



OMAN MARKS WORLD WETLANDS DAY

Represented by the Environment Authority, the Sultanate of Oman marked the World Wetlands Day, which falls on 2 February every year. This year's theme, "Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future", underscores the vital role of wetlands in maintaining ecological balance and supporting biodiversity. The celebration also highlights wetlands' great importance in providing natural resources and environmental services that benefit human beings and human wellbeing. **>A2**



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OMAN'S NON-OIL EXPORTS DIVERSIFY RESOURCES, STIMULATE DEVELOPMENT

The volume of non-oil Omani exports until the end of June 2024 amounted to about OMR3.575bn

MUSCAT: The Omani non-oil exports are one of the main pillars for realising sustainable economic development in the Sultanate of Oman as they contribute to diversifying sources of national income and reducing dependence on oil as a major source of revenue.

Promoting Omani exports provides opportunities to expand the base of the national production, stimulate growth in various economic sectors and generate more job opportunities.

It also contributes to enhancing the competitiveness of Omani products on the global level, by improving quality, innovation, and benefiting from international markets. The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion is always keen to provide the best services to Omani exporters to enter new export markets and enhance current exports to international ones.

Acting in cooperation with all stakeholders from the government and private sectors, the ministry proposes promotional policies and plans to diversify the balance of trade exchange.

The non-oil Omani exports witnessed remarkable growth, accounting for 33 percent of total Omani exports at the end of the first half of last year (2024). The volume of non-oil Omani exports until the end of June 2024 amounted to about OMR3.575 billion, compared to the same pe-



ried in 2023, which amounted to OMR3.307 billion, recording an increase in the value of exports by more than 8 percent.

Mineral products topped the list of non-oil commodity exports, with a value of OMR1.304 billion compared to the same period in 2023, which reached OMR1 billion, an increase of 21.5 percent. Ordinary metal products and their products came in second place, with a value of OMR671 million, an increase of 7.3 percent, followed by plastic products and rubber products, with an export value of OMR473 million, an increase of 11.5 percent. The value of exports of other products amounted to about OMR437 million by the end of last June.

The Sultanate of Oman seeks to boost its presence in regional and global markets, to achieve economic diversification and increase the contribution of non-oil sectors to the gross domestic product.

Oman eyes many markets, including the Gulf countries, East Asia, the Indian subcontinent, African countries, the United States of America, Europe and China.

Ibtisam Ahmed Al Farooji, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion for Investment Promotion, explained that non-oil Omani exports are a fundamental pillar for boosting the national economy and achieving the economic diversification that the Sultanate of Oman seeks within its future vision.

She pointed out that there are wide opportunities for the growth of non-oil exports.

She affirmed that enhancing the competitiveness of the Omani products in global markets is an effective means of stimulating the local economy, increasing the contribution of the private sector, and opening new horizons for investment. **>A3**

EXECUTIVE REGULATION

Royal Decree promulgates Omani Nationality Law

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik yesterday issued Royal Decree No. 17/2025 on the promulgation of the Omani Nationality Law. The decree reads as follows: Article (1) stipulates that provisions of the Omani Nationality Law attached to this decree shall be enforced.

Article (2) states that the Min-

ister of Interior shall issue the Executive Regulation and decisions necessary for the implementation of the provisions of the attached law. Until such time, the existing regulations and decisions shall continue to be enforced in matters not specifically provided for in the attached law, without prejudice to its provisions.

Article (3) cancels Royal Decree No. 38/2014 on the Omani Nationality Law. It also cancels all that contradicts the attached law or contravenes its provisions.

Article (4) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from the day following its date of publishing. — **ONA**

SAYYID SHIHAB RECEIVES FRENCH MILITARY OFFICIAL

HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs received Gen. Thierry Burkhard, Chief of Defence Staff of France and his accompanying delegation in his office at Al Murtafa'a Garrison yesterday. During the meeting, both sides reviewed the bilateral relations between the two countries. They also discussed several topics of mutual interest. The meeting was attended by the Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF), the Ambassador of the French Republic to the Sultanate of Oman and the Military Attaché of the French embassy in Muscat. — **ONA**



TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Forum explores tourism investment

1 The First Arab Forum for Tourism and Investment explores means of enhancing tourism investments in Arab countries. **>A2**

OMAN Oman participates in Baghdad fair

2 The Sultanate of Oman takes part as a guest of honour in the 48th Baghdad International Fair. **>A5**

MARKET Sahalnout sewage project inaugurated

3 Phase 1 of a sewage network project in Sahalnout area was inaugurated on Sunday in the Wilayat of Salalah. **>B1**

TOUR OF OMAN 2025

A thrilling challenge awaits cyclists

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The 14th edition of the Tour of Oman, running from February 8-12, 2025, is set to ignite the cycling season with a challenging mix of terrains and high-stakes competition.

Riders will face a tough combination of sprinter-friendly stages and intense mountain climbs, with the climbers particularly eyeing Jabal Al Akhdhar (Green Mountain) summit to crown the overall winner.

Reigning champion Adam Yates will defend his title against a strong field, including top challengers like David Gaudu, Diego Ulissi, and Mauri Vansevenant.

With the title likely to be decided in the race's two mountain stages, the 2025 edition promises a thrilling contest from start to finish.

Muscat Classic on February 7

Before the Tour of Oman, the action begins with the third edi-



tion of the Muscat Classic on February 7.

This 170.3 km race promises to be a battleground for puncheurs, with an exhilarating finale featuring climbs like Bausher Al Amerat and Al Jissah.

Last year's winner Finn Fisher-Black will return to defend his title, and riders such as Valentin Madouas (Groupama-FDJ) and Diego Ulissi (XDS Astana) will add to the intensity, making it a must-watch prelude to the main event. **>A5**

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Arab forum explores tourism investment

The forum focuses on highlighting economic and tourism components in the Sultanate of Oman

AL BURAIMI: The First Arab Forum for Tourism and Investment explores means of enhancing tourism investments in Arab countries. It also focuses on highlighting economic and tourism components in the Sultanate of Oman. The two-day event is organised by the Governorate of Al Buraimi in cooperation with Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry's branch in Al Buraimi.

Minister of Information
The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Dr. Abdullah Nasser Al Harrasi, Minister of Information. Sayyid Dr. Hamad Ahmed Al Busaidi, Governor of Al Buraimi said in his speech that the forum con-



stitutes an opportunity to augment Arab cooperation in the fields of tourism and investment. The Governorate of Al Buraimi, he added, has promising economic and tourism components that position it as a strategic gateway between Oman and the GCC states. Two discussion panels were held during the first day of the forum. The first touched on means of developing and managing tourism destinations while the second panel reviewed the role of regional integration in achieving tourism integration. -ONA

SHURA COUNCIL PANEL

Discussion held on State Receivables Collection Law draft



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Economic and Financial Committee of the Shura Council hosted a group of specialists from the Ministry of Finance on Sunday morning to discuss the draft State Receivables Collection Law, referred to the Council by the government. The session aligns with the implementation of Article 47 of the Oman Council Law, which stipulates that draft laws prepared by the government are submitted to the Oman Council for approval or amendment before being presented directly to His Majesty the Sultan for ratification and enactment. During the meeting, the committee members received a comprehensive briefing from ministry officials on the draft law's provisions, legislative implications, and its impact on existing regulations. The Ministry of Finance, as the principal authority overseeing the draft law, outlined its objectives, justifications, and the legal frame-

work proposed to streamline the collection of state dues. The committee members raised several observations and recommendations on the draft law's articles and proposed amendments. The discussions also addressed challenges faced by the Ministry in recovering outstanding financial obligations owed to the state by individuals and corporations. Key Objectives of the Draft Law:- Regulate the mechanism for recovering state funds and financial dues from individuals and entities. - Enhance collection efficiency by establishing a clear legal framework and effective enforcement mechanisms. The meeting was held as part of the fourth meeting of the second ordinary session (2024-2025) of the Shura Council's tenth legislative term. It was chaired by Ahmed Saeed Al Sharqi, Chairman of the Economic and Financial Committee, in the presence of the committee members.

Annual Industrial Survey for 2023 Announcement (13/2024)

The Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion announces that the deadline for submitting the Annual Industrial Survey forms for the year 2023 is February 13, 2025. All industrial establishments with industrial licenses, whether located within industrial, economic, or free zones or outside them, are urged to cooperate by submitting the required data before the mentioned deadline. Data can be submitted through the link sent to establishments via text messages. For further inquiries, please contact the following numbers:

(98061908 - 91288065 - 92240179 - 98926578)

The Ministry urges all industrial establishments to submit their data via the Industrial Survey Platform. Please note that commercial records of establishments that do not complete the required submission within the specified timeframe will be suspended.

We hope for everyone's cooperation in serving the public interest.

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ECOLOGICAL BALANCE

Oman marks World Wetlands Day



MUSCAT: Represented by the Environment Authority, the Sultanate of Oman on Sunday marked the World Wetlands Day, which falls on 2 February every year. This year's theme, "Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future", underscores the vital role of wetlands in maintaining ecological balance and supporting biodiversity. The celebration also highlights wetlands' great importance in providing natural resources and environmental services that benefit human beings and human wellbeing. World Wetlands Day provides an opportunity to raise environmental awareness, with special emphasis on wetlands' significance in preserving life on planet Earth. An official from the Environment Authority said that wetlands in the Sultanate of Oman represent an important source of fresh water, contributing to its purification and storage, which contributes to supporting agricultural, environmental, social and economic activities. He added that these areas play a fundamental role in mitigating the effects of climate change, by acting as natural carbon sinks, in addition to being a pillar for

preserving biodiversity, regulating water quality and purifying it from pollutants. He pointed out that the Environment Authority has implemented many initiatives and projects in the past year to protect wetlands, including a project to plant 4 million mangrove seeds in several coastal governorates, and to plant 54,000 mangrove seedlings. It also implemented a project to study changes in coastal and inland wetlands, which targeted 59 sites, and a project to survey birds and life on wetlands, in addition to starting the implementation of the Oman Blue Carbon Project - Phase One. He pointed out that the Authority is working to enhance regional and international efforts to preserve and protect wetlands, while adhering to the highest international and local standards, in addition to the existence of regional cooperation represented in the transfer of expertise and providing sister countries with mangrove seeds. He pointed out that Oman officially joined the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in 2013, reflecting its commitment to preserving this unique ecosystem and contributing to international cooperation to protect it. -ONA

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COMMENTARY

The beauty of the night sky



SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

While parking my car, I stopped in the middle because my eyes were stuck up in the night sky and then someone honked behind me.

I raised my hand apologetically then parked my car on the right space and got out. The car that was behind me was a white and cream Rolls Royce. Everyone in that car park was looking at it. The driver opened the door and walked out and strutted proudly towards the shopping complex.

He was not my focal point so I looked up at the sky the moment I got out of my car. Seconds later, someone patted me on my shoulder and said, "didn't you see the car behind

you?" It was a friend and he was referring to the Rolls Royce. He forced me to lower my gaze and look at him. He started talking about the car and how beautifully crafted it was. I just smiled while listening at him but occasionally looked up at the sky. He stopped talking and saw that my interest was somewhere else.

He followed my gaze and then asked, "what's so interesting up there?"

Obviously he did not see what I was looking at. For him, the night sky was completely opaque. I just smiled instead of giving him an answer. He shook his head, patted my shoulder sympathetically and walked away while still admiring the car that cost the same amount as a small house. He obviously thought I temporarily lost my mind but he was not far from the truth.

And this is the truth. How could I admire something on wheels that was destined for a rubbish heap when up there on the sky was the beauty that has survived and will survive all ages? I shook my head in disbelief then took out a chair from the boot of my car and sat at the parking space to admire the sky. It was a perfect crescent moon with a bright star near its curve. The rest of the sky was star-

less. I was wondering where they have all gone to. It was as if the two celestial bodies had a tacit understanding with the heavens. They wanted exclusivity of the sky and spread their shine without competition. A thought crossed my mind while I was watching them. Tens of billions of people before me watched them many lifetimes ago and they are still up there. The incredible thing is that they never lose their shine.

