manufacturing capabilities with cutting-edge technologies; and fostering a pervasive culture of industrial innovation.

Strategic focus is directed to-

ward three high-potential industrial clusters: resource-based industries, capital-intensive industries, and knowledge-based industries. These encompass sectors such as oil refining, food processing, metals and mining, electrical and mechanical engineering, marine equipment, transportation, alongside emerging fields like solar panel manufacturing, hydrogen production, and recycling. The implementation framework includes 90 strategic initiatives developed in partnership with 125 entities affiliated with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and 140 strategic partners. Current progress metrics indicate 7 percent of initiatives have been completed, with a further 13 percent actively underway.

Data recorded from 2021 through 2024 affirms the sector's robust performance, with industrial production achieving significant growth. The sector's contribution to the Gross Domestic Product stood at 9.4 percent in 2024, an increase from 8.9 percent in 2020. Concurrently, foreign direct investment in the industrial sector reached OMR 2.8 billion by the close of 2024.

Non-oil merchandise exports from the Sultanate of Oman grew by approximately 5.8 percent. The contribution of the manufacturing sector at constant prices expanded from OMR 2.81 billion in 2020 to exceed OMR 3.62 billion in 2024. Customs exemption approvals surged by 41.6 percent between 2020 and 2025. Furthermore, the growth rate for approved industrial licenses increased by 68.7 percent from 2020 to 2024. Products certified with the National Product Identity emblem totalled 6,957, bolstering the market presence of Omani goods both domestically and internationally.

Labour market indicators reveal accelerated employment growth within the industrial sector.

The workforce expanded from 20,218 in 2020 to 240,761 in 2024, rising further to 248,000 in 2025.

Projections estimate the workforce will reach approximately 277,000 by 2030, underscoring the sustained expansion of industrial activities and their enhanced capacity to generate employment and fortify the national labour market.

Oman's endeavours to cultivate its industrial sector have garnered extensive international and domestic recognition. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) commended the sector's transformative shift, propelled by the rapid advancement of high-technology industries. A World Bank report affirmed the industrial sector's central role in diversifying revenue streams and securing a current account surplus.

In a September 2025 report, Standard & Poor's noted that the manufacturing, services, and construction sectors constitute the principal engine of economic

growth in Oman. Similarly, the International Monetary Fund's 2025 report identified manufacturing as the foremost driver of non-oil economic expansion.

As part of ongoing efforts to streamline procedures and advance digital transformation, several key initiatives have been launched. These include the issuance of the National Product Identity via the "Made in Oman" platform, the integration of the Gulf Industrial Platform with the Industrial Observatory system, and the introduction of the Smart Production Factories project. A streamlined mechanism for licensing Liquefied Petroleum Gas (cooking) stations was also implemented. Additional milestones encompass the publication of the second edition of the Omani Products Directory, an increase in the rate of automated license issuance to 80 percent, and the signing of industrial cooperation agreements and memoranda of understanding with various international and regional organisations.

Strategic targets for the industrial sector under the Eleventh Five-Year Plan feature the execution of several specialized programs. Chief among these is the Industrial and Technological Innovation Programme, which prioritizes the establishment of dedicated industrial technology centers, the strengthening of university-industry partnerships, support for innovation projects, and the encouragement of smart manufacturing adoption. The program also includes creating business incubators and accelerators and organizing industrial innovation competitions.

Further objectives are encapsulated in the Program for Empowering Omani Industries and Enhancing Their Efficiency. This initiative aims to operationalize the Industrial Observatory, improve energy efficiency in high-consumption factories, reduce the industrial carbon footprint, facilitate the adoption of Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies by national manufacturers, and promote the transition towards sustainable green industries. These measures are designed to elevate the competitiveness of Omani products in both domestic and regional markets.

The Industrial Sector Stimulation Program has introduced a comprehensive suite of financial instruments, facilitative measures, and investment incentives. These initiatives are complemented by dedicated export financing schemes, funding for renewable energy and advanced technology projects that boost energy efficiency, and the provision of pre-equipped industrial facilities to accelerate project implementation.

A core objective of the program is to enhance value-addition within the manufacturing sector. This is pursued through the development of robust value chains, the

establishment of complementary industries, and the provision of targeted incentives designed to foster greater industrial integration. Additional support services are also being deployed to elevate production efficiency and increase local content.

Faisal bin Abdullah Al Rowas, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), remarked, "Oman Industry Day is a national milestone that underscores the industrial sector's elevated stature and its pivotal role in bolstering the national economy, advancing economic diversification, and laying the groundwork for sustainable growth and competitiveness." He elaborated that this year's theme signifies a strategic ambition to propel domestic industry onto broader regional and international stages by maximizing value addition, expanding productive capacity, attracting quality industrial investment, and increasing the sector's contribution to the Gross Domestic Product.

In a statement to the Oman News Agency, Al Rowas affirmed that the private sector stands as the principal partner in forging a robust and competitive industrial base. He highlighted the Chamber's commitment to fostering a conducive industrial business climate, advocating for the interests of industrialists, contributing to the development of investment-friendly regulatory and legislative frameworks, and empowering small and medium enterprises to integrate into local and global supply and value chains.

He further noted that the Chamber is intensifying its efforts to amplify the global reach of Omani industries. This involves expanding international economic networks, coordinating overseas trade missions, and forging institutional alliances with global industrial leaders—all initiatives aimed at unlocking new markets for national products and strengthening their competitive edge.

He pointed to the necessity of embracing modern production paradigms driven by innovation, advanced technology, digital transformation, and environmental sustainability in response to worldwide industrial shifts. He reiterated the Chamber's dedication to ensuring the Omani industrial sector is fully prepared to navigate these evolving trends and bolster its long-term resilience and capacity for growth.

OCCI Chairman said that Omani Industry Day exemplifies the growing confidence in the national industry's potential and represents a unified commitment from both the public and private sectors to advance Omani industry, secure its standing in international markets, and amplify its role in achieving comprehensive economic development.

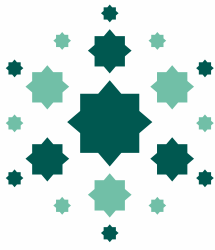
Eng. Dawood bin Salim Al Haddabi, Chief Executive Officer of the

Public Establishment for Industrial Estates "Madayn," stated that this year's Oman Industry Day coincides with Madayn's launch of an expansive five-year phased plan (2026-2030). The plan is centered on key targets, including elevating the aggregate export value from Madayn's industrial cities from the current RO 3.79 billion annually to RO 4.3 billion by the conclusion of 2030. This will be guided by an actionable implementation framework that aligns institutional programs with executable projects and key performance indicators. The approach carefully considers existing institutional capacities, the prevailing legislative and regulatory environment, and long-term financial sustainability. It is founded upon a comprehensive analysis of developmental and operational gaps, a review of regional and international competitive challenges, and an assessment of Madayn's position within global industrial value chains. This strategic focus ensures resources and programs are directed toward initiatives with the highest economic and developmental impact, yielding measurable outcomes in the coming period.

In a statement to the Oman News Agency, he elaborated that the plan will advance in parallel with the development of core infrastructure and services within both existing and new industrial cities. It also encompasses attracting strategic industries, establishing specialized industrial zones, refining the investor journey and ease of doing business, accelerating digital transformation through the adoption of artificial intelligence, and bolstering projects related to environmental sustainability, energy efficiency, and renewable energy.

He further explained that the Omani Products Export Promotion Team (OPEX), which is chaired by Madayn, aims through its 2025-2026 plan to penetrate new, high-potential markets for Omani goods across several vital industrial sectors. The objective is to forge new distribution channels for national products by diversifying marketing avenues and increasing export volumes. The initiative also supports Omani companies and small and medium enterprises in adopting novel approaches to trade, export, and targeted industrial activities. This endeavour seeks to elevate Oman's profile on the global trade map, open new international markets for exporters, identify promising commercial opportunities, and secure trade agreements that bolster the growth of national exports.

Eng. Khalid bin Salim Al Qasabi, Director General of Industry at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, affirmed that the industrial sector's robust performance in 2025 resulted from the synergistic implementation of programmes and initiatives under the Industrial Strategy 2040. -OMA



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JOINT ECONOMIC PLATFORM

Oman-Cebu Investment Forum to begin today

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman will host the Oman-Cebu Investment Forum in Muscat today.

The forum serves as a joint economic platform between the Sultanate of Oman and the Philippines, aimed at expanding the horizons of bilateral cooperation and strengthening economic and investment relations between the two countries.

The inaugural edition of the forum, held in July 2025 in Cebu City, Philippines, was jointly organised by the Foreign Ministry and Oman Chamber of Com-



merce and Industry in cooperation with competent Philippine authorities.

That session focused on exploring investment opportunities in several promising sectors, including tourism, renewable ener-

gy, technology, and food security, in addition to organising field visits to Philippine economic zones aimed at exchanging expertise and promoting mutual investments.

The convening of this forum reaffirms the shared commitment to strengthening cultural, commercial, tourism, and investment ties, and empowering economic partnership by providing an attractive environment for exchanging ideas and building effective partnerships between various sectors in the Sultanate of Oman and the Philippines. **-OHA**

LIWA

Three killed

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Rescue teams from the Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority in the North Al Batinah Governorate responded to a collision involving three vehicles in the Wilayat of Liwa.

The incident resulted in the deaths of three individuals and injuries to three others, with conditions ranging from moderate to critical.

Bank Dhofar GCC Equity Fund (Shariah Compliant)

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Invitation to Attend the Ordinary General Meeting of Bank Dhofar GCC Equity Fund (Shariah compliant)

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

Falling quorum, the OGM shall be on Thursday, 26th February 2026, at 3:00 pm., through online platform using MS Teams, to discuss and consider the following agenda:

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

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

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

دعوة لحضور اجتماع الجمعية العامة العادية لصندوق بنك ظفار للأسهم الخليجية (متوافق مع أحكام الشريعة الإسلامية)

يسر إدارتنا صندوق بنك ظفار للأسهم الخليجية المتوافق مع أحكام الشريعة الإسلامية (الصندوق) بالاشتراك مع إدارته الدعوة لحضور الاجتماع العادي للجمعية العامة للصندوق والذي سيعقد يوم الاثنين الموافق ٢٣ فبراير ٢٠٢٦ في مقر إدارتنا. في حالة عدم الحضور، فإن الاجتماع سيعقد يوم الخميس الموافق ٢٦ فبراير ٢٠٢٦ في نفس المكان. يرجى إكمال بطاقة الترشيح قبل موعد الاجتماع. الترشيحات الواردة بعد هذا التاريخ لن تكون مقبولة. يجب على المرشحين الالتزام بالظوابط العامة لعضوية إدارة الصندوق.

١- لاختيار أعضاء جديدة للجمعية العامة.

