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51

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OMAN DOWNS TWO DRONES OVER DHOFAR GOVERNORATE

Fuel tanks targeted in Duqm

Oman condemns attacks

No human casualties reported

Citizens repatriated from GCC

His Majesty receives two phone calls



MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq yesterday received two telephone calls from President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India.

The telephonic conversations dealt with the recent developments regarding the military escalation witnessed in the region, along with its concerning repercussions on the security and stability of nations and the safety of their peoples.

The leaders emphasised the importance of concerted international efforts to achieve an immediate cessation of escalating tensions and a return to the paths of dialogue and diplomacy, in a manner that contributes to containing the crisis and enhancing regional and international peace. — OMA

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN
CBSE GCC exams
Over 5,000 CBSE students in Oman in limbo as board postpones GCC exams. **>A3**

OMAN
Muscat traffic study
Muscat Municipality has begun the implementation of the Muscat Area Traffic Study 2025. **>A5**

WORLD
169 people killed
An attack on several villages in South Sudan left at least 169 people dead. **>B4**

Oman affirmed its denunciation and condemnation of these targeted operations

MUSCAT: Oman was targeted with drones in two places on Tuesday.

A security source has reported the downing of two drones in the airspace of Dhofar Governorate, while a third drone fell in the vicinity of Salalah Port, with no human casualties or material damage recorded.

Earlier in the day, a security source reported that fuel tanks at the commercial port of Duqm were targeted by a number of drones, which struck one of the fuel tanks. The resulting damage has been contained, with no human casualties recorded.

The Sultanate of Oman affirms its denunciation and condemnation of these targeting operations and emphasises that it will take all necessary measures to maintain the security of the country.

Repatriation of citizens

Meanwhile in the context of continuously monitoring the ongoing developments in the region, and in coordination with the competent authorities in the Sultanate of Oman and their counterparts in the GCC states, the Foreign Ministry has facilitated the repatriation of a number of Omani citizens to the homeland via land border crossings.

This was undertaken within the framework of organized arrangements ensuring their safety and the unimpeded flow of their transit, reflecting the steadfast commitment to facilitating the return of citizens abroad whenever circumstances necessitate.

The Ministry reaffirmed its sustained vigilance regarding the welfare of citizens overseas and its readiness to undertake all requisite measures in response to evolving circumstances.

COMMENTARY

The price of dependency – Why the Middle East must pivot East?



MOHAMED ISSA AL ZADJALI
Chairman
Muscat Media Group

For decades, the geopolitical architecture of the Middle East has been anchored by a singular, often unquestioned assumption: that security is a commodity purchased from the West. However, as the smoke clears over the recent escalations between Israel (Axis of Horror, combined word of Terror and Horror), the United States, and Iran, that assumption is not just cracking—it is shattering.

Last summer, I argued that we must look East for our defence systems. Recent events have only solidified that conviction. The double standards currently on display are not merely diplomatic friction; they are a clear indication of where the West's true loyalties lie.

The double standard of condemnation

The hypocrisy of the West has never been more visible. We saw how quickly Western powers moved to condemn the events of October 7th, yet there is a deafening silence when it comes to the ongoing slaughter in Gaza. Where is the condemnation for the thousands of innocent lives lost there?

While the world's major powers have been quick to condemn Hamas, they have yet to offer any meaningful condemnation for the US and Israel's (Axis of Horror) recent aggression against Iran. In this lopsided world, the aggressors are given a free pass for "safety," while the victims of their strikes—including innocent civilians in schools and hospitals—are ignored. The world waits in vain for the UN to impose even a fraction of the sanctions on Israel (Axis of Horror) or the USA that are levelled against others. The irony is shameful.

This selective morality extends to the current strikes on Iran. Just hours before the attack, the Omani Foreign Minister, HE Sayyid Badr Al Busaidi, made it clear on Face the Nation programme that a peace deal was "within our reach." He confirmed that Iran was ready to agree to terms that would ensure



regional stability. Yet, the US Secretary of State admitted they struck "preemptively" because they knew Israel (Axis of Horror) was going to attack.

We are being told a narrative of "preemptive safety," but we have heard this before. Just as the world was lied to about Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) to justify the destruction of Iraq, we will likely only learn the full truth of today's deceptions thirty years from now.

Mossad's 'shadow wars'

We are currently seeing a dangerous "big game" being played in Lebanon. While Western media is quick to blame Hezbollah for recent missile launches, we must ask: who truly benefits from a fresh invasion of Lebanese soil?

History teaches us to be skeptical. This strategy goes back to the 1950s, when Mossad orchestrated bombings of the Iraqi Jewish community to create fear—blaming local Iraqis to force a migration. Today, the strategy remains: create a pretext, blame the local resistance (Hezbollah), and use it as a justification for an invasion that shifts the world's eyes away from the massacres in Gaza.

The manipulation has reached our doorsteps. Recent insights shared by Tucker Carlson suggest that Qatar and Saudi Arabia have even captured Mossad agents plotting to blow up critical infrastructure—such as the Ras Tanura refinery—to blame Iran.

The art of diversion: Gaza and the Epstein shadow

This escalation serves a dual purpose. For Israel (Axis of Horror), it is a desperate attempt to move the spotlight away from the genocide in Gaza. For President Trump and other Western politicians, this war provides a convenient smokescreen to bury the Epstein files. These records represent a sophisticated tool of manipulation used by Mossad to compromise global figures. By creating a regional crisis, they shift the public's focus away from these scandals on our account—making the Gulf and Iran pay the price for their secrets.

Personal interests and the "revolving door"

Beyond political survival, there are blatant personal interests. For Donald Trump, regime change in Iran is a business opportunity. It is no secret that a "reopened" Iran would be a goldmine for his real estate empire. If the regime falls, Trump Towers would likely be the first to rise in Tehran.

Furthermore, we should not be surprised to see current cabinet members hired by the Trump Organisation once they leave office. This "revolving door" suggests that these officials are advancing personal business

agendas while in power. Our regional stability is being traded for luxury real estate deals and private sector salaries.

A lesson in sovereignty

The late HM Sultan Qaboos bin Said bin Taimour was right: foreign bases often serve the superpower, not the host. These bases protect Israel (Axis of Horror) and American real estate interests, not the Gulf states.

The path forward requires a radical shift:

End the subsidy: Stop using our money to maintain American bases that serve only to destabilise us.

Adopt self-reliance: Look at the Iranian model of indigenous weapon production. It has proven that you can protect national interests without relying on a compromised Western "umbrella."

This mirrors the economic bondage of Iraq; despite its oil wealth, Iraq does not control its money. Every barrel sold goes into US-managed accounts. If this aggression succeeds, Iran is next.

The era of trusting the West must end. It is time for the Gulf to wake up and build a defence architecture that serves its own people—not the interests of those who seek to use us as pawns in their "yo-yo" games and real estate deals.

ALL CITIZENS, RESIDENTS

Public Prosecution issues warning

MUSCAT: In view of the observed increase on social media platforms in the frequency of posts and interactions that invite legal accountability, and in accordance with the Public Prosecution's mandate to enforce the provisions of penal legislation, it hereby exhorts all citizens, residents, and users of social media to refrain from capturing, publishing, or disseminating any

visual materials, images, or information pertaining to incidents, sites, installations, or any content liable to disturb public order or sow panic within the community. The Public Prosecution emphasizes that the publication or republication of rumours and unverified information shall render its perpetrators subject to legal accountability as prescribed by law. — ONA



MINISTRY OF CULTURE, SPORTS AND YOUTH



2 programmes promoting youth initiatives launched

MUSCAT: As part of its 2026 plans, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth is implementing a package of quality projects and programmes aimed at regulating and enhancing the participation of young people in the national development process. The Ministry outlined the objectives of two main youth projects that it is undertaking in 2026: A youth volunteering project codenamed "Support Oman" (Isnad Oman) and a "Youth Initiatives" project. The projects are in pursuance of Ministry's achievements made in 2025. The 2026 "Support Oman" youth volunteering project seeks to regulate young people's volunteering action and cultivate specialised youth leaders, said Mohammed bin Marhoon Al Maktoumi, Director of the Youth Initiatives Department at the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth. As part of the project, four action camps will be held in different governorates of the Sultanate of Oman, said Al Maktoumi, noting that the project envisages training 500 young volunteers through an emergency management intervention plan, in coordination with the Emergency



Management Centre. On the other hand, the Ministry's "Youth Initiatives" project will help augment young people's participation in community activities. In 2025, the Ministry supported 61 youth initiatives that benefited more than 14,000 young people. It also launched the first version of an "Initiatives Incubator" that benefited 60 young people. The 2026 plan supports 40 youth initiatives in various governorates, targeting 12,000 young people, in addition to activating an electronic system for licensing initiatives. The Youth Initiatives Project contributes to enabling young people to assume leadership roles in community services. The Ministry pointed out that implementation of the two projects aligns with the goals of Oman Vision 2040 and prioritises the objectives of citizenship, national identity, heritage and culture. The overall aim is to groom a responsible society whose members are aware of their rights and duties, which is also the objective of the 10th Five-Year Plan. — ONA



Tender Announcement

The Internal Tender Committee at the Ministry of Labour announces the following tender:

Tender No.	Tender title	Last date for tender purchase online	Bid submission date
08/2026	Supply and installation of furniture at the Vocational College in Ibri	Thursday 12/03/2026	Sunday 22/03/2026
09/2026	Supply and installation of furniture at the Vocational College in Salalah	Thursday 12/03/2026	Sunday 22/03/2026
10/2026	Supply and installation of furniture at the Vocational College in Sur	Thursday 12/03/2026	Sunday 22/03/2026

- Specialized establishments may obtain the tenders' documents online through the following link, starting from Tuesday 03/03/2026 at 08:00 a.m.: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>
- Bids shall be submitted online.
- Bids shall be opened at 11:00 am on the date mentioned against each tender.

(The Ministry shall not be bound to accept the lowest or any other bid)





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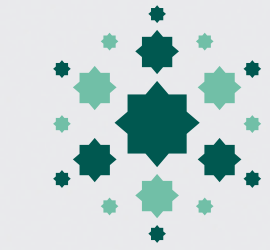


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Speculation grows over online or average marks as CBSE postpones GCC exams again

Over 5,000 CBSE students in Oman in a limbo as board postpones exams in the GCC countries

Times News Service

MUSCAT: More than 5,000 students in Oman preparing for the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) Class X and Class XII examinations are in a state of uncertainty after the Board announced the postponement of key papers scheduled this week across the GCC region.

In a formal circular issued on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, the CBSE stated that “due to prevailing circumstances, all examinations originally scheduled for Thursday, March 5, 2026, and Friday, March 6, 2026, have been officially postponed.”



The directive applies to students residing in Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Iran, Kuwait and the UAE.

The Board further said it will conduct a comprehensive review of the situation on March 5 to determine the status of examinations scheduled from March 7 onwards. Until then, students whose exams are slated for next week remain in a “wait and see” situation, pending further instructions from schools.

Anxiety peaks among students
The sudden decision has disrupted

carefully planned study schedules, leaving students anxious during one of the most crucial academic phases of their lives.

“It’s very stressful,” said Ananya S., a Class XII student in Muscat. “We had mentally prepared for specific subjects on fixed dates. Now everything feels uncertain. It’s hard to focus when you don’t know what’s coming next.”

A Class X student echoed similar concerns: “We keep checking school portals and messages every hour. Instead of revising, we are discussing whether exams will be online or postponed again.”

Many students say the regional tensions and security concerns have already created an unsettling environment, making concentration difficult.

Parents voice concern
Parents, too, have expressed worry over the emotional and academic impact on their children. “How will students study hearing bomb sounds and constant news updates?” asked one parent in Dubai. “Their results are surely going to be affected. Examiners should keep this in mind while evaluating answer sheets.”

Another parent said the uncertainty is more stressful than the exams themselves. “If they postpone, they should clearly announce new dates. Keeping children in suspense is unfair during board exams.”

Parents are also concerned about potential last-minute rescheduling that could compress multiple exams into a short period, adding to the pressure.

What happens next?
The CBSE has not yet announced revised dates for the postponed papers. Updated schedules will be

communicated through official notifications to schools and students in due course.

In its advisory, the Board urged students and parents to maintain regular contact with their respective school administrations for localised updates and instructions. It also strictly advised students to rely solely on official announcements released via the CBSE website or designated school portals and refrain from circulating or depending on unofficial sources.

Possible scenarios if crisis continues
Education experts and parents speculate that if the conflict in the region lingers, three possible outcomes could emerge:

- 1) The remaining examinations for students in affected GCC countries could be conducted online.
- 2) Students may be awarded average marks based on their Grade 11 and 12 performance for papers they are unable to attend.
- 3) All remaining exams could be rescheduled abruptly, leading to a compressed timetable.

For now, thousands of students across Oman and the wider Gulf remain in limbo, balancing textbooks with tension, hoping for clarity in the coming days.

MARTYRDOM OF TWO KUWAITI ARMY PERSONNEL

Oman expresses condolences to Kuwait

MUSCAT: Oman expressed its sincere condolences and heartfelt sympathy to the State of Kuwait, its government and people, on the martyrdom of two members of the Kuwaiti Army while performing their national duties.

In a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry, Oman affirmed its solidarity with the State of Kuwait in this painful loss and expressed its support for all

measures the State of Kuwait undertakes to safeguard its sovereignty and preserve its security and stability.

The Ministry also extended its sincere condolences and sympathy to the families of the two martyrs, praying to Almighty Allah to grant them mercy, to bestow a speedy recovery upon the injured, and to protect the State of Kuwait and its people from all harm. — OMA





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Health experts urge safe fasting during Ramadan



Prior assessment and planning can make fasting safer and more comfortable

MUSCAT: As the holy month of Ramadan approaches its midpoint, healthcare professionals in Oman are urging residents – particularly those living with diabetes and other chronic illnesses – to seek pre-fast medical evaluations and follow structured lifestyle guidance to ensure a safe and spiritually fulfilling experience.

Dr Dilip Singhvi, Specialist in Internal Medicine and Diabetes at Burjeel Hospital, said while Ramadan is a deeply uplifting time, it can

pose health challenges for individuals with underlying conditions.

“Ramadan is a spiritually enriching period, but it presents certain risks for patients with chronic illnesses. Prior medical assessment and careful planning can make fasting significantly safer and more comfortable,” Dr Singhvi noted.

He emphasised that individuals with poorly controlled diabetes, elevated cholesterol, chronic kidney disease, or cardiovascular disorders should undergo medical evaluation before beginning their fast.

Medication adjustment and blood sugar monitoring

Medical teams are advising patients to adopt tailored medication plans during Ramadan.

“For people with diabetes, adjusting medication timing and dosages is essential,” Dr Singhvi explained. “Self-monitoring of blood glucose (SMBG) should become routine. Checking sugar levels multiple times a day helps detect hypoglycemia early, before



it becomes dangerous.”

Doctors reiterated that blood glucose testing does not invalidate the fast and remains a critical safety measure.

Nutrition and hydration strategy

Dietitians in Muscat stress that mindful eating is key to preventing both hypoglycemia (blood sugar

below 70 mg/dL) and hyperglycemia (above 300 mg/dL).

“At iftar, begin with dates, water and fresh fruit – this follows the Sunnah and provides a gradual rise in glucose levels,” said a dietitian.

“Avoid sugary beverages and heavily fried foods, as they can cause sharp sugar spikes and digestive discomfort.”