Wars have been fought, bombs exploded, people have been buried, kings and generals have come and gone and they are still up there shining over all the calamities on earth without prejudice. At the same time, under the same sky, we are all protected in a cocoon of life that we all take for granted. I sat there long enough to watch the Rolls Royce owner walk back and drive away. I was also there when my friend came back with his bags of shopping.

He stopped where I was sitting and followed my gaze. He asked me what I was looking at. I decided to satisfy his curiosity and told him about the crescent moon and the star. He rolled his eyes, smiled sympathetically at me, patted my back and walked to his car without adding another word. He thought I was going crazy.

RAM launches programme to support sustainable development

The initiative reflects the Academy's commitment to strategic initiatives that enhance governance, planning, and economic development across Oman



MUSCAT: The Royal Academy of Management (RAM), in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy, has launched the "Governorates' Planning and Economic Capacity-Building Programme."

The launch ceremony was held under the patronage of Dr. Said Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy.

The initiative reflects the Academy's commitment to strategic initiatives that enhance governance, planning, and economic development across Oman's governorates.

The programme aims to equip national leaders within the governorates with the skills needed to support comprehensive and sustainable development while maximising the effective utilisation of resources in line with each governorate's distinct competitive advantages.

It also seeks to promote the transition towards administrative and economic decentralisation by strengthening the capabilities

of executive department personnel, ensuring they can contribute effectively to regional development efforts.

Dr. Ali Qassim Al Lawati, President of the Royal Academy of Management, stated that the launch of this programme is part of the Academy's ongoing efforts, in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy, to empower leadership at various levels. He emphasised that it reinforces the principle of integration among governorates and supports executive departments in fulfilling their developmental, economic, and social roles.

He further highlighted that the

programme complements the Academy's existing initiatives, which aim to strengthen leadership communities at different levels within the governorates.

The programme focuses on developing the capabilities of professionals working in local and municipal institutions, equipping them with essential skills in strategic planning, budgeting, performance measurement, and the application of national and international best practices. This will enable them to undertake a more active role in achieving the development priorities of their governorates.

A key feature of the programme is its ongoing professional support for participants beyond the training period. This includes tailored professional consultations to assist in the implementation of plans and initiatives within their respective governorates.

These consultations aim to ensure the effective application of acquired skills, address any challenges encountered in the workplace, and promote sustained impact.

Dr. Nasser Rashid Al Maawali, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Economy, emphasised that this programme represents a significant step towards strengthening sustainable economic development within the governorates.

By building the capacity of professionals in financial and investment planning, the programme empowers them to utilise modern tools for budgeting and effectively managing development projects.

Furthermore, it reinforces the principle of economic decentralisation by enhancing the ability of governorates to formulate data-driven development plans, ensuring optimal resource allocation and fostering a thriving local

investment environment.

He affirmed that the Ministry of Economy remains committed to supporting such initiatives to ensure alignment and coordination across development sectors, contributing to the realisation of Oman Vision 2040.

The programme is structured around five key modules: local governance and decentralisation, economic decentralisation, development budgeting, contract management, and economic analysis and strategic planning, with a focus on investment promotion.

The curriculum integrates interactive learning modules, field visits, team projects, and strategic presentations, ensuring that participants gain practical skills relevant to their roles.

The Royal Academy of Management operates with a strategic and structured approach to fulfil its mission.

It continues to launch specialised and impactful programmes and initiatives that cater to various sectors across the Sultanate of Oman, ensuring that national development efforts remain dynamic, well-integrated, and future-focused. -ONA

COMMERCE MINISTRY

Plans to boost Omani exports

<FROM A1 In her turn, Lubna Mohammed Al Harthy, Head of the Export Development Department at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, pointed out that marketing Omani products outside Oman comes through the integration of efforts between government units, companies and exporters, in addition to benefiting from regional and international trade agreements.

She added that the ministry has devised plans to promote Omani

exports abroad and explore new foreign markets.

The ministry, added Lubna, has also organised a number of events during the past period in coordination and integration with the Omani Products Promotion Committee, which comprises the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn), and the Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development. -ONA



EXCHANGED VIEWS

SAF Chief of Staff receives French Chief of Defence Staff

MUSCAT: Vice Admiral Abdullah Khamis Al Raisi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces received yesterday Gen. Thierry Burkhard, Chief of Defence Staff of France.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views and reviewed several military matters of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by Brigadier Hamed Abdullah Al Balushi, Assistant SAF Chief of



Staff for Operations and Planning, several senior COSAF officers and the military attaché of the French embassy in Muscat. -ONA



National Museum inaugurates Russian Seasons, State Hermitage Museum’s Corner

This initiative is part of broader efforts to enhance cultural diplomacy with the National Museum

MUSCAT: As part of the celebrations marking forty years of diplomatic relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Russian Federation, the National Museum held a press conference on Saturday to inaugurate the “Russian Seasons” in the Sultanate of Oman.

This initiative is being organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation and the ANO “Russian Seasons”.

Additionally, the Museum inaugurated the State Hermitage Museum’s Corner titled “Gifts of Bukharan and Central Asian Emirs to the Russian Imperial Court”.

The event was attended by Olga Lyubimova, Russian Minister of Culture, along with senior officials, members of the press, and cultural and museum specialists.

During the conference, Jamal Hassan Al Moosawi, Secretary-General of the National Museum, presented a cultural and museum cooperation timeline between the National Museum and the Russian Federation.

While Olga Lyubimova, Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation highlighted the key activities and events of the “Russian Seasons” that will take place throughout the year in partnership with various institutions in the Sultanate of Oman.

These events will span different cultural fields, including theatre, music, and literature.

The Secretary-General of the National Museum, expressed his appreciation stating: “Today, we celebrate the inauguration of the “Russian Seasons” in the Sultanate of Oman, as well as the opening of the second exhibition “Gifts of Bukharan and Central Asian Emirs to the Russian Imperial Court” at the National Museum in cooperation with the State Hermitage Museum in Saint Petersburg. This event comes in an effort to enhance cultural exchange and introduce the civilisational heritage of both countries, which share historical relations that span centuries and are committed to strengthening these relations. This coincides with the celebration of the 40th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Russian Federation. This initiative is part of broader efforts to enhance cultural diplomacy, with the National Museum—being a key institution representing Oman’s historical and cultural dimensions—playing an active role in fostering these relations through collaboration with Russian cultural and museum institutions, particularly the Russian Ministry of Culture.”



ing a key institution representing Oman’s historical and cultural dimensions—playing an active role in fostering these relations through collaboration with Russian cultural and museum institutions, particularly the Russian Ministry of Culture.”

He added: “The exhibition marks the second collaboration, following the success of the previous exhibition, which shed light on masterpieces of Islamic civilisation in Russia. This latest exhibition coincides with the ongoing “Oman Gallery” exhibition at the State Hermitage Museum, titled “The Omani Empire Between Asia and Africa”.

This parallel exhibition, running until 16 February 2025, highlights the Omani Empire in Asia and Africa, underlining Oman’s historical role as a cultural and economic bridge between the Arabian Peninsula, West Asia, and the East African coast.”

In her turn, the Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation, remarked “Holding the main international Russian project in the year of celebrating the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries is a significant and extremely important step in developing and strengthening the Russian-Omani cultural cooperation. Despite the rapid development of bilateral cooperation in various spheres of culture, it is our museums that remain its “flag-

ships”. Their strong friendship is based on the common approach of Russia and Oman to the careful attitude to and preservation of the cultural and historical heritage, traditional values and spiritual wealth of our peoples.”

She further stated “It is therefore symbolic that the “Russian Seasons” in the Sultanate of Oman are opening with a museum project. Today we present the State Hermitage’s Corner in the National Museum of Oman. The exhibition focuses on the strong long-standing ties between Russia and the peoples of the East, introducing the unique gifts of the Eastern rulers to the Russian imperial court. I hope that the “Russian Seasons” and an encounter with the best examples of Russian art will give memorable and vivid impressions to the residents and guests of the Sultanate of Oman.

Hosting the exhibition “Gifts from Bukharan and Central Asian Emirs to the Russian Imperial Court” is part of the State Hermitage Museum’s initiative that was launched in 2021.

This second exhibition highlights a unique collection of luxurious artefacts crafted in Bukhara, Khiva, Khwarazm, and Kokand, which are brought as part of a long-term lending arrangement to the National Museum in the Sultanate of Oman from the State Hermitage Museum in Saint Petersburg, Russia.

The State Hermitage Museum,



originally founded as an Imperial museum, houses a significant collection of artefacts presented to the Russian Tsars as diplomatic gifts from Central Asian Emirates: Bukhara, Khiva, and Kokand.

The collection of gifts presented by Emirs from Bukhara and Khiva and sent to Saint Petersburg, the capital of the Russian Empire at the time, includes a fascinating variety of weapons, horse harnesses and trappings, personal ornaments and jewellery set with gemstones, silverware, carpets and tapestries, and textiles and embroideries.

Following diplomatic protocol, official visits always included a mutual exchange of gifts. Notable among these visits were those of Bukharan Emirs, including Sayyid Abd al-Ahad Khan (reigned 1885–1910 CE) and Sayyid Mir Alim Khan (reigned 1911–1920 CE), as well as visits by the Khans of Khiva (former capital of Khwarazm) Muhammad Rahim Khan (reigned 1864–1910 CE) and Isfandiyar Khan (reigned 1910–1918 CE).

The artefacts displayed in this exhibition were presented by the rulers of Khiva and Bukhara and their delegations to the last two Russian Emperors, Alexander III (1881–1894 CE) and Nicholas II (1894–1917 CE).

This prestigious collection of artefacts of high social status showcases the traditional decorative techniques and distinctive artistic trends characteristic of



jewellery and weaponry-making in Central Asia in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The event also featured a live musical performance by the Russian Berlin Quartet, followed by a screening of the documentary “al-Khanjar,” produced by Russia Today Arabic (RT) in cooperation with the National Museum and the Ministry of Information in the Sultanate of Oman.

The film takes viewers on a journey exploring the various styles of Omani khanjars across different regions of the Sultanate. It also follows the story of a remarkable khanjar belonging to Sultan Hamoud bin Mohammed al-Busaidi, Sultan of Zanzibar (1896–1902), which has been loaned from the National Museum in Muscat to the State Hermitage Museum in Saint Petersburg. This unique khanjar is currently on display in the “Oman Gallery” exhibition within the renowned Russian Museum.

The “Russian Seasons” project is an International cultural project Russian Seasons under the Government of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the presentation of Russian culture abroad. Its mission is to present Russia as a country that carefully preserves and develops its rich cultural heritage and traditions.

The themes and format of Rus-

sian Seasons are diverse: from classical music concerts and theater productions to film festivals, art exhibitions, educational projects, lectures and master classes. In total, more than (13) million viewers have attended Russian Seasons over the course of its existence.

The brand Russian Seasons appeared more than a hundred years ago, when in (1908) the famous artist Sergei Diaghilev started to organize performances of Russian opera and ballet stars in Europe and America, alongside with the fine arts exhibitions.

Meanwhile, the State Hermitage Museum in Saint Petersburg is one of the largest museums in the world, housing a collection of over three million artefacts. Established in 1764, it is also one of the oldest museums globally and one of the most important tourist landmarks in Russia.

The museum is renowned for its vast complex, including the Winter Palace, a historical landmark in its own right. The museum’s collection spans diverse cultures, featuring artworks from Eastern Europe, Russia, Ancient Greece and Rome, the Near and Far East, and Central Asia.

It also houses an extensive numismatic collection covering antiquity to modern times, as well as weapons from Western Europe, the Middle East, and Russia, alongside numerous archaeological discoveries.

