



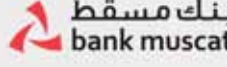
## HM THE SULTAN, KING OF BELGIANS EXCHANGE ORDERS, MEMENTOS

**BRUSSELS:** His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and King Philippe Leopold Louis Marie, King of the Belgians exchanged orders and commemorative gifts at the Royal Palace in Brussels yesterday on the occasion of His Majesty's state visit to the Kingdom of Belgium. **>A4**



Founded 1975 · Volume 49 No. 192 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

[TIMESOFOMAN.COM](#) [FACEBOOK.COM/TIMESOFOMAN](#) [TWITTER.COM/TIMESOFOMAN](#) [YOUTUBE.COM/USER/TIMESOFOMANONLINE](#) [TIMESOFOMAN.COM/WHATSAPP](#) [TIMESOFOMAN.COM/RSS](#) [LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/TIMES-OF-OMAN](#) [INSTAGRAM.COM/TIMESOFOMAN](#)



**Know more** **2465 6666**

# Transfer your salary to Meethaq & get

## 15% cash bonus

Terms and conditions apply. Valid until 31 December 2024.



C.B. No. 1/14573/9

# HM's VISIT TO BOOST OMAN-BELGIUM TIES

HM the Sultan was  
accorded official  
reception in Belgium

**BRUSSELS:** An official reception ceremony was held at the Royal Palace in Brussels on Tuesday for His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on the occasion of his state visit to the Kingdom of Belgium.

As the motorcade of His Majesty the Sultan headed to the Royal Palace Square, it was escorted by a group of motorcycles.

Before reaching the main square of the Royal Palace, a group of horse riders accompanied the parade. Then, a cavalcade of knights from the Royal Belgian Cavalry lined up on both sides of the path.

Upon His Majesty's arrival at the Royal Palace, King Philippe Leopold Louis Marie, King of the Belgians and his spouse Queen Mathilde Marie Christine Ghislaine, Queen of the Belgians were at the forefront of His Majesty the Sultan's welcoming party. The Royal couple welcomed His Majesty the Sultan, wishing him and his accompanying delegation a pleasant stay. Then, accompanied by the Belgian monarch, His Majesty the Sultan inspected the guard of honour.

After that, King Philippe Leopold escorted His Majesty to the dais of honour, where the Omani Royal Anthem and the Belgian Royal Anthem were played.

Then, the King and His Majesty the Sultan headed to the interior of the palace and posed for a commemorative photo in the reception area of the royal palace.

After that, the two leaders headed to the main hall, where His Majesty the Sultan shook hands with a group of Belgians who welcomed him. Then, the King and the Queen shook hands with the official Omani delegation. Afterwards, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and King Philippe Leopold Louis Marie, King of the Belgians held a bilateral meeting. During the meeting, the two monarchs underscored their joint keenness to boost cooperation and partnership relations in a manner that contributes to stimulating the two countries' economies and expanding vistas of cooperation and exchange of benefits. Then, His Majesty signed the Visitors Book. — ONA



## His Majesty the Sultan, Belgian Prime Minister hold talks

**BRUSSELS:** His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and Alexander De Croo, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Belgium held an official session of talks at the Belgian Prime Minister's Office (Le Lambermont) yesterday.

The session discussed areas of the investment and economic cooperation, and means of promoting them to serve joint interests. The two sides exchanged views on international developments and global changes, as well as investment opportunities available in various sectors.

The session was attended from the Omani side by HH

Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Dr. Hamad bin Said Al Aufi, Head of the Private Office, Abdussalam bin Mohammed Al Murshidi, Chairman of Oman Investment Authority, Eng. Salim bin Nasir Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals and Rua Issa Al Zadjali, Ambassador of Oman to Belgium. It was attended

from the Belgian side by Tinne Van der Straeten, Minister of Energy, Pascal H. Grégoire, Ambassador of Belgium to Oman, Theodora Gentzis, President of the Board of the Belgian Federal Public Service of Foreign Affairs, Tom Neijens, Diplomatic Advisor to the Prime Minister, Francis Corneille, Director of the Middle East and North Africa Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Geert Muylle, Ambassador and Special Envoy for Energy Security and Critical Raw Materials at the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — ONA



### TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

## OMAN Oman Across Ages Museum awarded

**1** The Oman Across Ages Museum has won the Versailles World Architecture, Design Award for the best exterior design for the most fascinating museums in the world. This was unveiled by the UNESCO in Paris. **>A2**



## OMAN Rules for security of ships, ports issued

**2** Under Ministerial Resolution No. 423/2024, the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology has issued new regulations about the security of ships and ports. **>A3**

## WORLD Cyclone Fengal claims 12 lives in Indian state

**3** Parts of southern India were reeling from cyclone Fengal on Tuesday while at the same time, northern Kerala was put on red alert and schools in the city of Puducherry were closed. **>A7**

### PRESTIGIOUS HONOUR

## Dina Macki's 'Bahari' among best cookbooks of 2024, showcasing Omani cuisine to the world

Times News Service

**MUSCAT:** Dina Macki's debut cookbook, "Bahari: Recipes from an Omani Kitchen and Beyond", has been named one of The Washington Post's top 14 cookbooks of 2024. The honour celebrates "Bahari" as the first English-language cookbook by an Omani chef and a landmark contribution to global culinary literature.

The US Embassy in Muscat also highlighted the milestone in a congratulatory message on X (formerly known as Twitter) on Tuesday, praising Macki for taking readers on a "flavourful journey through Oman and Zanzibar" while sharing deeply personal recipes and stories. The embassy noted the book's global recognition as a celebration of Omani culture and



Photo courtesy X account of US Embassy in Muscat

heritage, calling it "truly a feast for the senses."

Born in Portsmouth, UK, to Omani-Zanzibari parents, Macki has drawn from her heritage and experiences to create a cookbook that captures the essence of Oman's

rich culinary traditions. The title "Bahari", meaning "ocean" in Swahili, reflects Oman's historical ties with Zanzibar and its maritime trade history and its role as a crossroads of culinary influences from India, Pakistan, East Africa, and the Middle East. Macki travelled extensively through Oman and Zanzibar to research recipes, which she presents alongside essays that delve into the history and culture behind the dishes.

The book offers over 90 recipes, from traditional dishes like her aunt's spiced prawn dumplings, Qabooli rice and sambusas to Zanzibari-inspired Chuku Chuku curry, blending dried lime, coconut, and aromatic spices - key elements of Omani cuisine. It introduces the world to a vibrant culinary tradition deeply rooted

in history, culture, and personal storytelling. "Bahari" also includes contemporary adaptations like ice cream recipes, reflecting Macki's ability to bridge traditional cuisine with modern creativity. Published by DK Books, "Bahari" is more than a collection of recipes. Its vibrant photography and deeply researched essays make it a cultural exploration, offering readers a window into the flavours and stories that define Omani and Zanzibari cooking. The Washington Post lauded the book for its ability to transport readers through its pages, calling it a "gorgeously photographed" pick of the year.

In addition to this recognition, "Bahari" has won the Jane Grigson Trust Award and was featured by the Evening Standard as one of the best cookbooks of the year.



Terms And Condition Applies



## Enjoy priority for transactions

With AI Rifaa Privilege Account

Visit your nearest branch today



الأعمال المصرفية الحصرية  
PRIVILEGE BANKING

2479 111 | [www.bankdhofar.com](http://www.bankdhofar.com)

 [barkidhofar](#)

Scan to learn more





Al Rifaa

# Regulation for security of ships, ports issued

The new Ministerial regulation sets a comprehensive framework to ensure the security and safety of maritime operations in the Sultanate of Oman

**MUSCAT:** Under Ministerial Resolution No. 423/2024, the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology has issued new regulations about the security of ships and ports. The new regulation seeks to achieve the highest levels of maritime safety.

Based on Maritime Law No. 19/2023 and approved international agreements, the new regulation sets a comprehensive framework to ensure the security and safety of maritime operations in the Sultanate of Oman.

Captain Majid Saif Al Barhi, Director General of Maritime Affairs at the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, said, “The new regulation stems from efforts to draft plans for security transition in accordance with the Security Code for Ships and Ports.”

Al Barhi explained that the new regulation includes a set of measures and procedures that ensure compliance with international standards in ship and port security.

He added that the regulation outlines specific procedures for enhancing security planning, notably by compelling ships and ports to draft and implement integrated security plans based on comprehensive risk assessment and advanced control procedures.

Al Barhi stressed that the desired plans should focus on the establishment of a comprehensive system for monitoring and inspecting ships and ports to ensure compliance with international security requirements.

For his part, Ayman Rashid Al Ma'amari, Director of the Maritime Legislation Department at the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, said, “The new regulation aims to achieve comprehensive protection for individuals, marine facilities and goods from security risks, while at the same time ensuring sustained efficiency of marine operations and supporting the efforts of the Sultanate of Oman in boosting the investment climate in the marine sector.” -**ONA**

## SOCIAL SECURITY ENROLMENT

# Nepal embassy organises Trainer’s Training Programme

*Times News Service*

**MUSCAT:** The Embassy of Nepal, Muscat organised a Trainer's Training Programme for Social Security Enrolment and Regularisation Services, Passport and Consular Services at Nepal House from 18:00 hrs to 21:30 hrs on 02 December 2024.

During the event, Ambassador Aryal elaborated about the Social Security Fund (SSF), initiatives taken by the Government of Nepal and importance of SSF.

He highlighted the relevance of the Trainer's Training to educate Nepali workers in Oman who could further assist other Nepalis in the process of enrolment and regularisation of social security.

During the event, queries raised by the participants related to SSF were addressed by Bibek Panthee, Deputy Executive Director, SSF.

Ms. Radhika Niraula, Assistant Director and Mr. Rajesh Chapagain, IT officer shared the information and trained the participants about SSF. Bishesh Kumar Sah, Second Secretary, explained about Passport and Consular Services and showcased the passport application. Ambassador Aryal handed over a training certificate to each of the participant.

The Embassy organised the first-ever camp on the social security enrolment and regularisation services and Consular and Labour Awareness on 29 November 2024. Similarly, the Embassy conducted a SSF and Labour Awareness programme in Sohar, Oman on 30 November 2024. Both events were graced with encouraging participation from the Nepali community members in Oman. The participants expressed happiness and also requested the Embassy to continue such services and to provide work permits from the Embassy itself.

The Embassy discovered that most of the Nepali workers were unaware of the Social Security scheme and its relevance.

Generally, the Nepali worker get enrolled in the SSF at the time of getting Labour Approval in Nepal, but they don't continue with the scheme.

Hence the Embassy took the initiative to organise events with the support of SSF team to educate about SSF, enrol in the system for left-out Nepalis and regularise the workers in the system.

A three-member team from SSF comprising Bibek Panthee, Deputy Executive Director, Ms. Radhika Niraula, Assistant Director and Mr. Rajesh Chapagain, IT officer, is visiting Oman for the abovementioned events.



GRAND  
MILLENNIUM  
MUSCAT

## Christmas Eve Dinner

Special activities for kids will include  
Christmas kids buffet, painting activities, and a Christmas theme movie.

Live cooking & carving stations

Live DJ

24th December 2024  
Mazat Terrace | 7 PM - 11 PM

OMR 25 net per person

Save 25 % when you book before 20th December 2024

OMR 12.5 net per child from 6 - 12 years old  
Complimentary for kids below 6 years old

+968 9743 3203

T's&C's apply



CHANGAN

## UNI-T SPORT

1.5L Turbo Engine, 175 hp, 7-Speed DCT, 2WD  
SUPER WARRANTY 6 YEARS / UNLIMITED MILEAGE\*

\*Terms and Conditions Apply

EMI  
OMR 155\*  
for 6 years

10.3" LCD IC Display & Infotainment Screen

Wireless Charging

V-Shape Rear Spoiler & Panoramic Glass Roof

Borderless Grille

Front Airbags, Side Airbags, Curtain Airbags

360° Camera

Forward Collision Warning & Intelligent Adaptive Cruise Control

Lane Departure Warning

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

Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment LLC

Showrooms: Qurum 94641010, Mawaleh 97888180, Nizawa 96628940  
Sohar 95351200, Salalah 96629050, Ibbi 96628930

Sales Centers: Barka 96629010, Sur 96628920

800 50800  
9662 8909  
[www.changanoman.com](http://www.changanoman.com)



AI Hashar Electronics LLC

## SHOP & WIN

### RAFFLE DRAW

24 OCTOBER - 23 JANUARY

GET A COUPON FOR EVERY 25 OMR SPENT AT OUR SHOWROOMS

RAFFLE PRIZES - 75" SHARP 4K , GOOGLE SMART TV, ARISTON WASHING MACHINE & MANYMORE

18 LUCKY WINNERS

Draw will be held on 8th February 2025 at Ruwi H.O.