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Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment LLC

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Sohar 95351200, Salalah 96629050, Ibbi 96628930,
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AWARDS



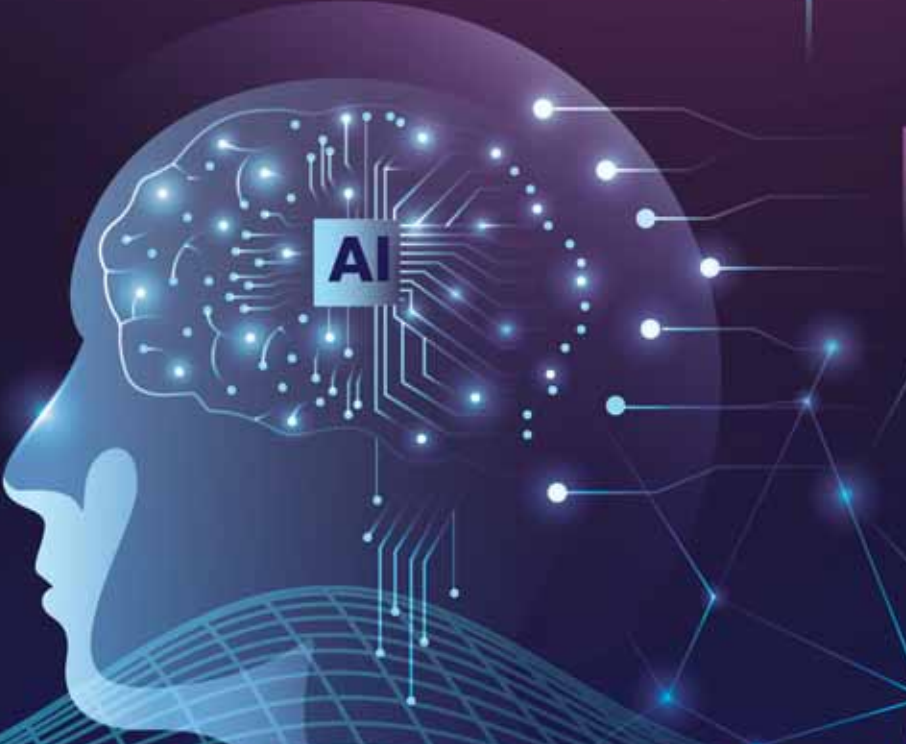
NETWORKING

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OMAN

COMMENTARY

The Epstein’s Files



SADIQ MOHAMMED SAID
AL-LAWATY

You, dear reader, may have heard of the “Epstein’s Files” and some of the prominent figures named in them, such as President Bill Clinton, President Joe Biden, and President Trump. This Jewish man was known for bringing underage girls to his home on a small island in the United States for his high-profile clients. If you want to know more about him, here’s what you need to know.

Jeffrey Epstein was a financier and convicted sex offender who died in his cell at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in New York on 10th August 2019. He was awaiting trial on federal sex trafficking charges, which included allegations of recruiting and exploiting underage girls for sex.

Epstein’s death was officially ruled a suicide by hanging, but many questions remain, and some have raised doubts about the circumstances surrounding his death. An investigation by the Department of Justice’s Inspector General criticized jail officials for negligence and misconduct, but found no evidence to suggest foul play.

As for VIPs on his files, the released documents, and there are more to be released, mention several prominent individuals,

including Bill Clinton, Joe Biden, Donald Trump, and Prince Andrew. However, it’s essential to note that being mentioned in the files doesn’t imply guilt or wrongdoing.

To understand the scope of this case, one must consider Ghislaine Maxwell, Epstein’s long-time associate and the daughter of the British media mogul (Robert Maxwell). Her conviction and 20-year prison sentence for sex trafficking marked a pivotal moment. Interestingly, her father, Robert Maxwell, also died under mysterious circumstances in 1991 after disappearing from his yacht, a parallel that many observers find striking given the family’s deep ties to power.

Regarding Presidents Clinton, Biden, and Trump, there is no credible evidence linking them directly to Epstein’s death. Clinton has acknowledged traveling on Epstein’s plane for humanitarian work, while Trump has publicly questioned whether Epstein’s death was a suicide or homicide. Biden hasn’t made direct comments on the matter.

Some allegations and investigations are ongoing, and it’s crucial to rely on verified information and official reports.

I anticipate serious repercussions from the ongoing investigations, as many important figures, whom I prefer not to name, will fall victim to their clandestine dealings with Epstein. Let’s wait for the final results of these investigations.

The publication of the results may take a long time. I suspect it would be deliberately delayed until after the deaths of the three presidents mentioned in my article. I suppose I would have passed away as well.

‘MASAR’

Foundation stone for Sur Waterfront Project to be laid on 11 February

SUR: The Wilayat of Sur will celebrate next Wednesday, 11 February 2026, the laying of the foundation stone for the ‘Masar’ Waterfront Development Project in the Al Barr area.

The project, with a total estimated cost of approximately OMR2 million, is part of South A’Sharqiyah Governorate’s efforts to develop urban facilities and enhance quality of life through an active partnership with the private sector.

The project features a health walkway, a dedicated cycling path, children’s play areas, and public seating zones.

It also includes the structural and service preparation of padel court facilities intended for investment, alongside restaurants, cafes, and commercial kiosks.

The foundation stone-laying ceremony will be held under the auspices of Nasser Khamis Al Jashmi, Chairman of the Tax Au-



thority and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Oman LNG Development Foundation.

The project aligns with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040, aiming to create an integrated urban destination that combines sports, recreational activities, and commercial services.

This initiative seeks to optimize the use of the waterfront and en-

hance the city’s overall attractiveness.

Dr. Yahya Badr Al Maawali, Governor of South A’Sharqiyah, explained that the project represents a qualitative addition to the Wilayat of Sur and reflects the governorate’s direction toward developing sustainable public facilities that meet community needs.

In a statement to Oman News

Agency, Al Maawali said: “The ‘Masar’ Waterfront Development Project is one of the important developmental projects that promote healthy lifestyles and provide a suitable environment for practicing sports and recreational activities, in addition to its role in stimulating economic activity.”

He noted that the project is part of the “Masar” initiative implemented by Oman Liquefied Natural Gas Company (Oman LNG) in cooperation with the governorate across several of its wilayats to develop waterfronts and urban walkways while improving the quality of public spaces.

Dr. Yahya Al Maawali further indicated that the South A’Sharqiyah Governorate will oversee the implementation of the project with support from Oman LNG, with construction scheduled to begin on 11 September and span a duration of one year. -ONA

EMPLOYMENT

RAFO receives new batch of recruits

MUSCAT: Acting in coordination with the Ministry of Labour, the Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) on Sunday received a new batch of officer cadets, as part of the RAFO’s efforts to provide employment for Omani citizens and enable them to engage in military service after they pass preliminary admission interviews and medical and physical examinations.

Those who meet the conditions will join a basic military training programme in preparation for joining the ranks of the Royal Air Force of Oman.

The RAFO extended its full expertise and facilities to serve the new recruits, including specialized manpower, administrative, health and transport services. The step



aims to streamline procedures for citizens wishing to join the military service and to supply the Sultan’s Armed Forces (SAF) and other departments of the Ministry of Defence with qualified national cadres, to serve the nation and its beloved leader. -ONA

MENDIS’ MEN

Oman at T20 World Cup

< FROM A1 Oman’s T20 World Cup history has been modest but memorable. Across three previous editions, the side has recorded just two victories, including a famous upset over Test-playing Ireland in 2016 and a spirited win against Papua New Guinea in 2021. Mendis’ men are now featuring in their second successive global showpiece, having competed in the 2024 edition, co-hosted by the USA and West Indies.

But this edition feels different. The recent form in warm-ups, and fearless intent has generated quiet confidence within the squad, one that could translate into performances capable of surprising more established teams.

Zimbabwe enter this opener

with their own history and ambitions. A full Test-playing nation with multiple T20 World Cup campaigns under their belt, the African side feature experienced performers such as Sikandar Raza, Ryan Burl, and Tadiwanashe Marumani, backed by capable bowling threats across formats.

While Oman beat Zimbabwe in a warm-up, the stakes on Monday are higher, giving both sides a chance to assert early control of their World Cup narrative.

Oman squad: Jatinder Singh (c), Vinayak Shukla (vc & wk), Aamir Kaleem, Mohammad Nadeem, Shakeel Ahmad, Hammad Mirza, Wasim Ali, Karan Sonavale, Faisal Shah, Nadeem Khan, Sufyan Mehmood, Shafiq Jan, Jay Odedra, Jiten Ramanandi, Ashish Odedara.

It is with deep sorrow that we acknowledge
the passing of Dr. Chona Thomas,
an internationally renowned plastic surgeon and dedicated humanitarian
who brought Oman onto the world surgical map.



Dr. Thomas was a pivotal figure at ‘**Operation Smile**’,
where he devoted many decades of his life to performing life-changing surgeries for
underprivileged children across the globe.

He not only transformed the lives of his patients but inspired many surgeons and
volunteers worldwide to join the mission of ‘**Operation Smile.**’

His memory will live on through the lives he changed and the hearts he inspired.
He will be dearly missed but never forgotten.

May His Soul Forever Rest In Peace



Operation  Smile
Changing Lives One Smile at a Time

With deep sorrow and heartfelt gratitude for a life well lived,
our family announce the passing of
Dr.C Thomas, pioneering plastic surgeon,
devoted husband, proud father and compassionate human being
at the age of 84.



He founded the **Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery Services**
in Oman and served as the **Director of Khoula Hospital,**
amongst many other positions that started and
advanced healthcare in Oman.

His legacy as a surgeon, leader and teacher
will be carried forward in the institutions he helped build,
the surgeons he trained and the countless patients whose lives were
transformed by his skill and compassion.

We thank God and the Sultanate of Oman
for all the blessings bestowed on him.

We commend his soul to God and give thanks
for a life lived in faith, service and love.

Survived by his loving wife,
children and grandchildren.



FORUM

Sayyid Theyyazin graces opening of ‘Together Moving Forward’ Forum

FROM In his keynote address, Sheikh Al Fadhl bin Mohammed Al Harthy, Secretary-General of the Council of Ministers, stated, “The ‘Together Moving Forward’ forum stands as an annual milestone for national dialogue and an effective platform to present the ideas and visions generated in its previous editions. Many of these have since been translated into concrete initiatives and projects, embodying the spirit of partnership that underpins this forum and advancing our shared principle: ‘With you and alongside you, we progress.’”

He added that the preparatory phase for this edition saw widespread engagement from the public, both in proposing discussion themes and in voting on them—a clear reflection of a growing public consciousness regarding the crucial role of society in shaping the nation’s future priorities. According to results announced in October 2025, the theme concerning the “Oman Vision 2040” garnered the highest percentage of votes, while the labour market and employment theme ranked foremost among those proposed by citizens.

Al Harthy noted the significant public interest in the forum, with approximately 8,600 participants registered via its electronic platform and over 2,000 citizens selected to attend the sessions in person. The selection criteria were designed to ensure broad societal representation and to reflect the aspirations of all community segments.

Responding to requests from participants in previous editions, he announced during the forum that His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has graciously endorsed the proposal to host the “Together Moving Forward” forum on a rotational basis across Oman’s governorates. Accordingly, the principal forum will convene in Muscat Governorate to deliberate strategic national issues, with the following year dedicated to focused dialogue meetings in other governorates to address localized developmental priorities. The topics for these governorates’ meetings will be determined by the residents of each governorate through a dedicated digital platform.

The forum’s first day is dedicated to strategic themes integral to comprehensive national development. The opening session examines the “Oman Vision 2040: Achievements and Future Prospects,” while the second session explores investment prospects in priority economic sectors, including manufacturing, tourism, and the digital economy. An extended evening dialogue session was also held with Their Highnesses and



the Governors to discuss the role of governorates in fostering local economic growth and enhancing investment.

Al Harthy noted that, within the ongoing effort to fortify trust and partnership between society and the government, the “Ideas Makers – Hamat” initiative has been launched in collaboration with the Oman Investment Authority (OIA). The initiative aims to incubate creative concepts and translate them into actionable projects across three primary tracks: enhancing tourism experiences, developing solutions for challenges faced by state-owned companies, and fostering research and innovation in localizing advanced technologies. Participation in the initiative exceeded 1,400 teams from across the Sultanate of Oman’s governorates, with nine teams selected for the final round of competition. The winning teams will be announced on the following day.