For suhoor, experts recommend

complex carbohydrates such as whole grains, paired with lean proteins like eggs or low-fat dairy products. “These foods release energy slowly throughout the day, reducing the risk of sudden sugar drops and dehydration,” the dietitian added.

Sleep and lifestyle balance

Beyond nutrition, physicians are warning against disrupted sleep patterns. “Sleep is not optional,” said a family physician.

“Late-night meals and inadequate rest can worsen headaches, destabilise blood pressure and drain energy levels – especially in people with diabetes.”

He pointed to a growing trend of people eating suhoor as early as midnight, unintentionally extending fasting hours and increasing metabolic stress. “Suhoor should ideally be taken 30 minutes to one hour before fajr. Proper timing and balanced nutrition are crucial for sustaining energy during the fast,” he advised.

Recognising medical emergencies

Doctors strongly emphasised that breaking the fast during a medical emergency is not only permissible but necessary.

“Warning signs of hypoglycemia include sweating, dizziness and confusion, while excessive thirst and nausea may signal hyperglycemia,” Dr Singhvi explained.

“In such cases, the fast must be broken immediately and appropriate treatment initiated.”

Quick-acting carbohydrates such as fruit juice or dates are recommended for low blood sugar, though persistent symptoms require urgent medical attention.

Medical professionals also addressed a common misconception surrounding insulin use.

“Injecting insulin does not break the fast,” doctors clarified.

“This myth must be dispelled. Some patients avoid essential insulin out of fear, which can seriously compromise their health.”

IFTAR RECIPE BY ONEZA TABISH



ROSE MELON COCO PUNCH

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup musk melon, cut into 1” pieces
- 1 cup pineapple, cored, skin removed, and cut into 1” pieces
- 1/4 cup coconut chunks
- 1 cup coconut water
- 1/4 cup rose syrup
- sugar as per taste
- crushed ice

PREPARATION

1. In a high power blender, add musk melon, pineapple, coconut chunks, sugar, ice, and coconut water.
2. Blend until very smooth. In a serving glass, add rose syrup to the bottom and pour the mix.
3. Divide drink into 4 glasses. Stir well before serving.



Muscat Municipality completes its most comprehensive traffic study

The Study aims to assess 2025 congestion bottlenecks, analyse travel patterns and traffic-generating areas, and develop an integrated digital simulation model



Times News Service

Muscat: Muscat Municipality continues its dedicated efforts to develop sustainable traffic solutions that enhance the efficiency of the road network and improve the quality of life across the Governorate through the implementation of the Muscat Area Traffic Study 2025. This Study represents the third edition of this strategic initiative.

The study forms part of the Government's ongoing commitment to upgrading the performance of the road network, through expansion of existing roads and/or introducing new road links wherever feasible, and supporting public transport systems to provide practical and viable alternatives to private vehicle use in terms of cost, time,

and accessibility.

Notably, Muscat ranks among the least congested Arab cities in the 2024 and 2025 Numbeo Traffic Indexes. In addition, the Sultanate of Oman secured first place regionally and eighth place globally in road quality, according to the World Economic Forum's rankings, for three consecutive years (2023-2025).

These achievements reflect the tangible impact of sustained efforts in this vital sector – particularly given the unique geographical characteristics of Muscat Governorate, which extends longitudinally from east to west, with the Al Hajar mountain range to the south. This terrain presents technical and financial challenges in constructing alternative routes or expanding existing roads, as well

as higher infrastructure costs associated with engineering works such as mountain cutting, slope stabilisation, wadi protection measures, and bridge and tunnel construction.

The Study aims to assess 2025 congestion bottlenecks, analyse travel patterns and traffic-generating areas, and develop an integrated digital simulation model. This model will serve as a strategic tool for monitoring and evaluating traffic movement through 2035 and 2045. It also examines available solutions and alternatives, measuring their technical and economic impact on the Governorate's road network.

Recognising that traffic solutions extend beyond road widening or the opening of new routes, the Study also explores, in parallel,

sustainable measures that include enhancing various modes of public transport and proposing supportive regulatory and administrative measures, culminating in a comprehensive, integrated action plan spanning the short-, medium-, and long-term.

The data collection phase included the most extensive field surveys conducted to date. These covered 88 intersections and roundabouts, automated traffic counts at 54 locations, 21 bridges, and seven public parking sites. Additionally, 250,000 travel destination surveys were distributed via SMS in four languages, and in-person interviews were conducted at more than 19 key locations across the Governorate.

The findings revealed that 97% of road users rely on private vehicles for daily mobility, and 70% of

trips are made in single-occupancy vehicles. This underscores the urgent need to promote a culture of shared mobility and to expand the effective use of public transportation services.

His Excellency Eng Ahmed bin Said Al Amri, Chairman of Muscat Municipality, commented, saying, "The 2025 Muscat Area Traffic Study represents a strategic step toward sustainable urban planning grounded in data and rigorous scientific analysis. We do not approach traffic congestion as a short-term challenge; rather, we address it within a long-term vision spanning 20 years, balancing technical and economic feasibility while accounting for population growth, urban expansion, and economic activity across the Governorate.

"We highly value the positive en-

agement of citizens and residents in the success of this study through their broad participation in surveys and field assessments. Traffic congestion is a shared responsibility, and sustainable solutions begin with evolving mobility patterns, strengthening the culture of shared transport, and making effective use of public transportation systems for the benefit of the wider community."

Muscat Municipality affirms its continued coordination with relevant authorities to apply advanced analytical systems and forecasting methodologies, leading to the development of an integrated structural plan that addresses the Governorate's long-term needs, supports sustainable development objectives, and enhances quality of life across Muscat.

SECOND RAMADAN EVENING



Priorities of Oman's 11th Five-Year Plan reviewed

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) on Monday, during its second Ramadan evening, reviewed the priorities of the 11th Five-Year Plan (2026–2030).

The event was held under the patronage of Sayyid Ibrahim bin Said Al Busaidi, Minister of Heritage and Tourism, in the presence of Sheikh Faisal bin Abdullah Al Rawas, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the OCCI, a number of Their Excellencies, members of the Chamber's Board of Directors, representatives of government and private entities, and business owners, at Kempinski Hotel Al Mouj Muscat.

The evening aimed to highlight the strategic objectives of the Five-Year Plan and its role in enhancing economic diversification and improving the business environment, in addition to reviewing plans to develop high value-added industries and support smart manufacturing, strategies for diversifying the tourism product to transition towards qualitative and sustainable tourism, as well as digital transformation as a key enabler, developing digital infrastructure, and supporting the adoption of advanced technologies in both the public and private sectors. It also reviewed plans to develop infrastructure and national cadres in productive and service sectors, contributing to increasing the private sector's contribution and strengthening public-private partnership in implementing the Plan.

Faisal bin Abdullah Al Rawassaid: "The Chamber's second Ramadan evening comes at a pivotal stage witnessing the Sul-

tanate of Oman's preparation for a new economic takeoff aligned with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040. It also comes within the framework of the Chamber's keenness to enhance constructive dialogue between specialists, experts and business owners, and to open broad discussion space for the private sector to understand the priorities of the 11th Five-Year Plan."

He added that the focus on key vital pillars, foremost of which are enhancing economic diversification and improving the business environment, developing high value-added industries, and transitioning towards smart manufacturing, stems from their importance, alongside reviewing strategies for diversifying the tourism product to entrench the concept of qualitative and sustainable tourism, as well as digital transformation, which today represents a fundamental pillar for raising the efficiency of the national economy and supporting innovation.

He explained that the coming phase requires greater integration of efforts to develop infrastructure and enhance the readiness of national cadres in productive and service sectors, in a manner that supports broader private sector participation in implementing the Five-Year Plan (2026–2030), strengthens genuine public-private partnership, and contributes to creating a more competitive and attractive business environment for investment. He affirmed: "We look forward to the outcomes of this evening contributing to enabling business owners and investors to gain a comprehensive understanding of development and growth opportunities, and

to building a shared vision that supports the Sultanate of Oman's economic path over the next five years."

HH Sayyid Dr Adham bin Turki Al Said, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Economic Studies and Research Centre at the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, affirmed that the evening focused on discussing the priorities of the 11th Five-Year Plan (2026–2030) and mechanisms for translating them into clear practical opportunities for the private sector. The evening aimed to draw an accurate picture of the upcoming phase's orientations and expected growth paths across various economic sectors, reinforcing the private sector's role as a key partner in achieving the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

His Highness explained that the dialogue addressed investment opportunities in industrial, tourism and digital sectors, improving the investment environment, enabling small and medium enterprises to benefit early from the Plan's programmes, in addition to the role of incentives and legislation in strengthening investor confidence, accelerating implementation and raising performance efficiency. HH Sayyid Dr Adham Al Said indicated that the evening also addressed the importance of policy clarity and regulatory stability in the upcoming phase, and enhancing effective partnership between government and the private sector, contributing to sustainable growth, increasing value added, and raising the competitiveness of the national economy at both regional and international levels.

Full story @ timesofoman.com/business

PRESS STATEMENT

Air India Express resumes flights from Muscat

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Air India Express will continue to operate its scheduled flights to and from Muscat on March 4 (Wednesday).

Alongside regular services to/from Delhi, Kochi, Kozhikode, Mangaluru, Mumbai, and Tiruchirappalli, we will also be operating additional flights to Delhi, Kochi, and Mumbai, the airline said in a statement

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2	Installation of Turf pitch – Mini Football ground (30m x 30m)
3	Fencing work for Primary Play Area and Football Turf Pitch – 55m length x 30m width.
4	Construction of common sunshade for Primary Play Area and Football Turf Pitch
5	Montessori classroom setup (Balvatika) for 25 students (3 years old).
6	LED Wall fixing at assembly hall
7	Furniture – Students Table & chairs (Senior secondary) – 200 nos
8	Printing of School Calendar – 2026-2027
9	Purchase of stationery items - 2026-2027
10	Renewal of School Insurance – 01-04-2026 to 31-03-2027 (GPA, Money, Fidelity, Property all risk, GPL, WC, GL
11	Purchase of Desktop computers -20 Nos (HP)

❖ Contact **School Office** for detailed specifications and tender conditions.

Timings: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on working days.

❖ Sealed quotations may be submitted to School office.

❖ Last date of tender submission – **15 – 03 – 2026, before 2.00 p.m.**

The School reserves the right to reject any tender without providing any reason and does not find itself to accept the lowest or any tender.



TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Tender Number	Tender Name	Last Date for Collection of Tender Documents	Time & Last Date for Proposal Submission	Tender Fee (OMR) Including VAT (5%)	Site Visit Date
DISC/2026/022	Execution, Financing, Operation, and Maintenance of the Works under the BOT Contract for the Construction of Al Houtah Desalination Plant.	18- March-2026	18-May-2026	1050.000	30- March-2026

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



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PACIFIC RING OF FIRE

6.2 magnitude quake strikes Indonesia

JAKARTA: A strong earthquake of magnitude 6.2 struck Indonesia on Tuesday, as reported by the National Center for Seismology (NCS). The NCS said that the earthquake occurred at depth of 20 kilometres at 10:26 AM IST. Earlier in February, an earthquake of magnitude 4.4 struck Indonesia. Indonesia is exposed to multiple

natural hazards including earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, droughts, floods, landslides, and cyclone. Located on the Pacific Ring of Fire, and at the intersection of three active tectonic plates, the country is exposed to significant seismic and volcanic activity. Indonesia is vulnerable to extreme weather events, and the risk, impact and occurrence of natural hazards is expected to increase.

Indonesia is at risk of megathrust earthquakes, which are among the most powerful and can generate destructive tsunamis, such as the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami, where a magnitude (M) 9.0 earthquake originating from the Sunda megathrust off the coast of Aceh province triggered a massive tsunami and affected over a dozen countries in the region. Seismic risks in the country

stem from the interaction of the Pacific, Eurasian and Australian plates, which produce frequent and sometimes destructive quakes, including powerful megathrust earthquakes. Areas likely to be affected by megathrust earthquakes include: Western coast of Sumatra, Southern coast of Java, West and East Nusa Tenggara, North Sulawesi, West Papua, and Maluku. **ANI**



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Putin to convey concerns of GCC to Iran over attack on oil facilities

Putin's efforts aim to ease tensions, with Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov stating he'll "make every effort to facilitate at least a minor easing of tension"



Dmitry Peskov stating he'll "make every effort to facilitate at least a minor easing of tension." Peskov said that Putin was making efforts to defuse tensions in the West Asian region. According to a Kremlin statement, Putin's efforts to take up the concerns of Gulf leaders directly to Tehran were part of the broader efforts to calm the rising tensions amid strikes and counter-strikes across the

Middle East. This comes after the Russian President had a telephone conversation with Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud on Monday, where both sides expressed serious concern over the real risks of geographical expansion of the conflict that has "already affected several Arab states and is fraught with potentially

catastrophic consequences". "In turn, Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud opined that the Russian side could presently play a positive, stabilising role, given the friendly ties it has with both Iran and the Gulf states," the Kremlin said in a statement. Putin also had a telephone conversation with the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.



"Both sides expressed concern about the risks of the conflict escalating and the threat of third countries becoming involved. At the same time, they expressed hope that Iran's retaliation would not cause any harm to civilians and civilian infrastructure, including tourism and transportation facilities, of neighbouring countries," the Kremlin said in a statement. The Kremlin has maintained that escalation in the Middle East has resulted from the United States and Israel's armed aggression against the Islamic Republic

of Iran and that this "flagrant violation of international law has led to grave and tragic consequences for the Iranian people". Notably, drone strikes forced the closure of Saudi Arabia's largest domestic oil refinery, caused a fire at the Fujairah oil industrial facility in the UAE, and hit Ras Laffan energy facilities, halting LNG production in Qatar. The conflict has disrupted regional airspace, with closures in Dubai and Abu Dhabi, and impacted global energy markets. Brent crude prices rose for a third consecutive day. The conflict in the Middle East has entered its fourth day following the US and Israeli strikes on Iran that killed Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei, along with other key figures in the Persian Gulf country. In retaliation, Tehran has responded with counter-strikes targeting American military bases and other Israeli assets across the region. Iran on Monday attacked energy installations of prominent American allies in the Persian Gulf, including Saudi Arabia and Qatar, The New York Times reported. **ANI**

MEETING

PM Shehbaz Sharif discusses political, regional situation

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians on Tuesday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, wherein they held consultations on the prevailing political situation in the country and developments in the region. The prime minister, talking to the delegation, called the Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) a key coalition partner of the government and expressed



gratitude to the party for supporting the government in important decision-making for the country's

development. The PPP delegation included Senator Sherry Rehman, Raja Pervez Ashraf, Syed Naveed Qamar, and Aijaz Jakhani. The meeting was also attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar, federal ministers Ahsan Iqbal and Azam Nazeer Tarar, and Adviser to the Prime Minister Rana Sanaullah. **APP**

FIRST TIME

Melania chairs UN meeting, promotes peace by education

NEW YORK: United States First Lady Melania Trump presided over a United Nations Security Council meeting on children and education in conflict, in New York on Monday, even as the military action on Iran continued by the US and Israel. This is the first time that the spouse of any world leader has presided over the meeting of the 15-member UNSC, which Melania did on behalf of the US as it assumed the rotating presidency of the UN council this month. A White House readout of the meeting said that Melania's decisive message to the UNSC members was that "Peace does not need to be fragile."