SCAN QR CODE FOR LOCATION

For more details, visit or call: Ruwi HO: 94584337 Sohar: 92228272 +968-94202775

ARISTON SHARP TESLA Rinnai VOLTAS LENNOX DAYTEK

AI Hashar Electronics, bringing the world's best to you.

HM'S VISIT TO BELGIUM

IN PICTURES

# HM The Sultan, King of Belgians exchange orders, mementos



**BRUSSELS:** His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and King Philippe Leopold Louis Marie, King of the Belgians exchanged orders and commemorative gifts at the Royal Palace in Brussels yesterday on the occasion of His Majesty's state visit to the Kingdom of Belgium.

His Majesty the Sultan conferred "Al Said Order" on King Philippe Leopold Louis Marie and "Oman First Order" on Queen Mathilde Marie Christine Ghislaine, Queen of the Belgians, in commendation for the King of the Belgians and his spouse and in manifestation of the advanced relations of friendship, cooperation and partnership between the two countries and their peoples.



ANCIENT HISTORICAL EDIFICE

## HM The Sultan visits Brussels Town Hall

**BRUSSELS:** His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, accompanied by King Philippe Leopold Louis Marie, King of the Belgians, yesterday visited Brussels Town Hall in the Kingdom of Belgium.

When he arrived at Brussels Town Hall, His Majesty the Sultan was received by the Mayor of Brussels.

His Majesty viewed this ancient historical edifice, famous for its unique architectural design and for being the only remaining building from the Middle Ages.

Commemorative gifts were exchanged and memorial photos were taken for His Majesty the Sultan and the Belgian monarch on the balcony overlooking the outer square of Brussels Town Hall.



### Oman, Belgium sign Declaration of Intent

**BRUSSELS:** Within the framework of friendly relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Belgium, the two sides signed a joint Declaration of Intent in Brussels today.

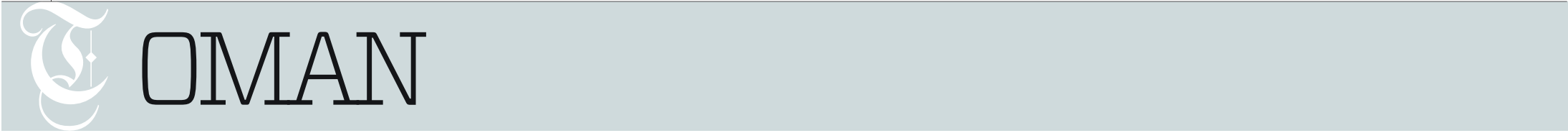
The move comes in pursuance of a common desire to boost ties and expand bilateral cooperation. The Declaration of Intent seeks to facilitate the entry of holders of Diplomatic, Special and Official Passports between the two countries without a visa for specific periods. It also aims to enhance cooperation in the fields of immigration and immigration management, in accordance with international laws.

The Declaration of Intent was signed on behalf of Oman by Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister. On the Belgian side, it was signed by Bernard Quintin, Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Affairs, Foreign Trade and the Federal Cultural Institutions.



HM The Sultan Accorded Official Reception Protocols in Belgium





HONGQI

HS5

OMR 134

PER MONTH

7 YEARS SERVICE | WARRANTY |

ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE

Hongqi Oman

80080777

Azaiba

# Oman wins top award for expanding social protection coverage

The award was conferred on Oman during its participation in the ISSA meeting held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

**RIYADH:** Represented by the Social Protection Fund (SPF), the Sultanate of Oman won the main award dedicated by the International Social Security Association (ISSA) to the best practices in the Asia-Pacific region.

The award was conferred on Oman during its participation in the ISSA meeting held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

The main prize was awarded to



the Sultanate of Oman in response to its recent project on expanding social protection coverage.

The project constitutes a comprehensive national platform for launching various social care efforts and activities.

It provides mechanisms for the reconstruction of social insurance and retirement systems operating in the Sultanate.

It also seeks to improve the quality of life and promote social justice through a comprehensive set

of social protection policies and programmes.

Oman, represented by the SPF, also received 8 certificates of merit within the ISSA competitions for best practices at the Asia-Pacific region level.

Three of the SPF projects received certificates of merit, with special commendation.

The winning projects were titled as follows: (1) "Internal Change Management" – with focus on smooth transition of human capital; (2) "Linking Environmental, Social and Institutional Governance Standards in Investments" and (3) "Media Preparation for the Issuance of the Social Protection Law".

Four more projects of the SPF received certificates of merit. They were titled: (1) "Social Protection Benefits: Towards Comprehensive Protection"; (2) "The Mystery Shopper"; (3) "Financial Integration Methodology for Pension Funds in the Sultanate of Oman" and (4) "Delegation of Authority Matrix". – **ONA**

Times

OF OMAN

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

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

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

## Oman to participate in investment conference

**MUSCAT:** Represented by Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), the Sultanate of Oman will take part in the first investment conference between GCC states and the Kingdom of Jordan (First GCC-Jordan Investment Conference). The event is scheduled to be held at King Hussein Convention Centre in the Dead Sea, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Faisal Abdullah Al Rawas, Chairman of OCCI, Chairman of the GCC Federation of Chambers, stressed the significance of conference in enhancing aspects



of economic and investment cooperation between GCC states and Jordan. The conference will highlight verdant investment opportunities and encourage partnerships between the public and private sectors. – **ONA**

## Join the Dynamic Gulf Leaders Circle (GLC) Team

**Are you ready to take your career to the next level?**

**Gulf Leaders Circle (GLC)**, the premier brand for leadership insights, innovation and strategic collaboration, is hiring! As part of Muscat Media Group, Oman's leading 360-degree news, entertainment and events group, GLC delivers excellence through business conferences, corporate awards, digital content, podcasts and more.

We are looking for passionate professionals to join our team in Muscat.

| Current Openings:                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Editor/Assistant Editor                                                                                                                | Manager/Senior Executive – Business                                                                                                                          | Digital Marketing Executive                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Experience:</b> 3-10 years in business journalism in print/digital/TV.                                                              | <b>Experience:</b> 2-10 years in sales management in digital media, event sponsorships or print media                                                        | <b>Experience:</b> 2-3 years in digital marketing                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Key Skills:</b> Reporting, interviewing business leaders, editing, coordinating with designers, conference production & moderation. | <b>Key Skills:</b> Strong ability to pitch, negotiate and close deals, communication & presentation skills, and building & maintaining client relationships. | <b>Key Skills:</b> Content creation, social media management, email marketing, analytics, basic graphic design & video editing skills, and proficiency in both Arabic & English |
| <b>Preferred Qualifications:</b> Degree in Journalism or Communication.                                                                | <b>Preferred Qualifications:</b> Degree in business management or sales & marketing management                                                               | <b>Preferred Qualifications:</b> Degree/diploma in digital marketing                                                                                                            |

Be part of a visionary team driving leadership and innovation in the Gulf region. Work on exciting projects like leadership conferences, corporate awards and high-profile publications and programmes.

**Apply Now**

Email your CV to: [id-omanjobs2025@gmail.com](mailto:id-omanjobs2025@gmail.com) mentioning the position you're applying for in the subject line.

## 50 Omani youth empowered with leadership expertise

Times News Service

**MUSCAT:** The Royal Academy of Management has successfully concluded the Future Leaders Programme (FLP), a key initiative aligned with the strategic objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

The programme was designed to support the nation's sustainable development goals and to foster the growth of leadership capabilities among young Omanis. It aims to equip them with the skills necessary to meet the demands of a rapidly evolving world. This initiative reflects the vision of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, to cultivate a new generation of dynamic national leaders, fully equipped with the innovative capabilities and skills essential for shaping Oman's future.

Implemented in collaboration with Hamad Bin Khalifa University Qatar, GLOBIS, Matterz, KAOSPILOT, FLP programme focused on cultivating a culture of institutional innovation among participants, equipping them to effectively navigate rapid changes and foster Omani talent. It also aimed at strengthening leadership skills, empowering participants to develop effective leadership capabilities, strategic thinking, and problem-solving abilities. Additionally, the programme emphasised the importance of innovation and driving positive change within the workplace, ensuring participants were well-prepared to contribute to the evolving needs of their industries and communities.

Hilal Al Riyami, Director of the Future Leaders Programme, explained that the programme is a reflection of the academy's vision to cultivate young national leaders who possess the ability to innovate and make a meaningful, positive impact in their communities. The programme specifically targeted 50 young Omanis from diverse public and private institutions, offering them valuable insights through a variety of modules, which included three in-person sessions and three talent labs. These sessions focused on enhancing leadership capabilities, exploring successful international case studies, and fostering business acumen. The overarching goal of all these units was to equip participants with future-ready skills and empower them to apply global best practices in their respective fields.

Full story @ [timesofoman.com/oman](https://timesofoman.com/oman)

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Staff training programme held

Times News Service

**MUSCAT:** The Ministry of Education, represented by the Directorate-General of Curriculum Development, is implementing the training programme for designing interactive digital lessons using the iSpring Suite programme. The programme targets 25 employees who specialise in e-learning and is taking place at the Specialised Institute for Vocational Training for Teachers.

During the training, participants will learn about planning to create interactive digital lessons, creating an interactive digital lesson template, by providing them with a set of knowledge related to create interactive digital lessons.

Large Logistics Warehouse and Open Yard Facility available on Lease

A State of Art Multi temperature closed VNA Rail guided racking warehouse facility including Asphalted Large Open Yard with Office Building and WMS System in Muscat after Al Ansab area is readily available for lease on 2 PL or 3 PL options:

Total Area is 20,760 sq Mtrs

1. Closed warehouse with multi (Frozen, Chiller, Air condition and Dry) temperature facility in the area of 7,760 sq mtrs with 7 loading Bays.

2. Open Yard with small closed storage facility: 12,500 sq. mtrs Asphalted with large weigh bridge.

3. Office area: 500 sq. mtrs (3 storied Building) with huge car parking facility.

Interested Parties may contact: 00968 71772999

# Cyclone Fengal claims 12 lives in Indian state

Schools were shut in parts of southern India with weather officials on Monday warning that there remained a risk of flash flooding

**CHENNAI:** Parts of southern India were reeling from cyclone Fengal on Tuesday while at the same time, northern Kerala was put on red alert and schools in the city of Puducherry were closed. The cyclone has so far claimed



12 lives in the state of Tamil Nadu, according to a report by local newspaper The Hindu. It also wreaked havoc in Sri Lanka last week. Over 200,000 hectares (494,210 acres) of farmland have been submerged under water and over 2,400 huts were damaged due to heavy rainfall, the report said. At least 14 districts of Tamil

Nadu remain impacted.

### Flash flooding

Schools were shut in parts of southern India with weather officials on Monday warning that there remained a risk of flash flooding. Fengal made landfall in India's Tamil Nadu state on Saturday, bringing the highest 24-hour rain-

fall recorded in 30 years to nearby Puducherry. The cyclone then weakened to a normal low-pressure weather system by Monday morning.

### Relief work underway

Authorities have issued a red alert warning in the adjoining state of Kerala as the cyclone is expected to bring substantial rainfall on Tuesday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday called Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin and assured all possible help and support to the state, government sources said. Stalin has urged Modi for an immediate interim relief of Rs 20 billion (€224 million, \$236 million) from the National Disaster Relief Fund citing the "unprecedented" destruction caused by Cyclone Fengal, a Times of India report said. -**aw**

## Kuwait minister arrives in India to strengthen ties

**NEW DELHI:** Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait, arrived on an official visit to India on Tuesday until December 4, 2024, an official press release by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated.