He also highlighted that a public exhibition, running concurrently with the forum over its two-day duration, will showcase a range of national efforts and institutional milestones, underscoring successful models of partnership between government bodies and the private sector.

During the first dialogue session, titled “Oman Vision 2040: Achievements and Future Prospects,” Dr. Khamis bin Saif Al Jabri, Minister of Economy, affirmed that every government entity has a clear implementation plan aligned with Oman Vision 2040 and is recording positive progress across the Vision’s various indicators.

He added, “A dedicated national program for private sector development has been established to diagnose the sector’s challenges and identify enabling measures to elevate its role.”

The minister further stated that establishing effective linkages between job requirements in key economic sectors and student qualification remains a priority, alongside expanding specialized training programs in the coming phase. He also noted measurable progress in the gradual succession planning

for leadership roles within private sector institutions—spanning senior and mid-level management, as well as professional and technical career paths.

In his address during the forum’s first discussion session, Dr. Said bin Mohammed Al Sagri, Economic Advisor at the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, outlined the Office’s role in enhancing and accelerating the competitiveness of the Omani economy. He emphasized the critical importance of forward-looking strategic leadership amid ongoing global economic shifts.

He underscored the significance of establishing financial centers, citing their role in improving liquidity, facilitating global trade flows, and attracting foreign direct investment—particularly in financing activities. He identified several key success factors, including the presence of robust equity, bond, and commodity markets, a supportive regulatory framework, and a skilled, specialized workforce.

He also noted that the current five-year plan commences under markedly improved economic conditions compared to the previous cycle, with public debt substantially reduced and expectations for economic growth hovering around 4 percent throughout its duration.

In the second discussion session, titled “Investment Prospects in Priority Economic Sectors,” Abdulsalam bin Mohammed Al Murshidi, Chairman of the Oman Investment Authority, emphasized the Authority’s commitment to ensuring its international investments carry a distinct Omani imprint and generate tangible added value.

Eng. Said bin Hamoud Al Maawali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, reported that investment in the communications and information technology sector over the past five years has totalled approximately RO 1.2 billion, including some RO 65 million dedicated to artificial intelligence (AI) initiatives.

Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef,



Chairman of the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones, stated, “The industrial sector stands as one of the foremost contributors to the Gross Domestic Product, accounting for over 10 percent, while non-oil merchandise exports have grown by 8.3 percent.”

Azzan bin Qasim Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism for Tourism, noted that visitor arrivals to the Sultanate of Oman reached nearly 3.96 million by the end of 2025, accompanied by a significant 18.1 percent rise in tourism expenditure. The tourism sector’s value-added contribution amounted to RO 1.1 billion. He further highlighted that domestic tourism within Oman attracted approximately 14 million visitors in 2025.

Faisal bin Abdullah Al Rowas, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), affirmed the Chamber’s role as a strategic partner in all endeavours aimed at strengthening the national GDP. He reiterated the Chamber’s dedication to supporting pivotal initiatives and sectors, including investment, tourism, and digital transformation.

Ibtisam bint Ahmed Al Faraji, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion for Investment Promotion, outlined the establishment of a comprehensive stakeholder framework within the “Invest Oman” platform. This system provides a transparent and structured process for investments and is currently managing around 110 investment inquiries. Of these, 59 are active files involving localization efforts or ongoing feasibility studies and company formation, while 31 projects have been successfully localized, and 8 others have been facilitated, processed, and promoted.

She added that investments secured and localized through the “Invest Oman” platform include 8 strategic projects, facilitated by the National Negotiation Team, which have collectively attracted investment commitments valued

at RO 2.5 billion.

The forum featured a pivotal discussion session titled “Governorate Development and Their Role in Advancing Investment in Manufacturing, Tourism, and the Digital Economy.” HH Sayyid Marwan bin Turki Al Said, Governor of Dhofar, underscored during the session the critical importance of forging robust partnerships between governmental institutions and the community to streamline communication and effectively execute the roles and mandates essential for governorate development.

Dr. Yahya bin Badr Al Maawali, Governor of South A’Sharqiyah, elaborated that the “Together Moving Forward” forum serves as a vital conduit for engaging with diverse societal segments to identify, monitor, and ultimately address the aspirations of the citizenry through dedicated study and action.

Sheikh Hilal bin Said Al Hajri, Governor of A’Dakhiliyah, emphasized that the development initiatives within his governorate are fundamentally anchored in human capital, with numerous strategic plans being constructed upon this foundation. He reaffirmed the governorate’s steadfast commitment to a model of communal partnership.

In his remarks, Mahmoud bin Yahya Al Dhuhli, Governor of North A’Sharqiyah, reported significant progress, with the governorate successfully expanding its cultivated land to 11,000 acres within a three-year period and issuing 596 licenses for high-quality agricultural ventures.

Taher bin Mubkhout Al Junaibi, Governor of A’Dhahirah, outlined the governorate’s strategic focus on fostering economic synergy among its three wilayats by leveraging their unique competitive strengths. He highlighted A’Dhahirah’s strategic position as a pivotal logistics and industrial nexus connecting the Sultanate of Oman with the Saudi market, its ambition to become a cornerstone of national food security, and its rich potential in mineral wealth.

Mohammed bin Said Al Kindi,

Governor of North Al Batinah, disclosed plans for a major food security initiative: the creation of an agricultural city in the Wilayat of Saham spanning six million square meters. This project is being coordinated jointly with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning.

In a related context, Sayyid Dr. Hamad bin Ahmed Al Busaidi, Governor of Al Buraimi, revealed that investment in food security projects within the governorate has reached approximately RO 62 million. He stressed the imperative of furnishing these projects with comprehensive support services to ensure their evolution and long-term sustainability.

Sheikh Ahmed bin Musallam Al Kathiri, Governor of Al Wusta, detailed the governorate’s leading projects in manufacturing, logistics, and renewable energy. He noted that the ‘ACME’ green hydrogen initiative in Duqm is advancing steadily, having reached the 50% completion milestone.

Addressing inquiries during the session, Dr. Khalfan bin Said Al Shuali, Minister of Housing and Urban Planning, provided an update on rural housing regulations in Dhofar. He confirmed that 95 percent of the work pertaining to the plains area has been finalized under the approved urban strategy framework. The primary objective of preserving the distinctive rural character of Dhofar’s plains has been met, and a forward-looking ten-year plan has been established, with a key focus on safeguarding the region’s green spaces.

For his part, Eng. Said bin Hamoud Al Maawali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, announced the formal appointment of a dedicated committee to oversee the Al Jabal Al Abyad road project in the Wilayat of Dama and Al Ta’een, with its commissioning anticipated in the near term. He also outlined collaborative plans for the development of Khor Garama and introduced a new road project for Ras Al Hadd in the Wilayat of Sur.

HH Sayyid Theyyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, toured the accompanying exhibition. During his visit, he received a comprehensive briefing from the organizers on the various participating pavilions, which showcase a range of integrated initiatives and projects. These exhibits highlight the synergistic efforts across multiple sectors and their role in advancing the nation’s sustainable economic development trajectory. -OMA

Indian Naval sailing vessel Kaundinya ceremonially flagged off from Muscat

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Echoing centuries of maritime exchange across the Indian Ocean, the Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) Kaundinya was ceremonially flagged off from Muscat, an occasion that symbolises shared maritime heritage and the enduring diplomatic partnership between India and the Sultanate of Oman.

The flagging-off ceremony was graced by Commodore Abdullah Al Hajri of the Royal Navy of Oman, His Excellency Yousef bin Issa Al-Zadjali, Chief of Human Resources Department at the Foreign Ministry, His Excellency Shri G. V. Srinivas, Ambassador of India to Oman, and Commodore Amit Srivastava, Chairman Indian Naval Sailing Association.

The event also witnessed the presence of members of the diplomatic corps, senior officers of the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of Oman, and enthusiastic participation from the Indian community in Oman.

INSV Kaundinya successfully completed her historic maiden voyage from Porbandar to Muscat, symbolically retracing ancient maritime routes that connected India and Oman for centuries.



Conceptualised in mid-2024, the expedition was executed by the Indian Navy, with support from Ministry of Culture, as a tribute to India’s seafaring traditions and the spirit of maritime enterprise that has long characterised the Indian Ocean region.

Built using traditional stitched-plank shipbuilding techniques inspired by depictions in the Ajanta cave paintings, INSV Kaundinya represents one of the oldest forms of ocean-going craftsmanship. Similar vessels are known to have sailed regularly between the west-

ern coast of India and Omani ports such as Sohar and Muscat, facilitating vibrant commercial and cultural exchanges. The voyage thus reconnects both nations with a living maritime legacy that has historically bound their peoples together.

During the event, Captain Harish Srinivasan, Defence Advisor at the Embassy of India, highlighted the significance of INSV Kaundinya as a celebration of India’s maritime legacy and the centuries-old seafaring connections with Oman. He lauded Indian Navy’s successful execution of the maiden voyage from Porbandar to Muscat, describing the vessel as a symbol of shared history, cultural exchange, and enduring friendship.

He also expressed gratitude to the Royal Navy of Oman, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Oman, the local Indian community, and all agencies and individuals who supported the expedition.

Addressing the gathering, Commodore Amit Srivastava noted that Kaundinya is far more than a reconstructed vessel, describing her as a celebration of shared maritime heritage and the Indian Navy’s efforts to preserve and showcase traditional seafaring knowledge.

He acknowledged the challenging nature of the project and commended the Indian Navy’s seamanship and dedication in successfully executing the expedition.

In his remarks, His Excellency Shri G. V. Srinivas underscored the deep-rooted historical and cultural connections between India and Oman, especially in the maritime domain. He noted that the voyage of INSV Kaundinya reflects the shared legacy of navigation, trade, and cultural exchange across the Indian Ocean, and serves as a living testament to the enduring friendship between the two nations. He expressed gratitude to the leadership of both nations for their continued support in fostering such meaningful engagements.

The ceremony also saw vibrant participation from the Indian community in Oman, whose support and enthusiasm have been instrumental in celebrating the voyage and promoting India’s maritime heritage.

The flagging off of INSV Kaundinya from Muscat stands as a celebration of maritime tradition, diplomatic friendship, and the growing strategic and cultural co-operation between India and the Sultanate of Oman.

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESSES

The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology is continuing work on the design and implementation of a road serving the Oman Agriculture Development Company in the Wilayat of Nizwa, Al Dakhiliyah Governorate.

MARKE

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 6,565.20 points, up by 2.19% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 1.57% at 601.44 points. A'Saffa Foods, up 10.00%, was the top gainer while, Aman REIT, down 2.50%, was the top loser.

Oman and Italy strengthen economic and investment ties

Business Forum reflects the depth of bilateral relations between of Oman and Italy and embodies the two countries' shared resolve to elevate economic, trade, and investment cooperation towards broader and more sustainable horizons, serving mutual interests



two countries' shared resolve to elevate economic, trade, and investment cooperation towards broader and more sustainable horizons, serving mutual interests.

In his speech, he added that the volume of trade exchange between the Oman and Italy reached about 440 million euros in 2025, including Omani exports to Italy worth approximately 80 million euros and imports from Italy worth approximately 360 million euros. This reflects the robustness of bilateral trade relations and their promising prospects for future growth.

He clarified that the number of visitors arriving from Italy to the Sultanate of Oman in 2025 exceeded 80,000, reflecting notable growth in tourism and cultural exchange between the two countries. Italian companies are also actively working in the Omani market across multiple sectors, including mining, industry, real estate development, oil and gas, and logistics.