Further, it said that the message of tolerance is rooted in the concept of "democratizing knowledge" for everyone, during the new "age of imagination" when artificial intelligence provides the global community with access to learn about each other's cultural norms, including but not limited to customs, race, and religious beliefs. A report in the NYT said that Melania's chairing the UNSC meeting comes at a time when US President Donald Trump is in the process of dismantling the Department of Education, fulfilling a campaign promise, and has threatened to withhold funding from public schools. His education secretary, Linda McMahon, has said that the changes were an attempt to "refocus education on students, families and schools." The Security Council serves as the UN's principal organ responsible for safeguarding international peace and security. The American First Lady challenged the UN Security Council members to "pledge to safeguard learning ... to build a future generation of leaders who embrace peace through education." Melania stressed the imperative of respecting knowledge to foster durable peace. "Enduring peace will be achieved when knowledge and understanding are fully valued within all societies," Melania said as per the White House readout. "Now is the time for our generation to elevate our children above ideology through access to



wisdom," she said. This is the first time that a sitting First Lady presided over the Security Council as its members contemplated technology, education, peace, and security. The US First Lady also offered her condolences to the families of US service members who have been killed. Meanwhile, Iran's ambassador to the United Nations, Amir-Saeid Iravani, on Monday said Iran doesn't seek escalation but will continue to defend itself. He said that it is "deeply shameful and hypocritical" for the US to host a meeting on protecting children, technology and education in armed conflict while at the same time bombing schools and killing children. "Iran does not seek war. It does not seek escalation. Iran will not surrender its sovereignty," Amir-Saeid Iravani told reporters at UN headquarters in New York. The US and Israel are deliberately targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure, he said. Asked about Iranian strikes around the region since Saturday, he said, "We are not attacking the interests of other neighbouring countries. We are defending ourselves." In Iran, he said, the US and Israel have bombed hospitals, Red Crescent facilities, residential buildings and schools, including one in Minab where 165 girls were killed. Ahead of Monday's meeting,

the UNSC said that it builds on Melania's "Fostering the Future Together" initiative, which she launched in September 2025. The initiative aims to form a global coalition of nations which are "committed to enhancing the well-being of children through the promotion of education, innovation, and technology". Among the initiative's goals is to promote cooperation with the private sector to provide access to innovative education technology, including artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, and blockchain. Attacks against schools and hospitals are one of the six grave violations included in the UN-led Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) for violations against children established by resolution 1612 in 2005. Resolution 1998, adopted in 2011, designated these attacks as a grave violation that could trigger the listing of parties in the annexes of the Secretary-General's annual report on children and armed conflict. Resolution 2601 of October 29, 2021, on the protection of education emphasised the need to facilitate the continuation of education in situations of armed conflict. In this regard, it called on member states to "promote the adoption of remote learning solutions, including digital learning, literacy, and skills" as well as to provide assistance for the continuation of education for refugee and displaced children. **ANI**



TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

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Tender Number	Tender Name	Last Date for Collection of Tender Documents	Time & Last Date for Proposal Submission	Tender Fee (OMR) Including VAT (5%)
DISC/2026/020	Expansion of RO plant and water supply network at Barbazum	18- March-2026	01-April-2026	262.500
DISC/2026/021	Expansion of RO plant and water supply network at Dhahboon	18- March-2026	01-April-2026	262.500

- To purchase the tender document website via the link or the Barcode below:
https://isupplier.nama.om:4443/OA_HTML/OA.jsp?OAFunc=XXTEN_TENDER_FLOAT_DISC_F
- Every company wishing to participate in this tender must attach with its bid a bid bond in the form of a bank guarantee from one of the banks operating in the Sultanate of Oman. Any bid that does not contain the bid bond will be disqualified.
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Will attend Correspondents' Association Dinner, says Trump

Trump also reflected on his previous decision to skip the dinner during his first term, citing what he described as hostile media coverage at the time

WASHINGTON DC: President Donald Trump announced on Tuesday that he has accepted an invitation to attend this year's White House Correspondents' Dinner as the honoree, ending a year-long boycott of the event and said that the "correspondents" according to him now admit that he is the "truly one of the Greatest Presidents in the History of our Country, the G.O.A.T."

In a post on Truth Social, Trump said the White House Correspondents' Association had asked him "very nicely" to take on the role of the annual dinner, a tradition that began in 1924 under the US President Calvin Coolidge.



"The White House Correspondents Association has asked me, very nicely, to be the Honoree at this year's Dinner, a long and storied tradition since it began in 1924, under then President Calvin Coolidge. In honor of our Nation's 250th Birthday, and the fact that these "Correspondents" now admit that I am truly one of the Greatest Presidents in the History of our Country, the G.O.A.T., according to many, it will be my Honor to accept their invitation," Trump said.

He added that he plans to work on it to make it the "Greatest, hottest, and most spectacular dinner, of any kind, ever!"

Trump also reflected on his previous decision to skip the dinner during his first term, citing what he described as hostile media coverage at the time.

"Because the Press was extraordinarily bad to me, FAKE NEWS ALL, right from the beginning of my First Term, I boycotted the event, and never went as Honoree. However, I look forward to being with everyone this year. Hopefully, it will be something very Special," he said.

The White House Correspondents' Dinner traditionally brings together journalists, elected officials and public figures to celebrate press freedom and the First Amendment. Trump's decision to attend as honoree marks a significant shift from his earlier approach to the event.

Earlier, US President Donald Trump launched a sharp attack on former President Joe Biden and Barack Obama, saying that if he hadn't "terminated Obama's hor-

rendous Iran Nuclear Deal", Iran would have had a Nuclear Weapon three years ago.

He criticised the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (Iran Nuclear Deal), which he had unilaterally terminated during his first term in 2018.

In a post on Truth Social, Trump claimed that had the deal remained intact, Iran would have acquired nuclear weapons three years ago.

"If I didn't terminate Obama's horrendous Iran Nuclear Deal, Iran would have had a Nuclear Weapon three years ago. That was the most dangerous transaction we have ever entered into, and had it been allowed to stand, the world would be an entirely different place right now. You can blame Barack Hussein Obama and Sleepy Joe Biden," Trump wrote.

Trump criticises UK PM for not joining airstrikes

WASHINGTON DC : US President Donald Trump, on Monday in a telephonic interview with the British Newspaper The Sun, expressed his disappointment over the decision by the United Kingdom not to join the US in strikes against Iran, alleging that Starmer's decision comes so as to back the voters of Islamic faith in the country.

The US President suggested to the Sun that Keir Starmer is pandering to Muslim voters by not backing the American strikes in Iran, adding that Britain is "not such a recognisable country" anymore.

Referring to Starmer, Trump was quoted as saying, "He has not been helpful. I never thought I'd see that. I never thought I'd see that from the UK. We love the UK".

As per The Sun, when asked about accusations that the UK PM was pandering to

Muslim voters for political reasons, the President said "it could be".

He added, "London is a very different place, with a terrible Mayor. You have a terrible Mayor there, some terrible people. But it's a very different place."

The transatlantic fallout comes after UK PM Keir Starmer on Monday in an oral statement to the House of Commons on Iran said, "The United Kingdom was not involved in the initial US and Israeli strikes on Iran. That decision was deliberate. We believe that the best path for the region is through a negotiated settlement, one in which Iran agrees to abandon its aspiration to develop a nuclear weapon and ceases its destabilising activities across the Middle East. That has been the longstanding position of successive British governments."

ONGOING WAR

United Nations urges restraint amid escalating Israel-Hezbollah clashes

BEIRUT: The United Nations today called for restraint as tensions escalate between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon, amid the ongoing war waged by the United States and Israel against Iran in the region.

"We are very concerned about the exchange of fire across the Blue Line," said Stéphane Dujarric, spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General, referring to the UN-drawn demarcation line established on June 7, 2000 between Lebanon and Israel and the Golan Heights.

Dujarric noted that "the situation on the ground is evolving rapidly, and we are following developments closely." He added, "We are also aware of the strikes targeting Israel that were claimed by Hezbollah, and of the Israeli strikes that reportedly resulted in 31 deaths and numerous injuries



north of the Blue Line in Lebanon."

He stressed, "We call for maximum restraint and urge the parties to abide by the cessation of hostilities agreement."

Separately, UN Secretary-General António Guterres called on Israel to reopen border crossings

with Gaza to allow humanitarian aid into the war-devastated territory after more than two years of conflict.

Among the crossings closed on Saturday as a security measure was the Rafah crossing, the only gateway for Gaza residents to the outside world without passing

through Israel. The crossing had been partially reopened on February 2 to allow a limited number of wounded individuals and others to exit, nearly two years after Israeli forces took control of it during the Gaza war.

Dujarric stated, "Israel has closed all crossings, including Rafah, and suspended movement in and around areas where Israeli forces are still deployed."

He underscored the need to "reopen all crossings as soon as possible," adding that humanitarian partners have recently been forced to ration fuel and prioritize life-saving operations due to dwindling local supplies.

While some stockpiles remain inside Gaza, Dujarric said, "When the doors are closed, we of course do our best to conserve what we have as much as possible."

RUMAITHIYA AND SALWA

Kuwait intercepts incoming drones



KUWAIT: The General Directorate of Civil Defence at the Ministry of Interior of Kuwait confirmed this morning that most of the drones approaching the country via the sea near the areas of Rumaithiya and Salwa were intercepted, with no injuries reported.

Brigadier General Mohammed Al-Mansouri, Director of the General Department of Civil Defence, stated in a press briefing that personnel of the Kuwait Air Defense Force successfully engaged a num-

ber of aerial targets at dawn with efficiency and competence.

He added that the Civil Defence Directorate received several reports from residents about hearing explosions in certain areas, clarifying that the sounds were the result of aerial interception operations.

Al-Mansouri further affirmed that Kuwait Air Force personnel maintain continuous monitoring and tracking of aerial targets before they enter Kuwaiti airspace.

48-TEAM TOURNAMENT

World Cup 2026: US-Iran war adds to list of concerns

NEW YORK: March 3 marks 100 days until the 2026 World Cup kicks off. A series of playoffs this month will determine the last six teams to make up the newly expanded 48-team tournament.

But with the US and Israeli attacks on Iran and Iran's retaliatory strikes in the Middle East, one of those playoff contenders — likely Iran's neighbors Iraq — may replace Iran, who qualified a year ago.

"It's not possible to say exactly, but there will certainly be a response," Iran Football Federation President, Mehdi Taj, said on Monday on Iran's IRIB Channel 3. "This will surely be studied by the country's high-ranking sports officials and there will be a decision on what's going to happen."

"But what we can say now is that due to this attack and its viciousness, it is far from our expectations that we can look at the World Cup with hope."

While no decision has been taken for the men's side, Iran's women kicked off their Asian Cup campaign with defeat to South Korea on Monday in Australia with nothing in the way of protest or politics on display. While Australia has not directly attacked Iran in the way that the US and Israel have, the Australian Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, has said that "we support the United States" in its actions.

Iran's men are due to play all three of their World Cup group



games in the US. First against New Zealand and Belgium in Los Angeles, host city of the 2028 Olympics, then against Egypt in Seattle.

A World Cup for everybody? Tournament organisers FIFA have said they are monitoring the situation, and the organization's general secretary, Mattias Grafstrom, added that "our focus is to have a safe World Cup with everybody participating".

However, Iranian fans will be banned from travelling to the US for the tournament as they — like fellow qualifiers Ivory Coast, Senegal and Haiti — are on US Presi-

dent Donald Trump's travel ban list. Players and approved officials are exempt.

Trump's travel bans, and a perceived general air of hostility to foreigners enforced by ICE agents, are also sparking safety concerns among potential travelers.

While talk of a European boycott of the tournament has cooled slightly since Trump backed down on his threats to annex Greenland by force earlier this year, the volatility of the US president makes predictions difficult.

Trump's close relationship with FIFA President Gianni Infantino further muddies the waters. Infan-

tino was at the launch of Trump's Board of Peace just over a week before the Iran attacks and donned a MAGA-style cap at the event.

World Cup ticket prices proving prohibitive

For those from countries not on the banned list or at war with the hosts, the price of tickets and associated costs are controversial. Final tickets start at \$2,000 (\$1704) and the best seats are \$8,680. That's before accounting for FIFA's resale portal, which recently had a ticket listed at \$143,750.

Prices could rise still higher, with FIFA holding back an un-

specified number of tickets to be released in April, once all the qualifiers are known (barring any boycotts or withdrawals). These will be "on a first come, first served basis" and the lack of regulation around secondary ticket sellers, including FIFA's own platform, has many fans concerned things will get worse.

With US stadiums often only accessible by car, even those fans lucky enough to afford the ticket, travel and accommodation will be stung for parking. A spot at the SoFi stadium in Los Angeles, for example, will set you back \$300 per matchday and still leave you a mile (1.6 kilometres) to walk. These costs are significantly higher than they would be for US domestic sporting events at the same arenas.

Fan parks in major doubt

For those without tickets, or with tickets to matches elsewhere, fan parks have become part of the World Cup tapestry in the last 20 years. But a partial federal shutdown in the US has put those in doubt this year. Almost \$900 million designated for the 11 host cities in the US has yet to be received, leading to many cities warning they may have to scrap events.

"We have to start making some really tough decisions and it starts with our fan festival," Ray Martinez, chief operating officer of the Miami World Cup Host Commit-

tee said, warning that there must be resolution before the end of this month. Other cities have made similar noises.

"The matches up at the stadium will take place, but preparing for all the impromptu events and watch parties that we are expecting to see will be in jeopardy," Martinez said.

Mexico cartels also cast shadow

Preparations for the tournament in Mexico and Canada had, until recently, appeared more serene. Mexico City will host the tournament opener between Mexico and South Africa on June 11, and games in the country will take place across three cities.

But a wave of violence set off by the killing of a Mexican drug cartel boss in late February has raised some safety concerns there too.

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum confirmed last week that FIFA will visit the country soon to make an assessment, but that Infantino told her he has "full confidence" in the country as a host.

"He assured me that the World Cup would be held in our country," she said. "We agreed that a FIFA team would definitely come to review several issues. We've been working on this for a long time, but the issue of security is particularly important, of course."

Two Canadian cities, Toronto and Vancouver, will also host games. **bw**



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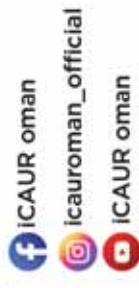


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OMAN OIL PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by May reaching \$82.09. The price of Oman oil rose by \$1.69 from the price of Monday, which was \$80.40. The average price of Oman oil (March delivery) has stabilised at \$62.17, thus 8 cents per barrel higher than February delivery 2026.

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 7,256.04 points, down by -1.54% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -0.59% at 635.02 points. Al Maha Ceramics, up 9.41%, was the top gainer while, Jazeera Steel Products, down 9.44%, was the top loser.



Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to present Bank Muscat's financial results for the year ended 31 December 2025. The year marked an important milestone in the Bank's journey, reflecting its ability to deliver balanced and sustainable performance, supported by a clear strategic vision aimed at reinforcing its position as the leading banking institution in the Sultanate of Oman and a key contributor to financial stability and economic growth, while maintaining the highest standards of governance and service quality across all customer segments.

Oman's Economy

According to data issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) in December 2025, real GDP growth continued through the end of the third quarter of the year, reaching 2.2%. This growth was driven primarily by higher value added from non-oil activities, alongside government efforts to entrench sustainability and strengthen the country's fiscal position. This positive trajectory was further reflected in the upgrade of Oman's sovereign credit rating to investment grade by international agencies, including Fitch, Standard & Poor's, and Moody's, enhancing investor confidence and reinforcing the Sultanate's attractiveness as an investment destination.