Each year, the museum welcomes approximately (5.3) million visitors. Its (500) exhibition galleries display over seventeen thousand paintings, (12.000) thousand sculptures, more than 1 million coins and medals, (800.000) archaeological artefacts, and over (360.000) applied arts objects. Additionally, the museum holds more than (600.000) graphic art pieces, making it one of the world’s most significant cultural institutions. -ONA

5-DAY EVENT

Arts Week activities kick off at Oman Across Ages Museum

MANAH: The activities of the Arts Week organised by Oman Across Ages Museum kicked off yesterday.

The 5-day event, held in cooperation with a number of official and private establishments, includes many training programmes in various fields of art, in addition to guided tours and communication with a group of artists.

Eng. Al Yaqdhan Abdullah Al Harthi, Director General of Oman Across Ages Museum, said that the event targets children, youth and people interested in the field of arts.

Al Harthi added that the event enhances inspiration and provides new ways to connect generations with their cultural identity through art.

Al Harthi explained that the week’s activities include programmes presented by specialists from the Oman Across Ages Museum, the Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development (ASMED), private universities and colleges and theatre directors and actors. -ONA





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ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE

INTERNATIONAL FAIR

Oman aims to enhance trade and investment with Iraq



BAGHDAD: The Sultanate of Oman is taking part as a guest of honour in the 48th session of Baghdad International Fair.

The participation aims at enhancing trade and investment relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Iraq, and opening new horizons for cooperation in various economic sectors, in addition to backing partnership opportunities between Omani and Iraqi companies and utilising the available investment opportunities.

Oman's delegation took part in the opening of the economic forum accompanying Bagdad International Fair, which witnesses the participation of 20 countries and more than 1,000 companies.

This huge participation makes the event as a major platform for showcasing products and services and strengthening business partnerships between business persons from different countries around the world.

Oman's delegation was headed by Qais Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion.

The Omani delegation met



with Ghassan Farhan, Iraqi Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce. Members of the delegation also held a meeting with some Iraqi business persons to explore investment opportunities and discuss means of enhancing cooperation in the areas of trade, industry and logistic services.

In a statement, the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion stressed the importance of expanding trade relations, noting that the Iraqi market represents a promising opportunity for investment.

On his turn, Faisal Abdullah

Al Rowas, Chairman of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) underlined the significance of enhancing economic partnership between business persons of the two countries. He pointed out that trade and investment cooperation would contribute to supporting joint economic growth and creating new opportunities for the private sector.

The Sultanate of Oman is participating in the fair with a pavilion that comprises more than 30 Omani companies representing various economic sectors, such as industry, trade, logistics, energy and technology. -**ONA**

BILATERAL RELATIONS

Oman, Iraq to boost relations

BAGHDAD: Mohammed Shia Al Sudani, Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq received in Baghdad on Sunday Qais Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations.

They also explored means of boosting cooperation, especially in economic and business fields to enhance partnerships for tackling economic challenges in the region.



The Iraqi Prime Minister affirmed keenness to achieve more

integration in the economic and business relations with Oman. -**ONA**

TOUR OF OMAN

< FROM A1 Cycle race to feature 18 teams

The Tour of Oman will kick off with a flat, high-speed stage from Bausher to the dramatic Bimmah Sink Hole, where sprinters like Olav Kooij (Visma-Lease a Bike), Fernando Gaviria (Movistar), and Giacomo Nizzolo (Q36.5) will vie for the win. The following day, the peloton will tackle the steep climbs of Yitti Hills and the explosive Qantab climb, setting the stage for intense GC (general classification) battles.

Stage 3, featuring the tough Eastern Mountain (4.6 km at 8.5%), promises further selection, with the toughest riders, including Yates, ready to make their mark.

The final showdown will occur on the mostly flat stage 4, leading to the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre, but the final GC contenders will emerge during the final stage up Jabal Al Akhdar. The 5.7 km climb, with an average gradient of 10.5%, is where riders like Yates, Vansevenant, and Gaudu will fight for the prestigious title.

The race will feature 18 teams, including the UAE Team Emirates-XRG led by Adam Yates, alongside other UCI WorldTour teams like Movistar and Groupama-FDJ. Promising newcomers like Cian Uijtdebroeks (Visma-Lease a Bike) and David Gaudu (Groupama-

FDJ) will also bring fresh energy to the race, ensuring an unpredictable and thrilling competition.

Stage breakdown: Muscat Classic (7 February): Al Mouj > Al Bustan (174 km).

Stage 1 (8 February): Baushar > Bimmah Sink Hole (170 km).

Stage 2 (9 February): Al Rustaq Fort > Yitti Hills (203 km).

Stage 3 (10 February): Fanja > Eastern Mountain (181 km).

Stage 4 (11 February): Oman Across Ages Museum > Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (181.5 km). Stage 5 (12 February): Imty > Jabal Al Akhdar (Green Mountain) (139 km).

REMEMBRANCE



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OMAN

JCCP CONFERENCE



Oman and Japan to boost cooperation

TOKYO: Represented by the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, the Sultanate of Oman participated in Japan Cooperation Centre for Petroleum and Sustainable Energy (JCCP) conference held in Tokyo. The ministry's delegation to the conference was headed by Mohsin Hamad Al Hadhrami, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals. Al Hadhrami stressed the need to build national competencies to keep pace with the requirements of energy transition. He also underlined the need to bolster international cooperation to help better achieve sustainable development and enhance the use of clean energy sources. Al Hadhrami conferred with a number of officials from the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. The two sides discussed the latest developments in energy transition, including Japan's related policy. They also explored the role of renewable energy and hydrogen in electricity generation, heavy industries and the logistics sector.

ON MASIRAH ISLAND

Atana Hotels Group hosts annual Raeei Conference in Masirah

MASIRAH ISLAND: Atana Hotels Group successfully hosted its annual Raeei Conference, bringing together hotel managers from all Atana properties for a transformative leadership event. Held on the picturesque Masirah Island, the conference embodied the essence of its name—Raeei, meaning “the guide” in Arabic—symbolising leadership, vision, teamwork, and ambition. Masirah Island provided the perfect backdrop for this year's Raeei Conference with its untouched natural beauty and serene coastal landscapes. As one of Atana's key destinations, Masirah's amazing environment fostered deep discussions, strategic planning, and a renewed sense of purpose among the leadership team. The conference was designed as an immersive experience, encouraging hotel managers to reflect on their leadership roles while reinforcing Atana Hotels Group's commitment to excellence in hospitality. Throughout the event, attendees engaged in insightful discussions, workshops, and team-building activities, all tailored to enhance collaboration and innovation across the group. This year's Raeei Conference focused on critical areas that will shape the future of Atana Hotels



Group, including: **Leadership & Vision:** Defining strategic goals and reinforcing Atana's identity in the Omani hospitality landscape. **Guest experience & service excellence:** Exploring innovative ways to elevate guest satisfaction. **Sustainability & cultural integration:** Strengthening Atana's commitment to responsible tourism while preserving Omani heritage. **Teamwork & cross-property collaboration:** Encouraging knowledge-sharing and fostering a unified approach across all hotels. Special keynote sessions featured industry experts and Atana's senior leadership, who provided valuable insights into market trends, digital transformation in hospitality, and operational efficiencies. Words from Marius Wolmarans, Group General Manager Speaking at the conference, Marius Wolmarans, Group General Manager of Atana Hotels, emphasized the significance of the event in shaping the future of the brand: “Raeei is more than just a conference—it is a movement that defines our leadership, our values, and our commitment to hospitality excellence. Hosting this gathering on Masirah Island reflects our deep connection to Oman's natural beauty and cultural heritage, which are at the heart of Atana's identity. Our collective goal is to continuously elevate our guest experience while fostering a culture of innovation, teamwork, and sustainability across all our hotels.”

He further added, “Each of our hotel managers plays a vital role in driving the success of Atana Hotels. Through Raeei, we align our vision, share knowledge, and strengthen our leadership to ensure that Atana remains a leading name in Omani hospitality.” As the conference concluded, the attendees left Masirah Island with a renewed sense of motivation and a clear roadmap for the year ahead. The Raeei Conference reaffirmed Atana Hotels Group's commitment to continuous improvement, ensuring that each property operates with purpose, passion, and a shared vision. With the insights and strategies developed during Raeei 2025, Atana Hotels Group is set to embark on another year of innovation, collaboration, and exceptional hospitality across Oman.

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NDC DELEGATION

Judiciary's role elaborated

MUSCAT: Addressing a delegation from the National Defence College participating in the 12th National Defence Course, the Supreme Judiciary Council today elaborated on the roles and tasks of the judiciary and the powers of the Supreme Court. Sayyid Khalifa bin Said Al Busaidi, Chairman of the Supreme Court, delivered a speech in which he stressed that litigation is a protected and guaranteed right for all people and that the Omani judiciary enjoys complete independence and full and continuous support from the state. Sayyid Khalifa explained the role of the judiciary in preserving the security of the homeland and enhancing national security. For his part, Issa Hamad Al Azri, Secretary-General of the Supreme Judiciary Council, gave a presentation on the development of the judiciary in the Sultanate of Oman in terms of laws and the structure of the judiciary. — DNA

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AIRSTRIKES, RAIDS, AND DEMOLITIONS

Israelis continue their wide-scale assault on Jenin for 13th day

JENIN: Israeli occupation forces continued their large-scale assault on the city of Jenin and its refugee camp for the 13th consecutive day, carrying out airstrikes, raids, and demolitions, while displacing thousands of residents and escalating violence across the area.

Sunday morning, a 45-year-old man was wounded by live ammunition in the Jabriyat neighbourhood, according to the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, which reported treating the victim for a gunshot wound to the thigh.

The latest violence follows a deadly escalation on Saturday when Israeli forces bombed a group of young men in the eastern neighborhood of Jenin, killing 14-year-old Ahmad Al-Saadi and wounding two others. Hours later, a targeted airstrike on a motorcycle killed two more Palestinians, Noor Al-Saadi and Tammam Al-Saadi, and injured another individual.

Meanwhile, in the nearby town of Qabatiya, an Israeli drone strike on a vehicle killed two more young men, Saleh Zakarneh and Abed Alawneh, bringing the total death toll in Jenin governorate to 24



since the start of the assault, with dozens more injured.

Meantime, Israeli military reinforcements continued to pour into Jenin and its refugee camp, as the occupation forces expanded their campaign of destruction. Several neighborhoods in the camp witnessed widespread demolitions, with Israeli troops forcing residents of many buildings to

Jarrar further stated that nearly 100 homes in the Jenin refugee camp have been completely demolished, calling it a humanitarian catastrophe. He attributed the ongoing military assault to the far-right Israeli government's political agenda aimed at consolidating control over the occupied West Bank.

Israeli occupation disrupts 2,637 cases

The Palestinian Supreme Judicial Council has revealed that 2,637 legal cases were postponed in the courts of Jenin and Tulkarm due to the ongoing Israeli military incursions into the cities. The Judicial Media Centre documented the case delays through the "Mezan" program, tracking the impact of the court closures until January 30, 2025.

According to the council, the Jenin and Tulkarm court complexes were forcibly shut down during Israeli military attacks. The Jenin Court of First Instance and Magistrate Court was closed on January 23, 2025, following an Israeli invasion of the city.

On January 27, 2025, the Is-

raeli forces attacked the Tulkarm Court of First Instance, damaging and demolishing its entrance and blocking it with earth barriers in an attack on justice and the rule of law, directly challenging the values upheld within Palestinian society.

The disruption extended beyond Jenin and Tulkarm. The closure of checkpoints and military barriers between Palestinian cities and villages hampered the ability of judges and staff to travel, further affecting the work of courts in northern West Bank districts.

The postponed cases at the Jenin court amounted to 1,989, broken down as follows: 89 cases in the Execution Division, 8 cases in the Juvenile Court of Jenin, 25 cases in the Magistrate Juvenile Court, 531 cases in the Court of First Instance, 187 cases in the Reconciliation Court, and 1,148 cases in the Magistrate Court.