This reflects growing confidence in the Omani market. He noted that the opening of the Italian Trade Agency (ITA) office in the capital, Muscat, has contributed to expanding the presence of



Italian companies in the Sultanate
of Oman.

Eng. Hussein affirmed that Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry contributes to strengthening trade relations and investment partnerships between the business communities of the two countries. This is achieved by supporting bilateral meetings, activating communication channels, and encouraging joint initiatives that contribute to increasing trade volume, expanding investments, and deepening cooperation in various fields.

Pierluigi D'Elia, Ambassador of the Italian Republic to the Sultanate of Oman, stated that this forum is an important milestone in the trajectory of economic relations between the two countries and a practical opportunity to deepen existing partnerships and explore new horizons for cooperation in sectors prioritized by both sides. Italian companies view the Sultanate of Oman as a stable and attractive investment environment, thanks to its clear economic vision, modern legislative framework, and strategic geographical location, which qualifies it to be a pivotal logistics and industrial hub.

in the region, he pointed out.

He added in his speech that Italy possesses leading expertise in fields such as railways, advanced engineering systems, energy, and infrastructure—sectors witnessing increasing interest in the Sultanate of Oman within its framework of major national projects. He expressed his aspiration for Italian expertise to contribute to supporting Oman's ambitions towards building a modern and sustainable transport system and enhancing the efficiency of the industry and energy sectors.

The forum featured a visual presentation on "Invest Oman." It showcased the unified enablers and services aimed at attracting strategic investments through a single window that brings together more than 22 government and private entities, supported by a specialized national negotiation team and investor relations managers to support the investor's journey.

The presentation also highlighted the competitive advantages of the Sultanate of Oman, foremost among them its strategic location providing access to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) markets.

encompassing around 59 million consumers, in addition to connectivity with Asian and African markets reaching 2.6 billion consumers, and direct connection to East-West trade routes.

It also addressed the stable economic fundamentals enjoyed by Oman, with positive credit ratings from global agencies and a currency among the strongest globally, in addition to non-oil exports contributing approximately one-third of total exports.

The Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology delivered a visual presentation outlining the ambitious vision for transport and logistics and opportunities for international investment partnership. Oman aims to rank among the top 25 countries globally in this sector through an integrated package of projects and modern infrastructure, supportive legislation, and partnership programs with the private sector and international investors. The presentation addressed the foundations of this ambitious vision: an integrated and safe transport network, effective institutional governance, in-

novative digital transformation, in addition to environmental sustainability and carbon neutrality.

The presentation highlighted a number of high-quality projects, including the first green hydrogen refueling station in Oman, electric transport projects such as electric buses and electric bike delivery initiatives, alongside the use of bio-fuel in maritime locomotive operations at Sohar Port, and projects for shore-to-ship power supply to reduce emissions. On the technical innovation side, smart initiatives in the transport sector were showcased, such as the National Ports Community System, vehicle monitoring systems, and memoranda of understanding for operating Vertical Take-Off and Landing (VTOL) aircraft and launching a locally assembled drone to support logistics services in remote areas.

The Ministry of Energy and Minerals also delivered a visual presentation introducing promising investment opportunities in the sector. It addressed the investment opportunities offered in the mining and minerals sector for 2025, leveraging the great geological diversity of the Sultanate of Oman and the advantages of investing in mining concession areas.

On the sidelines of the forum, bilateral meetings were held between business owners from the two countries. They discussed prospects for cooperation and partnership, reviewed available investment opportunities in a number of sectors of mutual interest, and explored ways to build strategic partnerships and exchange expertise, contributing to deepening economic partnerships and enhancing cooperation between the two sides.

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MARKET

MSX index ends higher

A'Saffa Foods, up 10.00%, was the top gainer while, Aman REIT, down 2.50%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 6,565.20 points, up by 2.19% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 1.57% at 601.44 points. A'Saffa Foods, up 10.00%, was the top gainer while, Aman REIT, down 2.50%, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover. A total number of 6610 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 5773 million, with more than 238.79 million shares changing hands. Out of 81 traded securities, 45 advanced, 10 declined, and 26 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for RO 2299K while GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for RO 1746K, followed by foreign investors for RO 553K worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 11,326.70 points, up 2.05%. Prices of Sohar International

Bank, Global Financial Investments, Al Madina Investments, DIDIC, Muscat Finance were up by 6.29%, 5.96%, 4.76%, 4.38%, 4.29% respectively. Prices of Oman Arab Bank were down by 0.57% respectively. Industrial Index closed at 9,190.79 points, up 1.78%. Prices of A'Saffa Foods, Gulf International Chemicals, Voltamp Energy, Galfar Engineering, Ray-sut Cement were up by 10.00%, 9.09%, 5.36%, 1.98%, 1.11% respectively. Prices of Oman Chlorine, Al Maha Ceramics, Muscat Thread Mill, Dhofar Cattle Feed, Oman Cables Industry were down by 1.72%, 1.38%, 1.37%, 1.35%, 1.13% respectively. Services Index was up by 1.61% before closing at 2,592.58 points. Prices of Barka Desalination, Ooredoo, Barka Water & Power Company, Abraj Energy, Muscat Desalination were up by 4.00%, 4.00%, 2.94%, 2.65%, 2.27% respectively. – **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS																
MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE																
INDICES																
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%										
MSX 30 INDEX	6,570.23	6,424.73	6,565.20	6,424.70	140.49	2.19										
FINANCIAL INDEX	11,326.70	11,099.38	11,326.70	11,099.38	227.31	2.05										
Industry Index	9,190.79	9,018.19	9,190.79	9,030.49	160.30	1.78										
Services Index	2,596.51	2,551.03	2,592.58	2,551.49	41.09	1.61										
MSX Shariah Index	602.54	592.30	601.44	592.16	9.28	1.57										
MSX TR INDEX	9,875.43	9,556.73	9,867.86	9,556.69	211.17	2.19										
FINANCIAL TR IDX	13,456.51	13,186.46	13,456.51	13,186.46	270.05	2.05										
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	11,331.45	11,118.65	11,331.45	11,133.82	197.63	1.78										
SERVICES TR IDX	3,386.04	3,326.74	3,380.91	3,327.33	53.58	1.61										
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,206.85	1,206.85	1,206.85	1,206.85	0.00	0.00										
Trading Summary																
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Open Price	High	Low	Close PR.	Prev. Close	Diff.	Diff%	Last PR.	Last BD.	Last Offer	PRI. VALUE	MARKET CAP		
238,796,843	57,732,581	6,610	34,218,715,057	45	10	26	81									
SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8																
SEC.	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF.	DIFF%	LAST PR.	LAST BD.	LAST OFFER	PRI. VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	198,744	135,411	11	0.730	0.748	0.680	0.748	0.680	0.068	10.00%	0.748	0.680	0.748	0.100	83,760,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	68,888,441	12,575,110	1,179	0.175	0.187	0.175	0.186	0.175	0.011	6.28%	0.186	0.186	0.186	0.100	1,230,807,806
OM00000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	609,738	144,987	31	0.235	0.249	0.235	0.249	0.235	0.014	5.96%	0.249	0.242	0.249	0.100	49,800,000
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	214,129	366,742	56	1.680	1.780	1.679	1.770	1.680	0.090	5.37%	1.770	1.770	1.770	0.100	165,695,297
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	4,148,235	1,276,566	111	0.302	0.315	0.302	0.312	0.300	0.012	4.00%	0.312	0.312	0.312	0.100	203,084,600
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	2,295,052	890,884	308	0.380	0.385	0.379	0.388	0.378	0.010	2.64%	0.388	0.388	0.388	0.100	298,837,600
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	14,669,851	5,562,258	348	0.375	0.384	0.375	0.384	0.375	0.009	2.40%	0.384	0.385	0.384	0.100	82,862,456,472
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	1,642,890	143,831	70	0.086	0.089	0.086	0.088	0.086	0.002	2.32%	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.100	31,338,002
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	921,179	120,219	42	0.130	0.132	0.128	0.132	0.129	0.003	2.32%	0.132	0.131	0.132	0.100	295,277,800
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO	497,687	57,231	39	0.114	0.119	0.114	0.116	0.114	0.002	1.75%	0.116	0.115	0.116	0.100	10,440,000
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	474,126	59,682	26	0.126	0.127	0.125	0.127	0.126	0.001	0.80%	0.127	0.126	0.127	0.100	22,225,000
OM0000003036	OMAN TELECOM	4,704,236	1,901,142	244	1.092	1.108	1.089	1.106	1.090	0.016	1.46%	1.107	1.109	1.107	0.100	829,500,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	364,576	137,167	54	0.374	0.378	0.374	0.377	0.373	0.004	1.07%	0.377	0.377	0.377	0.100	352,763,272
OM0000002226	AL JAZEERA SERVICES	32,628	6,314	17	0.193	0.195	0.192	0.195	0.193	0.002	1.03%	0.195	0.194	0.196	0.100	8,354,383
OM0000004925	ALBATHINAH POWER	207,551	24,150	16	0.164	0.165	0.163	0.165	0.164	0.001	0.61%	0.165	0.164	0.165	0.100	11,356,436
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	569,395	110,794	27	0.195	0.196	0.193	0.195	0.194	0.001	0.51%	0.195	0.190	0.195	0.100	42,900,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	112,689	44,522	105	0.385	0.386	0.385	0.386	0.384	0.002	0.50%	0.386	0.385	0.386	0.100	643,674,757
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	610,503	244,201	13	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.398	0.398	0.002	0.50%	0.400	0.395	0.402	0.100	40,000,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	14,070	13,600	7	0.970	0.970	0.964	0.964	0.960	0.004	0.41%	0.964	0.964	0.965	0.100	120,401,633
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	152,854	50,328	21	0.329	0.331	0.329	0.331	0.330	0.001	0.30%	0.331	0.330	0.331	0.100	79,251,710
OM0000004833	AL SUWADI POWER	249,975	41,046	28	0.164	0.165	0.164	0.165	0.165	0.000	0.00%	0.165	0.164	0.166	0.100	117,877,046
OM0000008072	QIGAS NETWORKS	18,519,266	3,942,100	527	0.213	0.215	0.211	0.213	0.213	0.000	0.00%	0.213	0.213	0.214	0.100	922,422,895
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	5,326	13,872	7	2.600	2.620	2.600	2.620	2.650	-0.030	-1.13%	2.620	2.601	2.669	0.100	235,014,000
Total	23	120,804,151	31,151,267	3,287												
Parallel Market																
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	1,888,899	154,598	101	0.077	0.084	0.077	0.084	0.077	0.007	9.09%	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.100	1,764,000
OM0000001982	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	9,950	428	6	0.043	0.044	0.043	0.044	0.042	0.002	4.76%	0.044	0.042	0.044	0.100	3,740,000
OM0000001509	DHOFAH INTL.DEV'T & INVESTMENT	3,570,140	916,459	134	0.270	0.286	0.270	0.286	0.274	0.012	4.38%	0.286	0.286	0.286	0.100	141,872,056
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	1,825,162	130,814	79	0.070	0.073	0.070	0.073	0.070	0.003	4.28%	0.073	0.073	0.077	0.100	22,421,682
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	31,746	4,942	5	0.155	0.156	0.155	0.156	0.150	0.006	4.00%	0.156	0.156	0.156	0.100	11,781,432
OM0000007280	ARABIA FALCON INSURANCE	100	14	1	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.135	0.005	3.70%	0.140	0.140	0.000	0.100	14,462,232
OM0000001020	ASTAD SHIPPING	32,142,0226,300,320	811	0.194	0.199	0.193	0.198	0.191	0.007	3.66%	0.198	0.198	0.198	0.000	1,031,331,367	
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	530	93	1	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.170	0.005	2.94%	0.175	0.170	0.176	0.100	28,000,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	401,044	50,040	42	0.138	0.142	0.138	0.142	0.138	0.004	2.89%	0.142	0.140	0.142	0.100	42,394,536
OM0000009098	QJ BASE INDUSTRIES (SPZ)	48,948,041	9,754,719	830	0.185	0.197	0.185	0.197	0.192	0.005	2.64%	0.197	0.197	0.197	0.040	681,519,697
OM0000000784	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	101,977	9,178	30	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.088	0.088	0.002	2.27%	0.090	0.086	0.090	0.100	13,999,538
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	56,300	5,172	8	0.091	0.093	0.091	0.093	0.091	0.002	2.19%	0.093	0.090	0.094	0.100	7,905,000
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO	1,167,000	128,026	15	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.106	0.106	0.002	1.88%	0.108	0.107	0.108	0.100	13,619,500
OM0000004735	SEMBORP SALALAH	732,654	157,724	40	0.214	0.218	0.214	0.217	0.213	0.004	1.87%	0.217	0.217	0.220	0.100	307,142,113
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	173,773	54,840	7	0.314	0.320	0.314	0.320	0.315	0.005	1.58%	0.320	0.320	0.320	0.100	22,524,800
OM0000009759	QJ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	18,741,078	7,588,739	458	0.402	0.408	0.402	0.408	0.402	0.006	1.49%	0.408	0.408	0.408	0.003	264,000,000
OM0000002948	NATIONAL FINANCE	114,700	24,365	33	0.210	0.213	0.210	0.213	0.210	0.003	1.42%	0.213	0.213	0.214	0.100	128,530,963
OM0000002272	OMAN OIL MARKETING	11,100	9,833	7	0.862	0.870	0.862	0.870	0.860	0.010	1.16%	0.870	0.870	0.874	0.100	53,309,250
OM0000007407	DHOFAH GENERATING	17,000	1,481	4	0.087	0.088	0.087	0.088	0.087	0.001	1.14%	0.088	0.085	0.088	0.100	19,557,120
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FINANCIAL SERVICES	64,434	10,833	10	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.000	0.00%	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.100	28,000,000
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAH	4,572,000	858,820	307	0.187	0.188	0.187	0.188	0.187	0.001	0.53%	0.188	0.188	0.188	0.100	571,482,124
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	231,449	44,685	9	0.193	0.195	0.193	0.194	0.193	0.001	0.51%	0.194	0.194	0.196	0.100	14,778,755
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	105,291	42,120	31	0.400	0.401	0.400	0.400	0.399	0.001	0.25%	0.401	0.401	0.401	0.100	18,306,319
OM0000001065	DHOFAH INSURANCE	6,473	1,023	9	0.152	0.152	0.151	0.152	0.151	0.001	0.60%	0.152	0.150	0.152	0.100	2,500,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NATL ENGG & INVESTMENT	40,000	6,040	5	0.151	0.151	0.151	0.151	0.151	0.000	0.00%	0.151	0.151	0.152	0.100	22,650,000
OM0000001384	FINANCIAL SERVICES	5,682	407	5	0.080	0.084	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.00%	0.080	0.077	0.080	0.100	1,600,000
OM0000000695	MAJAL COLLEGE	43,616	5,580	10	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.000	0.00%	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.100	1,000,000
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	5,453	4,308	5	0.790	0.790	0.790	0.790	0.790	0.000	0.00%	0.790	0.790	0.790	0.100	75,500,000
OM0000003000	AL MAHA PETROLEUM PRODT'S MKRGTG	10,000	19,780	1	1.100	1.100	1.100	1.100	1.100	0.000	0.00%	1.100	1.100	1.100	0.100	75,900,000
OM0000004738	TAQA OMAN FINANCE	19,520	5,000	10	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.000	0.00%	0.127	0.126	0.127	0.100	15,185,125
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	3,774	6,109	15	0.220	0.221	0.219	0.220	0.220	0.000	0.00%	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.100	43,919,832
OM0000004699	SHARQIYA DESALINATION	100,660	14,683	11	0.145	0.150	0.145	0.150	0.150	0.000	0.00%	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.100	14,670,324
OM0000004768	TAKAFUL OMAN	75,302	6,153	9	0.082	0.082	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.00%	0.080	0.079	0.082	0.100	20,000,000
OM0000002682	OMAN POWER	400,688	65,886	30	0.162	0.165	0.163	0.164	0.164	0.001	0.64%	0.164	0.164	0.164	0.100	639,866,839
OM0000008847	OMAN QATAR INSURANCE	4,902	912	2	0.186	0.186	0.186	0.186	0.186	0.000	0.00%	0.186	0.186	0.186	0.100	29,896,654
OM0000008479	OMAN REIT FUND	26,821	2,660	6	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.103								