The Kuwaiti Foreign Minister arrived in New Delhi on the evening of December 3 at Indira Gandhi International Airport at 9:45 pm. His visit will include high-profile meetings, starting with a call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg, at 4:30 PM on December 4. Later, at 6:30 PM, he is scheduled to meet S Jaishankar, India's External Affairs Minister (EAM), at Hyderabad House. Al-Yahya is set for departure back to Kuwait at 10 PM on Wednesday, December 4, stated

the press release. India and Kuwait share a historically strong bilateral relationship that has stood the test of time. Rooted in centuries of trade and cultural exchange, the partnership predates Kuwait's independence in 1961, during which the Indian Rupee served as its legal tender. Kuwait's economy, before the discovery of oil, thrived on maritime activities, including shipbuilding, pearl diving, and trading goods like Arabian horses, dates, and pearls with India in exchange for wood, spices, and textiles. This legacy of cooperation was commemorated during the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 2021-22. The Indian community, estimated to be one million strong, forms the largest expatriate group in Kuwait. -**ANI**

### ASSET DISCLOSURES

## Pakistan implements tough measures to secure IMF loan

**ISLAMABAD:** The Pakistani government has implemented several tough measures, including mandatory asset disclosures by civil servants and their families, to fulfil the conditions required to secure a USD 1.1 billion tranche from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), The Express Tribune reported on Monday. The approval of the second installment of the IMF's Extended Fund Facility (EFF) comes with 39 strict conditions, including asset disclosures by civil servants, the elimination of tax amnesties and exemptions, and the submission of a governance and corruption assessment report, as reported by The Express Tribune. The IMF has outlined specific benchmarks, such as maintaining

foreign exchange reserves equal to three months of import bills, meeting fiscal targets, and adjusting the public finance structure, The Express Tribune reported, citing sources. Other key reforms mandated by the IMF include keeping the difference between the open market and interbank exchange rates within 1.25 percent and ensuring that the State Bank of Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves reach USD 8.65 billion by the end of the fiscal year. The Ministry of Finance confirmed that the government must meet 22 specific points to qualify for the USD 1.1 billion installment. A key requirement is the deadline of February 2025 for civil servants to disclose their assets, The Express Tribune reported. -**ANI**

### CLASHES

## Rebels advance towards Syrian city of Hama

**HAMA:** Rebels and their allies were advancing towards the key Syrian city of Hama on Tuesday, according to the UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR). Militants with the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) group were fighting in what SOHR called the "most violent" clashes with government troops since launching their surprise offensive last week.

### Syria and Russia strike Hama region

"Clashes have erupted in the northern Hama countryside, where rebel factions managed to seize several cities and towns in the last few hours," said the monitor, which relies on a large network of sources inside Syria. The Associated Press reported



that the rebels were just 10 kilometres away from the city. Syrian government forces were reportedly preparing for a counter-attack, according to the Syrian state news agency SANA. The SOHR added that "Syrian and Russian air forces carried out dozens of strikes on the area." Russian President Vladimir Putin

has been a longtime ally of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, and has regularly provided material support since Assad's clampdown on protests sparked the Syrian Civil War in 2011. Russia began intervening directly in 2015 with airstrikes when the extremist "Islamic State" (IS) entered the conflict.

### Hama is key link between Aleppo and Damascus

Syrian state news agency SANA also reported air strikes on Hama province and rebel bastion Idlib in the northwest. Hama is considered a strategically important city because it connects Aleppo, which HTS swept into last week, and the capital Damascus. The area is home to the Alawite community from which Assad hails, and thus a rebel takeover of Hama would "pose a threat to the regime's popular base," SOHR director Rami Abdel Rahman said. According to the United Nations, some 50,000 people have been displaced and hundreds, mostly fighters, have been killed since the conflict touched off again in November. -**aw**

من  
FROM

30%

حتى  
UP TO

70%

كاسابيللا  
casabella

تصفية نهاية الموسم  
END OF SEASON CLEARANCE

يسري العرض من تاريخ: 28 نوفمبر وحتى 15 يناير 2025

Validity from: Nov 28th to Jan 15th 2025

@casabella.oman

@casabella.oman

@casabella\_oman



**OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS**  
Oman Crude (February Delivery 2025) fell by 10 cents to reach \$71.86 per barrel, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). Average price of Oman Crude (December delivery) has stabilised at \$74.82 per barrel, \$1.33 per barrel lower than November delivery. - **OMA**

# MARKET

## BUSINESS & FINANCE



**MSM INDEX ENDS HIGHER**

The MSX index closed at 4,573.49 points, up by 0.08% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.86% at 421.72 points. Oman Cables Industry, up 6.43%, was the top gainer while, Al Suwadi Power, down 4.29%, was the top loser. > **B2**

WILAYAT OF SEEB

## ahli islamic opens new branch in Al Khoudh 6

**MUSCAT:** ahli islamic is proud to announce the opening of its latest branch in the Wilayat of Seeb in Al Khoudh 6.

Established to offer Sharia-compliant banking products and services, the new branch is set to facilitate the diverse needs of its growing customer base.

The official inauguration of the branch launch event was held on 27 November, 2024, under the auspices of H.E Dr. Nasser Rashid Al Ma'awali, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Economy.

Located in the bustling Al Khoudh 6, the new ahli islamic

branch will serve as a vital hub for providing Sharia-compliant banking products and services.

**Spearheading innovation**

The Bank is committed to spearheading innovation, meeting the evolving needs of its clientele, and capitalising on the growing opportunities in the region.

This new branch showcases ahli islamic's mission to provide exceptional value to its customers, thereby becoming accessible to people all around the Sultanate of Oman.

ahli islamic's strategic expansion

into Al Khoudh 6 marks another milestone in its journey to redefine Islamic banking within the Sultanate. With a team of experienced professionals and a state-of-the-art facility, the branch is poised to deliver innovative, Sharia-compliant solutions tailored to meet the evolving needs of its customers.

This expansion also reflects ahli islamic's unwavering commitment to integrity and its dedication to exceeding expectations as it strengthens its network across the nation.

As ahli islamic welcomes new

clients into its fold, it remains focused on fostering enduring relationships built on trust, excellence, and a shared vision for sustainable growth in the Islamic banking sector.

Through the establishment of this new branch, ahli islamic reinforces its commitment to growth and advancement, reflecting enthusiasm for expanding into newer, more grandiose horizons. Established on a foundation of trust and reliability, the Bank underscores its unwavering dedication to provide its best for the people of Al Khoudh 6.



MORGAN STANLEY

## India's GDP growth revised

**NEW DELHI:** Multinational investment bank and financial services company Morgan Stanley has revised India's GDP growth projection to 6.3 per cent, from its earlier estimate of 6.7 per cent for the current fiscal (FY25).

The downgrade comes after the growth slowdown in the quarter ending September 2024. India's GDP growth slowed to 5.4 per cent year-on-year (YoY) in the July-September quarter of 2024, marking its lowest level since March 2023. - **ANI**

NEW FACILITIES MANAGEMENT SERVICES COMPANY



## Oris partners with Imdaad to launch 'Omdaad' in Oman

Times News Service

**MUSCAT:** Oman Real Estate and Investment (Oris), an Ominvest Group company, has announced its strategic partnership with Imdaad, a UAE-based group of companies providing integrated and sustainable facilities management services, to launch new facilities management services company 'Omdaad' in the Sultanate of Oman. This new venture is in line with Oris' vision to improve Oman's local infrastructure and is a significant milestone in Imdaad's regional expansion strategy.

Commenting on this, Abdulatif Almula, Chairman of Imdaad, said: "We are proud to join forces with a distinguished partner like Oris, which shares our vision and ambitions to drive regional expansion in Oman. This collaboration represents a major milestone in our growth journey, as we continue to solidify our position as a regional leader in this dynamic industry. Through our new venture, we aim to raise the bar in Oman's facilities management sector by providing top-quality services. We look forward to working closely with Oris to establish Omdaad as the trusted provider of choice for customers across Oman and beyond."

Echoing these sentiments, Nasser Rashid Saif Al Shibli, Chief Real Estate Officer - Om-

invest added: "We are excited to launch Omdaad in the Sultanate in partnership with Imdaad. This groundbreaking venture represents a significant step towards advancing the facilities management sector in Oman. Our collaboration with Imdaad will bring world-class services and innovative solutions to the market, further contributing to the growth and development of Oman's infrastructure. With a shared commitment to excellence and sustainability, we look forward to making Omdaad a trusted name in facilities management across the region."

Omdaad will offer a complete range of integrated facilities management services, including core MEP and soft services, targeting diverse sectors such as residential, commercial, industrial/infrastructure, retail, education, and hospitality. The company will also introduce a full spectrum of specialised services, including fire alarm and firefighting systems, elevator systems, wastewater management, pest control, façade cleaning, and tank cleaning.

This collaboration aligns with Oris' vision to develop strategic partnerships that contribute to sustainable development and supporting Oman Vision 2040, positioning 'Omdaad' as a leading facilities services provider in the Sultanate and the region.

## Forum explores future of petrochemical industry

The forum also discussed strategic plans for the future of the petrochemical industry in the GCC countries

Times News Service

**MUSCAT:** The 18th annual forum of the Gulf Petrochemical and Chemicals Association (GPCA) Forum continued its activities yesterday for the second consecutive day, holding sessions that explored the trajectory of the petrochemical industry in line with the Gulf Cooperation Council's (GCC) vision, strategic partnerships and their role in achieving growth, efficiency and sustainability.

Mulham bin Basheer Al Jarf, Deputy President for Investment at the Oman Investment Authority and Chairman of the Board of Directors of OQ Group, delivered a speech at the forum, highlighting OQ's contributions. He emphasised that OQ aligns with Oman Vision 2040, enhancing private sector growth. Al Jarf noted that the group launched initial public offerings (IPOs) this year to support economic diversification policies in Oman and attract domestic and foreign investments, ultimately enabling the private sector.

He further highlighted the significance of the 18th Annual GPCA Forum in shedding light on the petrochemical industry's future and sustainability efforts in the coming phase.

The forum also discussed ambitious visions and strategic plans for the future of the petrochemical



cal industry in GCC countries, addressing challenges such as market fluctuations, regulatory changes, and sustainability goals.

Shaikh Nawaf S. Al-Sabah, Deputy Chairman and CEO of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), emphasised the continuing critical role of hydrocarbons in meeting global energy demand.

He stated, "While renewable energy sources will play a larger role, hydrocarbons will remain indispensable. By 2040 and 2050, even with full utilisation of renewable energy, nuclear power, and coal, hydrocarbons are expected to account for a quarter of global energy demand."

The forum explored the importance of regional and international partnerships in shaping the future of the industry and the growth of the GCC petrochemical sector, highlighting significant developments over the past years.

In a session with chief executives, discussions focused on



the evolution and growth of the chemicals industry over the next decade, driven by technological advancements, sustainability imperatives, trade dynamics, market regulations, and emerging global markets. These shifts open new avenues for growth.

Discussions also centered on the impact of breakthroughs in artificial intelligence and other advanced digital technologies on manufacturing, alongside the rising focus on environmental sustainability to meet future demand in sectors such as automotive, healthcare, and consumer goods.

The forum addressed steps to accelerate the adoption of clean energy, particularly for high-emission industries like chemicals, emphasising the importance of digital technologies such as AI in enhancing energy efficiency. Discussions also covered the challenges of renewable energy adoption and cost pressures on the chemicals industry, along with

the need to balance investments and sustainability commitments.

Participants also examined how chemical producers are navigating climate challenges while balancing investments in sustainability and innovation.

OQ highlighted investment opportunities available at the Ladayn Polymer Park near its polymer complex in Suhar.

This initiative is in collaboration with the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) and the National Programme for Investment and Exports Development (Nazdaher), which focuses on attracting investments and fostering a supportive environment for investment and export growth under the Tenth Five-Year Plan (2021-2025).

The programme aims to position the Sultanate of Oman as a competitive investment destination and a vibrant business hub within the global trade ecosystem. Ladayn Polymer Park targets self-sufficiency in plastic products and export opportunities abroad.

OQ's booth at the exhibition accompanying the 18th Annual GPCA Forum, held from December 2-5, 2024, at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre, drew significant interest from attendees.

Visitors explored OQ's efforts in sustainability, innovation, carbon neutrality, digital transformation and the Ladayn Polymer Park.

OMAN AGROFOOD 2024

## Asyad showcases logistics solutions to boost food security

Times News Service

**Muscat:** Asyad Group, the global integrated logistics services provider, is participating in the 6th edition of Oman AgroFood 2024, organised by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Water Resources from December 2nd to 4th at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre. This participation reaffirms Asyad's commitment to enhancing Oman's food security through innovative logistics solutions designed to strengthen food supply chains and facilitate access to regional and international markets.