In Tulkarm, 648 cases were delayed, with the following breakdown: 37 cases in the Execution Division, 7 in the Juvenile Court of Tulkarm, 134 in the Court of First Instance, 111 in the Reconciliation Court, and 359 in the Magistrate Court. — **Wafa**

Trump imposes new 10% tariffs on China and 25% on Mexico, Canada



Trump said that the tariffs have been implemented to protect US citizens from the threats posed by illegal immigration and drug trafficking



WASHINGTON DC: United States President Donald Trump has announced a 25 per cent tariff on imports from Canada and Mexico, as well as a 10 per cent tariff on goods from China, citing concerns over illegal immigration and the smuggling of drugs, including fentanyl.

The US President has taken action under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), emphasising the need to protect Americans and fulfil a campaign promise.

Trump said that the tariffs have been implemented to protect US citizens from the threats posed by illegal immigration and drug trafficking.

"Today, I have implemented a 25% Tariff on Imports from Mexico and Canada (10% on Canadian Energy), and a 10% additional Tariff on China. This was done through the International Emergency Eco-

nomc Powers Act (IEEPA) because of the major threat of illegal aliens and deadly drugs killing our Citizens, including fentanyl. We need to protect Americans, and it is my duty as President to ensure the safety of all. I made a promise on my Campaign to stop the flood of illegal aliens and drugs from pouring across our Borders, and Americans overwhelmingly voted in favour of it," Trump wrote on Truth Social.

Trump has repeatedly said he will follow through with his threat to hit imports from Canada and Mexico on 1 February.

During the election campaign, Trump threatened to hit Chinese-made products with tariffs of up to 60 per cent, but held off on any immediate action on his first day back in the White House, instead ordering his administration to study the issue.

Earlier, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said that their response to US tariffs would be

"forceful but reasonable".

"If the president does choose to implement any tariffs against Canada, we're ready with a response -- a purposeful, forceful but reasonable, immediate response," Trudeau told reporters before a meeting with his advisory council on Canada-US relations on Friday, The Globe and Mail reported.

Trump says 'pain' from tariffs 'will be worth it'

US President Donald Trump shot back at criticisms of his tariff plan in a post on his media platform Truth Social.

The president seemed to be responding to an opinion piece by the editorial board of the Wall Street Journal which called Trump's tariffs "the dumbest trade war in history."

Trump reiterated his accusations that other countries such as China, Mexico and Canada are engaged in a decadeslong "ripoff of America."

China vows countermeasures, to sue US at WTO; Canada, Mexico hit back

BEIJING: China on Sunday said it "firmly opposes" the new tariffs imposed on the country by US President Donald Trump and warned of taking "corresponding countermeasures" to resolutely safeguard its own rights and interests.

In a statement, the Chinese Ministry of Commerce said that it would file a lawsuit with the World Trade Organization against the US for its "wrongful practice," the Global Times reported.

On Saturday Trump announced, that effective from Tuesday, the US would impose an additional 10 percent tariff on all goods imported from China on top of existing duties.

Trump also announced he is implementing a 25 per cent additional tariff on imports from Canada and Mexico.

The measures, as per a statement from the White House was being taken to to hold Mexico, Canada, and China accountable to their promises of halting illegal immigration and stopping poisonous fentanyl and other contraband drugs from flowing into the US.

Chinese officials have failed to take the actions necessary

to stem the flow of precursor chemicals to known criminal cartels and shut down money laundering by transnational criminal organizations, the White House statement read.

Additional tariffs are not constructive and will undermine future cooperation on drug control, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated.

The latest US trade protectionist measure has drawn widespread opposition both domestically and internationally, the Xinhua News Agency said today.

"The unilateral imposition of tariffs by the US seriously violates WTO rules. It does not contribute to resolving its own issues, but also undermines normal economic and trade cooperation between China and the US," the Chinese foreign ministry statement read.

"There are no winners in a trade war or tariff war," China's foreign ministry said, adding that the additional duties would "inevitably affect and damage future bilateral cooperation on drug control".

Trump had invoked the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) in imposing the tariffs.

Meanwhile, Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo announced that Mexico would impose retaliatory tariffs and strongly rejected Trump's "slander" that the Mexican government has ties with criminal organizations.

She proposed creating a working group with top public health and security teams from both countries to address shared concerns.

In a post on social media she said, "We categorically reject the White House's slander against the Mexican government for having alliances with criminal organizations, as well as any intention of intervention in our territory. If such an alliance exists anywhere, it is in the United States armouries that sell high-powered weapons to these criminal groups, as demonstrated by the United States Department of Justice itself in January of this year."

Canada's prime minister, Justin Trudeau, on Saturday night announced in a news conference that Canada would retaliate by placing 25 per cent tariffs "against USD 155 billion worth of American goods," with the first set of tariffs taking effect Tuesday. — **ANI**

3-DAY VISIT

UK's Prince Edward arrives in India

NEW DELHI: The Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Edward, arrived in India on Sunday for a three-day visit.

The visit is focused on championing young people and promoting the benefits of non-formal education across the world as per a statement.

Mumbai and Delhi

During his visit Prince Edward is scheduled to travel to Mumbai and Delhi to promote The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award. He will meet members of the Indian government and undertake varied engagements spanning the breadth of the living bridge that connects the UK and India.

In a post on X, UK High Commission in India stated, "HRH The Duke of Edinburgh is in India on a three-day visit championing young people and the benefits of non-formal education around the world through The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award."

In a statement, the British High Commission in India stated, "His Royal Highness will travel to Mumbai and Delhi to promote The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award, delivered as The International Award for Young People (IAYP) in India: a non-formal education and learning framework supporting young people to find their purpose, place and passion in the world. Since its inception in India in 1962, the Award has helped more than 150,000 students from 325 schools and educational institutions across the country."

"In addition to meeting with members of the government, His Royal Highness is scheduled to undertake varied engagements spanning the breadth of the living bridge that connects the UK and India. This includes discussions with Indian education and business leaders and philanthropists, and joining events that celebrate our shared love for sport and the arts," it added. — **ANI**

EU TOP DIPLOMAT

‘Sabotage is on the rise in Europe’

BRUSSELS: When she was prime minister of Estonia, Kaja Kallas represented 1.3 million people in a tiny nation sandwiched between Russia and the Baltic Sea. Since taking up her post as European Union (EU) foreign affairs chief in late 2024, the 47-year-old now speaks on the world stage for some 450 million people spread across 27 countries.

But one thing hasn't changed: Kallas remains keenly focused on Russia.

"Clearly sabotage is on the rise in Europe," Kallas told DW's Alexandra von Nahmen when asked about a string of suspected hybrid attacks, the latest involving deep-sea cables in the Swedish economic zone of the Baltic.

"We shouldn't really see these events in isolation, but as part of a bigger picture. And understand that Russia has intentions towards Europe and European security architecture that haven't changed," Kallas said in the exclusive DW interview at the Brussels headquarters of the European External Action Service on Thursday.



As someone born in Soviet-occupied Estonia, it is perhaps unsurprising that the politically centrist Kallas has earned a reputation as one of Moscow's fiercest critics and Ukraine's staunchest backers.

US, EU 'still friends,' Kallas insists

Right now, that means working closely with the freshly inaugurated administration of ultranationalist US President Donald Trump, which is studded with radical right-wing appointments.

Together, the US and EU countries have channeled arms and aid to Ukraine for three years. But in his first few weeks in office, Trump has wasted no time in slamming the EU over trade and defense spending. He also shocked Europe by declaring a desire to take over the autonomous Danish territory Greenland.

"We are still friends. We are still allies," Kallas said of the EU-US relationship. "They are our biggest partner in terms of economy, but in terms of security as well."

"I had a very good call with Secretary of State Marco Rubio this week. We were going over the different parts of the world where we cooperate and also seeing where we can do more," she said. "So I'm quite positive that we have a good relationship."

And what about Greenland?

"It's clear that the United States is party to international agreements. International agreements that say that you have to respect territorial integrity [...] and I have no doubt they will do so," Kallas said.

Asked whether the EU might consider stationing troops there, Kallas said no discussion had been held on the matter.

Kallas also struck a conciliatory tone over Washington's approach to Kyiv.

"They are understanding that to end this war, we have to put the pressure on Russia, because Russia is the one who started this war."

Trump has previously claimed he could broker a peace deal between Russia and Ukraine within one day, prompting fears he might pressure Kyiv into a quick peace deal on what the EU would view as unfavorable terms that could embolden Moscow into further military campaigns.

Now in office, Trump seems to be taking a tougher stance vis-a-vis Russian President Vladimir Putin than some had expected, though he has also criticized Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

"President Trump has been very strong in his statements towards Putin," Kallas said. "So I guess we see the picture quite similarly." — **DW**

MIDDLE EASTERN AIR TRAFFIC
Middle Eastern airlines saw a 9.4% traffic rise in 2024 compared to 2023, according to an IATA report. IATA in its released 2024 full-year and December 2024 passenger market performance report showed record high demand.

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER
The MSX index closed at 4,555.87 points, up by 0.28% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.21% at 416.05 points. National Finance, up 10.00%, was the top gainer while OQBI, down 7.14%, was the top loser.

OMR45mn Sahalnout sewage network project inaugurated

The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of HH Sayyid Marwan Turki Al Said, Governor of Dhofar, in the presence of government officials and project executives



MUSCAT: Phase 1 of a sewage network project in Sahalnout area was inaugurated yesterday in the Wilayat of Salalah. The first phase of the project was implemented by Nama Services Dhofar over a period of three years worth OMR45 million. The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of HH Sayyid Marwan Turki Al Said, Governor of Dhofar, in the presence of government officials and project executives. Eng. Ali Issa Shamas, CEO of Nama Services Dhofar, said that the coverage rate of current sewage networks in Dhofar Governorate reached 70 percent, a total of more than 1,200 kilometres of network length. As many as 60,000 subscribers have so far benefited from the sewage service. Shamas added that the sewage network project in Sahalnout is being implemented in partnership with Oman National Engineering and Investment Company



(ONEIC) for a period of 15 years as part of the government's efforts to encourage the private sector to invest in building infrastructure, notably in the sewage sector. Shamas stressed Nama Services Dhofar's keenness to enhance sustainable development and infrastructure in the governorate. The project currently serves about 4,000 subscribers, with plans in place to raise the number

to 5,500 subscribers during the first phase. The project's station is designed to serve 20,000 subscribers in the future to cover and connect neighbouring plans, as well as the future city of Salalah, and accommodate all current and future flow from the Sahalnout area. The project covers an area of 13.75 square kilometres and provides an integrated sewage net-

work with a total length of more than 165 km, in addition to 1,200 inspection chambers and about 6,000 sub-house inspection chambers. The main sewage pumping station is designed to receive and pump a flow rate of 18,510 cubic metres a day. As for upcoming projects to enhance the sanitation sector and keep pace with urban development, a tender was awarded to expand the main treated water station in Raysut to augment its capacity to 90,000 cubic metres a day, to the tune of RO 35 million. Construction work began early this year and the project is expected to be completed in 2027. The sewage treatment plant project in the Sahalnout area of Salalah constitutes part of a series of development projects in the sewage sector in Dhofar Governorate. Dhofar Governorates saw the implementation of the first sewage treatment plant in the Sultanate of Oman in 1992. The project aimed to boost the infrastructure and sewage services to cater to urban growth and sustainable development in the governorate. -OMA

EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICES



Al Mouj Muscat partners with Aster Royal Al Raffah Hospital

MUSCAT: Al Mouj Muscat, Oman's leading waterfront destination, has recently partnered with Aster Royal Al Raffah Hospital to deliver 24/7 emergency response services, reinforcing its commitment to providing an exceptional environment that prioritises safety, health and quality of life. This agreement is aimed at providing immediate medical care and ambulance service to the Al Mouj Muscat community enhancing the sense of security and well-being for all who live, work and visit Al Mouj Muscat. Nasser Al Sheibani, CEO of Al Mouj Muscat, said, "Our commitment to enriching the lives of those who call Al Mouj Muscat home, along with our valued visitors, remains steadfast. This partnership with Aster Royal Al Raffah Hospital reaffirms our dedication to fostering a secure and vibrant community where

residents and visitors can live with confidence and peace of mind knowing that emergency care is always within reach." Shailesh Guntu, CEO of Aster Royal Al Raffah Hospital, remarked, "This collaboration with Al Mouj Muscat exemplifies a shared vision of delivering safety and well-being to the community. By bringing our expertise to this vibrant community, we ensure residents have access to critical care when they need it most. Aster Royal Al Raffah Hospital, renowned for its advanced medical technology and skilled professionals, is uniquely equipped to meet urgent medical needs of Al Mouj Muscat's community. With a resident satisfaction rate of 92%, Al Mouj Muscat continues to redefine urban living in Oman. This partnership further underscores its mission to foster a thriving and integrated community.



OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY (SAOG)

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

To our valued shareholders,
Oman Cables Industry (SAOG) "Oman Cables" has the pleasure in submitting the report on the performance of the Parent Company and the Group for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Parent Company - "Oman Cables".
The Group - Oman Cables and its two fully owned subsidiaries: Oman Aluminum Processing Industries SPC in Sohar "OAPIL" and Associated Cables Private Ltd in India "ACPL".

Board of Directors
The following are the Board of Directors of the Company:

1. Cinzia Farisè - Chairperson of the Board of Directors
2. Mohamed Al Lawati - Vice Chairperson of the Board of Directors
3. Laura Figini
4. Yassir Al Rashdi
5. Shabbir Al-Busaidi
6. Ian Prescott
7. Fabrizio Rutschmann

The Board and its committees conducted various meetings and directed the company operations.

Sustainable Growth
Our Group is oriented towards sustainable growth, prioritizing the safety and wellbeing of our employees. Our commitment to a secure, healthy and safe work environment underpins our success and drives our innovation. We aim to assure innovative energy through a responsible production, pursuing economic, environmental and social sustainability for all our stakeholders. Our Group is dedicated to sustainable growth, with a strong focus on environmental stewardship and the safety and wellbeing of our employees.

Operational Review
In 2024, the Company continued to deliver value and enhance profitability. Revenue growth was driven by higher exports, particularly in the renewable energy sector and increase export in Power grid too. The increase in profitability and volume is primarily due to the Company's unwavering focus on dynamic pricing, agile design-to-cost strategies, robust fixed cost management, and leveraging a diverse product portfolio that includes high value-added products and services, along with an expanded geographical export reach.

In addition to improved profitability, the Company remains committed to sustainability, with climate, social, and innovation goals as the core drivers of its strategy and vision. These elements are integral to the corporate culture and business operations at all levels. The Company's profitability was further bolstered by prudent management of financial income and expenses, diversification into a broader range of high-value products, services, and solutions, and an expanded presence in international export markets. Beyond being a cable producer, the Company leverages its leadership position as a technological enabler of the energy transition. It aims to anticipate customer needs by strengthening supplier engagement and focusing on continuous innovation. The Company utilizes its technological and industrial leadership to amplify its positive impact on the community.

Sales
Sales revenues of the Parent Company for 2024 are RO 200,990,803 as compared to RO 183,646,689 in 2023. The sales of the Group were RO 268,782,636 compared to RO 248,164,991 in 2023.

Profitability
The Net Profit of the Parent Company for the year 2024 was RO 16,123,680 as compared to RO 13,461,087 in 2023. The increase in profitability is mainly due to product development, differentiation efforts both in the offered mix and geographical expansion, cost control and financial discipline.

The Net Profit of the Group in 2024 was RO 22,622,186 compared to RO 18,929,058 in 2023.

Subsidiary: Oman Aluminum Processing Industries SPC, Oman "OAPIL" (fully owned subsidiary)
During 2024, OAPIL continued to perform very well, both in terms of mix and profitability, OAPIL maintained its trajectory of increased profitability. This achievement is the result of a focus in the cost savings, an expanded market presence, and advantageous market dynamics. Additionally, the company's steadfast focus on managing fixed costs, optimizing financial income and expenditures, improving procurement efficiency, and exercising strategic control over working capital has significantly reinforced its financial performance.

Subsidiary: Associated Cables Private Limited, India "ACPL" (fully owned subsidiary)
During 2024 ACPL's outcomes were marginally influenced by some additional cost compared with the same corresponding period in 2023. ACPL's ongoing strategy continues to be concentrated on diversifying and expanding into new market areas. Concurrently, with the support of the Group, the company remains focused on enhancing its operational efficiencies and cost-effective design measures to improve its competitive advantage.

Our People
We are a "People company," with our employees being the Group's most valuable assets, playing a crucial role in our ongoing sustainable development. Our success is built on the continuous enhancement of our employees' skills and knowledge. We invest heavily in people development, training, and talent-building programs, while also promoting diversity, inclusion, equity, and respect for human rights.

Safety and Well-being of our People
Our Group remains steadfast in prioritizing occupational health and safety. Oman Cables is dedicated to executing initiatives such as "Zero & Beyond" (aimed at eliminating all accidents, defects, and waste from our processes) and "6S" (a system designed to enhance productivity and safety in the workspace by adhering to the principles of sort, set in order, shine, standardize, sustain, and safety).

These initiatives focus on daily prevention to protect the health and safety of our people and to enhance safety awareness, which are essential for the continuity and success of our sustainable business.

The Lost Time Injury Frequency rate (LTI) is continuously monitored for the benefit of both our employees and the Company.

Corporate Governance
The Company upholds high standards of Corporate Governance. The Board is supported by three committees: the

Audit Committee, the Strategic Committee, and the Nomination and Remuneration Committee. To assist management in daily operations, the Company has established internal systems and manuals, which are regularly reviewed and updated to comply with statutory requirements and align with organizational goals, ensuring transparency in all transactions. The Company communicates with stakeholders and the public by regularly publishing its quarterly and annual results in the media, on the MSX website, and on the Company's website.			
Corporate Social Responsibility Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) refers to our Company's commitment towards our Community and its environment, as part of our social ambition driven by sustainability. Social responsibility means for Oman Cables giving back to our Community, to our Stakeholders and to the Planet just as they give to us. It is intrinsic part of our commitment to enact a positive change for a better world. Our CSR starts from the management approach which integrate financial, social and environmental responsibility at the core of our business operations and interactions with all our stakeholders. In 2024 and in continuation to the previous years, the Company is planning to continue to operate covering several initiatives addressing four (4) chapters: Our People, Our Community, Our Innovation and the Ecosystem.			
Outlook On a global scale, amidst the socioeconomic fragmentation of 2024, the Gulf region is well-positioned to navigate a decelerating global economy, with anticipated growth in the GCC region. However, there are potential risks, such as disruptions in trade flows that could lead to raw material inflation. The region has the opportunity to accelerate investments in greener energy sources, potentially increasing renewable energy generation capacity through various projects, including onshore wind, solar, and green hydrogen, which support energy transition and decarbonization goals. The Group remains focused on penetrating existing markets and streamlining operations to continue delivering value to stakeholders. The management is committed to addressing the dynamic and competitive cable market by expanding the product portfolio with high value-added cables to differentiate its offerings. Operational excellence is crucial to the Group's success. A strong focus on sustainability is a priority, aiming to connect the sultanate and the region to a sustainable future by facilitating the transition to green energy.			
Dividend Considering the guidelines issued by the Financial Services Authority, the liquidity requirements for the operational needs and the uninterrupted record of declaration of dividend, the Board proposes distributing a cash dividend to the shareholders. Taking into account the financial performance of the Group, the Board recommends to distribute dividend equal to (91.5) baiza per share amounting to RO 8,207,550 of the face value of RO 0.100, to the shareholders registered as on the date of Annual General Meeting.			
Directors Remuneration The Board of Directors recommends to the shareholders at the Annual General Meeting to approve the total Directors' remuneration of RO 200,000 to be paid to the Board of Directors, in recognition and appreciation of their efforts towards their responsibilities and for their continuous inputs, guidance and support to the management. It may be noted that the non-independent board members, that are Pysmian employees, have waived their portion of remuneration for 2024 and kept the money for the Company to use.			
Conclusion Our special thanks go to all our employees and to the management for their consistent hard work and wholehearted commitment to the Company, they are fundamental to our success. We acknowledge with thanks to our local and global customers, business associates, the finance community, local communities and all other stakeholders for their continued support to the Company. We wish the best for our beloved Oman to further develop under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq bin Taimur in good health and longevity.			
Cinzia Farisè Chairman Oman Cables Industry (SAOG) Date: 29 January 2025			
STATEMENT OF INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024			
	Group 2024 RO	Parent Company 2024 RO	Parent Company 2023 RO
Revenue	268,782,636	200,990,803	248,164,991
Cost of sales	(231,613,996)	(174,686,084)	(215,812,053)
			(160,733,042)
Gross profit	37,168,640	26,304,719	32,352,938
Other income	506,034	477,656	883,388
Administrative expenses	(6,676,347)	(5,225,025)	(6,449,869)
Selling and distribution expenses	(6,768,426)	(4,527,370)	(5,700,498)
Net allowances for expected credit losses	18,726	18,726	70,647
Operating profit	24,248,627	17,048,705	21,156,606
Finance costs	(242,850)	(108,789)	(262,457)
Finance income	3,011,652	2,392,915	1,565,211
Profit before income tax	27,017,429	19,332,831	22,459,360
Income tax expense	(4,395,243)	(3,209,151)	(3,530,302)
Profit for the year	22,622,186	16,123,680	18,929,058
Basic and diluted earnings per share attributable to ordinary equity holders of the parent company	0.252	0.180	0.211
			0.150

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Group 2024 RO	Parent Company 2024 RO	Group 2023 RO	Parent Company 2023 RO
Profit for the year	22,622,186	16,123,680	18,929,058	13,461,087
Other comprehensive income items that may be reclassified subsequently to statement of income or loss, net of tax:				
Net movement in hedging reserve, net of tax	(1,529,461)	(1,525,946)	(719,168)	(753,655)
Net movement in foreign currency translation reserve, net of tax	(22,460)	-	(11,649)	-
Other comprehensive (loss) for the year	(1,551,921)	(1,525,946)	(730,817)	(753,655)
Total comprehensive income for the year	21,070,265	14,597,734	18,198,241	12,707,432

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Group 2024 RO	Parent Company 2024 RO	Group 2023 RO	Parent Company 2023 RO
ASSETS				
Non-current assets				
Property, plant and equipment	21,802,343	13,142,605	21,353,407	13,786,799
Intangible asset	290,639	290,639	341,281	341,281
Right-of-use assets	3,319,203	1,709,999	3,476,099	1,804,999
Investment in subsidiaries	-	7,789,908	-	7,789,908
Financial assets at amortized cost	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,114,912	1,000,000
Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	84,124	84,124	151,142	151,142
Deferred tax assets	355,334	410,120	104,779	96,870
Total non-current assets	26,851,643	24,427,395	26,541,620	24,970,999
Current assets				
Inventories	26,277,530	22,821,135	24,500,131	22,355,019
Derivative financial instruments	-	-	600,615	600,615
Trade and other receivables	67,165,376	49,469,969	59,441,903	45,679,359
Short term deposits	49,249,279	39,849,050	32,904,482	27,928,290
Cash and cash equivalents	16,115,214	15,390,144	24,947,365	22,207,221
Total current assets	158,807,399	127,530,298	142,394,496	118,770,504
Total assets	185,659,042	151,957,693	168,936,116	143,741,503
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Equity				
Share capital	8,970,000	8,970,000	8,970,000	8,970,000
Share premium	977,500	977,500	977,500	977,500
Reserve	4,445,333	2,990,000	4,445,333	2,990,000
General reserve	19,039,702	17,886,763	17,427,334	16,274,395
Retained earnings	111,608,185	94,148,189	98,223,997	87,261,377
Other reserves	693,952	737,022	1,027,675	1,334,299
Total equity	145,735,802	125,709,474	131,071,839	117,807,571
Non-current liabilities				
Deferred tax liability	-	-	146,249	-
Lease liabilities	3,536,340	1,822,581	3,600,172	1,892,065
Employees' end of service benefits	1,720,147	1,466,231	1,810,383	1,564,198
Total non-current liabilities	5,256,487	3,288,812	5,556,804	3,456,263
Current liabilities				
Trade and other payables	27,781,749	18,323,656	28,261,640	19,655,679
Bank borrowings	769,000	-	-	-
Lease liabilities	281,433	185,108	275,498	179,509
Derivative financial instruments	1,251,330	1,194,467	52,729	-
Taxation	4,583,241	3,256,176	3,717,606	2,642,481
Total current liabilities	34,666,753	22,959,407	32,307,473	22,477,669
Total liabilities	39,923,240	26,248,219	37,864,277	25,933,932
Total equity and liabilities	185,659,042	151,957,693	168,936,116	143,741,503
Net assets per share	1.625	1.401	1.461	1.313

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

National Finance, up 10.00%, was the top gainer while QQBI, down 7.14%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,555.87 points, up by 0.28% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.21% at 416.05 points. National Finance, up 10.00%, was the top gainer while QQBI, down 7.14%, was the top loser. Shares of QQBI were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 869 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 1.79 million, with more than 12.17 million shares changing hands. Out of 45 traded securities, 19 advanced, 10 declined, and 16 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for RO 184K while domestic investors were net buyers for RO 176K, followed by foreign investors for RO 8K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,886.06 points, up 0.79%. Prices

of National Finance, United Finance, Al Anwar Investment, Ahli Bank, Al Sharqia Investment were up by 10.00%, 3.39%, 2.99%, 2.27%, 1.37% respectively. Prices of were down by respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,407.98 points, down 0.02%. Prices of Construction Materials, Oman Cables Industry were up by 2.94%, 0.73% respectively.