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

IT

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

ENGINEER

Civil foreman Indian 14 yrs experience valid Oman D/L seeks job Contact :94255966

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

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

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

JOB WANTED

ENGINEER

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

Female software Engineer full stack developer also expert in digital marketing with 7 yrs experience. Contact 74102443

BE Civil Engr. Indian male, 11yrs experience in Oman D/L seeks placement. Contact: 93867573, Email: pineasdhas@gmail.com

Btech Civil Engineer Indian female, looking for job.experience in AutoCad &quantity measurements. Contact: 90109372/91358740, email: anuvikram9812 @gmail.com

Indian male, B.E mechanical with 4+ yrs automotive CFD experience (underhood thermal, ANSA). senior CFD engineer at Alten India. immediate joiner. Contact: 9080451226 | +96896008574 | maheshbabuv1799@gmail.com

Software Engineer / full-stack developer B.Tech computer science with experience at Google strong in Python, Java, Go, Cloud & AI systems. Contact: +968 91950661 | anaswerimpluse@gmail.com

DRIVER

Qualified pickup light driver available, valid PDO documents available, speaks English and Hindi, Contact 97681676

Looking for driver job. Contact: 72852929.

Looking for driver job experience 4 yrs Contact 94981482/ 76303505

LOGISTICS

PDO-approved professional with 25+ yrs in oil & gas/ manufacturing, seeking senior leadership in procurement, logistics, or contracts. Contact: "79011679"

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

Logistics Operations executive with 8 yrs experience, seeking a suitable position in Oman, Contact: 97869393

MANAGER

Finance manager, Indian 26 yrs of experience, looking Job Change, Contact:- 98006226

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

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

PURCHASE/ PROCUREMENT

Quantity surveyor (B.Tech civil, AIQs , Assoc. RICS), 4+ yrs Oman experience. skilled in primavera, BIM, Revit,valid Oman D/L. seeking infrastructure ,oil & gas, fit-Out roles. Contact: 97649953

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

PURCHASE/ PROCUREMENT

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

SALES/MARKETING

28 years of experience in sales & marketing in Oman within the consumer durables and FMCG. Indian MBA. seeking a senior managerial position. Contact: 93340457

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

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

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

27 yrs Indian male holding MBA (UK) looking for Job in sales & marketing, Mob:77198066

Indian male 15 yrs experience having Oman D/L Looking for suitable placement in sales & marketing- Contact - 9169 3829

INSURANCE

Experienced insurance operations 6 yrs specialist with strengths in policy support, documentation, underwriting and claim management. Contact:95202160

M/V SALE

Expat lady driven Toyota corolla 2008 model in very good condition for sale. Fully automatic. 120,000Km run, company maintained. Call/ Whatsapp 99384205

Greenland and Denmark say US talks positive but future unclear

Although the US military has the freedom to establish and operate bases freely in Greenland thanks to a 1951 treaty, Trump has insisted he can only protect the territory if the US truly possesses it

NUUK: Greenland's Foreign Minister Vivian Motzfeldt described diplomatic talks with the US on Saturday as "positive," though she said the fate of the autonomous territory under Denmark remains uncertain as US President Donald Trump continues to reiterate his desire to have it for the US, citing national security interests.

"We are not where we want to be yet," said Motzfeldt during a



joint press conference with Danish Foreign Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen and Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand, who opened a new Canadian consulate in Greenland's capital Nuuk.

"There is going to be a long track, so where we are going to land at the end, it's too early to say."

For his part, the Danish foreign minister described the situation in similar terms, saying, "We are not out of the crisis, and we do not have a solution yet," continuing, "we are in a much better position now, compared to a few weeks ago."

Lokke Rasmussen referenced several past incidents without going into detail, telling reporters in

Nuuk, "there are no threats on the table, there is no trade war with Europe," and adding that all sides had agreed to a "normal diplomatic" approach to resolving the impasse.

Trump's overtures began with musings about purchasing the Arctic island of Greenland from Denmark during his first term in office. Since returning to the White House in January 2025, he has not tired of publicly voicing his desire to wrest the territory from NATO ally Denmark.

Although the US military has the freedom to establish and operate bases freely in Greenland thanks to a 1951 treaty, Trump has insist-

ed he can only protect the territory if the US truly possesses it, calling it a "psychologically important" step.

His public statements seemed to come to an initial crescendo on January 21, when he delivered a speech at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland.

Standing on the world stage, Trump made the case for the US to be given ownership of the territory, though he did back away from maximalist threats of potential US military action to make sure that vision becomes a reality.

When EU and NATO allies publicly and aggressively pushed back at the idea, Trump threatened to



levy massive punitive tariffs. He has since backed off that threat, too, although allies remain wary of the mercurial leader.

Why are the US, Greenland and Denmark meeting?

Talks taking place now stem from a "framework" agreement that Trump struck with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte after he spooked allies with his tariff threat. The new plan would give the US more say in Arctic security.

This led to the creation of a Denmark-Greenland-US working group, which was formed to cater to US security concerns. Trump insists that China and Russia are ready to pounce on Greenland as Arctic ice melts and new shipping lanes open. Denmark and its other NATO allies say this is not the case.

Lokke Rasmussen said on Saturday that initial talks had already taken place and that more will follow.

Motzfeldt added that she welcomed the opportunity to engage in "direct dialogue" with the US.

Both Denmark and Greenland have publicly stated that they share US security concerns but insist that Greenland's future must be determined by Greenlanders.

Both Greenland and Denmark have also loudly declared that their sovereignty and territorial integrity are absolute "red lines" and not up for discussion.

Noting that this was made exceedingly clear to their US counterparts, Lokke Rasmussen said he thought it was possible "to find a solution while at the same time respecting those red lines." — **DW**

ANNOUNCEMENT

Washington Post publisher resigns after job cut uproar

WASHINGTON: Washington Post publisher and CEO Will Lewis is leaving the US newspaper effective immediately, he announced on Saturday.

"During my tenure, difficult decisions have been taken in order to ensure the sustainable future of The Post so it can for many years ahead publish high-quality nonpartisan news to millions of customers each day," Lewis wrote in a message to staff that was shared online by the newspaper's White House bureau chief, Matt Viser. Lewis also said it was "the right time for me to step aside."

Lewis, who was born in the UK, had previously been an executive at The Wall Street Journal before moving to the Washington Post in January 2024.

During his tenure, the newspaper lost thousands of subscribers after its owner, billionaire Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, ordered The Post in October 2024 to withdraw its traditional editorial endorsement, which was to be for Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris and not Donald Trump.

Later shifts towards a more conservative editorial direction also led to more subscribers leaving the paper.

Lewis has been replaced by Jeff D'Onofrio, who had joined the Washington Post as chief financial officer last year, the paper said.

In a message to the paper's staff, D'Onofrio acknowledged, "We are ending a hard week of



change with more change."

Mass layoffs spark uproar

Earlier this week, the paper announced massive job cuts.