During the exhibition, Asyad is showcasing a comprehensive range of logistics services tailored to meet the needs of the food, fisheries, and livestock sectors. These include refrigerated and dry storage solutions, as well as land, sea, and air transport services. These integrated offerings ensure fast and efficient delivery of products to global markets, enabling companies to expand into new markets



and enhance their competitiveness. By bridging East and West, Asyad opens new trade opportunities for national, regional, and international businesses.

Juma bin Ibrahim Al Maskari, Director at Asyad Logistics, stated: "Asyad's advanced solutions are designed to meet the demands of the food and beverage sector while supporting local food security. Through state-of-the-art storage facilities, precise thermal control systems, and efficient import and export routes, we ensure the smooth movement of goods, main-

tain their quality, and support the sustainability of food supply chains locally and internationally."

The group also highlights Asyad Lines network, which operates direct shipping routes to over 37 ports in 11 countries. This network enhances the competitiveness of Omani exports, including fruits, vegetables, frozen products, and pharmaceuticals, ensuring their access to major regional and international markets.

Sohar and Salalah Ports will also present their strategic roles in enhancing regional and global supply



chains. With over 200,000 square meters of advanced storage facilities offering diverse solutions, including cooling and freezing, these ports cater to essential food commodities such as grains, sugar, and vegetable oils. Integrated with a vast global shipping network, the ports ensure the smooth flow of goods. For instance, Salalah Port handled 93,000 metric tons of food products in 2023, cementing its role as a strategic hub for local and regional food supply chains.

During the event, Asyad Group will also feature Port Suwaiq and

Khazaen Dry Port. Port Suwaiq, a mid-size port equipped with advanced onshore facilities and modern infrastructure, serves as an ideal gateway for efficiently handling food products, livestock, and both containerized and bulk cargo. The recently signed concession agreement with the Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology will expand the port's area to over 360,000 square meters, incorporating deep-water commercial berths and significantly increasing its handling capacity. Khazaen

Dry Port, Oman's first integrated inland dry port, plays a crucial role in enhancing local trade and providing essential import and export services to Omani businesses and manufacturers. The port offers connectivity to Port Suwaiq and the "Silal" Fruits and Vegetables Central Market, creating a seamless logistics hub for the swift handling and movement of agricultural products and other goods, reducing transportation costs and ensuring the efficient and reliable distribution of food products locally and regionally.

Asyad will also showcase the importance of its free zones and economic zones in attracting investments and providing a favourable environment for local and international stakeholders in the food sector. These zones offer exceptional incentives, including full tax exemptions, 100% foreign ownership, and customs duty exemptions. This supportive environment drives growth in the Agricultural sector, enabling companies to expand and thrive.

MARKET



MSM index ends higher

Oman Cables Industry, up 6.43%, was the top gainer while, Al Suwadi Power, down 4.29%, was the top loser at the end of the session

**MUSCAT:** The MSX index closed at 4,573.49 points, up by 0.08% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.86% at 421.72 points. Oman Cables Industry, up 6.43%, was the top gainer while, Al Suwadi Power, down 4.29%, was the top loser. Shares of OQEP were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 820 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR6.48 million, with more than 21.69 million shares changing hands. Out of 41 traded securities, 10 advanced, 16 declined, and 15 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for OMR906,000 while foreign investors were net sellers for OMR775,000, followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR130,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,687.73 points, down 0.34%. Prices of Al Anwar Investment

were up by 1.52% respectively. Prices of Muscat Finance, Global Financial Investments, Bank Nizwa, Sohar International Bank, Oman Arab Bank were down by 2.27%, 1.21%, 1.02%, 0.74%, 0.69% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,290.74 points, up 0.62%. Prices of Oman Cables Industry, Oman Chromite were up by 6.43%, 3.78% respectively. Prices of Gal-far Engineering, Al Anwar Ceramics, Oman Flour Mills were down by 1.05%, 1.00%, 0.44% respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.17% before closing at 1,737.65 points. Prices of Renaissance Services, Oman National Engineering, Oman Telecom, Al Maha Marketing, Abraj Energy were up by 2.39%, 1.71%, 0.76%, 0.48%, 0.36% respectively. Prices of Al Suwadi Power, Al Batinah Power, National Gas, Barka Water & Power Company, Muscat Desalination were down by 4.29%, 4.29%, 2.41%, 1.56%, 1.49% respectively. — United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT  
STOCK  
EXCHANGE

INDICES

| Index              | High     | Low      | Value    | Prev. Value | Diff   | Diff % |
|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|--------|--------|
| MSX 30 INDEX       | 4,583.20 | 4,568.05 | 4,573.49 | 4,569.60    | 3.88   | 0.08   |
| FINANCIAL INDEX    | 7,714.02 | 7,687.73 | 7,687.73 | 7,714.02    | -26.29 | -0.34  |
| Industry Index     | 5,308.66 | 5,252.22 | 5,290.74 | 5,257.89    | 32.85  | 0.62   |
| Services Index     | 1,745.62 | 1,737.56 | 1,737.65 | 1,740.63    | -2.98  | -0.17  |
| MSX Shariah Index  | 422.13   | 418.29   | 421.72   | 418.14      | 3.59   | 0.86   |
| MSX TR INDEX       | 6,413.72 | 6,392.51 | 6,400.12 | 6,394.69    | 5.43   | 0.08   |
| FINANCIAL TR IDX   | 8,763.92 | 8,734.06 | 8,734.06 | 8,763.92    | -29.87 | -0.34  |
| INDUSTRIAL TR IDX  | 6,124.93 | 6,059.81 | 6,104.26 | 6,066.35    | 37.91  | 0.62   |
| SERVICES TR IDX    | 2,078.11 | 2,068.50 | 2,068.62 | 2,072.16    | -3.55  | -0.17  |
| FIXED INCOME INDEX | 1,067.21 | 1,067.21 | 1,067.21 | 1,067.21    | 0.00   | 0.00   |

Trading Summary

|            |           |        |                |    |      |       |             |
|------------|-----------|--------|----------------|----|------|-------|-------------|
| Volume     | Turnover  | Trades | Market Cap     | Up | Down | Equal | Sec. Traded |
| 21,698,730 | 6,478,941 | 820    | 27,424,916,741 | 10 | 16   | 15    | 41          |

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

| SRN             | SECURITY NAME                          | VOLUME     | TURNOVER  | TRADES | OPEN PRICE | HIGH  | LOW   | CLOSE PR | PREV. CLOSE | DIFF (RD) | DIFF % | LAST PR | LAST BID | LAST OFFER | PRE VALUE | MARKET CAP    |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------|------------|-----------|--------|------------|-------|-------|----------|-------------|-----------|--------|---------|----------|------------|-----------|---------------|
| REGULAR MARKET  |                                        |            |           |        |            |       |       |          |             |           |        |         |          |            |           |               |
| OM0000003224    | RENAISSANCE SERVICES                   | 4,100      | 1,585     | 4      | 0.387      | 0.387 | 0.386 | 0.386    | 0.377       | 0.009     | 2.387  | 0.386   | 0.386    | 0.386      | 0.100     | 91,254,260    |
| OM0000001152    | OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVESTMENT | 15,000     | 1,785     | 2      | 0.119      | 0.119 | 0.119 | 0.119    | 0.117       | 0.002     | 1,709  | 0.119   | 0.119    | 0.119      | 0.100     | 17,850,000    |
| OM0000003026    | OMAN TELECOM                           | 233,457    | 215,282   | 28     | 0.918      | 0.926 | 0.918 | 0.924    | 0.917       | 0.007     | 0,763  | 0.924   | 0.928    | 0.924      | 0.100     | 693,000,000   |
| OM0000008934    | ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES                  | 2,184,199  | 607,237   | 41     | 0.278      | 0.279 | 0.277 | 0.279    | 0.278       | 0.001     | 0,360  | 0.279   | 0.279    | 0.289      | 0.100     | 214,885,000   |
| OM0000001681    | OMAN EMIRATES HO.                      | 20,000     | 1,420     | 1      | 0.071      | 0.071 | 0.071 | 0.071    | 0.071       | 0.000     | 0.000  | 0.071   | 0.071    | 0.071      | 0.100     | 8,653,125     |
| OM0000002796    | BANK MUSCAT                            | 19,029     | 4,850     | 6      | 0.255      | 0.255 | 0.253 | 0.255    | 0.255       | 0.000     | 0.000  | 0.255   | 0.252    | 0.255      | 0.100     | 1,914,131,251 |
| OM0000003968    | OOREDOO                                | 1,000      | 245       | 1      | 0.245      | 0.245 | 0.245 | 0.245    | 0.245       | 0.000     | 0.000  | 0.245   | 0.232    | 0.245      | 0.100     | 159,481,336   |
| OM0000004768    | MADINA TAKAFUL                         | 238,259    | 19,299    | 20     | 0.081      | 0.081 | 0.081 | 0.081    | 0.081       | 0.000     | 0.000  | 0.081   | 0.081    | 0.088      | 0.100     | 14,175,000    |
| OM0000009072    | OQ GAS NETWORKS                        | 886,665    | 118,108   | 94     | 0.133      | 0.134 | 0.133 | 0.133    | 0.133       | 0.000     | 0.000  | 0.133   | 0.133    | 0.120      | 0.100     | 575,972,981   |
| OM0000001533    | OMINVEST                               | 127,694    | 43,611    | 15     | 0.342      | 0.342 | 0.341 | 0.341    | 0.342       | -0.001    | -0.292 | 0.341   | 0.341    | 0.341      | 0.100     | 227,912,610   |
| OM0000003398    | SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK               | 153,724    | 20,602    | 5      | 0.135      | 0.135 | 0.134 | 0.134    | 0.135       | -0.001    | -0.741 | 0.134   | 0.134    | 0.135      | 0.100     | 886,711,000   |
| OM0000002168    | AL ANWAR CERAMIC                       | 248,410    | 24,698    | 16     | 0.098      | 0.100 | 0.098 | 0.099    | 0.100       | -0.001    | -1,000 | 0.099   | 0.099    | 0.099      | 0.100     | 21,780,000    |
| OM0000004735    | SEBMOIRP SALALAH                       | 102,150    | 9,793     | 19     | 0.096      | 0.096 | 0.095 | 0.095    | 0.096       | -0.001    | -1,042 | 0.095   | 0.095    | 0.096      | 0.100     | 90,694,335    |
| OM0000003125    | GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.        | 318,085    | 26,083    | 13     | 0.082      | 0.082 | 0.082 | 0.082    | 0.083       | 0.001     | 1,205  | 0.082   | 0.081    | 0.083      | 0.100     | 16,400,000    |
| OM0000004925    | ALBATINAH POWER                        | 96,853     | 6,419     | 16     | 0.068      | 0.068 | 0.066 | 0.067    | 0.070       | -0.003    | -4,286 | 0.067   | 0.068    | 0.067      | 0.100     | 45,217,458    |
| OM0000004933    | AL SUWADI POWER                        | 528,839    | 35,214    | 43     | 0.067      | 0.068 | 0.065 | 0.067    | 0.070       | -0.003    | -4,286 | 0.067   | 0.066    | 0.070      | 0.100     | 47,865,225    |
| Total           | 16                                     | 5,177,564  | 1,138,230 | 324    |            |       |       |          |             |           |        |         |          |            |           |               |
| Parallel Market |                                        |            |           |        |            |       |       |          |             |           |        |         |          |            |           |               |
| OM0000001707    | OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY                   | 86,249     | 219,710   | 23     | 2.550      | 2.650 | 2.500 | 2.650    | 2.490       | 0.160     | 6,426  | 2.650   | 2.500    | 2.650      | 0.100     | 237,705,000   |
| OM0000001020    | OMAN CHROMITE                          | 200        | 830       | 1      | 4.150      | 4.150 | 4.150 | 4.150    | 3.999       | 0.151     | 3,776  | 4.150   | 3.600    | 4.150      | 1.000     | 13,695,000    |
| OM0000001772    | ALANWAR INVESTMENT                     | 647,506    | 43,746    | 53     | 0.067      | 0.068 | 0.067 | 0.067    | 0.066       | 0.001     | 1,515  | 0.067   | 0.067    | 0.068      | 0.100     | 14,216,060    |
| OM0000003000    | AL MAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING   | 700        | 732       | 1      | 1.045      | 1.045 | 1.045 | 1.045    | 1.040       | 0.005     | 0.481  | 1.045   | 1.040    | 0.000      | 0.100     | 72,105,000    |
| OM0000004248    | SMN POWER HOLDING                      | 2,874,530  | 976,518   | 53     | 0.339      | 0.348 | 0.339 | 0.340    | 0.339       | 0.001     | 0.295  | 0.340   | 0.340    | 0.346      | 0.100     | 67,876,104    |
| OM0000002028    | GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS           | 20,400     | 1,367     | 3      | 0.067      | 0.068 | 0.067 | 0.068    | 0.068       | 0.000     | 0.000  | 0.068   | 0.068    | 0.073      | 0.100     | 1,428,000     |
| OM0000002549    | BANK DHOFAR                            | 7935       | 1,404     | 3      | 0.177      | 0.177 | 0.177 | 0.177    | 0.177       | 0.000     | 0.000  | 0.177   | 0.177    | 0.177      | 0.100     | 530,354,204   |
| OM0000003265    | NATIONAL DETERGENT                     | 117        | 80        | 1      | 0.680      | 0.680 | 0.680 | 0.700    | 0.700       | 0.000     | 0.000  | 0.680   | 0.650    | 0.680      | 0.100     | 14,000,000    |
| OM0000003681    | VOLTAMP ENERGY                         | 2,274      | 887       | 9      | 0.389      | 0.400 | 0.389 | 0.390    | 0.390       | 0.000     | 0.000  | 0.390   | 0.390    | 0.395      | 0.100     | 31,747,073    |
| OM0000006983    | PHOENIX POWER                          | 213,470    | 12,497    | 12     | 0.058      | 0.058 | 0.058 | 0.058    | 0.058       | 0.000     | 0.000  | 0.058   | 0.057    | 0.058      | 0.100     | 84,839,885    |
| OM0000008447    | OMAN REIT FUND                         | 500,000    | 35,000    | 10     | 0.070      | 0.070 | 0.070 | 0.070    | 0.070       | 0.000     | 0.000  | 0.070   | 0.069    | 0.070      | 0.100     | 35,694,191    |
| OM0000001400    | OMAN FLOUR MILLS                       | 12,271     | 5,489     | 5      | 0.447      | 0.448 | 0.447 | 0.448    | 0.450       | -0.002    | -0.444 | 0.448   | 0.440    | 0.448      | 0.100     | 70,560,000    |
| OM0000009759    | OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION          | 10,934,476 | 3,845,035 | 222    | 0.353      | 0.353 | 0.351 | 0.351    | 0.353       | -0.002    | -0.567 | 0.351   | 0.351    | 0.351      | 0.010     | 808,000,000   |
| OM0000003280    | OMAN ARAB BANK                         | 35,000     | 5,092     | 4      | 0.146      | 0.146 | 0.145 | 0.145    | 0.146       | -0.001    | -0.685 | 0.145   | 0.145    | 0.157      | 0.100     | 242,064,450   |
| OM0000004420    | BANK NIZWA                             | 100,356    | 9,755     | 11     | 0.097      | 0.098 | 0.097 | 0.097    | 0.098       | -0.001    | -1,020 | 0.098   | 0.098    | 0.098      | 0.100     | 21,984,444    |
| OM0000003521    | GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING       | 77,000     | 7,197     | 11     | 0.094      | 0.094 | 0.093 | 0.094    | 0.095       | -0.001    | -1,053 | 0.094   | 0.094    | 0.094      | 0.100     | 19,086,726    |
| OM0000007084    | MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION               | 60,892     | 4,006     | 8      | 0.067      | 0.067 | 0.066 | 0.066    | 0.067       | 0.001     | -1,493 | 0.066   | 0.066    | 0.069      | 0.100     | 10,266,326    |
| OM0000003141    | BARKA WATER AND POWER                  | 322,743    | 103,352   | 27     | 0.330      | 0.330 | 0.311 | 0.315    | 0.320       | -0.005    | -1,563 | 0.315   | 0.315    | 0.333      | 0.100     | 50,400,000    |
| OM0000001590    | MUSCAT FINANCE                         | 390,000    | 15,050    | 7      | 0.043      | 0.043 | 0.043 | 0.043    | 0.044       | -0.001    | -2,273 | 0.043   | 0.042    | 0.045      | 0.100     | 13,207,292    |
| OM0000001160    | NATIONAL GAS                           | 208,738    | 17,057    | 19     | 0.084      | 0.084 | 0.081 | 0.081    | 0.083       | -0.002    | -2,410 | 0.081   | 0.080    | 0.081      | 0.100     | 6,885,000     |
| Total           | 20                                     | 16,457,687 | 5,304,805 | 483    |            |       |       |          |             |           |        |         |          |            |           |               |