Financial Overview

The Bank posted a net profit of **₹ 255.54 million** for the period compared to **₹ 225.58 million** reported during the same period in 2024, an increase of 13.3%.

Net Interest Income from Conventional Banking and Net Income from Islamic Financing stood at **₹ 413.01 million** for the year ended 31 December 2025 compared to **₹ 397.70 million** for the same period in 2024, an increase of 3.8%.

Non-interest income was **₹ 174.56 million** for the year ended 31 December 2025 as compared to **₹ 145.00 million** for the same period in 2024, an increase of 20.4% due to growth in business volumes and higher investment income.

Operating expenses for the year ended 31 December 2025 was **₹ 223.25 million** as compared to **₹ 209.26 million** for the same period in 2024, an increase of 6.7%.

Net impairment losses on financial assets for the year ended 31 December 2025 was **₹ 60.97 million** as against **₹ 64.41 million** for the same period in 2024.

Net Loans and advances including Islamic financing receivables increased by 4.9% to **₹ 10,742 million** as against **₹ 10,237 million** as at 31 December 2024.

Customer deposits including Islamic Customer deposits increased by 6.7% to **₹ 10,430 million** as against **₹ 9,777 million** as at 31 December 2024.

The basic earnings per share was **₹ 0.031** in 2025 against **₹ 0.027** in 2024. The Bank's return on equity stood at 13.57% in 2025 against 12.71% in 2024. The Bank's capital adequacy ratio stood at a healthy level of 19.66% after appropriation for proposed dividend for the year 2025 against the minimum required level of 14.5% as per Basel III regulations issued by the Central Bank of Oman.

For 2025, the Board of Directors has proposed a dividend of 18.0% in the form of cash. Thus, the shareholders would receive a cash dividend of **₹ 0.018** per ordinary share aggregating

to **₹ 135.115 million** on the Bank's existing share capital. The proposed cash dividend is subject to the formal approval of the Annual General Meeting of the shareholders.

Strategic Initiatives & Key Developments

Bank Muscat continued to strengthen its leadership in the banking sector, leveraging its extensive footprint, accelerating digital transformation, and maintaining a strong focus on delivering a superior banking experience to customers across the Sultanate.

The fourth quarter of 2025 witnessed major achievements, with the launch of the Jadarah Artificial Intelligence Academy, and the graduation of the first cohort of employees from the AI Lab program. The Academy represents a strategic milestone in the Bank's innovation journey and commitment to develop national competencies in artificial intelligence and emerging technologies. Another milestone was the launch of the first-of-its-kind Command Center, serving as a centralized hub for managing technology operations, ensuring digital readiness, and monitoring systems around the clock using AI-driven tools, with immediate response capabilities to operational challenges, enhancing service reliability and elevating customer experience.

During the fourth quarter, the Bank continued its determination to enhance digital solutions and drive innovation. The payments and cards business continued to deliver exceptional performance, with a total number of point-of-sale transactions recording a year-on-year growth of 31%. The Bank also recorded its highest-ever monthly volume of Tap'N'Go transactions, reflecting growing adoption of innovative digital payment solutions. The number of registered internet and mobile banking users also grew year-on-year by 17%, reflecting the Bank's pioneering role in digital expansion and efficient service delivery.

During the quarter, the Bank launched the instant digital loan service through its Mobile Banking application. This initiative represents a significant milestone, underscoring Bank Muscat's commitment to digital excellence and sustainable innovation. It enables eligible customers to avail personal loans with disbursal of the approved amount instantly, without the need to visit branches or complete paper-based procedures. Also, the Bank launched the national payment card "Maal", marking a significant step towards supporting the Sultanate's vision of establishing a secure and efficient digital payments ecosystem operating within an integrated national framework.

The Bank continued to upgrade and enhance the branches, spread across all governorates, ensuring accessibility and proximity of services to customers. The total number of self-service machines reached 916 units, comprising Automated Teller Machines (ATMs), Cash Deposit Machines (CDMs), multifunctional kiosks (MFK), and others, enabling customers to conduct transactions conveniently and around the clock, through the biggest network in Oman.

In corporate banking, the total value of transactions executed through corporate electronic banking services achieved a strong annual growth of 26%, reflecting customers' confidence and increasing reliance on the Bank's digital capabilities. The Bank also continued to expand its digital ecosystem by enhancing SWIFT services for corporates and advancing strategic digital integrations with major companies, improving payment collection efficiency and customer experience through API-

enabled electronic mandate solutions. In this context, the Bank signed a number of agreements with prominent private and government entities to activate the e-Mandate service available through Bank Muscat's Web Payment API. This initiative aims to enable these institutions' customers to execute direct debit transactions smoothly and securely, in line with the Central Bank of Oman's efforts to reduce reliance on paper-based payment instruments, promote digital alternatives, support financial inclusion, and advance national digital transformation goals under Oman Vision 2040.

During 2025, the Bank delivered solid performance in investment banking and asset management activities, highlighted by its successful management of the Ministry of Finance's tenth domestic sovereign sukuk issuance, which attracted subscription demand exceeding **₹ 200 million**, reflecting strong investor confidence. The Bank also acted as Joint Lead Manager for a green sukuk issuance valued at **₹ 288.75 million** (equivalent to US \$750 million) for a government-related entity in the utilities sector, reaffirming its leadership in sustainable finance.

Throughout the year, the Bank secured prominent mandates from government-related entities, including the initial public offering and listing of a chemical industry company on the Muscat Stock Exchange, as well as managing the divestment of a strategic equity stake in a mining sector company.

In terms of Asset Management, the Bank continues to grow and total assets under management increased by 8% reaching **₹ 1.5 billion** (equivalent to US \$3.9 billion) by the end of the fourth quarter of 2025, while Bank Muscat's Money Market Fund assets exceeded **₹ 230 million** by the end of December 2025.

Meanwhile, Meethaq Islamic Banking continued to strengthen its leadership in Oman's Islamic banking sector through a series of value-driven initiatives, products and services. Meethaq also introduced exceptional benefits for salary transfers, financing, and other products, reflecting its commitment to inclusive growth, digital empowerment, and delivering sustainable value to customers.

Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability

During the last quarter, the Bank continued to deliver tangible social impact through wide-ranging community initiatives supported by measurable indicators across education, empowerment, entrepreneurship, and social welfare. In December 2025, the Bank organized the second edition of the "Himam" Carnival, which witnessed active participation from more than 500 persons with disabilities, employees, and their families.

To promote financial literacy, the Bank organized the Maliyat Challenge in Sohar, North Al Batinah Governorate, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, with participation from approximately 80 students from Grades 9 and 10. The Bank also conducted financial awareness workshops for more than 200 women across five wilayats, in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Development.

In entrepreneurship, the Bank continued its training programme within Al Wathbah Academy initiative in November, in partnership with the Youth Projects Development Fund (Sharakah), bringing the total number of beneficiaries since its launch in 2024 to approximately 270 Omani entrepreneurs. During the fourth quarter, the Bank also continued the Tadamun Programme, in partnership with the Ministry of

Social Development, which supported around 162 families in 2025, increasing the total number of beneficiary families since inception to more than 3,600.

Awards & Accolades

The Bank maintained a strong competitive position during the year, reflected in a broad portfolio of prestigious international and local awards, reaching 74 awards. The Bank was named among the 30 Most Valuable Banks, according to Forbes Middle East 2025, and was recognised as Best Private Bank in Oman by both MEED and The Banker (Global Private Banking Awards). The Bank also secured Best Consumer Digital Bank in Oman from Global Finance and the Best Investment Bank award from Euromoney, alongside Domestic Project Finance Bank of the Year and Corporate & Investment Bank of the Year accolades from Asian Banking & Finance.

At the local level, the Bank received a prestigious recognition from the Central Bank of Oman as the first bank in the Sultanate of Oman to successfully launch Direct Debit and e-Mandate services and for its pioneering role in the launch of the national payment card "Maal". The Bank also received Most Innovative Banking Services Provider, Oman 2025 from Muscat Media Group, Best Premier Banking Service in Oman within the Signature Luxury 100 Awards, and CSR Leader of the Year at the CSR Summit and Awards.

Similarly, Meethaq Islamic Banking was named the Best Islamic Digital Bank in Oman by Global Finance, Best Islamic Bank by Euromoney Islamic Finance Awards, and Best Islamic Digital Bank in Oman 2025 by Finance Derivative.

Conclusion

The year 2025 marked a defining chapter in the Bank's journey, characterized by renewed momentum in growth, innovation, adaptability to change, and an unwavering commitment to excellence, while consistently honoring the trust placed in us by our valued shareholders. Throughout the year, we continued to explore broader horizons and seize strategic opportunities to strengthen our role in delivering advanced banking solutions that meet customer expectations and serve the community with efficiency and sustainability.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Central Bank of Oman and the Financial Services Authority for their continued support and efforts in fostering a robust and stable regulatory environment for the banking and financial sector, a vital partnership that has enabled us to achieve growth, drive innovation, and respond effectively to our customers' evolving needs. We also express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tark for his wise leadership and insightful vision that guide the nation's renewed renaissance and continue to inspire us to play an active role in national development and in building a brighter, more sustainable future for generations to come.

Khalid Bin Mustahail Al Mashani
Chairman

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Audited 2025 ₹ 000's	Audited 2024 ₹ 000's
ASSETS		
Cash and balances with Central Banks	560,524	476,739
Due from banks	720,073	714,791
Loans and advances	9,083,751	8,616,285
Islamic financing receivables	1,658,654	1,621,163
Investment securities	2,813,695	2,107,980
Investment in an associate	9,950	9,660
Other assets	195,869	277,792
Property, equipment and software	86,580	87,545
TOTAL ASSETS	15,129,096	13,911,955
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
LIABILITIES		
Deposits from banks	1,020,730	978,178
Customers' deposits	8,741,504	8,193,168
Islamic customers' deposits	1,688,777	1,583,900
Sukuk	16,826	16,842
Euro medium term notes	487,387	195,139
Other liabilities	499,324	430,737
Taxation	82,422	69,158
Total liabilities	12,536,970	11,467,122
Equity		
Equity attributable to equity holders of parent		
Share capital	750,640	750,640
Share premium	156,215	156,215
General reserve	410,258	410,258
Legal reserve	208,586	183,032
Revaluation reserve	4,904	4,904
Cumulative changes in fair value	84,949	43,806
Foreign currency translation reserve	(1,821)	(3,690)
Cash flow hedge reserve	3,464	5,901
Retained earnings	469,611	388,447
Total equity attributable to the equity holders	2,086,806	1,939,513
Perpetual Tier I capital	505,320	505,320
Total equity	2,592,126	2,444,833
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	15,129,096	13,911,955
Net assets per share	₹ 0.278	₹ 0.258
Contingent liabilities and commitments	1,957,031	1,811,518

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CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Audited 2025 ₹ 000's	Audited 2024 ₹ 000's
Interest income	597,522	609,855
Interest expense	(222,077)	(245,305)
Net interest income	375,445	364,550
Income from Islamic financing / investments	105,940	101,270
Distribution to depositors	(68,380)	(68,119)
Net income from Islamic financing	37,560	33,151
Net interest income and income from Islamic financing	413,005	397,701
Commission and fee income (net)	98,498	96,119
Other operating income	76,060	48,885
Operating income	587,563	542,705
Operating expenses		
Other operating expenses	(198,375)	(187,995)
Depreciation	(24,876)	(21,267)
	(223,251)	(209,262)
Share of results from an associate	721	996
Net impairment losses on financial assets	(60,969)	(64,406)
	(283,499)	(272,672)
Profit before taxation	304,064	270,033
Tax expense	(48,529)	(44,453)
Profit for the year	255,535	225,580
Other comprehensive income		
Net other comprehensive income to be reclassified to profit or loss in subsequent periods, net of tax:		
Translation of net investments in foreign operations	182	(48)
Change in fair value of FVOCI debt investments	3,788	212
Share of other comprehensive income of an associate	13	72
Effective portion of hedge	(4,045)	3,603
Gains on hedge reclassified to profit or loss	1,608	(956)
	1,546	2,883
Net other comprehensive income not to be reclassified to profit or loss in subsequent periods, net of tax:		
Change in fair value of FVOCI equity investments	38,079	1,485
	38,079	1,485
Other comprehensive income for the year	39,625	4,368
Total comprehensive income for the year	295,160	229,948
Total comprehensive income attributable to:		
Equity holders of Parent Company	295,160	229,948
Profit attributable to:		
Equity holders of Parent Company	255,535	225,580
Earnings per share:		
Basic and diluted	₹ 0.031	₹ 0.027

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MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Al Maha Ceramics, up 9.41%, was the top gainer while, Jazeera Steel Products, down 9.44%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 7,256.04 points, down by -1.54% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -0.59% at 635.02 points.

Al Maha Ceramics, up 9.41%, was the top gainer while, Jazeera Steel Products, down 9.44%, was the top loser.

Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded while OQEP were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 5255 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 44.65 million, with more than 150.33 million shares changing hands. Out of 67 traded securities, 11 advanced, 41 declined, and 15 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for RO 3042K while domestic investors were net buyers for RO 2932K, followed by foreign investors for RO 109K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 12,243.88 points, down -0.63%.

Prices of Ahli Bank, Oman United Insurance were up by 6.25%, 0.77% respectively. Prices of Al Madina Investments, Oman & Emirates Investment, Bank Ni zwa, DIDIC, Al Madina Takaful were down by 7.50%, 3.77%, 2.61%, 2.35%, 2.31% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 9,423.32 points, down -1.35%.

Prices of Al Maha Ceramics, Oman Flour Mills, Al Anwar Ceramics, Raysut Cement were up by 9.41%, 1.96%, 1.49%, 0.74% respectively. Prices of Jazeera Steel Products, Voltamp Energy, Oman Fisheries, Salalah Mills, Galfar Engineering were down by 9.44%, 4.81%, 3.45%, 3.23%, 2.08% respectively.