The layoffs, although expected, were deeper than many had anticipated. They resulted in The Post's sports section being shut down, as well as deep cuts to the newspaper's foreign metro news coverage and its photo staff.

It is unclear exactly how many journalists have been let go as a result of the cuts. The Washington Post has not disclosed the number, but The New York Times has said around 300 reporters have been laid off. Before the layoffs, The Post had 800 journalists.

Unions representing Post employees called Lewis' departure necessary.

"Will Lewis's exit is long overdue," The Washington Post Guild said in a statement. "His legacy will be the attempted destruction of a great American journalism institution. But it's not too late to save the Post. Jeff Bezos must immediately rescind these layoffs or sell the paper to someone willing to invest in its future." — **DW**

JAPAN ELECTION

Sanae Takaichi's LDP set for majority

TOKYO: Japan's nationalist ruling party is set to regain a majority in lower house elections, media projections showed on Sunday in what would be a huge victory for Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi.

Takaichi's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is expected to have won between 274 and 328 seats in the 465-member lower house, up from its current 198, national broadcaster NHK reported, basing projections on exit polls.

Together with its coalition partner, the Japan Innovation Party (JIP), the LDP was projected to win between 302 and 366 seats, NHK said.

Takaichi dissolved parliament in January ahead of the snap elections, a gamble that she hoped would provide her and her struggling party with a stronger mandate.

While Takaichi is hugely popular, particularly with younger voters, her conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which has ruled the country for most of the past seven decades, has been hit by scandals and faced a new opposition alliance that has emerged as a potential challenger.

What do the projections mean?

The projections affirm what opinion polls foresaw ahead of Sunday's national elections, that the LDP would comfortably win the 233 seats required for a majority in the 465-member lower house of parliament.

One recent poll suggested the LDP was set for a landslide win in the lower house. The projections showed that a newly formed Centrist Reform Alliance and the far-right Sanseito party were unable to pose a serious threat.



Who is Sanae Takaichi?

Takaichi became Japan's first woman prime minister in October.

She has touted UK former-Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher — dubbed the "Iron Lady" — as an inspiration, and her pledge to "work, work, work, work and work" has resonated with voters.

An ultraconservative and China hawk, she wants to boost Japan's defense spending and capabilities amid growing tensions with Beijing and pressure from US President Donald Trump, with whom she enjoys good ties.

She has also been pressing for tougher immigration policies and to revitalise Japan's economy.

The election was held against the backdrop of record snowfall in many areas of the country in recent weeks, which could delay vote counting or hinder access to polling stations in some areas, even in Tokyo.

The snow has blocked roads and has been linked to dozens of deaths. — **DW**

THAKURGAON RALLY

BNP's Tarique Rahman seeks votes for 'rebuilding Bangladesh'

THAKURGAON: BNP Chairman Tarique Rahman on Saturday called on voters to support the party's electoral symbol, the sheaf of paddy, saying the upcoming election would be crucial for rebuilding Bangladesh, according to media report.

Addressing a campaign rally at the Thakurgaon Government High School ground, Rahman said the Bangladesh Nationalist (BNP) aimed to reconstruct the country with the "support, love and strength" of the people.

"We want to rebuild Bangladesh with the backing of the people. We envision a country where no one is deprived of at least basic healthcare," Rahman said, urging voters to back the BNP in the forthcoming polls. He said such a vision

could only be realised through public participation. "If you want this kind of Bangladesh, then I ask for your support and your votes in favour of the sheaf of paddy," he told the gathering.

Earlier in the day, at around 10:05 am, Rahman departed Dhaka for Saidpur on a Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight, then travelled to Thakurgaon by helicopter.

He arrived at the rally venue around 11:30 am, where thousands of party leaders and activists welcomed him with slogans and applause, according to Dhaka Tribune.

The visit marked Rahman's first trip to Thakurgaon since December 2003, when he had last visited the district to distribute winter clothing.



The rally began with recitations from the Holy Quran, followed by readings from the Holy Gita and the Bible. It was presided over by Thakurgaon district BNP President Mirza Faisal Amin and conducted by General Secretary

Paigam Ali.

Referring to local development demands, Rahman said BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir had informed him that work on the Thakurgaon airport had made significant progress.

"InshaAllah, if BNP forms the government after the election on the 12th, we will take steps to make the airport operational as quickly as possible," he said.

Rahman also promised that a BNP-led government would establish sugar mills, ration factories and tea industries in Thakurgaon and Panchagarh to create employment. He further pledged to construct a cadet college, establish cold storage facilities for agricultural produce, and set up an IT park in Thakurgaon.

Describing the upcoming election as more than a contest for public office, Rahman said it was an opportunity to rebuild the nation. He alleged that for over a decade, people had been deprived of political rights, freedom of expression and economic opportunities under an "authoritarian government."

He outlined several welfare proposals, including family cards for women, agriculture cards for farmers, waiver of agricultural loans up to Tk10,000, and government-backed repayment of microloans taken from private institutions. He also highlighted plans for agricultural development in Thakurgaon and Panchagarh.

Emphasising public participation, Rahman said rebuilding

Bangladesh would only be possible if people were actively involved.

"The people are the owners of this country. Without their support, none of these plans can be implemented," he said, urging voters to support the BNP to realise its vision for Bangladesh, Dhaka Tribune reported.

The election is a pivotal moment in the country's history, with the Awami League banned from participating and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Jamaat, which is leading an alliance with the National Citizens Party (NCP), along with other parties, gaining traction.

The electoral landscape has also shifted significantly, making it challenging to predict the outcome. — **ANI**

Veistroffer powers to stage two victory at Tour of Oman

Veistroffer attacked late from the day’s breakaway and held off a charging peloton on the uphill finish, crossing the line in a timing of 4 hours, 22 minutes and 43 seconds



Times News Service

MUSCAT: French rider Baptiste Veistroffer of Lotto–Intermarché delivered an impressive solo performance to claim victory in stage two of the 15th edition of the Tour of Oman, covering a demanding 191.4 kilometres on Sunday and finishing strongly at Yitti Hills.

Veistroffer attacked late from the day’s breakaway and held off a charging peloton on the uphill finish, crossing the line in a timing of 4

hours, 22 minutes and 43 seconds. Eritrean rider Mulueberhan Henok of XAT Team finished as runners up with a narrow time gap, while French cyclist Gruel Thibaud of GFC Team secured third place.

With his stage victory, Veistroffer moved into the overall lead of the Tour, claiming the red jersey, while also topping the points classification to take the green jersey with a total of 19 points. Gruel Thibaud was awarded the white jersey as the best young rider, while

Polish cyclist Patryk Goszurny of TVL Team claimed the golden jersey as the most aggressive rider.

The Stage Two awards ceremony was held under the patronage of His Excellency Basil bin Ahmed al Rawas, Undersecretary at the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth.

Stage Two featured a challenging and scenic route highlighting Oman’s geographical diversity and urban landscapes. The stage began at Al Rustaq Fort, passing through Al Rustaq, Al Awabi and Nakhal,

before heading towards Wadi Al Maawil and turning towards Al Ajyal and the Bausher–Fanja Road. Riders continued through Fanja Souq and the Rusayl Industrial Area, before passing the Military Hospital traffic lights and turning towards Al Murtafaah Road and Al Murtafaah Camp Street.

The route then passed Bank Muscat traffic lights, turning right at the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque junction in Al Ghubrah, before continuing to Al Ansab Road and descend-

ing onto the Muscat Expressway in Bausher. Cyclists then turned onto Al Jabal Street (Bausher–Al Amerat Road), passed Al Amerat Cemetery Roundabout, turned into Wadi Adai, and continued through Al Hamriyah, before concluding the stage at the demanding ascent of Yitti Heights, where Veistroffer sealed his victory.

Speaking to the media after the podium ceremony, Veistroffer said: “I feel I truly deserved this victory after a long time. Everyone

in the team believed in me, and I believed in myself. I managed the race well and attacked at the right moment. This win is not only a personal achievement, but the result of a collective team effort.”

“The coming stages will be even tougher and it is important to stay confident and aggressive. The Muscat Classic was a good preparation but today I really enjoyed how hard the race was, especially in the final part of the stage. I like races like this,” he said.

ABU DHABI OPEN TENNIS



Bejlek wins first WTA title

ABU DHABI: Young Czech qualifier Sara Bejlek won the first WTA title of her career on Saturday as she beat Russian second seed Ekaterina Alexandrova 7-6 (7/5), 6-1 in the final of the Abu Dhabi Open. After battling her way through the qualifiers, the 20-year-old left-hander recorded her seventh consecutive victory on the Emirati hard courts in just under one hour and 40 minutes against the world No. 11.

After defeating former Roland Garros champion Jelena Ostapenko of Latvia in the second round and Denmark’s 16th-ranked Clara Tauson in the semi-finals, Bejlek had already had a week to remember before the final of the 500-level event. At 4-3 in the first set, Alexandrova called for a medical time-out. The Russian saved two set points at 6-5, but was unable to fend off another



in the tie-break, eventually going down 7-5 after more than an hour and 10 minutes. Against a visibly struggling Alexandrova, Bejlek ran away with the second set in less than 30 minutes. The Czech, whose best ranking to date was 75th, will enter the top 50 for the first time thanks to her victory.

Despite her defeat, Alexandrova will return to the top 10 in the next WTA rankings.

Boulter seals fourth WTA title

Britain’s Katie Boulter claimed her fourth WTA Tour title with a three-set victory over Tamara Korpatsch at the Ostrava Open on Saturday.

The British No. 4, who had dropped to 120th in the world rankings, came back strongly from a set down in the final to beat German Korpatsch 5-7, 6-2, 6-1.

Boulter’s positive performance in the Czech Republic this week after an inconsistent 2025 season means she will return to the top 100 at No. 84. The 29-year-old split from her long-time coach Biljana Veselinovic last year and appointed Michael Joyce at the start of 2026. - Agencies

EARLY BATTING COLLAPSE

India’s Axar admits dressing room pressure against USA

MUMBAI: India vice-captain Axar Patel admitted the dressing room felt the pressure after an early batting collapse but said the team’s confidence and adaptability helped it recover and secure a 29-run victory over USA in its T20 World Cup opener at the Wankhede Stadium on Saturday.

India were caught off guard by the nature of the pitch at a venue known for high-scoring encounters and slid to a precarious 77/6 after being asked to bat first.

A match-winning unbeaten 84 off 49 balls from skipper Suryakumar Yadav, however, lifted the hosts to a competitive 161/9, which proved enough as USA were restricted to 132/8.

Axar said the team needed time to reassess expectations after realising the surface was not the flat wicket it had anticipated.

“The planning is according to the match situation. Generally, the wicket in Mumbai is flat (and) we took about three overs to determine what would be a good score,” Axar told reporters after the match.

“The dressing room atmosphere was like that... the kind of confidence with which we are coming in, we knew even if one batter gets going we would reach around 140-150. The wicket was also behaving (differently).”

“We were surprised because we thought that this is a flat wicket which generally in Mumbai is,” he added.

Axar acknowledged that the early collapse, particularly in the opening game of a World Cup, did bring pressure into the dressing room. “Obviously, you feel that because in the last (so many) tourna-



ments, there has not been such an early collapse. Cricket is like this, (but then) it’s good that it happened in the first match,” he said.

The all-rounder said India struggled initially to adapt its shot selection to the conditions but viewed the experience as an important learning curve for the remainder of the tournament.

“It is important to understand the nature of the wicket and the type of cricket we have been playing, we were not able to execute the shots. If it happens again, we will have the experience to take it to 160-170.”