SENSEX, NIFTY RISE

Indian stock market closes on a high note

**MUMBAI:** The stock market closed on a high note on Tuesday with both benchmark indices registering gains.

The Sensex surged 597.67 points to close at 80,845.75, while the Nifty climbed 181.10 points, ending the session at 24,457.15.

Out of the Nifty 50 companies, 41 ended in the green, while nine saw declines. Top gainers included

Adani Ports, NTPC, Adani Enterprises, Axis Bank, and SBI.

On the other hand, Bharti Airtel, Hero Motocorp, ITC, HDFC Life, and Sun Pharma were among the top losers of the day.

LA Ambala, co-founder of Stock Market Today, attributed the market's resilience to smart investment strategies focused on long-term growth and value buying.

"Despite weak growth domestic product (GDP) growth, investors are targeting companies with strong fundamentals, robust order books, and alignment with policy-driven growth sectors. Many stocks are now trading at par or discount levels, attracting renewed interest," Ambala noted.

She also highlighted the impact of the government's recent

removal of the Windfall Tax aimed at boosting the manufacturing sector, though its benefits are unlikely to trickle down to end-users.

The market continues to gain momentum, with Nifty trading above key support levels at 24,170 and forming a Bullish Hammer candlestick pattern, indicating a positive trajectory. — ANI

Elevate Your Business and Events with Us!

EVENT MANAGEMENT

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

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

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

SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLING

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

BRANDING

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

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

+968 92839679

+968 99321290

AWARENESS INITIATIVE

BankDhofar announces launch of integrated educational platform to promote financial literacy

**MUSCAT:** BankDhofar has announced the launch of a digital education platform focused on financial literacy to raise the level of financial awareness among individuals in the Sultanate of Oman. The initiative is carried out in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, represented by the National Programme for Fiscal Sustainability and Financial Sector Development (Estidama) and with the participation of a number of government entities; the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation, the SME Development Authority and the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, represented by Youth Centres.

BankDhofar's initiative to spread financial literacy among the community is achieved by leveraging the expertise and skills of its employees to create educational and informative content that can be accessed through digital learning platforms. The platform offers a variety of training programmes and interactive courses covering various aspects of the financial sector, such as basic money management, online payments, credit and insurance products, investing and financial planning for the future. The platform also provides specialised educational tools and resources to support employees, entrepreneurs and SMEs and enhance their skills to manage their finances efficiently.

"The launch of this platform stems from our belief in the importance of financial education in empowering individuals to make sound financial decisions and achieve financial stability. We are confident that this initiative will go a long way in enhancing the financial inclusion in Oman and meeting the needs of various segments of the society. This aligns with BankDhofar's mission to provide integrated financial services, achieve financial inclusion, and strengthen its position as a

reliable partner in the sustainable development which is in line with the Oman Vision 2040," said Dr. Khalid bin Salim Al Hamadani, Chief Human Resources Officer at BankDhofar.

The platform contains a variety of educational materials covering a wide range of financial topics in a simple and easy-to-understand language. The platform is interactive and flexible, allowing users to interact with the educational content and select programs that meet their needs. The platform can be accessed through computers and smart mobile devices, making it easy for users to benefit from its services anytime and anywhere.

BankDhofar has recently launched a series of podcasts in partnership with Hala FM on



# HERE IS HOW CANCER CELLS FEND OFF STARVATION, DEATH FROM CHEMOTHERAPY

Laboratory experiments with cancer cells reveal two ways in which tumors evade drugs designed to starve and kill them, a new study shows. While chemotherapy successfully treats tumours and extends patients' lives, it is known that they do not work for everyone for long, since cancer cells rewire the mechanism by which they transform fuel into energy (metabolism) in order to avoid the treatments' effects. Many of these medications are so-called antimetabolites, which disrupt cell processes necessary for tumour growth and survival.

Led by researchers at NYU Langone Health and its Perlmutter Cancer Centre, the new study shows how cancer cells survive in an environment made hostile by the persistent shortage of the energy from glucose (the chemical term for blood sugar) needed to drive tumour growth. This better understanding of how cancer cells evade the drugs' attempts to kill them in a low-glucose environment, the researchers say, could lead to the design of better or more effective combination therapies.

Three such drugs used in the study -- raltitrexed, N-(phosphonacetyl)-l-aspartate (PALA), and brequinar -- work to prevent cancer cells from making pyrimidines, molecules that are an essential component to genetic letter codes, or nucleotides, that make up RNA and DNA. Cancer cells must have access to pyrimidine supplies to produce more cancer cells and to produce uridine nucleotides, a primary fuel source for cancer cells as they rapidly reproduce, grow, and die. Disrupting the fast-paced but fragile pyrimidine synthesis pathways, as some

chemotherapies are designed to do, can rapidly starve cancer cells and spontaneously lead to them dying (apoptosis).

Study results showed that the low-glucose environment inhabited by cancer cells, or tumour microenvironment, stalls cancer cell consumption of existing uridine nucleotide stores, making the chemotherapies less effective.

Normally, uridine nucleotides would be made and consumed to help make the genetic letter codes and fuel cell metabolism. But when DNA and RNA construction is blocked by these chemotherapies, so too is the consumption of uridine nucleotide pools, the researchers found, as glucose is needed to change one form of uridine, UTP, into another usable form, UDP-glucose. The irony, researchers say, is that a low-glucose tumor microenvironment is in turn slowing down cellular consumption of uridine nucleotides and presumably slowing down rates of cell death. Researchers say cancer cells need to run out of pyrimidine building blocks, including uridine nucleotides, before the cells will self-destruct.

In other experiments, low-glucose tumor microenvironments were also unable to activate two proteins, BAX and BAK, sitting on the surface of

mitochondria, a cell's fuel generator. Activation of these trigger proteins disintegrates the mitochondria, and instantly sets off a series of caspase enzymes that help initiate apoptosis (cell death).

"Our study shows how cancer cells manage to offset the impact of low-glucose tumour microenvironments, and how these changes in cancer cell metabolism minimise chemotherapy's effectiveness," said study lead investigator Minwoo Nam, PhD, a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Pathology at NYU Grossman School of Medicine and Perlmutter Cancer Centre.

"Our results explain what has until now been unclear about how the altered metabolism of the tumor microenvironment impacts chemotherapy: low glucose slows down the consumption and exhaustion of uridine nucleotides needed to fuel cancer cell growth and hinders resulting apoptosis, or death, in cancer cells," said senior study investigator Richard Possemato, PhD. Possemato is an associate professor in the Department of Pathology at NYU Grossman School of Medicine and also a member of Perlmutter Cancer Centre.

Possemato, who is also coleader of the Cancer Cell Biology Programme at Perlmutter, says his

team's study results could one day be used to develop chemotherapies or combination therapies that would change or trick cancer cells into responding the same way in a low-glucose microenvironment as they would in an otherwise stable glucose microenvironment.

He also says that diagnostic tests could be developed to measure how a patient's cancer cells would most likely respond to low-glucose microenvironments and to predict how well a patient might respond to a particular chemotherapy.

Possemato says his team has plans to investigate how blocking other cancer cell pathways might trigger apoptosis in response to these chemotherapies. Some experimental drugs, such as Chk-1 and ATR inhibitors, already exist that might accomplish this, he notes, but more need to be investigated because Chk-1 and ATR inhibitors are not well tolerated by patients.

For the study, researchers performed a scan of 3,000 cancer cell genes known to be involved in cell metabolism to determine, by deletion, which were necessary for cancer cell survival after chemotherapy. Most of the genes they found that were essential to cell survival in low-glucose tumor environments were also involved in pyrimidine synthesis, a precise biological pathway targeted by many chemotherapies.