Prices of Al Maha Ceramics, Gulf Mushroom Products, Oman Flour Mills were down by 3.08%, 1.26%, 0.23% respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.4% before closing at 1,685.46 points. Prices of National Gas, Oman Education & Training, Ooredoo were up by 3.85%, 1.08%, 0.90% respectively. Prices of Phoenix Power, Barka Water & Power Company, OQ Gas Networks, Muscat Desalination, Majan College were down by 3.28%, 1.93%, 1.52%, 1.49%, 0.89% respectively.— **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff
MSX 30 INDEX	4,555.87	4,541.06	4,555.87	4,543.21	12.66
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,886.06	7,827.35	7,886.06	7,824.03	62.03
Industry Index	5,407.98	5,407.98	5,407.98	5,409.32	-1.34
Services Index	1,692.81	1,685.46	1,685.46	1,692.27	-6.81
MSX Shariah Index	416.72	415.17	416.05	415.17	0.88
MSX TR INDEX	6,382.72	6,361.98	6,382.72	6,362.76	19.96
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,959.38	8,892.68	8,959.38	8,888.91	70.47
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,239.53	6,239.53	6,239.53	6,241.07	-1.55
SERVICES TR IDX	2,030.13	2,021.32	2,021.32	2,025.03	-3.71

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
12,172,562	1,789,289	869	27,596,293,435	19	10	16	45

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF. BD.	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BD.	LAST OFFER	PREV. VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	590,914	36,013	20	0.060	0.061	0.060	0.061	0.059	0.002	3.390	0.061	0.060	0.062	0.100	21,723,765
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO.	71,603	5,299	4	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.073	0.001	1.370	0.074	0.000	0.080	0.100	6,660,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	397,413	101,899	18	0.256	0.259	0.255	0.259	0.256	0.003	1.172	0.259	0.255	0.256	0.100	1,944,156,839
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	176,881	15,682	9	0.088	0.089	0.088	0.089	0.088	0.001	1.136	0.089	0.088	0.095	0.100	17,800,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	8,121	1,827	4	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.223	0.002	0.897	0.225	0.221	0.228	0.100	146,462,452
OM0000003396	SHIAH INTERNATIONAL BANK	1,238,365	174,586	24	0.141	0.141	0.140	0.141	0.140	0.001	0.774	0.141	0.137	0.141	0.100	393,031,724
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	18,000	4,320	3	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.239	0.001	0.418	0.240	0.235	0.245	0.100	24,000,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	597,606	173,312	12	0.290	0.294	0.290	0.294	0.294	0.000	0.000	0.294	0.284	0.294	0.100	478,028,228
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	5,000	325	1	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.000	0.000	0.065	0.059	0.065	0.100	7,921,875
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	2,420	958	2	0.396	0.396	0.396	0.396	0.396	0.000	0.000	0.396	0.390	0.410	0.100	131,025,593
OM0000002804	ASAFIA FOODS	5,404	2,099	4	0.400	0.400	0.388	0.388	0.388	0.000	0.000	0.388	0.000	0.400	0.100	46,560,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	8,042	7,231	6	0.801	0.801	0.899	0.899	0.899	0.000	0.000	0.899	0.810	0.900	0.100	674,250,000
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	700	59	1	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.000	0.000	0.084	0.081	0.090	0.100	14,700,000
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	46,797	3,231	8	0.069	0.070	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.000	0.000	0.069	0.068	0.070	0.100	46,567,233
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	15,000	1,020	1	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.000	0.000	0.068	0.068	0.070	0.100	48,579,631
OM0000004934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	514,248	125,204	154	0.245	0.245	0.229	0.229	0.229	0.000	0.000	0.229	0.229	0.247	0.100	184,077,800
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	6,602	2,391	3	0.364	0.364	0.360	0.360	0.363	-0.003	-0.826	0.360	0.331	0.370	0.100	85,107,600
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	1,026,720	133,742	93	0.132	0.132	0.130	0.130	0.132	-0.002	-1.515	0.130	0.131	0.132	0.100	562,981,110
Total	18	4,729,636	787,200	367												
Parallel Market																
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	147,496	19,407	7	0.130	0.132	0.130	0.132	0.120	0.012	10.000	0.132	0.127	0.132	0.100	75,728,965
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	232,800	18,674	22	0.078	0.081	0.078	0.081	0.078	0.003	3.846	0.081	0.077	0.085	0.100	6,885,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	5,302	366	1	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.067	0.002	2.985	0.069	0.067	0.073	0.100	14,640,420
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL INDUSTRIES	98,213	8,815	8	0.088	0.090	0.088	0.090	0.088	0.002	2.941	0.090	0.088	0.094	0.100	4,375,000
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	11,390	1,332	5	0.118	0.120	0.116	0.120	0.117	0.003	2.564	0.116	0.115	0.128	0.100	70,972,426
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	5,535	996	1	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.176	0.004	2.273	0.180	0.000	0.000	0.100	422,938,344
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	847,539	279,064	123	0.328	0.333	0.323	0.326	0.321	0.005	1.558	0.326	0.325	0.327	0.100	602,808,000,000
OM0000002580	OMAN EDUCATION & TRAINING INVESTMENTS	32,170	32,886	6	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.109	-0.011	1.079	0.109	0.000	1.030	0.100	72,100,000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	170,798	17,215	19	0.100	0.101	0.100	0.101	0.100	0.001	1.000	0.101	0.098	0.100	0.100	225,832,256
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	540	1,496	2	2.770	2.770	2.770	2.770	2.750	0.020	0.727	2.770	2.770	2.900	0.100	248,468,000
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	590	59	2	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.000	0.100	0.100	3,000,000
OM0000001500	MUSCAT FINANCE	90,120	4,232	6	0.046	0.048	0.046	0.047	0.047	0.000	0.000	0.048	0.046	0.048	0.100	14,435,877
OM0000002911	FINANCIAL CORPORATION	30	1	1	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.000	0.000	0.041	0.037	0.045	0.100	2,871,228
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	1,130,100	89,158	25	0.078	0.079	0.078	0.079	0.079	0.000	0.000	0.079	0.078	0.080	0.100	16,035,929
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	110,000	37,950	9	0.345	0.345	0.345	0.345	0.345	0.000	0.000	0.345	0.340	0.347	0.100	68,874,282
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	1,100	483	1	0.439	0.439	0.439	0.439	0.440	-0.001	-0.227	0.439	0.000	0.484	0.100	69,142,500
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	22,019	2,444	2	0.111	0.111	0.111	0.111	0.112	-0.001	-0.893	0.111	0.103	0.111	0.100	9,990,000
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	73,093	17,255	14	0.237	0.237	0.236	0.236	0.239	-0.003	-1.255	0.236	0.236	0.243	0.100	10,800,728
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	35,413	2,351	6	0.067	0.067	0.066	0.066	0.067	-0.001	-1.493	0.066	0.066	0.067	0.100	10,336,336
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	5,000	1,525	1	0.305	0.305	0.305	0.305	0.311	-0.006	-1.929	0.305	0.000	0.342	0.100	48,800,000
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	252	32	1	0.126	0.126	0.126	0.126	0.130	-0.004	-3.077	0.126	0.000	0.000	0.100	6,930,000
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	93,036	5,446	10	0.058	0.059	0.058	0.059	0.061	-0.002	-3.279	0.059	0.055	0.060	0.100	86,293,486
OM0000009606	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	4,305,681	449,410	225	0.105	0.106	0.103	0.104	0.112	-0.008	-7.143	0.104	0.105	0.111	0.040	359,787,948
Total	23	7,418,262	988,596	497												

GCC countries generates \$110.4bn in 2023

MUSCAT: The data issued by the Statistical Centre for the Co-operation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf (GCC-Stat) in December 2024 revealed that about 68.1 million international tourists visited the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries by the end of 2023, with an increase rate of 42.8 percent compared to

the figures recorded in 2019. The data mentioned in the “Travel and Tourism in the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries” newsletter issued by the Centre indicate that the GCC countries have achieved 52.9 percent of the first strategic objective mentioned in the joint tourism strategy (2023-2030), related to gradually

increasing the number of incoming trips to reach 128.7 million tourists. The total international tourism revenues in the GCC countries increased by 28.2 percent by the end of 2023 compared to the figures of 2019, reaching US\$110.4 billion. This contributed to achieving 58.7 percent of the second strategic

goal, which is to gradually increase international tourist spending to reach US\$188 billion. The data of the GCC-Stat disclose that the percentage of intra-GCC tourism of total international tourists logged 26.9 percent, with a growth rate of 44.2 percent compared to the figures recorded in 2019. -WAM

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IATA REPORT

Middle Eastern airlines see 9.4% traffic surge in 2024

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Middle Eastern airlines saw a 9.4% traffic rise in 2024 compared to 2023, according to a report. The International Air Transport Association (IATA) in its recently released 2024 full-year and December 2024 passenger market performance report showed record high demand. “Capacity increased 8.4% and load factor climbed 0.7 percentage points to 80.8%,” it said, adding that “December demand climbed 7.7% compared to the same month in 2023.” The IATA report further revealed that the total full-year traffic in 2024 (measured in revenue passenger kilometres or RPKs) rose 10.4% compared to 2023. This was 3.8% above pre-pandemic (



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LIFESTYLE

WHITE BLOOD CELL COUNT MAY PREDICT SEVERITY OF COVID-19, SAYS STUDY

A COVID-19 diagnosis is no longer as frightening as it used to be, thanks to developments in treatment choices. However, a new study reveals that leukocyte (white blood cell) count may now be used to identify who is more likely to develop more significant disease symptoms.

“As the authors highlight, post-acute sequelae of severe acute respiratory coronavirus 2 infection significantly affects quality of life, often leading to severe disability. This effect is particularly pronounced in women, who already experience higher rates of cognitive impairment after menopause. By understanding underlying factors, we can better address these challenges and work to mitigate the cascade of symptoms that follow,” says Dr Monica Christmas, associate medical director for The Menopause Society.

Millions of people worldwide suffer from the ongoing effects of Covid-19—which is caused by the SARs-CoV-2 virus—even months after the initial diagnosis. Cognitive impairment and fatigue are the most common lingering symptoms, with cognitive impairment affecting 70% of patients. Older adults—especially women—are the most at risk.

Although healthcare professionals know a lot more about Covid-19 than they did at the start of the

pandemic in 2020, there are still many lingering questions regarding its effect on the human body. Although it is primarily a respiratory disease, sustained effects on multiple organ systems have been documented. Previous studies have shown an excessive immune response to a Covid-19 infection.