Services Index was down by -1.36% before closing at 2,828.33 points. Prices of Barka Water & Power Company were up by 8.86% respectively. Prices of Abraj Energy, OQ Exploration & Production, Phoenix Power, Sembcorp Salalah, Oman National Engineering were down by 3.35%, 3.31%, 1.92%, 1.38%, 1.26% respectively.— **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	7,402.70	7,244.34	7,256.04	7,369.34	-113.30	-1.54
FINANCIAL INDEX	12,353.63	12,170.62	12,243.88	12,320.94	-77.06	-0.63
Industry Index	9,593.28	9,410.09	9,423.32	9,552.40	-129.08	-1.35
Services Index	2,887.47	2,826.40	2,828.33	2,867.31	-38.98	-1.36
MSX Shariah Index	639.69	632.97	635.02	638.77	-3.75	-0.59
MSX TR INDEX	11,126.67	10,888.65	10,906.23	11,076.52	-170.29	-1.54
FINANCIAL TR IDX	14,676.55	14,459.12	14,546.16	14,637.71	-91.55	-0.63
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	11,827.69	11,601.83	11,618.14	11,777.29	-159.14	-1.35
SERVICES TR IDX	3,765.48	3,685.84	3,688.35	3,739.18	-50.84	-1.36
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,209.68	1,209.68	1,209.68	1,209.68	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
150,333,143	44,651,685	5,255	36,016,544,387	11	41	15	67

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 3

REGULAR MARKET

SN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST RD	LAST OFFER	PUR VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	175,755	35,815	41	0.204	0.208	0.194	0.204	0.201	0.003	1.493	0.204	0.196	0.204	0.100	44,880,000
OM0000000187	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	292,616	112,801	12	0.390	0.395	0.385	0.393	0.390	0.003	0.769	0.393	0.390	0.394	0.100	39,300,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	180,691	71,906	41	0.396	0.399	0.396	0.399	0.399	0.000	0.000	0.399	0.396	0.399	0.100	373,348,927
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	69,207	24,472	17	0.354	0.354	0.353	0.354	0.354	0.000	0.000	0.354	0.354	0.354	0.100	230,434,257
OM0000004925	ALBATHNAH POWER	2,300	375	3	0.164	0.164	0.163	0.163	0.163	0.000	0.000	0.163	0.157	0.178	0.100	110,006,651
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	2,327,064	864,384	64	0.383	0.384	0.377	0.380	0.382	-0.002	-0.524	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.100	89,855,800
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	1,051,577	1,325,560	53	1.292	1.292	1.282	1.283	1.290	-0.007	-0.543	1.283	1.282	1.283	0.100	362,250,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	360,884	141,062	13	0.381	0.392	0.380	0.390	0.383	-0.003	-0.763	0.390	0.389	0.390	0.100	634,119,078
OM0000002226	AL JAZEERA SERVICES	163,381	40,967	36	0.250	0.254	0.248	0.248	0.250	-0.002	-0.800	0.248	0.247	0.249	0.100	10,625,062
OM0000002440	AL SHARQYA INVESTMENT HO	27,000	3,220	4	0.120	0.120	0.119	0.120	0.121	-0.001	-0.826	0.120	0.117	0.119	0.100	110,800,000
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	18,853,298	4,401,863	607	0.236	0.237	0.231	0.233	0.235	-0.002	-0.851	0.233	0.233	0.233	0.100	10,009,035,373
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	154,262	13,238	12	0.086	0.087	0.085	0.086	0.087	-0.001	-1.149	0.086	0.085	0.087	0.100	30,626,948
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	293,568	46,455	28	0.163	0.163	0.156	0.160	0.162	-0.002	-1.235	0.160	0.151	0.173	0.100	114,305,014
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	200	555	2	2.800	2.800	2.750	2.750	2.785	-0.035	-1.257	2.750	2.507	0.000	0.100	246,675,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	99,526	29,802	14	0.307	0.308	0.286	0.295	0.299	-0.004	-1.338	0.295	0.288	0.295	0.100	59,000,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	42,463,669	9,149,086	416	0.219	0.219	0.214	0.215	0.218	-0.003	-1.378	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.100	1,422,707,948
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	19,000,769	8,028,711	274	0.427	0.428	0.419	0.419	0.427	-0.008	-1.874	0.419	0.419	0.419	0.100	3,145,180,369
OM0000004788	MADINA TAKAFUL	502,149	64,134	76	0.129	0.129	0.126	0.127	0.130	-0.003	-2.308	0.127	0.125	0.127	0.100	22,225,000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	3,424,055	521,684	137	0.154	0.154	0.149	0.149	0.153	-0.004	-2.614	0.149	0.148	0.149	0.100	333,306,002
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	3,730,343	1,651,769	429	0.450	0.450	0.447	0.433	0.448	-0.015	-3.348	0.433	0.433	0.434	0.100	333,496,600
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	1,738	3,204	12	1.870	1.870	1.780	1.780	1.870	-0.090	-4.813	1.780	1.780	1.850	0.100	166,631,428
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	580	473	1	0.815	0.815	0.815	0.815	0.800	-0.085	-9.444	0.815	0.816	0.800	0.100	101,791,537
Total	22	93,154,612	26,551,536	2,292												

Parallel Market

OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	6,372	1,755	5	0.279	0.279	0.265	0.279	0.255	0.024	9.412	0.279	0.256	0.279	0.100	15,345,000
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	10,300	1,782	6	0.173	0.173	0.172	0.172	0.158	0.014	8.961	0.172	0.162	0.172	0.100	27,520,000
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	10,144	2,069	3	0.204	0.204	0.204	0.204	0.192	0.012	6.250	0.204	0.195	0.204	0.100	553,187,266
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	8,529	4,429	7	0.520	0.520	0.510	0.520	0.510	0.010	1.961	0.520	0.510	0.515	0.100	85,995,000
OM0000009569	JABAL REIF	7,054	721	3	0.101	0.103	0.101	0.102	0.101	0.001	0.990	0.103	0.100	0.103	0.100	177,408,000
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	104,095	19,083	20	0.186	0.186	0.182	0.186	0.185	0.001	0.541	0.186	0.185	0.186	0.100	110,007,260
OM0000001020	OMAN CHROMITE	47	174	3	3.700	3.700	3.700	3.700	3.700	0.000	0.000	3.700	3.700	3.700	1.000	12,210,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	260,227	24,565	46	0.095	0.096	0.092	0.094	0.094	0.000	0.000	0.093	0.093	0.095	0.100	7,290,000
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	14,400	1,829	4	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.000	0.000	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.100	3,810,000
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	239,994	20,098	38	0.085	0.086	0.081	0.084	0.084	0.000	0.000	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.100	1,764,000
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FINANCIAL SERVICES	282,000	52,174	8	0.185	0.187	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.000	0.000	0.185	0.180	0.184	0.100	58,352,146
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	3,883	3,904	3	1.060	1.060	1.060	1.060	1.060	0.000	0.000	1.060	1.060	1.160	0.100	64,993,500
OM0000004689	SHARQIYAH DESALINATION	23,376	4,447	5	0.176	0.176	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.000	0.000	0.175	0.175	0.176	0.100	17,115,378
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	192	15	1	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.000	0.000	0.076	0.069	0.078	0.100	19,000,000
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	612,500	121,888	12	0.199	0.199	0.199	0.199	0.199	0.000	0.000	0.199	0.199	0.199	0.100	398,545,923
OM0000007407	DHOFAH GENERATING	8,500	731	5	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.000	0.000	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.100	19,112,640
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	41,249	4,237	9	0.102	0.103	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.000	0.000	0.103	0.102	0.103	0.100	66,538,912
OM0000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	1,192	256	2	0.217	0.217	0.214	0.214	0.215	-0.001	-0.465	0.214	0.214	0.217	0.100	3,771,464
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	1,327,708	265,252	150	0.200	0.203	0.198	0.202	0.203	-0.001	-0.493	0.202	0.199	0.202	0.100	614,039,303
OM0000002897	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	31,019	13,321	17	0.430	0.430	0.425	0.427	0.430	-0.003	-0.698	0.427	0.425	0.427	0.100	19,541,986
OM0000001020	ASVAD SHIPPING	11,090,114	2,628,202	364	0.240	0.243	0.234	0.237	0.239	0.002	0.837	0.237	0.237	0.237	0.001	234,472,394
OM0000009908	QCBASE INDUSTRIES (SFPZ)	21,560,668	4,919,376	395	0.229	0.231	0.225	0.227	0.229	-0.002	-0.873	0.227	0.228	0.227	0.040	785,304,423
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	164,893	39,742	24	0.244	0.244	0.238	0.241	0.244	-0.003	-1.230	0.241	0.238	0.241	0.100	48,112,180
OM0000000116	OMAN NATIONAL G & INVESTMENT	71,137	11,251	20	0.160	0.160	0.159	0.157	0.159	-0.002	-1.258	0.157	0.157	0.157	0.100	23,550,000
OM0000000590	MUSCAT FINANCE	75,655	5,827	7	0.078	0.078	0.077	0.077	0.078	-0.001	-1.282	0.077	0.077	0.079	0.100	23,850,267
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	5,482	422	3	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.078	-0.001	-1.282	0.077	0.071	0.078	0.100	15,400,000
OM0000004735	SEMBOCOR SALLAH	41,200	8,999	16	0.220	0.222	0.215	0.215	0.218	-0.003	-1.378	0.215	0.205	0.220	0.100	205,232,969
OM0000003281	TAAQEER FINANCE	99,000	12,375	2	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.127	-0.002	-1.575	0.125	0.124	0.127	0.100	34,902,902
OM0000000749	OMAN CEMENT	20,067	10,698	14	0.540	0.541	0.530	0.530	0.540	-0.010	-1.852	0.530	0.531	0.535	0.100	176,362,962
OM0000003682	AL JAZEERA INVESTMENT	136,523	21,431	33	0.158	0.158	0.153	0.153	0.158	-0.005	-3.193	0.153	0.155	0.157	0.100	23,550,000
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	5,000	1,125	1	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.230	-0.005	-2.174	0.225	0.225	0.230	0.100	138,928,471
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	18,000	2,412	3	0.135	0.135	0.133	0.133	0.136	-0.003	-2.206	0.133	0.125	0.134	0.100	39,707,540
OM0000001059	DHOFAH INTL DEVNT & INVEST	103,150	30,817	26	0.305	0.305	0.291	0.291	0.298	-0.007	-2.349	0.291	0.291	0.318	0.100	144,352,337
OM0000001823	OMAN GATEWAY FUND	3,407	3,533	5	1.050	1.050	1.020	1.020	1.050	-0.030	-2.857	1.020	1.000	1.020	0.000	27,737,310
OM0000001889	SALLAH MILLS	4,000	1,810	2	0.455	0.455	0.450	0.450	0.465	-0.015	-3.226	0.450	0.440	0.465	0.100	28,108,379
OM0000009776	AL JAZEERA INVESTMENT AND PRODUCTION	20,429	9,646,468	1,64	0.484	0.489	0.461	0.461	0.489	-0.028	-5.806	0.461	0.467	0.489	0.100	10,033,744,000
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO	46,806	4,778	5	0.103	0.103	0.102	0.102	0.106	-0.004	-3.774	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.100	12,431,250
OM0000000922	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	15,983	600	3	0.038	0.038	0.037	0.037	0.040	-0.003	-7.500	0.037	0.037	0.044		



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Contact : 97607069
Email : carolineelizabethjohn@gmail.com

BUSINESS HEAD

Accomplished Indian management professional (Engg+MBA). Extensive Marketing & Sales experience in consumer durables industry. Well networked with all channels /corporates of Oman seeking senior management opportunities.

Contact No. : 7708 8859

OFFICER

Banking - Credit & Risk
Indian lady-BTech Holder,
Currently working at Nationalized Bank in India as Credit & Risk Officer Since 2011 looking suitable role in Oman

Mobile : 92652137 - Mail:silbylboi@gmail.com

FINANCE

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Contact:+968 95494566

MEDICAL

Pharmacist with 16 yrs exp. in retail & hospital pharmacy in Muscat & India. Previously registered with MOH, Oman with work License, NOC with D/L, currently in Muscat

Contact: 77336141
Email: confession.mercy@gmail.com

FINANCE

Senior Management Accountant/ Finance Manager
Indian male, MBA Finance, 20+ yrs Gulf experience in Accounting, Auditing, Oman VAT, Tax Assessment. Valid Oman Driving License. Available immediately.

Contact: 96887261 (Oman), +917418469385 (India)
Email: nrajan19742003@gmail.com

GENERAL MANAGER

Dynamic professional with 16+ yrs of progressive experience in financial strategy, business consulting/management, operational excellence, and growth leadership across Trading, Construction, RMC production, and MNCs company. Open to strategic senior management opportunities.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I **MENAKA BHASKARAN** (holder of Indian passport No P9537370.) DAUGHTER of Bhaskaran having permanent residence in Geetha Bhavan Konumoola Piravanthoor P.O.Kollam Kerala Pin 689696(complete postal address in India) and presently residing IN Haneen Building Flat No.23 2nd Floor, Amerat, Oman intend to change my name from **MENAKA BHASKARAN** TO **MAYA BHASKARAN** for all practical purpose. Any objection towards my name may please be communicated to Embassy Of India, Muscat, Diplomatic Quarters, Al Khuwair,P.Box.No.1727, Postal Code 112, Ruwi, Sultanate Of Oman

JOB VACANCY

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Senior Accountant with knowledge of Tally ERP with experience in finalisation of accounts - Email: shieldint7878@gmail.com

ENGINEER

Engineer - Civil Degree or Diploma, Civil Foreman, QS -Civil & Steel Struct ure - Email: shieldint7878@gmail.com

DESIGNER/AUTOCAD D/MAN

Urgently required AutoCAD Draughtsman with knowledge of Interior Design with minimum 2-5 yrs experience. Email: fareedadesign@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

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

Indian Male 41 years Bcom MBA having 14 years experience in procurement UAE & Oman with valid UAE driving license. Seeking suitable opportunities. Contact +971529546753

Accountant (CMA), own visa having 13 yrs Oman experience, can join immediately. Contact:77336141

Indian (M) - 30 Accountant with overall exp 4yrs Valid DL. Contact: 78624277

Cost Accountant, B.Com with 15 yrs exp in Oman. Can join urgently, Contact: 7733 6141

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

Indian male Accountant. 10 yrs in muscat. D/L and NOC available. Contact: 79774800

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Sri Lankan Accountant, reading CA. 3+ yrs of experience. Expertise in accounting, audit, bookkeeping, VAT, finalization. Contact: +968 76297279

Male, 47 yrs, Account Manager (handling Accounts & operations) 22yrs of exp (20 yrs in Oman) seeks suitable placement Contact: 91410602

42 yrs female (M-com) working as finance manager 18yrs of exp overall (15yrs in Oman) Contact: 98184705

Experienced Accounts Professional with B.Com, MBA seeks Immediate Placement. Ready to join Immediately. Contact:78581435

Accountant - Seeking suitable post. Contact : 90231803

CA Inter qualified professional with 3 years of hands-on experience currently residing in Oman on family joining, open to full-time or part-time accounting opportunities.

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

Indian male, Bcom, MBA finance, 14 yrs of Oman and Indian experience, seeking suitable jobs in accounts. Have valid Oman D/L. Mob: 97436925.

Finance Manager, Indian, 26Yrs of experience, looking Job Change, Contact: 98006226

Looking for an accounts job with hands-on knowledge of tally and excel. dedicated and detail-oriented. Contact: +96896246456

Indian male Sr. Accountant (M.com with Finance) 17+ yrs exp. in Oman with valid D/L. Contact: 91314540

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ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

B.Com, CA Articleship completed 28yrs experience in Muscat Oman. Expert in book keeping, vendor & bank reconciliation, seeking job. Contact : 99072361

Accountant looking for job. Contact: 75024166

Highly skilled chief accountant looking for suitable position. Contact: 79888153

Indian male, MBA, 17 years experienced in key accounts, project sales, business development looking for suitable opportunities. Contact: 92790532

MBA Finance Senior accountant, 13-yrs GCC experience looking for a job upto finalization. Contact: 98869499

Accountant available immediate joiner, Indian male, B.Com, 10+ yrs exp (4 yrs Oman) Expert in Tally & Accounts Contact: 91417133

ADMINISTRATION

Indian (M) 29 yrs, MBA graduate with 4 yrs experience in operations, stores management, office administration, yard management, accounts, finance and graphic designing. Looking for suitable job. Contact: 78439875

Indian Female-Seeking HR & Admin jobs. 4.5 yrs experience including Oman. MBA-HR & Diploma in Hospital Administration. Ph : 77130157 WA: +919496635993. anjumariyamvarghese@gmail.com

Indian male, 4 yrs Oman experience in Oil & Gas (Sales & Logistics). Valid Oman D/L. Contact: 78992297

Experience Project Coordinator (8 years) - Civil. Cont: 90284233

Indian female, M.Sc. (Computer Science), overall 13+ yrs of experience in different administrative as well as project roles looking for suitable placement. Contact: 79166904/ 97498882

ARCHITECT

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

IT

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

TECHNICIAN

Completed Bsc MLT (Medical Lab Technician), 2 yrs 3 months, experience, pearson vue Exam passed. Data Flow Positive. Seeking for job as lab technician. Contact No. 97394969/ 94969588. Mail: elizabethjifna@gmail.com

ENGINEER

Mechanical Engineering Graduate (B.Tech) with Basic Site Exposure. Knowledge in HVAC, Plumbing, Drawings & AutoCAD. Immediate Joining. Contact: +96871208991

Backend Engineer with a Master's of IT and 3.5 yrs of experience looking for a job as a Fullstack or Backend and Systems Engineer. Skills: PostgresSQL, Rust, Python, Azure, GCP, API development, RAG, GenAI. Contact @ +968 93678649.