This focused their experiments on how different lab-grown clones of cancer cells responded to low-glucose after chemotherapy and what other chemical processes were impacted by depressed sugar levels. - ANI

SPORTS

FIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON DECEMBER 13

FIA seeks rule changes after president Ben Sulayem allegations

**LONDON:** Motorsport’s governing body, FIA, wants to change its rules to limit the ways its leadership can be held to account for bad governance, according to a *BBC Sport* report on Tuesday.

A set of revisions to the statutes governing the audit and ethics committees has been circulated to member clubs to be approved at a vote of the FIA general assembly on December 13.

These would ensure that any ethics complaints were overseen by the FIA president and president of its senate, rather than the senate itself.

And they would remove the power of the audit committee to investigate financial issues independently.

The proposals come after a year in which the ethics and audit committees investigated a number of allegations about the conduct of FIA president Mohammed Ben Sulayem.

These included questions about the finances of Ben Sulayem’s private office; the establishment of a \$1.5m “president’s fund” to pay member clubs, which vote for the FIA president.

Neither of these were progressed. And two separate allegations that Ben Sulayem interfered in the operations of grands prix in 2023, which were dismissed.

The former chief executive officer Natalie Robyn left the organisation after raising questions about the general governance of



the organisation and its professional practices, including finances in the president’s office.

And the head of the audit committee Bertrand Badre and audit committee member Tom Purves were fired in the summer, external in the wake of these investigations.

The compliance officer Paolo Basarri, who looked into the allegations and reported them to the ethics committee, was fired last month.

The changes to the statutes, which have been seen by *BBC Sport*, remove the ability of the compliance officer to report to the audit committee and remove the audit committee’s ability to investigate any matter unless asked by the president of the senate.

And they would mean the FIA president controlled the appointment of the head of the ethics committee, and remove the role of the senate and compliance officer in its operations.

The president of the FIA Senate, Carmelo Sanz De Barros, is a member of Ben Sulayem’s four-person leadership team.

In essence, critics say the changes would neutralise the ability of whistleblowers to expose questionable behaviour to the ethics and audit committees, and the ability of those committees to pursue actions against any wrongdoing.

The senate, which no longer has to send any ethics report, is a 12-person body that includes Prince Faisal Al Hussein of Jordan, the Mexican billionaire businessman Carlos Slim Domit, and Akio Toyoda, the chairman of the Toyota car company.

The FIA has declined to comment. - Agencies

GRAND SLAM WINNER

Australian tennis great Fraser dies



**MELBOURNE:** Former Wimbledon champion Neale Fraser has died aged 91.

The Australian won the Wimbledon singles title in 1960 as well as the US National Championships in 1959 and 1960, when tennis was still an amateur sport.

He also claimed 11 men’s doubles and five mixed doubles Slam titles and became the men’s singles world No.1 in 1959.

Fraser was a member of four triumphant Davis Cup teams as a player before going on to captain Australia in the event for 24 years, winning it four further times.

“A true legend of Australian tennis, who will be missed by so many around the world,” said Tennis Australia.

Fraser beat compatriot Rod Laver to claim the Wimbledon and US titles in 1960.

“I am deeply saddened to hear of the passing of my dear mate and fellow lefty, Neale Fraser,” said Laver.

“He was a true gem in a golden era of Australian tennis legends - an incredible world number one, a Grand Slam champion, and a Davis Cup icon.

“Neale bested me in two major finals, pushing me to become a better player. My heartfelt condolences go out to [his wife] Thea and Neale’s extended family. I’ll miss you dearly, buddy. Rest in peace.”

Former Wimbledon champion Pat Cash was a member of the Australia team that won the Davis Cup in 1983 and 1986 under Fraser, who he said was like a father to him.

Cash added: “He just knew how to make you feel important and play your best.” - Agencies

World champion Dubois to face Parker in Riyadh



Dubois has won 22 professional fights, with 21 knockouts, and lost two, while Parker boasts a record of 35 wins with three defeats

**RIYADH:** Briton Daniel Dubois will defend his world heavyweight title against former champion Joseph Parker in the Saudi Arabian capital city of Riyadh on February 22.

Dubois, 27, made a spectacular first defence of his IBF belt by beating Anthony Joshua in September.

New Zealand’s Parker, 32, held the WBO title between 2016 and 2018 before losing it to Joshua.

Also on the card in Riyadh, Artur Beterbiev will defend his undisputed light-heavyweight crown in a rematch with fellow Russian Dmitry Bivol.

Undefeated Londoner Hamzah Sheeraz will challenge for his maiden world title against WBC



middleweight champion Carlos Adames, while British light-heavyweights Joshua Buatsi and Callum Smith will meet for Buatsi’s WBO interim title.

Shakur Stevenson will put his WBC lightweight belt on the line against Floyd Schofield and Zhilei Zhang faces Agit Kabayel for the interim WBC heavyweight title to complete the blockbuster card.

Dubois captured the interim title with an impressive win over Filip Hrgovic last year and was elevated to world champion when Oleksandr Usyk vacated the belt.

The Londoner legitimised himself as a world champion when he

upset the odds by dismantling two-time champion Joshua inside five rounds at Wembley Stadium.

Parker earns a title shot after a four-fight winning streak, including impressive wins over Deontay Wilder and Zhang in his past two fights.

Dubois has won 22 professional fights, with 21 knockouts, and lost two, while Parker boasts a record of 35 wins with three defeats

In October, Beterbiev defeated Bivol by majority decision to become the first undisputed light-heavyweight champion since 2002.

Many ringside observers felt Bivol, who suffered a first career

defeat, should have been awarded the decision.

Former super-middleweight world champion Smith was stopped by Beterbiev for the unified light-heavyweight titles in January but returned to winning ways against Carlos Galvan on Saturday to earn a shot against the undefeated Buatsi, who claimed the WBO interim title on the Joshua-Dubois undercard.

Ilford-born Sheeraz, 25, has won all 21 pro bouts with 17 stoppages. He withdrew from an ordered fight against WBO champion Janibek Alimkhanuly to take on Dominican Adames, who has lost once in 25 bouts. - Agencies

AUCTION IN SYDNEY

Bradman ‘baggy green’ sold for \$310,924

**SYDNEY:** A cap worn by Australian cricket legend Don Bradman has sold for 479,700 Australian dollars (US\$310,924) at an auction in Sydney. Bradman wore the cap - known as a ‘baggy green’ - in the 1947-48 home Test series against India, during which he scored his 100th first-class century.

Auction house Bonham’s described the cap, external as “sun faded and worn”, with “some insect damage” and “some loss to [the] edge of [the] peak”.

It was bought for 390,000 Australian dollars (US\$ 252,770) before the addition of a buyer’s premium was added to the fee.

Bradman, who died aged 92 in 2001, is widely regarded as crick-



et’s greatest-ever batter, averaging 99.4 runs per Test innings.

The series against India was his last on home soil and he scored 715 runs in six innings at an average of 178.75 as Australia won 4-0. India were on their first international tour as an independent country.

Bradman’s cap had been on loan

since 2010 to the Bradman Museum in the player’s hometown of Bowral. Following the 1947-48 Indian tour, Bradman gave the cap to the Indian team tour manager, Pankaj Gupta, who passed it onto the Indian team’s wicketkeeper PK Sen. It was purchased by the current owner in 2003, Bonhams said.

FIORENTINA FOOTBALLER

Bove awake after collapsing on pitch

**FLORENCE:** Fiorentina midfielder Edoardo Bove is “awake” and “alert” after being admitted to intensive care in hospital on Sunday following his collapse on the pitch during his side’s Serie A match against Inter Milan.

The match was suspended after the incident in the 16th minute before later being abandoned.

Fiorentina said, that following “an uneventful night”, Bove, 22, was “awakened and extubated (having a tube removed from his windpipe) this morning” and that he was “awake” and “alert”.

The Italian club added: “He has spoken with his family, club management, the coach and his teammates, who all rushed to go and



see him as soon as they heard the good news.

“Further tests will be carried out in the coming days to establish what led to the critical situation that took place.”

Bove suddenly fell to the

ground, causing a stoppage in play with both sets of players immediately signalling for the medical staff to enter the field before forming a protective ring around him.

He was taken away on a stretcher and put into a waiting ambulance after the referee asked both set of players to leave the pitch.

“The doctors at Careggi University Hospital who are treating the player have confirmed that diagnostic tests are ongoing,” said Fiorentina. “Fiorentina would like to thank Careggi University Hospital and all of the doctors and staff for the wonderful humanity and professionalism they have shown.” - Agencies

PREMIER LEAGUE

It hurt I had to leave: Van Nistelrooy reveals Man United pain

**LONDON:** New Leicester boss Ruud van Nistelrooy has revealed his pain at leaving Manchester United but vowed to stamp his authority on the Foxes, BBC Sport reported.

The former Red Devils striker replaced Steve Cooper at the King Power Stadium on Friday, signing a deal until 2027.

It comes after a four-game spell as interim manager at Old Trafford, following the sacking of Erik ten Hag, before he left when Ruben Amorim was appointed last month.

Van Nistelrooy, brought in by Ten Hag as an assistant manager in July, oversaw three wins and one draw during his four-game stint in charge at United and was initially upset over his exit.

“The moment I took over the interim job what I said was I’m here to help United and to stay to help

United, and I meant it. So I was disappointed, very much so, and it hurt I had to leave,” he said at a press conference on Monday.

“In the end I got my head round it because I also understand the new manager. I’m in football long enough and I’ve managed myself. I understand.

“I spoke to Ruben about it, fair enough to him, the conversation was grateful, man to man, person to person, manager to manager. That helped [me] a lot to move on and straightaway get into talks with new possibilities which of course lifted my spirits.”

Van Nistelrooy inherits a squad who struggled to bond with Cooper and have come under fire following last week’s Christmas party trip to Copenhagen, with the players told their behaviour was unacceptable.

He says he checked on their



characters before taking the role and believes the players must respect his authority.

“It’s the only way you can work,” the Dutchman said. “It’s mutual respect. I also mentioned to the players yesterday that I looked

at the squad and started to make phone calls about players, because in football everyone knows everyone.

“With two or three phone calls you hear stories about 20 players and for me it was important that

you hear there are good characters there. That’s important, that there are good people there.

“I look at the players and how they play. I obviously don’t know them but I got general information... that they are a good bunch of people.”

Ruud van Nistelrooy faces West Ham in his first game in charge at Leicester

Van Nistelrooy also said he was “astonished” by the amount of interest in him after his brief spell as United boss.

Leicester moved quickly to bring in the 48-year-old after sacking Cooper on 24 November and Van Nistelrooy said he had other options.

“I have to say there were offers there and possibilities. It’s good to have them and look and be critical on where you’re going to work,” said the Dutchman.

“What happened after the games and the amount of interest, the options that all of a sudden were there for me and the options that came along, I was a little bit astonished.

“I went into conversations with Leicester because I thought, having spoken to other people, it was a great opportunity to get to know each other.

“It was a good feeling and in the end both parties felt it. That was a good reason to start working together.”

Van Nistelrooy watched Saturday’s 4-1 defeat at Brentford from the stands and is already clear of the target this season. He said: “The expectations are clear, they are not easy but they are clear. It is something we face, that challenge to maintain and play in the Premier League and that is the big target for everybody.” - Agencies

# Geely unveils GX3 PRO in Oman

Designed to deliver an exhilarating driving experience, this striking SUV combines cutting-edge features with unmatched performance, making it the perfect companion for Oman's diverse roads and vibrant lifestyles

**MUSCAT:** Geely Auto International Corporation proudly introduces the all-new GX3 PRO, an SUV that redefines versatility and style for the modern driver. The grand launch event, held on 25th November 2024 at 7:00 PM at the Azaiba Exclusive Geely Showroom, was a moment of excitement and innovation. The ceremony was graced by the presence of Mr. Riyadh Ali Sultan, General Manager of Towell Auto Centre, accompanied by Geely's distinguished representatives.

With a competitive price of just OMR4,399, the GX3 PRO is set to revolutionise mobility in Oman. Designed to deliver an exhilarating driving experience, this striking



ing SUV combines cutting-edge features with unmatched performance, making it the perfect companion for Oman's diverse roads and vibrant lifestyles.