Researchers in this latest study, based on secondary analysis of data from the Women’s Health Initiative, sought to better understand preexisting risk factors that may make certain adults—especially older postmenopausal women—more vulnerable to more serious ongoing symptoms. Specifically, they examined whether leukocyte count (a widely available clinical marker of systemic inflammation) was associated with COVID disease outcomes.

Based on the results, the researchers concluded that leukocyte count is an independent predictor of COVID symptom severity in postmenopausal women. These results extend the evidence that low-grade inflammation is not only an outcome of COVID symptom severity but may also precede the acute Covid-19 infection. Additional research in this area is necessary, but the initial work is promising because leukocyte count represents an easily accessible, inexpensive clinical marker. **-ANI**

SPORTS

Yalla Shabab Giants claim D50 title for second major crown this season

Both the teams owned by Chaitanya Khimji continue to dominate 2024-25 domestic cricket as they have lifted three trophies so far

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Yalla Shabab Giants claimed their second major title of the season on Friday with a six-wicket win over their stablemates, Royal Oman Stallions, in the final of the second edition of the Oman D50 tournament, following their Premier League victory earlier this season.

The latest crown is a historic achievement for team owner Chaitanya Khimji, who now holds hat-trick of titles this season – the D10, Premier League, and D50 – and looks ahead to a potential quadruple with the upcoming D20 tournament in April.

The Giants, owned by Khimji, finished second in the league stage, behind the Royal Oman Stallions, who dominated the round-robin phase with an undefeated record. The two teams then squared off in the final, a familiar sight this season, as Khimji's teams also featured in the final of the D10, with the Stallions emerging victorious there.

D50 final

Giants won the toss and chose to bowl first, capitalising on their strength with the ball. Royal Oman Stallions were reduced to 107 all out in 34.3 overs, with Faisal Shah being the standout bowler, claiming 3 wickets for 22 runs. Usman Ali Afridi's 31 off 26 runs was the only notable contribution from the Stallions' lineup.

In the chase, Giants lost early wickets, but a solid 68-run partnership between Sanju Sajeev (48 off 59) and Gowtham Sagar guided them to victory in 24.1 overs.

Despite pressure from Hassnain Ali Shah, who took 2 wickets for 34 runs, Yalla Shabab comfortably reached 108/4 to lift the glittering trophy. Sanju Sajeev was named Player of the Match for his match-winning knock, while Jatinder Singh of Muscat CT was adjudged Player of the Tournament for his remarkable 522 runs throughout the competition, including a double century and two centuries.



'Awesome feeling'

For Chaitanya Khimji, the latest honours in the D50 adds to his successes this season, with both Giants and Stallions already making history by dominating the Premier League and D10 tournaments.

This marks Khimji's third major title of the season after Giants' Premier League triumph and Stal-



lions' win in D10.

"It's an awesome feeling to see my teams performing at the top level in multiple formats. The latest victory in the D50 is another milestone, and I'm proud of the hard work and commitment that everyone has shown. Our aim is to continue this momentum and challenge for the D20 title in



April," said Khimji.

"We have had a long season, and our focus remains on maintaining the standards of excellence that have brought us success so far. Our ultimate goal is to complete a historic quadruple this season," he added.

Giants title reinforces Khimji's teams as the dominant force in Oman's domestic cricket.

The success of Giants and Stallions in the D50, Premier League and D10 tournaments showcases the depth of talent within Khimji's cricket stables, a testament to his vision and leadership.

Giants' captain, Jay Odedra, reflected on the team's success. He said: "This victory is the result of everyone's hard work, from our team owner, Chaitanyabhair, to our head coach Prasanth Chandran and the entire support staff.

"We've built a strong, cohesive team, and this title win is a boost to our confidence as we look ahead to

the D20 in April."

Chandran said: "The players have shown great commitment throughout the season. The results speak for themselves, and we're all focused on pushing for continued success. The squad has great depth, and we are optimistic about our chances in the D20 tournament."

Quality cricket: Mendis

Reflecting on the D50 competition, Duleep Mendis, Oman Cricket's head coach and Chief Development Officer, praised the quality of the cricket during the tournament that was played over 19 days.

"It was an excellent competition between six of the most competitive sides in Oman. We saw the majority of the matches go full stretch in the 50-over format, which underlined top-notch batting from the teams and our excellence in providing excellent tracks for quality cricket."

Mendis also acknowledged the outstanding performances of the top teams. "We congratulate the players and management of Yalla Shabab and Oman Stallions for claiming the champions and runners-up spots.

"This tournament also served as an apt preparation for the national pool of players for our upcoming ICC CWC League 2, starting early February with matches against the visiting USA and Namibia teams."

During the closing ceremony, Mendis, along with Kiran Asher, an Oman Cricket board member, presented the awards to the individuals and teams.

Brief scores: Royal Oman Stallions 107/10 in 34.3 overs (Usman Ali Afridi 31(26); Faisal Shah 3(22) lost to Yalla Shabab Giants 108/4 in 24.1 overs (Sanju Sajeev 48(59); Hassnain Ali Shah 2(34).

PREMIER LEAGUE

Liverpool extend lead as Salah shines



LONDON: Liverpool moved nine points clear at the top of the Premier League as Mohamed Salah's brace secured a hard-fought 2-0 win over Bournemouth at the Vitality Stadium on Saturday.

The Egyptian striker, now with 178 Premier League goals, surpassed Frank Lampard in the all-time scoring charts.

Salah opened the scoring with a composed 30th-minute penalty after Cody Gakpo was fouled by Lewis Cook. Bournemouth, who had already beaten Arsenal, Manchester City, and Nottingham Forest this season, came close early on. Antoine Semenyo's shot rattled the post, and in a spirited second half, the Cherries had several opportunities. Semenyo forced a crucial save from Alisson, Marcus Tavernier struck the inside of the post, and Justin Kluivert missed the rebound. The missed chances proved costly, as Salah sealed the

win with a brilliant curled effort.

Despite speculation surrounding his future with his contract expiring in the summer, Salah's contribution kept Liverpool unbeaten in 19 league matches, now on 56 points. Arsenal, with a match against Manchester City looming, have the chance to close the gap to six points.

At Goodison Park, Everton made a blistering start, scoring twice in the opening six minutes before thrashing Leicester City 4-0 in a crucial relegation clash. Abdoulaye Doucoure put Everton ahead just 10.18 seconds into the match, the fourth-fastest goal in Premier League history.

Beto then added a second after capitalising on defensive mistakes, before completing a brace before halftime. Iliman Ndiaye sealed the dominant win late in the game.

At St. James' Park, Newcastle's Champions League ambitions suf-

Forest drub Brighton 7-0 in record-breaking victory

LONDON: Chris Wood's sensational hat-trick powered Nottingham Forest to a historic 7-0 victory over Brighton & Hove Albion at the City Ground, a stunning response to their 5-0 defeat at Bournemouth last week.

The demolition was Forest's largest-ever Premier League win. The hosts took control early, with Lewis Dunk's own goal and Morgan Gibbs-White's header giving them a 2-0 lead inside 20 minutes. Wood's 15th Premier League goal, off an Anthony Elanga assist, put Forest 3-0 up before halftime.

Brighton had their chances but failed to capitalise, with Yankuba Minteh and Danny Welbeck both unable to find the back of the net.

In the second half, Wood completed his hat-trick with a tap-in and a calm penalty,

fered a blow as Fulham mounted an impressive second-half comeback to claim a 2-1 victory. After Jacob Murphy put Newcastle ahead with a first-half strike, Fulham responded in the second half.



becoming the first Forest player to score a home hat-trick since Nigel Clough in 1987. Neco Williams and Jota Silva added further goals as the Seagulls crumbled, sealing a dominant 7-0 win.

- Agencies

Raul Jimenez leveled the score in the 61st minute, and in the 82nd, Rodrigo Muniz netted the winner. **Other results:** Ipswich Town 1 Southampton 2, Wolverhampton Wanderers 2 Aston Villa 0. - Agencies

SPANISH LA LIGA



Espanyol upset Real with dramatic 85th-minute goal

MADRID: Espanyol shocked Real Madrid with a dramatic 85th-minute goal, denying Carlo Ancelotti's side a chance to extend their lead at the top of La Liga on Saturday.

Carlos Romero netted the winner at RCDE Stadium, capitalising on a swift counter-attack to slot past Thibaut Courtois at the back post. Real Madrid had earlier thought they had taken the lead through Vinicius Jr, but Kylian Mbappe was penalised for a foul in the buildup.

Rodrygo came closest for Real in the second half, striking the post, while Espanyol goalkeeper Joan Garcia produced a string of outstanding saves, including a

crucial stop to deny Mbappe.

Real's frustration mounted when Romero escaped with only a yellow card for a high challenge on Mbappe before scoring the decisive goal 24 minutes later. The defeat also raised concerns for Ancelotti, with Antonio Rudiger limping off with a suspected hamstring injury.

Pushing for an equaliser, Real even sent Courtois forward in stoppage time, but Espanyol held firm to secure a vital win that lifts them out of the relegation zone.

The result tightens the title race, with Atletico Madrid's 2-0 victory over Mallorca cutting Real's lead to just one point ahead of next weekend's Madrid derby.

Abraj Energy signs MoUs with Algerian Institute of Petroleum and Sonatrach Management Academy

Collaboration agreements with Algerian Institute of Petroleum and Sonatrach Management Academy to foster expertise and training in oil and gas services



MUSCAT: Abraj Energy Services, Oman's leading oil and gas services provider, has solidified its international presence by signing two MoUs with the Algerian Institute of Petroleum and Sonatrach Management Academy. These agreements, aimed at advancing human capital development and

operational excellence, underscore Abraj's commitment to elevating global industry standards through strategic collaborations. These new partnerships are built upon the comprehensive MoU signed with the Sonatrach Group in April 2024. This foundational agreement has set a robust framework for creating new business opportunities and fostering integrated project management in the oil and gas services sector between Oman and Algeria. Eng. Saif Said Al Hamhami, CEO of Abraj Energy Services, remarked, "This collaboration is a strategic expansion of our initial agreement

with Sonatrach. It amplifies our capability in training and development and showcases the international recognition and demand for our high-quality solutions. We are proud to set these standards of excellence and innovation in partnership with esteemed institutions like the Algerian Institute of Petroleum and

Sonatrach Management Academy." Abraj's leadership in forging meaningful partnerships aligns with its vision for sustainable development and commitment to growth and innovation. The company continues to empower its workforce and adhere to the highest standards of safety and performance, as evidenced by the robust training outcomes at Infitech, its training centre. In the past year alone, Infitech has successfully trained over 9,300 participants and held more than 2,300 sessions, significantly enhancing the skills of the workforce and reinforcing Abraj's role as a catalyst for industry development.

REINTRODUCTION WITH TWO HIGH-PERFORMANCE ENGINES

'Make Space for Adventure' in Kia's all-new Sportage L

MUSCAT: Over the years, the automotive arena has seen a significant shift in customer dynamics and their need for utility vehicles with the freedom to do more. If you are on the lookout for an SUV that caters for your needs, experience and 'Make Space for Adventure' in Kia's all-new Sportage L, a classic reintroduction with two high-performance engines and a longer wheelbase.



Following Kia Sportage's reputation among enthusiasts, Kia fulfils its longstanding commitment to innovation and sustainability. Introducing the best-in-class Sportage opens wider avenues and adds more value to everyday life while addressing the customer's needs. The longer wheelbase of 2,755mm and 543 luggage compartment guarantees more cargo space. Built on Kia's brand values 'Opposites United' the all-new Sportage is a bold and contemporary take on modernity inspired by nature. The striking Sportage L impressively shows what exciting possibilities await us in terms of space and enhanced utility. The much-anticipated turbo-charged engine in the all-new Kia

Sportage L offers plenty of power and torque while optimizing fuel consumption. The first trim is available in a 2.0T engine churning 233 HP whereas the second trim features the 1.5T engine producing 197 HP. Both mated to an 8-speed Shift-by-Wire transmission and the standardized Electronic Parking Brake for smooth and efficient performance. Equipped with the AWD functionality, the SUV distributes power without compromising on performance on tricky uneven terrains or wet surfaces. The Sportage L ensures robust power in all situations.