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

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

ENGINEER

IT Support Engineer with more than 10 years of Oman experience looking for IT related jobs, holds valid Oman driving license. Mobile number: 91640716.

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

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

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Looking for driver job. Contact: 72852929.

Looking for driver job have car also. Contact: 94942998

LOGISTICS

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

Indian male, supervisor, 15+ yrs of overall experience in commercial, store-logistics. Seeks job. Mob: 98531104

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

MANAGER

MEP construction manager, Gulf experience 28 years, Own visa, Oman DL. Mob No: 79809590

MANAGER

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

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

PURCHASE/ PROCUREMENT

Civil Quantity Surveyor - Civil/ Male. 10 yrs of exp in construction and Telecom. 93801057

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

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

SALES/MARKETING

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

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

28 yrs of experience in sales & marketing in Oman for the consumer durables and FMCG. Indian MBA. Strong relationships with major retailers across Oman. Contact: 93340457

MBA finance & marketing professional with expertise in Excel, Power BI, SAP, MIS reporting, banking operations, digital marketing, and operations. Seeking roles in Oman. Contact: 71857404 sreekuttannr84@gmail.com.

President Macron unveils new phase in France nuclear doctrine

France is poised to increase its nuclear warheads for the first time in decades, reflecting growing concerns over Europe's security environment amid the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron has unveiled updates to France's doctrine on the potential use of nuclear weapons, marking what he described as a new phase in the country's deterrence strategy.

Speaking from a military base hosting France's ballistic missile submarines, Macron said Paris would recalibrate its nuclear posture to complement NATO's broader mission while preserving full national sovereignty over its



arsenal. He also invited European allies to take part in nuclear deterrence exercises as part of efforts to strengthen continental security coordination, France24 reported.

"What I'd like is for Europeans to regain control of their own destiny," Macron said.

France is poised to increase its

nuclear warheads for the first time in decades, reflecting growing concerns over Europe's security environment amid the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict and debates over the future of transatlantic defence guarantees, France24 reported on Monday.

Macron emphasised that

France's nuclear capability would remain dedicated to maintaining peace, but he underscored the strength of the country's arsenal. He warned of France's capacity to potentially draw on its significant nuclear force in a way "that no country, no power, however strong, could recover".

The President further announced that France will host a summit in Paris on March 10 aimed at promoting the development and use of nuclear energy. He acknowledged that France is well placed "to promote civilian nuclear energy".

The address was aimed at clarifying how France's nuclear weapons fit into Europe's evolving security architecture, particularly in the wake of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and recurring tensions with US President Donald Trump over Ukraine, Greenland and NATO, France24 reported.

European leaders have expressed growing uncertainty over the United States' long-standing nuclear umbrella, which has historically assured NATO allies of protection without the need for them to develop independent nuclear capabilities. France remains the only nuclear-armed country within the European Union.

The speech went ahead despite the expanding conflict in the Middle East following joint Israeli-US strikes on Iran that reportedly decapitated much of its leadership over the weekend.

"We have to re-articulate nuclear deterrence," Macron told the Munich Security Council last month, adding that France has already had "a strategic dialogue" with German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and other European

leaders on increasing cooperation.

"Europe has to learn to become a geopolitical power," he told Munich.

France and Britain adopted a joint declaration in July allowing their nuclear forces to be "coordinated" while remaining independent. The United Kingdom, though no longer an EU member, remains the only other European country with a nuclear deterrent.

France's deterrence doctrine is rooted in a defensive strategy to safeguard vital national interests. Under the French Constitution, the President serves as commander-in-chief and holds sole authority over any potential use of nuclear weapons.

France's nuclear triad includes four nuclear-armed submarines, Le Triomphant, Le Temeraire, Le Vigilant and Le Terrible, based at Ile Longue on the Atlantic coast. At least one submarine has remained on patrol at all times since 1972, ensuring continuous strike capability. The Charles de Gaulle aircraft carrier is also capable of deploying nuclear-armed Rafale fighter jets. Citing estimates from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute and the Federation of American Scientists, France24 reported that France possesses around 290 nuclear warheads, making it the world's fourth-largest nuclear power after Russia, the United States and China. -ANI

CHILDREN, WOMEN AND ELDERLY KILLED

Scores of civilians killed in South Sudan

BERLIN: An attack on several villages in South Sudan left at least 169 people dead, local authorities said on Monday.

The majority of the casualties, 90, were civilians, with regional Information Minister James Monyluak Mijok saying children, women and elderly people were among the dead.

Some 79 government soldiers were also killed. Monyluak has warned that the death toll could still go up.

What do we know about the deadly South Sudan attacks?

A group of unidentified armed men attacked several villages in Abiemnom County in the Ruweng Administrative Area on Sunday.

No group has claimed responsibility. French news agency AFP cited initial reports that suggested



a Nuer group may have been seeking revenge for the killing of several traders.

"The security situation has since stabilised, with government security forces deployed and now in control of the area," Monyluak said.

UN peacekeepers were "temporarily sheltering some 1,000 civilians within our base in the area and providing emergency medi-

cal care to the injured," the UN peacekeeping mission in South Sudan said.

UN warns of return to 'all-out civil war' in South Sudan

The northern Ruweng region borders Sudan, from which South Sudan claimed its independence in 2011 following decades of civil war.

Nevertheless, the world's youngest country didn't bring an end to civil war, nor the largescale corruption and widespread poverty that have continued to plague the country.

Fighting has intensified over the last year between government forces loyal to President Salva Kiir and fighters loyal to opposition figure Riek Machar.

The two had ruled as part of a power-sharing deal, but its disintegration has led to what the UN has warned is turning into an "all-out civil war."

The UN has reported on the displacement of some 280,000 people fleeing fighting in Jonglei state.

Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said on Monday that it was suspending medical services in parts of the state after one of its facilities was hit by an airstrike, leaving 26 members of staff missing. -ANI

GILGIT AND SKARDU

Pakistan imposes curfew after protests

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has deployed the military and imposed a three-day curfew in the northern cities of Gilgit and Skardu following deadly protests against the killing of Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in a US-Israeli attack.

At least 25 people have been killed and dozens injured across the country.

Thousands of demonstrators attacked UN offices in Skardu, in the northern Gilgit-Baltistan region, on Sunday. Meanwhile, in the city of Gilgit, protesters burned a police station and damaged a school, officials said.

Police said at least 12 people were killed and 80 others wounded in the Gilgit-Baltistan region.

UN spokesperson Stephane

Dujarric said Monday that Skardu's UN Military Observer Group Field Station, which monitors the ceasefire along the disputed region of Kashmir, was vandalized when protesters turned violent nearby.

"The safety and security of UN personnel and premises throughout the region remain our top priority, and we continue to closely monitor the situation," Dujarric said.

Demonstrations also erupted in the southern port city Karachi, where protesters stormed the US consulate on Sunday, smashing windows and attempting to set the building on fire. Ten people died and more than 50 were injured in clashes with police. -DW

SECURITY SITUATION

3 Indian sailors on board foreign-flagged ships killed

NEW DELHI: Three Indian seafarers, serving on board foreign-flagged vessels, were killed and one person was injured amid the escalating tensions in the West Asia region, the Directorate General of Shipping said in a statement.

Directorate General of Shipping said that there have been four incidents in the Arabian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, Sea of Oman and adjoining sea areas involving Indian seafarers.

The Directorate General of Shipping is closely monitoring the evolving maritime security situation in the Arabian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, Sea of Oman and adjoining sea areas in light of recent regional and geopolitical developments, where reported threats have included missile and drone activity, electronic interference, and other maritime security concerns, according to a release.

As per the latest reports, there have been no confirmed instances of casualty, detention, or boarding involving Indian-flagged vessels. Monitoring and verification efforts remain ongoing, and Indian-flagged vessels continue to operate in the region.

The Directorate General of Shipping have constituted a quick response team to carry out immediate response, evacuation coordination, and support function to



Indian seafarers stranded in and around the Persian Gulf region as tension rises in West Asia.

The quick response team is headed by the Capt. PC Meena, Deputy Director General (Crew), with the support and guidance of Capt. Nitin Mukesh, Deputy Naval Advisor.

The team will coordinate closely with the office of the Director Seamen's Employment Office (DSEO), RPSL Companies, Families, Shipping companies, trade unions, Indian Missions abroad, concerned port authorities, and other relevant stakeholders to ensure timely communication, assistance, and safe evacuation of Indian seafarers impacted by the prevailing situation, according to a release.

All concerned offices and officials are directed to extend full cooperation to ensure uninterrupted and efficient execution of responsibilities during this critical period. -ANI

RECOUNTED THE PANIC

Passengers recount financial impact of flight cancellations

NEW DELHI: As the airspace in the UAE's Dubai partially opened up amid the ongoing conflict in Middle East, Indian citizens arrived in New Delhi on Tuesday and recounted the panic and financial impact of flight cancellations.

Air India welcomed passengers and crew arriving from Dubai on board flight at Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi.

A passenger who arrived at IGI Airport noted that they had to bear the extra costs of staying in Dubai longer than they intended to.

The passenger told ANI, "I am from Noida. We had gone there as tourists. Our return was scheduled for February 28, and that's when all this happened, and our flight got cancelled. The Indians who are in Dubai, if the government there covers their living expenses, that would be good. We had to bear the expenses in Dubai. Our only request is that other tourists also be brought back as soon as possible. We are very grateful to India and Air India."

Another passenger said that the situation in Dubai was "normal" and the UAE government aided the tourists.

The passenger said, "The situation is quite normal, there's not much tension, but due to flight cancellations and other things, people are facing financial impacts. Staying there is very expensive. Air India guided us com-



pletely. The government there is providing as much help as it can."

"The security was very well there. We were a little afraid due to the alarms, but nothing happened near us," another passenger said.

The Air India flight back to Delhi marked the first international arrival by an Indian carrier into the national capital today, carrying 149 passengers and eight operating crew members, the airline said.

In the Air India Newsroom's X post, it said, "We are happy to wel-

come our guests and crew from Dubai aboard flight AI916D. This is the first flight by an Indian carrier to arrive in New Delhi today with 149 passengers and 8 operating crew members onboard, amid the ongoing situation in the Middle East."

Meanwhile, Dubai Airports confirmed that a limited resumption of operations would begin on the evening of March 2 (Monday), with a small number of flights permitted to operate from Dubai International Airport (DXB) and Al Maktoum International Airport

(DWC).

With flights gradually taking to the skies once again, normalcy is slowly returning to the UAE, and for the thousands of Indians eager to get home, the wait is finally coming to an end. However, authorities urged caution.

Situation of harmony

Meanwhile, an Indian citizen who returned from Muscat, Oman, recalled a situation of harmony and said, "Everyone is living together in harmony in Muscat, and there are no problems. I booked my ticket five days ago. But three days ago, flights were halted for 24 hours. Flights of Air India, IndiGo, Salam Air, and Oman Air were all suspended. But flights have resumed in the last 24 hours, so we have come. There were no problems. The administration there is very supportive. There has been no explosion in Oman."

Mohammad Idris, who came from Muscat, said, "The atmosphere there is similar to Delhi. The situation there is very good. There was no advisory; everything is fine there."

Following the US-Israel strikes against Iran on February 28, Iran launched a wave of retaliatory attacks, using drones and missiles targeting multiple US bases in Arab countries in the region as a retaliatory action, which resulted in flight cancellations. -ANI



LIFESTYLE

SCIENTISTS
REVEAL HOW

Exercise may sharpen the mind by repairing the brain's protective shield. Researchers found that physical activity prompts the liver to release an enzyme that removes a harmful protein, causing the blood-brain barrier to become leaky with age.

In older mice, dialling down this protein reduced inflammation and improved memory. The discovery points to a surprising body-to-brain pathway that could inspire new Alzheimer's therapies.

Researchers at UC San Francisco have identified a biological process that may explain why exercise sharpens thinking and memory. Their findings suggest that physical activity strengthens the brain's built-in defence system, helping protect it from age-related damage.

As people grow older, the blood-brain barrier becomes more fragile. This tightly packed network of blood vessels normally shields the brain from harmful substances circulating in the bloodstream.

Over time, however, it can become leaky, allowing damaging compounds to enter brain tissue. The result is inflammation, which is linked to cognitive decline and is commonly seen in disorders such as Alzheimer's disease.

EXERCISE
PROTECTS

Several years ago, the research team discovered that exercising mice produced higher levels of an enzyme called GPLD1 in their livers. GPLD1 appeared to rejuvenate the brain, but there was a mystery. The enzyme itself cannot cross into the brain, leaving scientists unsure how it delivers its cognitive benefits. The new research provides an answer.

How GPLD1 Reduces Brain Inflammation

The scientists found that GPLD1 influences another protein known as TNAP. As mice age, TNAP builds up in the cells that form the blood-brain barrier. This buildup weakens the barrier and increases leakiness. When mice exercise, their livers release GPLD1 into the bloodstream. The enzyme travels to the blood vessels surrounding the brain and removes TNAP from the surface of those cells, helping restore the barrier's integrity. "This discovery shows just how relevant the body is for understanding how the brain declines with age," said Saul Villeda, PhD, associate director of the UCSF Bakar Aging Research Institute.

Villeda is the senior author of the paper, which was published in the journal *Cell* on February 18. Pinpointing TNAP's Role in Cognitive Decline.

To determine how GPLD1 exerts its effects, the team focused on what the enzyme does best. GPLD1 cuts specific proteins from the surface of cells. Researchers searched for tissues containing proteins that could serve as targets and suspected that some of these proteins might accumulate with age.

Cells in the blood-brain barrier stood out because they carried several possible GPLD1 targets. When the scientists tested these proteins in the lab, only one was trimmed by GPLD1: TNAP.

Further experiments confirmed TNAP's importance. Young mice genetically modified to produce excess TNAP in the blood-brain barrier showed memory and cognitive problems similar to those seen in older animals.

When researchers reduced TNAP levels in 2-year-old mice -- which are the equivalent of 70 human years -- the blood-brain barrier became less permeable, inflammation decreased, and the animals performed better on memory tests.

"We were able to tap into this mechanism late in life, for the mice, and it still worked," said Gregor Bieri, PhD, a postdoctoral scholar in Villeda's lab and co-first author of the study.

Implications for Alzheimer's and Brain Ageing.