“You have to change your style looking at the wicket but we were playing attacking cricket only and not just playing defensively or taking singles or doubles.

“You have to hit the way the wicket is behaving,” Axar said. Despite the collapse, Axar revealed that the team’s internal target was

to reach a defendable score rather than chase an unrealistic total.

“The plan was to put a score in the vicinity of 140, adding that in such situations the team ends up getting a total in excess,” he said.

Axar also spoke about the key partnership with Suryakumar at a stage when wickets had fallen rapidly. “We (Suryakumar and I) talked about taking it till the end because we had no batter left. We wanted to stick around for the next 2-3 overs and then accelerate,” he said.

Praising the Indian captain’s composure and consistency, Axar highlighted Suryakumar’s ability to deliver under pressure.

“The player that he is, you know what happens when he is in form. After last year, the form he showed in the New Zealand series and is continuing to show it and he knows what his game is, which he showed in a big match today (Saturday),” Axar added. - Agencies

GOLF CLASSIC

National team golfer Al Wahaibi reigns supreme in Ghala showdown

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman national team golfer Ahmed Al Wahaibi delivered a composed and commanding performance to clinch the title at the 30th Assarain Golf Classic, held at Ghala Golf Club on the weekend.

Rising above a packed field of around 135 competitors, Al Wahaibi stamped his authority on one of the Sultanate’s most competitive golfing weekends.

Setting the tone with a superb opening-round 69, Al Wahaibi backed it up with a steady 74 on the final day to finish on 143 gross, enough to secure top honours after two days of intense action.

His ability to manage pressure, particularly on the closing stretch, proved decisive as the chasing pack looked to close the gap.

Speaking after sealing the ti-



tle, the Omani golfer reflected on the challenge and significance of the win.

“This was a high-quality field and you really had to stay focused across both days,” Al Wahaibi said.

“I’m proud of the way I played, especially in the opening round, and it means a lot to come through in a tournament of this standard at Ghala.”

Behind the champion, Suan Long Lai mounted a strong challenge, carding rounds of 76 and 72 to finish runner-up on 148 gross, while Ruwan Jayasinghe and Nasih Al Barwani followed closely on 149, separated only by countback.

Al Wahaibi’s influence extended beyond the main leaderboard. He also finished third in the men’s net

category with a total of 135, underlining his all-round consistency across formats.

His opening-day effort earned him the Best Gross (Day 1) award, reinforcing his standing as one of Oman’s most dependable competitors.

The tournament concluded with HH Sayyid Azzan bin Kais Al Said, Chairman of the



Oman Olympic Committee, distributing the prizes.

Collated results: Men’s gross: 1 Ahmed Al Wahaibi (69+74 = 143), 2 Suan Long Lai (76+72 = 148), 3 Ruwan Jayasinghe (73+76 = 149, countback), 4 Nasih Al Barwani (74+75 = 149).

Men’s net: 1 Nasih Al Barwani (67+68 = 135, countback), 2 Faris

Al Busaidi (68+67 = 135, C/B), 3 Ahmed Al Wahaibi (65+70 = 135), 4 Siddharth Bhardwaj (72+67 = 139).

Ladies gross: 1 Lynn Casey (71+72 = 143), 2 Venus Mangadiao (91+92 = 183). Net: 1 Suna Jackson (66+71 = 137), 2 Huwaida Al Barwani (70+73 = 143)

Junior gross: 1 Dineth Jayasinghe (80+78 = 158). Net: Taimur Al Busaidi (73+67 = 140).

SPORTS

Arsenal extend lead at the top as Gyokeres, Zubimendi score



Gunners’ march, under Arteta, continued towards the Premier League title as they notched up 17th win of the season

LONDON: Arsenal moved ever closer to a first Premier League title for 22 years as a 3-0 win over Sunderland on Saturday took the Gunners nine points clear at the top of the table.

Martin Zubimendi’s long-range drive just before half-time settled the nerves of the home crowd at the Emirates Stadium before Vik-

tor Gyokeres struck twice to quieten his critics.

Manchester City can reduce the gap at the top back to six points should they end a wait since 2003 to beat Liverpool at Anfield in front of a crowd on Sunday night.

But after three consecutive second-placed finishes, it appears a matter of when, not if, Mikel Ar-

teta’s men will finally be crowned champions.

Defeat dented Sunderland’s dream of European football on their first season back in the top flight. Regis Le Bris’ side showed why they sit eighth with a dogged first-half showing that left the Arsenal crowd again bemoaning a lack of creativity from open play.

However, Zubimendi picked the lock of the Black Cats’ defence with a crisp strike from outside the box that clipped the inside of the post on its way in for the sixth goal of his impressive debut season in English football.

Gyokeres has attracted plenty of criticism for failing to replicate his free-scoring form at Sporting Lisbon in the Premier League.

But the Sweden international was the club’s top scorer and took his tally for the season to 13 in all competitions. Gyokeres made the points safe when his powerful drive from Kai Havertz’s pass had too much power for Robin Roefs 25 minutes from time. He was then presented with an open goal by Gabriel Martinelli in stoppage time.

The shine was taken off Arsenal’s day late on when Leandro Trossard was forced off through injury. Arteta need as many players available as possible, with Arsenal still competing in four competitions.

Arsenal face City in the League Cup final next month, host Wigan in the fourth round of the FA Cup and cruised into the Champions

League last 16 with eight wins from eight games in the league phase.

Elsewhere on Saturday, Cole Palmer scored a first-half hat-trick as Chelsea won 3-1 at bottom-of-the-table Wolves to continue their good run of form under Liam Rosenior. The forward had four Premier League goals this season before Saturday’s match but almost matched that tally in just one game as he produced an impressive display.

His first two came from the penalty spot, first converting coolly into the bottom corner after Joao Pedro had been fouled, then sending the goalkeeper the wrong way for his second, again coming after Pedro had been fouled.

Palmer drove in from Marc Cucurella’s pass to wrap up the hat-trick in the 38th minute, with the Wolves defence having fallen apart. Those three goals also ensured his name entered the history books as he became the first player in the Premier League to score three first-half hat-tricks.

The win - Chelsea’s fourth in a row in the league under Rosenior - keeps them firmly in top-four contention. They remain fifth in the table, one point behind fourth-placed Manchester United, who defeated Tottenham Hotspur 2-0.

Other results: Bournemouth 1 Aston Villa 1, Burnley 0 West Ham United 2, Fulham 1 Everton 2, Newcastle United 2 Brentford 3. - Agencies

MAN UNITED CAPTAIN SPEAKS

‘Carrick brings something special’

LONDON: Manchester United captain Bruno Fernandes hailed the impact Michael Carrick has made in transforming the mood around Old Trafford with four consecutive wins since taking charge.

Fernandes scored as the Red Devils beat 10-man Tottenham Hotspur 2-0 on Saturday to solidify their place in the Premier League’s top four. Carrick is yet to lose in seven games during two spells as interim United boss.

The former midfielder insisted before this weekend that the United hierarchy cannot rush into a de-

cision over who will be the club’s next permanent manager. However, the results and performances since Ruben Amorim’s departure last month are making a strong case for the former Middlesbrough boss to be handed a deal beyond the end of this season. “Carrick came in with the right ideas, giving the players the responsibility and freedom on the pitch,” Fernandes told TNT Sports.

“I was sure he would be a great manager, and he is showing it. We hope we can help him even more.

“Everyone understands the

pressure of playing for this club; everyone knows the expectations around it. He knows what it means for this club to win. It adds something special to the team.”

Victory takes United to within two points of third-placed Aston Villa and opens up a cushion on the chasing pack for a place in next season’s Champions League.

A place in the top five is likely to secure a spot in next season’s Champions League due to the strong performance of English sides in European competition this term. - Agencies



ITALIAN SERIE A

Hojlund, McTominay inspire Napoli to a 3-2 win over Genoa

NAPLES: Rasmus Hojlund converted a last-gasp penalty as 10-man Napoli won 3-2 at Genoa in Serie A on Saturday, keeping pressure on the top two clubs from Milan. Hojlund was fortunate to see Genoa goalkeeper Justin Bijlow unable to keep out his attempt from the spot, despite getting his arm to the ball in the fifth minute of stoppage time.

The spot kick was awarded after Maxwell Cornet – who had just gone on as a substitute – was adjudged after a VAR check to have kicked Antonio Vergara’s foot after the Napoli midfielder dropped dramatically to the floor.

Hojlund’s second goal moved Napoli one point behind AC Milan and six behind Inter Milan. They

both have a game in hand.

“We showed that we’re a team that never gives up, even in difficult situations, in emergencies, and despite being outnumbered, we had the determination to win. I’m proud of my players’ attitude, and I thank them and congratulate them because the victory was deserved,” Napoli coach Antonio Conte said.

His team got off to a bad start with goalkeeper Alex Meret bringing down Vitinha after a botched back pass from Alessandro Buongiorno just seconds into the game. A VAR check confirmed the penalty and Ruslan Malinovskyi duly scored from the spot in the second minute.

Scott McTominay was involved



in both goals as Napoli replied with a quickfire double. Bijlow saved his first effort in the 20th but Hojlund tucked away the rebound, and McTominay let fly from around 20 meters to make it

Yamal on target as Barca strengthen grip at the top

BARCELONA: Barcelona moved four points clear at the top of La Liga with a dominant 3-0 win at home on Saturday against strugglers Mallorca.

Robert Lewandowski, Lamine Yamal and Marc Bernal struck for the leaders at the Nou Camp.

Mallorca’s Jan Virgili caused problems for Barcelona defender Jules Kounde in the first half, getting the better of him on multiple occasions, but the visitors could not force a breakthrough.

Instead, the attacking power of the hosts produced the opener when Marcus Rashford’s right-foot effort was blocked and rebounded off Dani Olmo, with the ball falling to Lewandowski who fired in from nine yards.

Jagoba Arrasate’s visitors struggled in the second half and Lamine Yamal’s strike just after the hour mark more or less ended their hopes.

The 18-year-old made space to strike from 25 yards and hit a terrific shot into the right corner for his third goal in six matches against Mallorca.

Barca added salt to Mallorca’s wounds with a third from Bernal, another 18-year-old. After a rapid counter-attack, he darted into the penalty area and slotted in his first goal for the club, with the help of a



deflection. Hansi Flick’s side have won all 11 of their home games this season in La Liga. This was their sixth clean sheet at home.

Barcelona are next in action in La Liga when they go to Girona on Monday, 16 February, but they have a Copa del Rey semi-final first leg against Atletico Madrid on Thursday first. Mallorca, hovering just above the relegation zone, host Real Betis on 15 February in their next match.

Super League project

Barcelona have withdrawn from the European Super League project, leaving rivals Real Madrid as

the only club still signed up to the proposal of a breakaway league.

The reigning La Liga champions confirmed their decision in a brief statement released on the club website. “FC Barcelona hereby announces that today it has formally notified the European Super League Company and the clubs involved of its withdrawal from the European Super League project,” said the club.

A total of 12 clubs signed up to form a breakaway European Super League in 2021, including Premier League sides Manchester United, Manchester City, Liverpool, Chelsea, Arsenal and Tottenham. - Agencies

RENNES DEFEAT AT LENS

Liverpool signing Jacquet suffers ‘serious’ injury

LONDON: Liverpool’s new signing Jeremy Jacquet suffered a “serious” shoulder injury while playing for Rennes in its 3-1 Ligue 1 defeat at RC Lens on Saturday, casting doubt over the defender’s availability ahead of his summer move to Anfield.