Setting a new standard for versatile SUVs, the GX3 PRO seamlessly combines bold design, advanced functionality, and exceptional reliability. Engineered to excel on Oman's diverse roads, it features standout styling, superior comfort, and robust safety and performance capabilities. Designed to adapt to the region's dynamic lifestyles, the GX3 PRO is poised to enhance driving experiences across the Sultanate.

**Striking exterior design**

Geely's signature design is present in the GX3 PRO, which includes bold elements such as a prominent "Energy Chord" grille and a wing-shaped bumper for a striking front profile. The SUV also has Boomerang-shaped LED daytime running lights that add beauty to the vehicle while also ensuring enhanced

visibility for safer driving. Completing the body of the SUV is a set of 16-inch aluminum alloy wheels and blackened accents, making it equally suitable for congested city streets or outdoor adventures.

**Comfort meets functionality with practical interior**

Inside, the GX3 PRO boasts a roomy cabin with an 8-inch floating center display and a three-spoke multifunction steering wheel. The design is very practical, as it incorporates 26 compartments for storage of various objects and a 4/6 split-folding rear seat to meet different needs. The interior can boast such environmentally friendly materials as low-odour adhesives and a CN95 air filter, ensuring a cleaner and healthier atmosphere inside the cabin for all passengers.

**Quiet and comfortable ride**

One of the standout features of the GX3 PRO is the impeccable noise reduction. With 48 upgrades on

the sounds of its cabin, the vehicle brings idling noise down to 37.5 dB, one of the quietest products in the category. It also extends comfort features with cruise control between 30–150 km/h, a tilt-and-slide anti-pinch sunroof, and a reasonably large infotainment system that includes MirrorLink for errorless smartphone integration.

**Advanced safety features**

Safety has always been a prime concern for the GX3 PRO, with a wealth of advanced features such as the BOSCH 9.3 ESP system, ABS, EBD, TCS, and VDC, which ensure greater stability and give better ride and drive quality.

The vehicle also boasts HHC and a Tyre Pressure Monitoring System as well as dual airbags for other types of safety protection. The ISOFIX child seat anchors and high-strength steel body characterize the robust safety standards of this vehicle.

The visual reversing system that uses radar assistance ensures easy



parking and maneuvering.

**Powerful and efficient performance**

Under the hood, the GX3 PRO is equipped with a 1.5L DVVT engine that puts out 102 HP of power and delivers 140 Nm of torque for a great balance of performance and fuel efficiency. The engine-constructed out of lightweight aluminum alloy means low emissions and better fuel economy. Paired with an 8-speed CVT transmission, the GX3 PRO would promise smooth and responsive driving. The Sport Mode feature further enhances the performance of the SUV for a much more dynamic driving experience.

commitment to excellence, TAC has been delivering premium automotive products and services to the Sultanate of Oman over the years. Today it offers a comprehensive range of exceptional customer support services, managed by industry-leading professionals, and backed by superior after-sales services. The addition of Geely to its line-up is a testament to the company's commitment to providing its customers with the latest and most innovative automotive products.

Geely Auto Group is a leading automobile manufacturer based in Hangzhou, China. Founded in 1986 as a subsidiary of Zhejiang Geely Holding Group (ZGH), Geely Auto Group operates several well-known international automotive brands, including Geely Auto, Lynk & Co, ZEEKR, Proton, Volvo Cars, Polestar, Lotus, London Electric Vehicle Company, Farizon Auto, and Cao Mobility. With over a million vehicles sold, Geely Holding is listed in the Fortune Global 500 and continues to lead the automotive industry with its commitment to innovation and excellence.

*For more information on Geely vehicles or to buy a car in Oman, please visit [www.geelyoman.com](http://www.geelyoman.com)*

## FOR CREDIT CARD HOLDERS

## Muzn Islamic Banking offers 50% discount on Talabat orders

**MUSCAT:** Muzn Islamic Banking has announced offering its Credit Card holders an exclusive 50% discount on two transactions on Talabat, the primary delivery platform in Oman. Lasting until 31st December 2024, the offer adds value to everyday purchases, with customers enjoying a maximum discount of OMR4 per transaction on food or other products.

Commenting on the offer, Salima Obaid Al Marzooqi, Muzn's Chief Islamic Banking Officer, said: "We strive to reward our valued cardholders with exclusive offers that cater to their needs. Our collaboration with Talabat underscores our dedication to providing value and ease to our customers while adhering to Shariah-compliant solutions that enrich our customer's lives."

To redeem the discount, customers must access download Talabat's app on their mobile devices and ensure their Muzn Credit Card is saved as the pre-



ferred payment method. This promotion applies exclusively to electronic payments made through Talabat platform and does not extend to cash on delivery or pick-up services. While the offer can be combined with ongoing restaurant deals, it does not apply to service or delivery charges.

Muzn's initiative aligns with its commitment to providing Shariah-compliant, customer-centric solutions that add convenience and value to daily financial transactions. This special offer en-

hances Muzn's range of financial products, designed to empower customers with ethical and rewarding banking experiences. This limited-time offer is available only to Muzn credit card holders and is part of Muzn's ongoing commitment to rewarding loyalty and enhancing customer experiences. For more information on this promotion or to explore how Muzn's Shariah-compliant solutions can elevate your financial journey, please visit [www.muzn.om](http://www.muzn.om) or contact the Muzn Call Centre at 24770001.

## STYLE AND COMFORT

## Lincoln Aviator – Enjoy luxury and versatility on every drive

**MUSCAT:** The Lincoln Aviator is a strikingly luxurious SUV that redefines what it means to drive in style and comfort. Powered by a robust twin-turbocharged 3.0-liter V6 engine paired with a smooth 10-speed SelectShift® automatic transmission, the Aviator delivers a powerful 400 horsepower and 562 Nm of torque. This refined performance allows for effortlessly swift acceleration, while its three-row seating and off-road capability make it a perfect blend of luxury and versatility.

Every drive in the Aviator is an experience of tailored elegance, thanks to its Lincoln Drive Modes, which offer five distinct settings: Normal, Conserve, Excite, Slippery and Deep Conditions. These modes allow drivers to customise their driving dynamics, with each selection vividly displayed on the 12.3-inch configurable LCD instrument cluster, enhanced by clear, dynamic graphics.

Making every journey smooth and enjoyable, the Aviator comes equipped with advanced technology that "sees" rough roads



before you even feel them. With Adaptive Suspension and Road Preview, an advanced forward camera constantly scans the road for potholes or uneven surfaces, adjusting the suspension in real-time for an exceptionally smooth ride. Safety and driver-assistance come standard in the Aviator, courtesy of Lincoln Co-Pilot360™. Features like Traffic Jam Assist manage speed and lane positioning during heavy traffic, while Evasive Steer Assist provides extra steering support to help avoid sudden obstacles. Reverse Brake Assist enhances peace of mind by stopping the vehicle if sensors detect an obstacle while backing up.

And when it comes to parking,

Active Park Assist 2.0 takes the stress out of the process. With just the push of a button, the Aviator handles steering, shifting, braking and acceleration, allowing it to easily manoeuvre into parallel or perpendicular spaces.

Inspired by the elegance of flight, the Lincoln Aviator elevates every journey with the perfect blend of power, sophistication and intelligent design.

In Oman, Lincoln vehicles are brought to you by Arabian Car Marketing Co. LLC. Please log on to [www.lincolnoman.com](http://www.lincolnoman.com), or [www.facebook.com/lincolnoman](http://www.facebook.com/lincolnoman) or [www.instagram.com/lincolnoman](http://www.instagram.com/lincolnoman) for the latest news, test drive requests and the latest press releases.

## STUDY IN INDIA EXPO 2024

## Bridging opportunities for Indian diaspora in Oman

**MUSCAT:** Are you an Indian parent in Oman, eager to explore top-tier educational opportunities for your child? The Study in India Expo is your gateway to accessing world-class education in India, designed specifically for the Indian diaspora in Oman. Set to take place in Muscat on 6-7 Dec '24 at Al Falaj Hotel and at Sohar on 9th Dec at Radisson Blu Resort this event is a must-visit for families looking to make informed decisions about their children's future.

**Discover leading Indian institutions under one roof**

This year's Study in India Expo brings together over 40 distinguished institutions, many holding prestigious NAAC accreditation and NIRF rankings, providing confidence in the quality of education and excellence in academic infrastructure. You'll find representatives from top-ranked universities such as VIT-Vellore, Manipal, Jain University, KIIT University, LPU, BMS Group of Institutions Bangalore, Thapar Institute, Sharda University, Kumaraguru Institutions Coimbatore, Pandit Deendayal Energy University, and many more. These universities, recognized for their global standards and future-ready programmes, present an unparalleled opportunity for students to interact, ask questions, and explore their potential academic pathways.

Whether your child's aspirations lie in engineering, medicine, business, or emerging fields like AI, Robotics, and Aeronautics, the Study in India Expo offers a chance to explore all these avenues in one place. Engage directly with university representatives, admis-



sions teams, and career counselors to understand the best courses and pathways suited to your child's aspirations and the demands of tomorrow's workforce.

**Top boarding schools: Nurturing future leaders**

In addition to universities, the Expo brings together over India's leading Boarding Schools, including Woodstock School, The Aga Khan Academy, Mayo College, Mayo College Girls' School, Mussoorie International School, Jain International Residential School, SSVN World School, MIT Vishwashanti Gurukul World school, Indian Public School Dehradun, and many more. From hill stations to metropolitan campuses, these schools offer top-notch facilities at accessible fees and follow various esteemed boards like IB, Cambridge, CBSE, and ICSE. The Expo is a unique platform for families to explore boarding schools that not only emphasize academic rigor but also nurture

essential 21st-century skills, preparing students for global success.

**Insightful seminars and counselling sessions**

One of the Expo's highlights will be a series of seminars, panel discussions, and counselling sessions with leading educationists and career counsellors, focusing on futuristic careers and emerging fields. For students aiming for high-impact careers in a rapidly evolving job market, these sessions provide a rare opportunity to gain insights into high-growth sectors, discover which skills are in demand, and understand how Indian institutions are preparing students for global competitiveness.

The Study in India Expo offers Indian families in the UAE a time-saving, comprehensive platform to explore some of India's finest educational institutions without having to visit multiple campuses.

[Full story @ timesofoman.com/roundup](http://timesofoman.com/roundup)

## INDIAN SOCIAL CLUB AND RANGREZ

## Special art exhibition to be held for Oman's 54th National Day

**MUSCAT:** The Indian Social Club (ISC), with its diverse linguistic wings, serves as a vibrant hub for cultural, social, and artistic activities, fostering unity and community engagement.

Rangrez, the Club's dedicated art platform, showcases artistic talent through exhibitions and events that celebrate creativity and cultural connections.

In honour of Oman's 54th National Day, Rangrez is hosting a special art exhibition celebrating the rich cultural heritage and natural beauty of Oman. Featuring 35 remarkable works, including digital art and photography the exhibition brings together the talents of Rangrez's artists alongside contributors from across the Indian Social Club. Each piece offers a

unique perspective on Oman's rich culture, stunning landscapes, and vibrant people.

**Event details:**  
**Inauguration:** 5th Dec 2024 (By invite only)  
**Public Viewing:** 6th – 7th Dec 2024  
**Location:** ISC multipurpose hall  
**Admission:** Free

ROUND-UP

Bank Muscat continues to introduce credit cards features to customers

This initiative aims to bring the Bank's services closer to customers and showcase the range of features and benefits offered by Bank Muscat credit cards

**MUSCAT:** Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in Oman, continues its campaign to highlight the advantages and benefits of its various credit cards through special booths at select

commercial centers across several wilayats. This initiative aims to bring the Bank's services closer to customers and showcase the range of features and benefits offered by Bank Muscat credit cards. The Bank has set up dedicated booths at LuLu Hypermarkets in Sohar, Sur, and Salalah starting from 1st & 2nd of December, as well as at Oman Avenues Mall in Bausher, Muscat from 7th December, and lasting until the end of the year 2024. The Bank's staff will be available to answer inquiries and facilitate applications on credit cards from 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM at Oman Avenues Mall , and from 9:00 AM to 10:30 PM at LuLu Hypermarkets: Sur, Sohar & Salalah. Bank Muscat is committed to offering the best deals and benefits to its customers when using various bank cards, continually striving to enhance and develop these offerings to meet the evolving needs of its diverse customers base.