The findings suggest that developing medications capable of trimming proteins such as TNAP could offer a new strategy to restore the blood-brain barrier, even after it has been weakened by ageing.

"We're uncovering biology that Alzheimer's research has largely overlooked," Villeda said. "It may open new therapeutic possibilities beyond the traditional strategies that focus almost exclusively on the brain," added Villeda. - ANI

BRAIN FROM
ALZHEIMER'S:
STUDY

Researchers at UC San Francisco have identified a biological process that may explain why exercise sharpens thinking and memory



Real Madrid stumble again as Getafe land title punch



The result left Real Madrid on 60 points from 26 games, four behind leaders Barcelona

MADRID: Martin Satriano’s superb first-half volley earned Getafe a shock 1-0 victory at Real Madrid in their La Liga 2025-26 clash on Monday, a result that left leader Barcelona four points clear at the top of the standings.

Real dominated possession from kickoff and controlled the game

but failed to turn pressure into goals, squandering several chances in an ill-tempered contest.

Alvaro Arbeloa’s side was left exposed in the 39th minute when a half-cleared cross dropped invitingly on the edge of the box, and Satriano struck a fierce volley into the top left corner.



Frustration boiled over in stoppage time when substitute Franco Mastantuono was shown a straight red card for dissent, while Adrian Liso was also sent off for the visitors.

Barcelona lead the standings on 64 points, with Real second on 60. Getafe are 11th with 32 points.

With Kylian Mbappe, Jude Bellingham and Eder Militao sidelined by injury, Real manager Arbeloa rotated heavily and handed 18-year-old midfielder Thiago Pitarch his first senior start.

Getafe set the tone early, disrupting Real’s rhythm with a stream of tactical fouls.

However, Real managed to

carve out openings, and Vinicius Jr should have put it ahead in the 13th minute when he raced clear on the counter-attack, only for goalkeeper David Soria to block his close-range effort with a sharp right-footed save. Soria excelled again in the 24th minute, producing a one-handed stop to deny Arda Guler after the Turkish midfielder weaved past three defenders on a dazzling run into the box.

The decisive moment arrived in the 39th minute. After Real failed to clear a cross, Satriano — playing his seventh match since joining on loan from Olympique Lyonnais in January — pounced on the loose

ball on the edge of the box and lashed an unstoppable volley into the top left corner.

The Bernabeu crowd responded with boos at halftime, prompting Arbeloa to introduce Dani Carvajal, Dean Huijsen and Rodrygo but the changes had little effect.

Real pressed but struggled to break down Getafe’s deep five-man defence. Antonio Rudiger headed close from a corner, and Rodrygo fired just wide from a rebound, yet the visitor held firm.

Mastantuono’s straight red card capped a chastening night for Real, who lost at home to Getafe for the first time in 18 years. - Agencies

FRANCE CAPTAIN

Real’s Mbappe in Paris for treatment on knee injury

PARIS: France captain Kylian Mbappe was in Paris on Monday for treatment on a knee injury, but no surgery is planned, the Real Madrid superstar’s entourage told mediapersons.

Mbappe was “in Paris accompanied by members of the Real Madrid medical staff,” the striker’s camp said in a statement.

“In agreement with the club, he is undergoing further tests on his knee,” it continued, “with the aim of optimising his follow-up care and preparing for his comeback. No surgical intervention is being planned at the moment.”

Mbappe has been struggling with an injury to the external ligament of his left knee since the end of 2025 and missed last week’s Champions League play-off second leg against Benfica due to “persistent pain” in training, sources close to the player said.

His entourage insisted there was no disagreement regarding the treatment required by the player between his club and the French national team, who will be desperate to have Mbappe fully fit for the upcoming World Cup.

“It was a bit of a consensus between everyone (Mbappe, the coach and the doctors), and we



think the best thing is that he stops, that he recovers and comes back at 100 per cent,” Real Madrid coach Alvaro Arbeloa told broadcaster Movistar late last week.

“It’s not going to be a question of days; it will be a bit longer, but I can’t say how long, hopefully not too long.”

It remains to be seen if Mbappe, who has scored 38 goals in 33 appearances for his club this season,

will be able to play in the Champions League last-16 tie against Manchester City, the first leg of which is scheduled for March 11 with the return on March 17.

France have two friendly matches lined up in the United States at the end of the month, against Brazil in Boston on March 26 and Colombia in Washington three days later. Their first World Cup game is on June 16 against Senegal. - Agencies

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Striker Welbeck extends Brighton contract to 2027

LONDON: Brighton striker Danny Welbeck has triggered a 12-month option in his contract to extend his deal to the end of next season on Monday.

The 35-year-old forward’s current contract was due to expire at the end of this season, but it is understood the option for an extra year is now in place.

Welbeck signed a new two-year deal in 2024 but the existence of the 12-month option was not reported at the time.

There has been uncertainty over Welbeck’s future at Brighton given his contract situation, but now the former Manchester United and Arsenal forward is set to stay with the Seagulls next season. Welbeck has impressed this season and is currently the club’s top goalscorer with 11 goals in 30 appearances, the latest coming in Sunday’s 2-1 win over Nottingham Forest.

His performances have put him in contention for an England recall in the lead up to this summer’s World Cup, with boss Thomas Tuchel revealing before the qualifiers in November he gave serious consideration to handing Welbeck a place in his squad.

Tuchel names his next squad -



the last before selecting his World Cup party - later this month.

Brighton manager Fabian Hurler has made clear his desire to ensure Welbeck stays at

the club in recent weeks.

Welbeck joined Brighton in October 2020 after leaving Watford and has since scored 48 goals in 191 appearances. - Agencies

FORMER CHAMPIONS INCLUDED

Kenya suspends 27 athletes for doping violations

NAIROBI: Disgraced Kenyan marathon runner Rita Jeptoo, national 400m hurdles champion Wiseman Were, and 25 other athletes have been provisionally suspended for doping violations, the country’s anti-doping agency announced on Monday.

Jeptoo, 45, a former Boston and Chicago Marathon winner, was banned for four years in 2014 after testing positive for a banned substance and only returned to racing three years ago.

She has now been suspended again following a test that found the presence of prohibited anabolic androgenic steroids, the national anti-doping body (ADAK) said.

She will remain suspended until her hearing, but ADAK did not say when that would take place.

ADAK said Were, 28, a Commonwealth 4x400m relay bronze medallist, had been suspended for missing three tests since August



2025. His ban runs from February 14, and he will be unable to compete until his case is heard. It is not clear when that may be.

More than 140 Kenyan athletes, mainly long-distance runners, have been suspended by the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) since 2017. Among them are figures including the current women’s marathon world record holder, Ruth Chepngetich and Benard Kibet Koech, fifth in the 10,000m at the Paris Olympics. - Agencies

GOLF

Rahm accuses DP World Tour of ‘extorting players’

LONDON: Jon Rahm has claimed the DP World Tour is “extorting players” as he outlined why he is not among a group of LIV Golf competitors to have signed a settlement enabling them to play in both organisations’ tournaments.

Eight players were last month granted releases by the DP World Tour - formerly known as the European Tour - to participate in LIV Golf events this year, allowing them to retain memberships and remain eligible for Ryder Cup selection.

The waiver included an agreement to pay outstanding fines reportedly in the region of £2.5m levied for playing in LIV events without DP World Tour permission, the withdrawal of all pending appeals and an acceptance to take part in stipulated DP World Tour tournaments.

Spaniard Rahm, a former world No.1 and two-time major winner, said he was “not going to agree” to those conditions - although he



suggested a compromise could be found if the number of DP tournaments needing to be played is reduced.

“I don’t know what game they’re trying to play right now,” he said.

“But it just seems like in a way they’re using us to (capitalise on) our impact in tournaments and

fining us and trying to benefit both ways from what we have to offer.

“And it’s just in a way they’re extorting players like myself and young players that have nothing to do with the politics of the game.”

He added: “Now, I did tell them, funny enough, lower that to four events, like the minimum

says, and I’ll sign tonight.

“They haven’t agreed to that. I just refuse to play six events. I don’t want to, and that’s not what the rules say.”

The DP World Tour declined to comment when approached.

“I just don’t like the situation,” said Rahm.

“I think we should be able to freely play where we want and have the choice to play where we want and not be dictated what we do. Especially myself. I can’t speak for others, only myself.

“I’ve always committed to play the minimum requirement [on the DP World Tour], and I think I’ve played four events, including the Spanish Open, every year except one as a pro, and I commit to do that. “That’s not going to change. I still fully intend to do that.”

His stance could put his participation in next year’s Ryder Cup in Ireland in doubt having been part of the last four European squads. - Agencies

Intriguing battle on the cards



Unbeaten Proteas take on dark horses
New Zealand in Kolkata for a place in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup final on March 8

KOLKATA: South African skipper Aiden Markram will face probing questions from his New Zealand counterpart Mitchell Santner in what promises to be an intriguing battle between two incredibly talented captains in the first semi-final of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup here on Wednesday.

It's rare when captains of both sides are the most prolific per-

formers and Markram vs Santner will be such battle that would keep the near capacity crowd at the Eden Gardens on the edge.

The ICC event rivalry between New Zealand and South Africa peaked during the 2015 50-over World Cup semifinal in 2015 when the Black Caps edged out the Proteas in a nail-biting showdown, leaving players like Dale Steyn and

AB de Villiers scarred for life.

However, South Africa, under the tutelage of head coach Shukri Conrad, has developed into a menacing side, having already won the World Test Championship (WTC) last year showing steely resolve and are unbeaten in the ongoing edition, the only team. While they haven't won a major white-ball trophy yet, the infamous "chokers" tag is no longer part of their crick- eting dictionary.

At the core of this battle are the two captains, not often the most celebrated or talked about, but tactically and technically much better than all those who are feted way more. Markram, with a strike rate of 175 plus and 268 runs, has had a devastating effect on rival bowlers during powerplay overs

while Santner, with an economy rate of 6.35, has kept the batters tied in knots. The Proteas, with a power-hitting line-up comprising Markram, Quinton De Kock, Dewald Brevis, Ryan Rickleton, Tristan Stubbs, David Miller and Marco Jansen, can give any team sleepless nights.

But Santner will have Rachin Ravindra (9 wickets at less than 7 runs per over), Glenn Phillips, Cole McConchie, who have all performed in unison.

Save for India, this is be the best spin attack that Proteas would face in the tournament although England with Liam Dawson and Rehan Ahmed wasn't bad either.

What New Zealand lack is a quality wrist spinner to challenge South Africa as Ish Sodhi hasn't

exactly been great in the few games that he has played so far.

On a belter of an Eden Gardens track, South Africa would like to chase against a New Zealand line up who played their Super Eights games on the slowish Sri Lankan tracks. The belter at Eden will allow Finn Allen, Tim Seifert, Glenn Phillips and Daryl Mitchell to at least think of a 200-plus total that would give them a chance to contain the Proteas. One interesting aspect would be how effective Lungi Ngidi's slower deliveries are on this track and if his wide Yorkers and slow leg cutters can keep the Black Cap batters at bay.

For New Zealand, Lockie Ferguson's first spell could decide the fate of the clash.

The SA vs NZ semi-final also

carries a lot of historical weight on two teams as they eye their maiden T20 World Cup title.

While this will be South Africa's fourth T20 World Cup semi-final, for New Zealand it will be their fifth appearance in the final four.

The two sides have already crossed paths once in this edition, with the Proteas chasing down 175 in just 17.1 overs for a seven-wicket win in Group D.

South Africa hold the advantage with 12 wins from 19 T20Is, while New Zealand have won seven. The Proteas are also unbeaten against the Black Caps at T20 World Cups, winning all five meetings.

The first semi-final has all the perfect ingredients for a thriller that will add colour to the 'Holi-Day'. - Agencies

GROWTH IN NON-TRADITIONAL MARKETS

T20 World Cup 2026 sets new digital benchmarks

DUBAI: The ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 in India and Sri Lanka has surpassed engagement records across its digital platforms - ICC.tv and the International Cricket Council's (ICC) social media channels—helping cricket expand its global footprint.

Having started with 20 teams, the tournament is down to its final four with India, England, South Africa and New Zealand securing their place in the semi-finals.

The tournament reached a fever pitch on Sunday, when India defeated former champions West Indies to seal the last remaining semi-final spot. The match set a new concurrent streaming record on ICC's streaming service, surpassing the previous peak set during the Men's T20 World Cup final in 2024. With the knockouts still to come, the record for the total number of users and total minutes watched on ICC.tv already exceeds the entirety of the 2024 T20 World Cup. Compared to this stage in the 2024 event, unique users have grown by 28 percent while total playtime has increased by 56 percent.

The ongoing edition of the World Cup has surpassed 10 billion video views across ICC's social media platforms and is on track to exceed the 16 billion record set in 2024.

More fans are enjoying the tournament in-depth than ever before. The average watch time per unique user has increased to 58 minutes this time around, a new high from the 47 minutes at the end of the Super 8 stage in 2024.

While multi-language feeds have expanded reach and accessibility in existing markets, growth



in non-traditional territories has contributed to a sharp rise in engagement and enriched fan experience. Three of the top five streams during the tournament have been non-English feeds, with ICC.tv broadcasting in Hindi, Urdu, Nepali, Japanese and Bahasa Indonesia. This focus on language accessibility has helped establish a connection with viewers in diverse cricketing communities around the world. The strongest percentage growth has come from non-traditional markets, which have seen a 69% increase in users.

Germany has recorded a 150 percent increase in unique users from 2024, followed by Italy at 136 percent. Japan and South Korea have also each delivered growth of more than 100 percent across both views and unique users.

These record-breaking trends demonstrate tangible progress against the ICC's stated ambition to deliver its most global and accessible event ever. - Agencies

BEST FINISH IN T20 WORLD CUP

Zimbabwe take lessons for the future

DELHI: It may not have been a fairytale finish for them, but Zimbabwe have been the story of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 so far.

Having missed out on the 2024 edition, the African side recorded their best finish at a T20 World Cup as they reached Super Eight as group toppers in this year's event.

Zimbabwe completed their World Cup stint on Sunday after a five-wicket defeat to South Africa. Though already out of semi-final contention by then, Zimbabwe came up with another spirited effort against the 2024 finalists and won over the New Delhi crowd.

"I'm incredibly proud of this bunch of boys," said Zimbabwe captain Sikandar Raza, who was named the Player of the Match against South Africa for his all-round display - 73 runs and 3/29.

"Not many teams or people gave us a chance.

"The ultimate goal for me and for my team was to earn respect. The fans and the crowd coming up for this so-called dead rubber and support Zimbabwe - it tells you that we are going home with a lot of respect and once you have gained that respect, I can hold my head high with my teammates and go home proudly."

After failing to make the cut for the previous edition, Zimbabwe secured their T20 World Cup 2026 spot through the Africa regional qualifiers.

At this year's World Cup, they signalled their intent with a dominant win over Oman and then former champions Australia. Zimbabwe then defeated co-hosts Sri Lanka to finish atop Group B, unbeaten. However, they fell short



in each of the three Super Eight matches - against West Indies, India and lastly South Africa.

"It has been a beautiful World Cup for Zimbabwe," Raza, 39, said.

"The lessons we have taken in the Super Eight has been a real eye-opener. We now know the combinations that we need. We now know what needs to be done for us to be a mid-table team to start with. We have now learned how tough it is at times to travel and play but we know now how to manage."

One of the finds of the tournament has been Zimbabwe opener Brian Bennett.