Jacquet fell awkwardly in the second half of the French league match and appeared in agony as he left the pitch. “For Jeremy, it’s his shoulder, and for Abdelhamid (Ait Boudlal, another Rennes player injured in the same match) it’s muscular,” Rennes head coach Habib Beye told reporters after the match. - Agencies

score in the 57th for Genoa.

“Scott has a gluteal problem that he’s had since the season started. It gets inflamed sometimes,” Conte said of McTominay. “He would have liked to continue, but I preferred not for him to take any risks because he’s a key player for us.”

Napoli centre-back Juan Jesus was sent off in the 76th after receiving a second yellow card for pulling back Genoa substitute Caleb Ekuban.

Genoa pushed for a winner but it was the visiting side that had the last laugh.

“The penalty wasn’t perfect. I was also lucky, but what matters is that we won,” Hojlund said.

Other result: Fiorentina 2 Torino 2. - Agencies

Lexus Oman unveils its Ramadan campaign with enticing offers

From February 8 to April 8, automotive enthusiasts across Oman can take advantage of exclusive rewards, including a competitive trade-in bonus, one year of free registration and the prestigious Al Nukhbah loyalty points, making this the ideal time to join the Lexus family

MUSCAT: In the spirit of the holy month, Lexus Oman has announced the launch of its highly anticipated Ramadan campaign, offering a range of exceptional benefits designed to provide customers with an elevated and rewarding ownership experience. From February 8 to April 8, 2026, automotive enthusiasts across Oman can take advantage of exclusive rewards, including a competitive trade-in bonus, one year of free registration and the prestigious Al Nukhbah loyalty

points, making this the ideal time to join the Lexus family. Further enhancing the value of this seasonal campaign is a commitment to long-term peace of mind through comprehensive service packages. Owners of the ground-breaking Lexus LX 700h (Hybrid Electric Vehicle) will benefit from an extraordinary 10-year or 100,000 km service package (whichever is earlier), while all other models in the diverse Lexus range are covered by a 5-year or 50,000 km service package (Terms & Conditions Ap-



ply). These offers are crafted to ensure that every Lexus continues to deliver its signature performance and refinement on Oman's roads for years to come. This commitment to quality is perfectly embodied in the Lexus

line-up, led by the revolutionary LX 700h. As a new era of hybrid sophistication, this flagship SUV pairs a twin-turbo 3.5L V6 engine with an advanced hybrid system to produce a commanding 457 hp, while optimizing efficiency to 10.8 km/l. For

those who prefer classic power, the LX 600 remains a staple of elegance and strength, featuring a 3.5L twin-turbocharged engine producing 409 hp. Both flagship models offer a confidence-inspiring ride that perfectly balances rugged capability with a

luxurious, tech-focused cabin. For the trendsetters and go-getters, the Lexus ES remains one of Oman's most admired luxury sedans, offering a true powerhouse of innovation. Available in the ES 250, the 3.5L V6 ES 350, and the highly efficient ES 300h hybrid, the range delivers a smooth, breezy handling experience mated to a Direct Shift 8-speed automatic transmission. Younger drivers and the "young at heart" can look toward the Lexus IS, available in the IS 300 with its exhilarating 241 HP turbocharged engine, or the more aggressive IS 350 F Sport, which provides athletic proportions and rewarding driving dynamics. Whether you are drawn to the sustainable performance of the RX 500h F Sport or the intelligent efficiency of the NX HEV range, this Ramadan provides a unique window to experience "Amazing" with added value. Lexus Oman invites all customers to visit their showrooms nationwide to explore these world-class models and secure their exclusive Ramadan benefits—from extended service packages to loyalty rewards—before the campaign concludes on April 8.

SUPPORTING LOCAL SPORTS TEAMS

Bank Muscat announces launch of 2026 Green Sports programme

MUSCAT: Building on 15 years of success in supporting local sports teams, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, has announced the opening of applications for the 2026 edition of the Green Sports Programme. The programme offers support across several areas, including the installation of natural or artificial turf, lighting and water desalination systems. Registration is open to local sports teams across all governorates until 8 March 2026, with support to be awarded to 20 teams. Interested local sports teams may apply through the dedicated Green Sports online platform by completing the application form via (<https://bm.click/GSR>). Teams may also contact the Green Sports team for inquiries via email at GreenSports@bankmuscat.com or by phone at 24801200 / 24801625. Local sports teams play a vital role in engaging large segments of youth across different age groups. Their facilities serve as hubs for sports activities and social events, while also contributing to the expansion of green spaces across the Sultanate. The Green Sports Programme was developed to strengthen the role of these teams by supporting Omani youth and providing suitable infrastructure to nurture their sporting, cultural, and social talents. Since its launch in 2012, the Green Sports Programme wit-



nessed a strong demand and high level of competition. The Bank is committed to partnering with community sports teams and relevant stakeholders to meet youth aspirations and support them in sports and social development. The Green Sports Programme stands as a successful model of community service, contributing to the development of sustainable sports infrastructure for local teams across the Sultanate. Eligible teams interested in participation are encouraged to begin the registration process, ensuring they meet all requirements outlined in

the application form. The Green Sports Programme continues to attract wide participation each year, with teams competing to benefit from support in turf installation, lighting, and water desalination. Since its inception, the programme has supported 223 teams, benefiting more than 77,000 members, underscoring its sustainability and success in serving Omani youth and the wider community. Bank Muscat also continues to inaugurate sports field projects previously selected for support across various governorates of the Sultanate.

CURATED SUITE OF PRIVILEGES

BankDhofar's Al Rifaa Exclusive Banking Account delivers elevated lifestyle experience

MUSCAT: BankDhofar's Al Rifaa Exclusive Banking Account offers a refined banking proposition tailored for customers seeking more than conventional financial services. Designed around comfort, convenience, and personalization, the account delivers an enhanced lifestyle experience through a curated suite of privileges and bespoke banking solutions. Al Rifaa Account combines advanced banking services with preferential advantages, including special deposit rates, customized financial solutions, and priority transaction processing. Developed to meet the evolving aspirations of discerning customers, the offering reflects BankDhofar's commitment to delivering a premium banking experience enriched with exclusive rewards and personalized attention. Al Rifaa customers benefit from a range of value-added features, including priority service at branches and the call centre, competitive interest rates on deposits of up to 0.15 per cent, preferential benefits on the High-Yield Savings Account, and access to Platinum Credit Card features. As part of the package, customers receive a Mastercard Platinum Credit Card that unlocks a host of premium privileges. These include exclusive offers and dis-



counts, access to airport lounges across multiple countries, reward points on domestic and international purchases, as well as comprehensive coverage through personal accident, car, and travel insurance. Commenting on the offering, Muhanad bin Mahmood Al Raisi, Head of Al Rifaa Exclusive Banking at BankDhofar, said: "At BankDhofar, we believe banking should go beyond everyday transactions. It should support aspirations and enhance quality of life. Through Al Rifaa Account, we aim to raise the benchmark for personal banking services in the Sultanate of Oman." Customers earning a monthly salary of OMR 700 and above, or maintaining a monthly average balance of OMR 10,000 with

BankDhofar, are eligible to upgrade their existing accounts to Al Rifaa Exclusive Banking Account. With more than 35 years of experience, BankDhofar remains one of the leading financial institutions in the Sultanate of Oman and among the largest banks in terms of branch network. The bank offers comprehensive services to corporate and individual customers and continues to focus on innovation, advanced digital solutions, and delivering exceptional customer experiences. For more information, customers may visit any of BankDhofar's 141 branches, including BankDhofar Islamic, or access the bank's extensive network of over 400 ATMs, cash deposit machines, multi-function devices, and inter-active service machines.

BREAKING BARRIERS & BUILDING BRIDGES

ABA Oman hosts Global Citizen Diploma Up conference

MUSCAT: ABA Oman International School successfully hosted the Global Citizen Diploma (GCD) Up 2026 conference, welcoming student delegates and educators from NIST International School (Thailand) and Le Jardin Academy (Hawaii). The five-day event, themed "Breaking Barriers & Building Bridges," brought together 18 students and eight chaperones for an immersive experience in intercultural learning, leadership, and global citizenship. ABA's GCD Coordinator, Terrence R. Dillon, stated, "GCD Up 2026 enabled students to experience remarkable growth in leadership, intercultural understanding, and community-minded action. By exploring and learning from different cultures, they developed a deeper sense of global responsibility, understanding how their actions connected to and impacted communities beyond their own. It was an enriching experience that empowered them to think critically, collaborate across borders, and act meaningfully in our interconnected world." The cultural exchange experience provided students with the

opportunity to collaborate across cultures, explore pressing global issues, and create actionable solutions for their school communities. Working in international teams, students were afforded the opportunity to reach beyond their comfort zones and authentically immerse themselves into our culture. Many of ABA's student leaders and volunteers went above the call to make this possible and offer unforgettable experiences that are difficult to manufacture. In return, our ABA students expanded their intercultural communication and leadership skills. "When students and families come together to celebrate differences and learn from diverse perspectives, they see firsthand that global challenges are interconnected, and so are the solutions. Collaboration across cultures teaches them to innovate, empathize, and take meaningful action, preparing them to make a positive impact both locally and globally," expressed Craig Williamson, ABA Head of School. Immersive learning experiences deepened students' understanding of Oman's rich cultural and natu-



ral heritage. Students visited the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque and Mutrah Souq, shared a communal dinner at Rozna, explored Wadi Shab, engaged with natural environment immersion and reflection at the Daymaniyat Islands, and experienced the rich cultural history of Nizwa on a Friday. The Le Jardin Academy team from Hawaii were treated to an overnight desert trip and a stay at a Bedouin camp. These activities helped students reflect on how culture, history, and environment shape commu-

nity identity. ABA's annual International Cultural Fair provided a wonderful backdrop celebrating diversity while reinforcing the values of belonging, mutual respect, and shared responsibility. "As the first school in the Middle East authorised to offer the Global Citizen Diploma, ABA is committed to developing students who think critically, lead ethically, and act responsibly in a global world," said Mr. Simon Walker, Assistant Head of School and High School Principal. "GCD Up 2026 enabled

our students to build meaningful connections, broaden their perspectives, and strengthen their sense of purpose and global responsibility. In today's globalised world, we can no longer think of borders in isolation; what happens in one country can impact communities far beyond. Our students learn to understand what connects us, collaborate on global projects, and act as responsible global citizens, shaping a better, more sustainable future for all." Ellen Thorne, Global GCD Coordinator, commented, "Our story is more than numbers, and so is the GCD experience. The programme inspires students to reflect on their values, recognise their strengths, and take purposeful action. By connecting with peers across the world, they learn that global citizenship is not just an idea, it is a responsibility. This experience empowers them to act thoughtfully, ethically, and collaboratively, contributing to a shared, interconnected future." The GCD Consortium connects students worldwide, fostering collaboration, cultural exchange, and social impact. Facilitated by a

network of international schools, the Global Citizen Diploma framework encourages students to reflect intentionally, recognise their values, and celebrate personal growth. Established in 2011 at Yokohama International School, the GCD awarded its first diplomas in 2013 and has since expanded to a global consortium, including ABA Oman International School (Muscat), ACS International School (UK), American School of Antananarivo (Madagascar), Escola Concept (Brazil), Hong Kong Academy (China), International School of Uganda (Kampala), Kambala (Sydney, Australia), Le Jardin Academy (Hawaii, USA), Nanjing International School (China), NIST International School (Bangkok, Thailand), and Yokohama International School (Japan). ABA's participation in GCD Up 2026 reflects the school's holistic approach to education, emphasising student voice, intercultural dialogue, and inclusive values. By empowering learners to think critically, act ethically, and lead responsibly, ABA continues to prepare students for success in a rapidly changing world.

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