The Private Banking Visa Infinite Credit Card offers various rewards and benefits, including complimentary chauffeur service to and from Muscat International Airport and Salalah International Airport, airport lounge access at over 1000 lounges globally, free full multi-trip travel insurance, and 24-hour Visa Premium concierge service. The Asalah Visa Signature Credit Card on the other hand facilitates complimentary visits to

over 1,000 airport lounges worldwide. The credit card also offers 1% cashback on purchases, free multi-trip travel insurance, and global concierge service. Similarly, the Lulu Bank Muscat Titanium Mastercard Credit Card offers its own unique range of benefits that enhance cardholders' everyday life, including the exclusive ability to earn 2% lulu reward points every time the card is used at Lulu Hypermarket in

Oman and the ability to earn 0.5% reward points when shopping with the card at other local and international merchants. Cardholders can also enjoy travel related benefits including complimentary access to over 10 lounges across the UAE, KSA, Jordan, Kuwait and Egypt as well as free travel insurance. For Al Jawhar Visa Platinum Credit Cardholders, they can enjoy 1% cashback on local and international spends, complimentary travel insurance, access to premium lounges around the world in addition to lounges at Muscat and Salalah airports. As for the Bank Muscat Visa Gold Credit Card, cardholders can enjoy free travel insurance, exclusive discounts and offers as well as making the most of their financial flexibility with access to Easy Payment Plans across a wide number of participating merchants which gives them the opportunity of paying for purchases in interest free installments for over a period of 12 months.

The Bank Muscat Oman Air Visa Platinum Credit Card helps customers make the most of their travels. Frequent travelers will particularly appreciate the exclusive reward of earning 2 Sindbad Miles for every OMR1 spent with the card, as well as welcome bonus of 1,000 Sindbad miles with the first usage of the card. The credit card also facilitates complimentary visits to airport lounges worldwide as well as complimentary chauffeur service to and from Muscat and Salalah Airports. To take advantage of the benefits and offers of Bank Muscat credit cards, customers can apply for a card by visiting the aforementioned booths during the campaign period, apply through Bank Muscat Mobile Banking or Internet Banking, or by visiting any of the Bank's branches located across the governorates of the Sultanate. To learn more about the various credit card benefits, visit: <https://www.bankmuscat.com/en/bm-cards/Pages/Credit-Cards.aspx>

REDEFINING LUXURY GIFTING

Floward and Damas Jewellery forge strategic partnership

**MUSCAT:** Floward, the go-to online flowers and gifts delivery destination in MENA and the UK, and Damas Jewellery, the leading jewellery brand in the GCC, officially announced their strategic partnership during a signing ceremony held at Damas Jewellery Headquarters in Dubai. The agreement was signed by Chairman and CEO of Floward, Mr. Abdulaziz B. Al Loughani, and Chairman and CEO of Damas Jewellery, Mr. Luc Perramond. The partnership marks a significant milestone for both brands, combining Floward's expertise in curated gifting with Damas Jewellery's reputation for elegance and craftsmanship. This long-term collaboration, launching first in Saudi Arabia, integrates a selection of Damas Jewellery's high-end collections into Floward's platform. The partnership will expand to other GCC markets, offering customers an unparalleled luxury gifting experience. As part of the partnership, Floward customers can now pair stunning Damas Jewellery pieces with their favourite flowers, chocolates, and other gifting options, elevating the art of gift-giving. Both brands are also set to launch joint marketing campaigns to ensure the partnership's success and maintain strong visibility across key markets. Chairman and CEO of Floward, Mr. Abdulaziz B. Al Loughani, said: "This partnership represents a remarkable step forward in our mission to bring joy, convenience, and thoughtfulness to gift-giving. Collaborating with a



distinguished brand like Damas Jewellery allows us to expand our premium offerings, catering to customers who seek exclusivity and sophistication. Together, we are redefining the gifting experience in the GCC and beyond." Chairman and CEO of Damas Jewellery, stated: "We are excited to embark on this partnership with Floward, a leading platform that allows us to bring our exclusive jewellery collections to an even wider audience. This collaboration marks a significant step in strengthening our digital presence and expanding our reach in Saudi Arabia and the broader GCC regions. Together, we look forward to offering our customers a seamless and elevated shopping experience, while continuing to innovate and grow within the online marketplace." The partnership underscores both brands' commitment to innovation and excellence, setting a new benchmark for the gifting industry in the region. By blending Floward's seamless e-commerce platform with Damas Jewellery's

legacy and iconic designs, this collaboration promises to deliver an unforgettable luxury experience for customers. Established in 2017, Floward is a full-fledged e-commerce solution that offers prime fresh-cut flowers sourced from the best growers and farmers around the world and arranged locally by a team of florists and designers. Floward also offers cakes, chocolate and perfumes curated by the region's most exciting designers bundled with its flower arrangements and manages last-mile same-day delivery to ensure the best customer experience. Founded in 2017, Floward is the preferred online flowers and gifts destination in the MENA region that offers a wide range of fresh-cut flowers and a variety of accessories for every occasion. Floward procures flowers from the best farmers and growers around the world which are arranged by a team of florists and delivered to the customer through its last-mile delivery fleet.

POWER, COMFORT, AND VERSATILITY

The Dodge Durango R/T - The ultimate family SUV

**MUSCAT:** The Dodge Durango R/T is the ultimate SUV for families who crave the perfect combination of power, comfort, and versatility. Whether it's for everyday commuting or long weekend trips, the Durango R/T brings sheer strength and remarkable performance while ensuring your family's safety and convenience. Unmatched Performance The Dodge Durango R/T is powered by a 5.7L HEMI® V8 engine that generates a commanding 360 horsepower and 390 lb.-ft. of torque. With an eight-speed automatic transmission and available all-wheel drive, this SUV delivers smooth acceleration and outstanding towing capacity. It can go from 0 to 60 mph in just 6.2 seconds, showcasing its performance-oriented speed and sheer power. Whether navigating urban streets, towing a trailer, or venturing off the beaten path, this SUV has the strength and precision to handle it all. Family-first versatility With seating for up to seven passengers, the Durango R/T sets the standard for family-friendly SUVs. It features multiple seating configurations and offers up to 85.1 cubic feet of cargo space, ensuring ample room for both passengers and gear. The luxurious leather-trimmed seating, ventilated and heated front seats, and foldable third-row offer exceptional comfort, while the Harman Kardon® audio system with 19 speakers keeps everyone entertained throughout the journey.



**State-of-the-art technology** Equipped with the Uconnect® 5 NAV system and a 10.1-inch touchscreen display, the Durango R/T ensures that navigation and media controls are always at your fingertips. It also features Apple CarPlay®, Android Auto™, and wireless charging, allowing you and your passengers to stay connected while on the move. Safety That Inspires Confidence The Durango R/T is equipped with advanced safety features designed to protect your family, including: Full-Speed Forward Collision Warning Plus Blind Spot and Cross Path Detection Lane Departure Warning Plus Adaptive Cruise Control with Stop ParkSense® Front and Rear Park Assist These cutting-edge features, along with enhanced airbags and braking systems, offer peace of mind for every journey. Mr. Mohsin Hani Al Bahrani,

CEO of MHD Automobiles, said, "The Dodge Durango embodies the power and boldness of the Dodge brand, while providing the comfort and advanced features families expect. It's the perfect vehicle for those who want to enjoy both performance and sophistication, wherever the road takes them." **Take the wheel today** MHD Automobiles announces a special limited-time price for the Dodge Durango R/T 2023MY at OMR 18,995. This is your opportunity to experience the Durango R/T and discover its extraordinary capabilities. Visit the MHD Automobiles Dodge Showroom in Al Hail or call 80022008 to learn more and schedule your test drive. Hurry—limited stock available! MHD Automobiles is the authorized distributor of Stellantis brands in Oman, known for delivering outstanding service and premium vehicles that redefine the driving experience.

INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT

ISM marks 49th Annual Day with grandeur and enthusiasm

**MUSCAT:** On November 28, 2024, Indian School Muscat (ISM) celebrated its 49th Annual Day with grandeur and enthusiasm at the school's New Multi-Purpose Hall. The event was a vibrant showcase of cultural diversity, emotions, and a testament to the school's achievements over the past year. As ISM embarks on its milestone 50th year, this Annual Day not only commemorated the successes of the past but also set the stage for exciting future endeavors, reflecting the school's enduring commitment to fostering academic excellence and holistic development in its students. A distinguished gathering that included the Chief Guest Dr. Khadija Ali Mohammed Al Salami, Director General of Private Schools, Ministry of Education, Sultanate of Oman, Guest of Honour, Dr. Sivakumar Manickam, Chairman of the Board of Directors for Indian Schools in Oman, Mr. Mohamed Salim Habib Al Hamadani, Foreign Schools Specialist, along with Mr. Syed Salman, Vice Chairman, Mr. Nidheesh Kumar, Finance Director, Mr. Vinobha M.P. Education Advisor and Senior Principal and other

esteemed directors of the Board of Directors of Indian Schools in Oman, Vice President of the Indian School Muscat Management Committee Mr. Sherry Johnny, Convenor, Treasurer, Co-Convenor, and all other distinguished members of the Indian School Muscat Management Committee and a host of other dignitaries, parents, grandparents, students and special guests formed the audience and graced the occasion. The atmosphere was electric with excitement as Principal Mr. Rakesh Joshi, Senior Vice-Principal (Administration), Vice-Principals, Assistant Vice-Principals of various sections, Heads of Departments, teachers, student council members, and students rounded up to host the mega event. The event began with the national anthems of India and Oman, followed by the ceremonial lighting of the lamp. The highlight of the celebration was the Invocation Dance, a graceful tribute that beautifully expressed reverence and prayer for peace, prosperity, and harmony. Nihal Bhatt, Head Boy of the Senior Section, welcomed the guests, setting a warm and inviting tone for the evening.



In a significant moment as part of the much-anticipated Golden Jubilee festivities, the school proudly unveiled banners that symbolise the collective spirit, diligence, and unity of the Indian School Muscat community. This occasion underscored the shared legacy and passion that propels the school forward. Principal Mr. Rakesh Joshi presented a comprehensive report, highlighting a year filled with remarkable activities, events, and accolades. The audience was taken on a journey through the school's numerous accomplishments, showcasing the dedication and hard work of students, staff, and the broader ISM community. A significant segment of the

evening involved honoring the dedicated contributions of the teaching and non-teaching staff. The Guest of Honour, Dr. Sivakumar Manickam, was invited to present awards to those who had completed noteworthy years of service. This was followed by the thought provoking words of the Guest of Honour who first congratulated Indian School Muscat on completing fifty years of redefining benchmarking in the field of education. He emphasized the rapid advancements in the area of artificial intelligence where there is an entire shift in the landscape creating different level playing fields. He reiterated that by leveraging AI, students can access vast resources and personalized learning experiences, enhancing their

understanding and skill sets, regardless of their background. The Chief Guest, Dr. Khadija Ali Mohammed Al Salami, Director General of Private Schools, Ministry of Education, Sultanate of Oman felicitated the teaching and non-teaching staff with long service awards for their long and exemplary service to the institution. The atmosphere was filled with pride and celebration as the outstanding achievements of the students at the CBSE National Athletic Meet and Chess Championships, 2024 were acknowledged. Each medalist received a warm round of applause as they were felicitated. The coaches, who played an essential role in guiding and mentoring these young athletes, were also honored for their unwavering support and commitment to excellence. The toppers of the CBSE Gulf Sahodaya Oman Chapter of Classes X and XII were also felicitated for their incredible performance in the CBSE Examination, 2024. The school also acknowledged and honoured the invaluable contributions of the former SMC members, Mr. Ghulam Hussain Khan, former Vice President and

Mr. Shabab Bava, former Chair Curricular Sub Committee of the Indian School Muscat Management Committee. As a heartfelt token of appreciation, paintings prepared by the students of the Fine Arts Department were presented to the Chief Guest and the Guest of Honour. ISM marked a significant milestone in its illustrious journey by celebrating its 50th anniversary with a spectacular program titled "ISM - A Saga: Weaving the Future." The event showcased a rich tapestry of cultural performances, reflecting the school's legacy and commitment to quality education. The evening of celebration kicked off spectacularly with an energetic "Golden Grooves" medley dance performed by the enthusiastic pre-primary students. Their colourful outfits and spirited movements captivated the audience, setting a vibrant tone for the festivities ahead. This was followed by the heartfelt song "Dream If Possible," reflecting the school's dedication to empowering students to reach their full potential.