The 22-year-old is currently the second-highest run-scorer at the World Cup with 292 runs. In the six matches he played, he was dismissed only twice, earning him an incredible average of 146. His

highest score was the unbeaten 97 against India, even though his team failed to chase a mammoth 257 against the holders.

"When we had Brian Bennett sometime back, we could tell that this boy is going to be special but I can put my hand on my heart and tell you I never thought his improvement will be as swift," said Raza.

"All the credit goes to Bennett for how he has rocked up into this tournament and how consistent he has been. He's every captain's dream because he's an opener. If you have a good opener who's consistent, it takes half of your problems away."

It is an important period of play for Zimbabwe as they will co-host the 2027 ODI World Cup, along with South Africa and Namibia. Their Super Eight finish has also

guaranteed them a spot at the 2028 T20 World Cup, which will be held in Australia and New Zealand. To prepare for the challenge ahead, Raza believes Zimbabwe will have to leave home comforts and embrace travel travails.

"I'm a big believer of that - the lessons you learn when you're touring as a country are far more valuable than sometimes playing at home," he said. "I think as a Zimbabwean side, we need to learn to be uncomfortable so that we can learn those lessons. If Zimbabwe can host and travel away, our growth will be a lot faster. And I think that's what we need because we do not have a lot of time. The World Cup is going to come to us pretty quickly."

Their best T20 World Cup done, Zimbabwe are keen to push the bar further. - Agencies

VILAMOURA CHAMPIONSHIP

Oman Sail 49er duo secures Gold fleet spot at Portugal Grand Prix



MUSCAT: Oman Sail's high-performance 49er duo delivered a statement performance at the 8th Portugal Grand Prix - the Vilamoura Championship - breaking into the Gold fleet to finish 20th overall in a fiercely competitive, Olympic-level field of 47 teams.

Competing at Marina de Vilamoura, a premier European training base that hosted the 2025 Youth Sailing World Championships, Waleed Al Kindi and Ahmed Al Hasani rose through the ranks with a podium finish in Race 6 to secure Gold fleet status - the regatta's top tier.

They then underlined their progress with two top-10 finishes in the three Gold fleet finals races.

Guided by specialist coach Jacek Nowak, the pair held their own against many of the world's leading sailors across the Olympic classes - 49er, 49erFX, ILCA 6, ILCA 7 and 470 - in one of the strongest fleets of the season.



Hashim Al Rashdi, Oman Sail's Head Coach Performance, praised both the results and the team's character. He said: "Our team showed they have the talent to

compete at the top end of high-quality regattas. We need to build on this success, instill belief and keep working in training to reach our goals. What is especially pleasing about this performance is the resilience our team showed. They suffered setbacks and returned to the water with determination, and this is shown in the results. A fourth place, a third place, and two top-ten finishes amongst an Olympic-level fleet is a very good outcome for us."

For the sailors, the result marks both validation and motivation.

Al Hasani said: "While we are pleased with our performance and ending as part of the Gold fleet, we also feel we could do better. This is part of our mindset going forward now: we have proven we belong at the top and now we need to finish higher. This was a great experience and now we look ahead to the next event where the lessons learned here can be put into practice."

ROUND-UP

High-performance 2026 Toyota GR Corolla hits Oman market

The 2026 model has been engineered by the GAZOO Racing team through intense testing in the world’s most demanding driving environments to deliver a powerfully refined experience

MUSCAT: Saud Bahwan Automotive has officially launched the all-new 2026 Toyota GR Corolla in Oman, marking a new chapter for performance driving in the region. Introduced under the theme of being built for the track and ready for every day, this high-performance hatchback made its grand debut at a special event in Muscat.

The 2026 model has been engineered by the GAZOO Racing team through intense testing in the world’s most demanding driving environments to deliver a powerfully refined experience.

It features significant structural enhancements, including nearly 46 feet of additional high-strength adhesive used throughout the body to make the car stiffer and more stable. This ensures better grip, more consistent steering and a balanced feeling on any terrain, whether you are on a racing circuit or a city street.

The event highlighted the aggressive and functional design of the new GR Corolla, equipped with a specialized hood featuring functional gloss-black air



vents, a matching rear spoiler and 15-spoke black alloy wheels. Inside, the cabin features premium suede-trimmed sport seats with stylish gray stitching.

Further enhancing its performance and exclusivity, the GR Corolla also features a lightweight forged carbon-fiber roof to reduce weight, matte-black alloy wheels,

red stitching on the sport seats, and a head-up display that projects vital driving information directly onto the windshield, allowing the driver to keep their eyes on the road at all times.

Welcoming guests to the launch, a senior representative from Saud Bahwan Automotive remarked that it is a moment of great pride to

introduce the 2026 GR Corolla to customers in Oman.

They noted that this vehicle is more than just a car; it is a performance icon that brings the excitement of professional rally racing to everyday life. The spokesperson added that the GR Corolla is designed to excite the senses and encourage drivers to explore more,

Drivers can choose between two advanced gearboxes to suit their style. The 8-speed GAZOO Racing Direct Automatic Transmission uses smart technology to predict the best time to shift gears based on how the driver uses the brakes and gas pedal. This model also includes a “launch control” feature to help the car accelerate quickly from a standstill on a track.

For those who prefer a more traditional feel, the 6-speed intelligent manual transmission includes technology that automatically matches the engine speed during downshifts for a smoother ride. To keep everything running at the right temperature, the automatic models come with a dedicated cooling system, and an extra radiator for even better cooling during high-performance driving.

The interior of the GR Corolla is a showcase of modern technology and convenience. It features a large 12.3-inch digital display behind the steering wheel and an 8-inch touchscreen that connects wirelessly to your smartphone. The audio experience is equally impressive with an available six-speaker sound system. This system even features technology that plays sporty engine sounds through the speakers to help the driver feel more connected to the car’s power. Additionally, the smart key system allows you to lock, unlock, and start the car with a push-button while the key stays in your pocket.

Safety and stability are central to the all-new GR Corolla experience. The car comes standard with systems that monitor your blind spots and warn you of traffic behind you when reversing. A stability control system is also included to help maintain traction by automatically applying brakes to individual wheels if the car starts to slip. For the ultimate stopping power, the car is fitted with high-performance brakes featuring bright red calipers.

RAMADAN CULINARY INTRODUCTION



Musandam Restaurant at InterContinental Muscat hosts special pre-Ramadan gathering

MUSCAT: As the sun lowered itself gently into the Gulf and the sky over Muscat turned amber and rose, Musandam Restaurant at the InterContinental Muscat hosted a special pre-Ramadan evening gathering, a curated showcase designed to offer guests a glimpse of what awaits in the holy month. This was not yet Ramadan, but a carefully arranged preview, an invitation for media, influencers and distinguished guests to experience the flavours, hospitality and spirit that will define Iftar from sunset until 9:30 pm throughout the upcoming month.

At the heart of the evening stood Chef Ali al Joumaa, a Syrian chef whose culinary roots trace back to Damascus. Passionate about heritage and storytelling through food, he described the Ramadan concept as a tribute to tradition, presented with thoughtful refinement. “We wanted to develop the mezzeh people know and love,” he explained. “Not just hummus as you expect it, but hummus elevated, with avocado and new textures. Labneh paired with makdous and walnuts. Dishes that feel familiar, yet surprising.”

The cold mezzeh spread formed an elegant mosaic, avocado hummus beside smoky muhammara, mutabal enriched with cashews,

vine leaves neatly rolled, tabbouleh bright with parsley, foul bil zeit glistening in olive oil, fattoush crowned with grilled halloumi. Even kibbeh nayyeh was presented as a delicate tasting, a nod to Levantine authenticity.

The main courses reflected both deep history and regional diversity. Chef Ali highlighted basmaschkat, rice and meat wrapped and slow cooked, a dish with a history stretching back nearly four centuries. There was shish barak in a creamy yogurt sauce, Aleppo cherry kebab balancing savoury and sweet notes, stuffed mahashi, silky chicken molokhia and mousaka. From Oman, the centrepiece was lamb shuwa, honouring the Sultanate’s culinary heritage during Ramadan.

Sebastian Thomas, General Manager of the InterContinental Muscat, noted that the Ramadan season represents a significant moment in the hotel’s annual hospitality calendar. He emphasised that Musandam Restaurant reflects the hotel’s commitment to delivering authentic experiences rooted in quality and cultural identity. He added that the objective extends beyond presenting a distinctive menu, aiming instead to create a comprehensive atmosphere that celebrates the spirit of Ramadan

and reinforces refined family hospitality in the heart of Muscat.

For Matthew Piercy, Director of Food and Beverage at the InterContinental Muscat, the preview evening underscored a larger message. “We are hosting this Iftar showcase to give a sneak peek of what guests can expect at Musandam Restaurant during Ramadan,” he said. “With Chef Ali’s authentic Damascene heritage and our hotel’s long-standing reputation in Muscat, we want to create an atmosphere centred on family, togetherness and quality.”

The evening concluded on a sweet note. Um Ali infused with karak tea offered warmth and nostalgia, while Ramadan favourites, baklava, basbousa, luqaimat, Zainab fingers and maamoul dates, were presented alongside seasonal fruits, completing the culinary journey that will soon define the nightly Iftar experience.

Though it was only a preview, the essence of Ramadan was already present, hospitality, generosity and a reverence for tradition. When the holy month begins, Musandam Restaurant will transform each evening from sunset until 9:30 pm into a gathering shaped by heritage and shared moments, where food becomes not only sustenance, but connection.

PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGN

Dhofar Islamic launches car finance offer with competitive rate starting from 3.49%



MUSCAT: Dhofar Islamic - the Islamic Banking Window of Bank Dhofar- has announced the launch of a new promotional campaign during the holy month of Ramadan aimed at making car ownership more accessible through its Sharia-compliant car financing solutions. Featuring a highly competitive profit rate starting from 3.49%, the campaign combines ethical financing principles with simplified and fast processing to deliver greater value and convenience to customers.

Running throughout Ramadan, the campaign is open to both new and existing customers and is designed to stimulate car financing demand during the festive season – a time often associated with major family purchases and financial planning. By introducing an attractive and transparent offer, Dhofar Islamic seeks to help customers meet their mobility needs while remaining aligned with Islamic financial principles.

The campaign underscores Dhofar Islamic’s commitment to providing customer-centric, Shariah-compliant financial solutions that are competitive, accessible, and easy to obtain. With streamlined approval processes and dedicated customer support, applicants can expect a smooth financing journey from application to vehicle purchase.

Commenting on the campaign, Bilal Faiz Al Raiis , AGM & Head of Retail Banking emphasized that Ramadan is a season of reflection, generosity, and thoughtful decision-making, making it an ideal period to support customers with responsible and value-driven financing options. The promotional offer is structured to reduce financial strain while enabling customers to secure reliable transportation for their families and businesses.

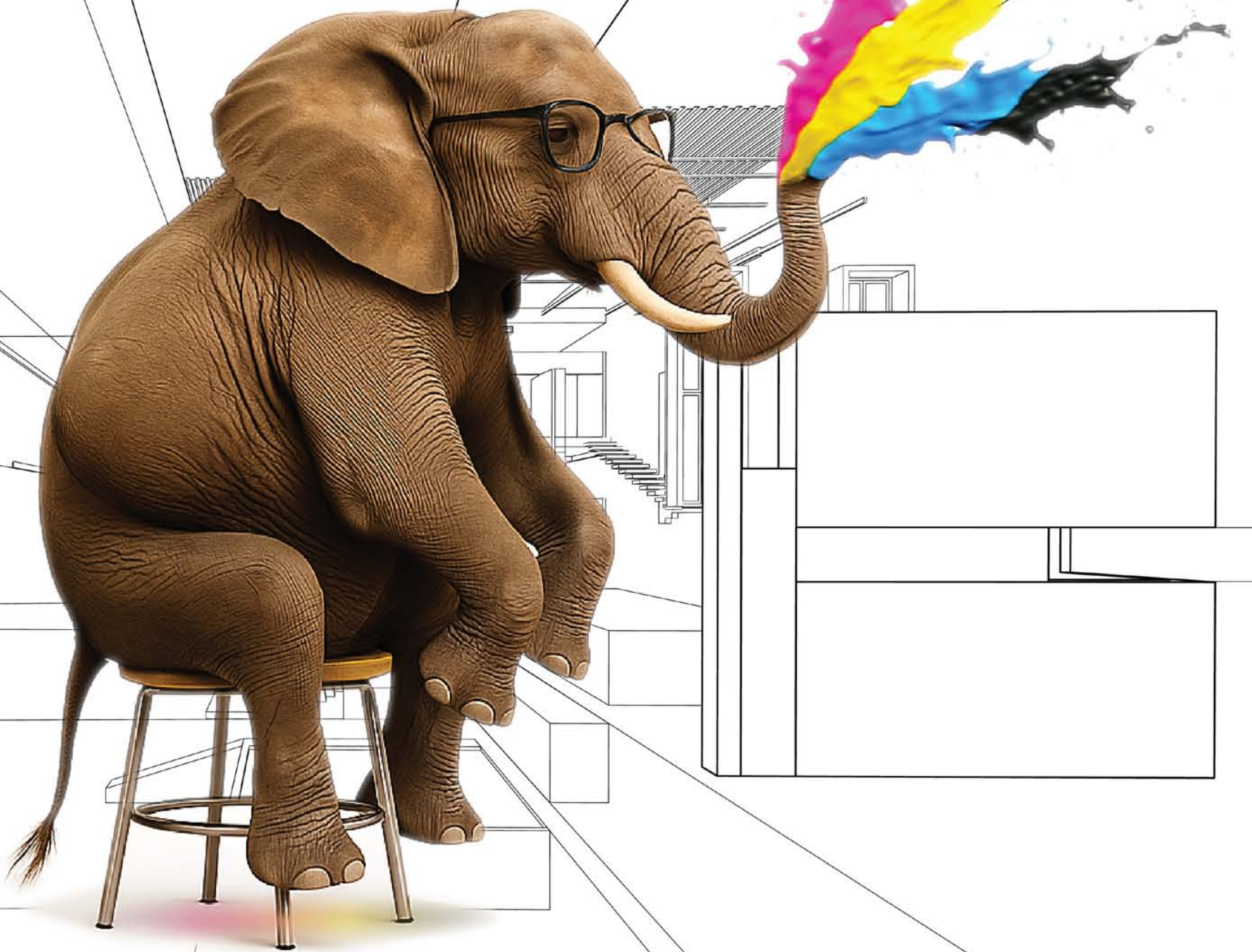
Beyond driving short-term sales, the initiative forms part of Dhofar Islamic’s broader strategy

to strengthen its position as a leading Shariah-compliant financial institution in Oman. By highlighting the competitiveness and appeal of its financing portfolio, the bank aims to deepen relationships with existing clients while attracting a new segment of customers seeking ethical and convenient banking solutions.

Dhofar Islamic’s car financing portfolio is known for its transparent structures, flexible tenors, and strict adherence to Shariah guidelines, offering customers peace of mind alongside financial flexibility. The Ramadan campaign builds on these strengths, reinforcing the bank’s reputation for delivering solutions that balance faith-based values with modern banking needs.

Customers are encouraged to visit the bank’s website or contact their nearest branch to learn more about the campaign and explore the benefits available during the promotional period.

We make your Business bigger than your problems.



We get you ahead on

- Booth production
- Event conceptualisation
- Event management

Wait, there's more

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