For everyday users, the Sportage L brings in countless benefits, emphasizing Kia's brand philosophy of creating spaces for people. It largely meets the growing demand for convenient storage and comfortable head and legroom options for 5-member families. Moreover, Sportage features cutting-edge technologies that empower the customers such as the smart power tailgate option with sensors for easy loading. A sporty D-shaped steering wheel has also been introduced in this trim. For a more impressive experience, the dual 12.3" integrated cluster& infotainment system with wireless charging pad for compat-

ible smartphones, ventilated front seats and unrestricted outside views from the panoramic sunroof create set the perfect mood. Kia's eye for attentiveness is reflected in Sportage L's bold and best-in-class wide exterior, sleek premium leather-fitted interiors and cutting-edge ergonomic controls. Equipped with an Advanced Driver Assistance System (ADAS) featuring Forward Collision Avoidance Assist, Smart Cruise Control, Lane Keeping Assist, Lane Following Assist, Blind-Spot Collision Warning and Rear-Cross Traffic Collision Avoidance Assist to name a few. For 30 years and nearly 7 million units sold, the Kia Sportage has consistently redefined the SUV segment. Building on this legacy, the new Sportage L embodies Kia's commitment to futuristic design and advanced technology that deliver an exceptional driving experience. Visit your nearest Kia Showroom to experience the 25MY innovation today! Reliable International Automotive, the distributor for Kia in Oman, provides a rewarding ownership experience for customers.

EMPOWERING EXCELLENCE

ahlibank launches new POS Financing Programme for SME customers

MUSCAT: In line with its intuitive efforts to empower Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) through well-articulated solutions, ahlibank has recently announced the launch of its Point of Sale (POS) Financing Programme for SMEs. The new programme is geared towards SMEs who are willing to use, or are already using, ahlibank's POS machines, granting short/medium term loans against POS receivables for operating and capital expenditures. As per the credit parameters, ahlibank's new POS Financing Program offers loans that amount up to RO 150,000 for up to 36 months with daily repayment tied to POS transactions. The Bank also allows financing options of up to 30% of the last 12 months of POS turnover for operating expenditure, and up to 70% for capital expenditure (which is capped at RO 150,000). Customers are provided credit cards as a combined solution of up to 15% of the financing limits (capped at RO. 10,000). Most notably, the financing program is granted with quick approval and a timely disbursement process. Commenting on the launch of the program, Hassan Maqbool, AGM - Head of SME at ahlibank, said, "At ahlibank, we recognize



the role SMEs play in bolstering the economy. Our innovative approach reflects this, as we strive to offer tailor-made solutions to

our SME customers with utmost excellence and efficiency. By empowering businesses with the essential tools needed to grow, we

have played an active part in their journey, easing financial burdens and enhancing customer satisfaction. We are eagerly anticipating witnessing the impact the POS Financing Program will have on SMEs, and the broader Omani economy as a whole." The POS financing program from ahlibank is set to empower retail businesses, restaurants, service providers and other sectors that utilize POS systems. It will assist business owners seeking to manage their cash flow and expand their operations, allowing them to identify and invest in further opportunities for growth. With flexible financial solutions and a simple application process, the program will bolster the SMEs sector, assisting them in their journey moving forwards as key contributors to the nation's economy. With the launch of the POS Financing Program, ahlibank reaffirms its steadfast commitment to supporting the growth and success of SMEs. The Bank's inclusive solutions empower businesses, elevating them to newer heights, and grander avenues of success. Rest assured that ahlibank will remain at the forefront of excellence, bringing the best and latest innovations to the financial scene.

STRENGTHEN NATIONAL TALENT



be'ah honours its leadership programmes graduates

MUSCAT: be'ah honoured its employees who completed leadership programmes organized by the Royal Academy of Management. These programs, including the Future Leaders Program and Etimad, the national leadership development program, aim to nurture future leaders and empower mid-level Omani managers in the private sector. Participants highlighted the profound impact these programs had on enhancing their leadership skills and boosting productivity. be'ah's investment in national talent aligns with its commitment to fostering innovation and sustainability across various sectors. Employees contributed to practical projects addressing key environmental and economic challenges, including: Increasing petrochemical production from natural gas Integrated Sea cucumber and seaweed farming in Al Wusta Reducing reliance on private transport in favor of shared mobility in Muscat Enhancing economic returns from marble waste Improving municipal solid waste collection services Leveraging consumer boycotts to enhance the market position of the National Detergent Company Inspiring Experiences from be'ah Employees Graduates of these leadership programmes shared their transformative experiences. Ahmed Abdullah Al-Kharusi, Acting Senior Manager of Corporate Communication, reflected on his Etimad journey: "Etimad has been a thrilling and challenging transformational journey, instilling in us a profound sense of responsibility towards Oman, be'ah, and our teams. The experience has shaped us into dedicated stewards of progress and innovation." Ahmed Khalfan Al-Qasbi, Senior Manager of Legal Affairs, described Etimad: "The seven-month Etimad journey has been an inspiring adventure in mastering organizational leadership and change management, guided by top international experts. This remarkable program has ignited my passion for innovation and

equipped me with practical tools to tackle complex business challenges head-on." Karima Saud Al-Raaisi, Senior ExecutiveMaterial Recovery, emphasized the program's impact: "My participation in the Etimad Program provided me with invaluable opportunities to network with peers from various sectors and organizations, significantly enhancing my knowledge and enriching my professional experience. "The coaching sessions were particularly impactful, as they played a vital role in refining my management style. One of the greatest benefits of transformational coaching is its ability to foster long-lasting, sustainable change." Similarly, Faisal Hamed Al-Ghamdari, Senior Specialist Healthcare Waste Commercialization, described the program as: "More than just a training course, Etimad was a turning point that reshaped my leadership style and strategic skills, with a strong focus on relationship-building, strategic planning, communication, and negotiation." **Future leaders programme: Shaping leadership mindsets** Noor Ahmed Al-Hamdan, Senior Specialist Energy Recovery at be'ah, shared her insights on the Future Leaders Program: "My experience in the Future Leaders Program helped shape my leadership style and capitalize on my strengths while improving my decision-making abilities. It also exposed us to the growth mindsets, journeys, and challenges faced by experts and decision-makers in countries and companies worldwide." **Investing in future** be'ah's recognition of its employees highlights its dedication to empowering national talent and promoting leadership excellence. Through its investment in these programs, the company boosts workforce productivity, enhances institutional performance, and supports Oman's Vision 2040 for sustainable development and innovation.

ROUND-UP

BankDhofar Money Market Fund: A reliable low-risk investment option

BankDhofar Money Market Fund focuses on low-risk securities, offering returns in line with short-term market rates

MUSCAT: BankDhofar Money Market Fund, launched last year by Bank Dhofar, has emerged as an attractive choice for investors seeking consistent returns with efficiency and flexibility. This

fund represents the first step in the Bank's broader investment initiatives, aimed at strengthening its position in the investment sector. BankDhofar Money Market Fund focuses on low-risk securities, offering returns in line with short-term market rates. It achieves this by investing in liquid, high-quality securities issued by banks, government and semi-government entities, and other organizations across Oman and the GCC region. The fund's key benefits include liquidity, and a diversified portfolio of short-term, high-quality debt instruments. The fund is managed by a skilled team of professionals, operating under robust regulatory supervision and adhering to transparency standards to ensure healthy returns.

Individuals and institutions can invest in the fund with a minimum subscription of OMR 1,000. The fund invests into a diverse mix of instruments, including call accounts, fixed deposits, certificates of deposit, treasury bills, commercial papers, short-term bonds, sukuks, and other money market instruments. The fund invests only in instruments denominated in Omani Riyals, GCC currencies, US Dollars, British Pounds, or Euros. Prioritizing safety, liquidity, and credit quality, BankDhofar's Asset Management team employs its expertise to assess and manage risks. BankDhofar Money Market Fund complements the Bank's comprehensive asset management services, which include investment fund management, dis-

cretionary and non-discretionary portfolio management, and strategies covering money markets, fixed income, real estate, equities, and alternative assets. These offerings help clients achieve targeted returns through both conventional and Sharia-compliant options. This fund exemplifies BankDhofar's commitment to innovation and customer-centric solutions, catering to the diverse needs of its clientele. The bank serves a broad customer base, ranging from retail banking clients—including accounts for youth, ladies, and premium Al Riyadh segments—to exclusive banking services like Al Rifaa and private banking. With 131 branches and advanced digital platforms, BankDhofar continues to deliver exceptional experiences and value-driven services.



SEASON OF LOVE

Malabar Gold & Diamonds launches 'Heart to Heart' jewellery collection



MUSCAT: Ushering in the season of Love, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the 6th largest jewellery retailer globally with over 375 showrooms across 13 countries has launched the 'Heart to Heart' jewellery collection. The elegant array of adornments from the world-renowned jeweller comprises over 100 heart-shaped designs with prices starting from just OMR 85 that makes a perfect gifting option. The limited-edition collection can be availed across all showrooms of Malabar Gold & Diamonds until the 15th February. Giving customers a wide range of options to choose from, the brand has incorporated numerous light weight & elegant designs in necklaces, pendants, bangles, bracelets, earrings & rings into the 'Heart to Heart' collection.

With options available in both responsibly sourced natural diamonds & 18K Gold, the brand has gone out of its way to ensure that the gifting needs of the entirety of its customer base are met. "It is a well-accepted fact that the gift of jewellery is one among the most pristine and thoughtful gifts that one can present. Malabar Gold & Diamonds has always strived to be the perfect gifting partner for jewellery lovers and as we step into the season of love, customers need not look further than our new Heart-to-Heart collection to find a gift that manages to express all your emotions. With a low starting price point, we have made it easier and more lucrative than ever to convey your love this season", commented Shamlal Ahamed, MD-International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

OMAN ARAB BANK

OAB participates in Omani-Indian Business Forum

MUSCAT: As part of its leading role in promoting sustainable growth prospects in Sultanate of Oman, Oman Arab Bank (OAB) participated in the Oman-India Business Forum held in Muscat, aimed at strengthening economic and investment partnerships and cooperation between Oman and the Republic of India. Sulaiman Al Harthi, CEO of OAB, stated: "The bank's participation in this forum, which brought together business leaders and senior officials from both nations, provides an opportunity to foster connections and strengthen economic ties between the business communities of Oman and India. The forum also facilitated discussions on strategic partnerships and promising investment opportunities that drive the growth of private companies and institutions in both countries. Moreover, it offered valuable insights into investor trends, enabling the bank to further refine its corporate services and sustain long-term growth." The CEO of OAB emphasized the bank's commitment to active participation in local and international economic forums and events to reinforce its position



as a leading financial institution driving continuous development in the banking sector. The bank seeks to play a more significant role in fostering economic growth and advancing national objectives. These constructive engagements are crucial for expanding Oman's strategic partnerships, which serve as key catalysts for the growth of the private sector and various economic industries. They also strengthen the Sultanate's position on the global investment map, contributing to sustainable economic development and the successful achievement of Oman Vision 2040 goals.

MEMORABLE

Exclusive Valentine's Day dinner at COYA Muscat

MUSCAT: As an ode to love and friendship, COYA Muscat, Oman's premier destination for exquisite Peruvian cuisine, is set to host a memorable Valentine's Day celebration. Marking its first Valentine's Day in Muscat, the restaurant, renowned for its vibrant atmosphere and exceptional culinary experiences, is going all out to make February 14 extra special for its patrons and guests. It is promising a night filled with delectable food, romantic ambiance, and a surprise to make the evening even more unforgettable. Set against the backdrop of The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort, COYA Muscat is ready to transform the evening into an enchanting experience, blending art, music, and food into a perfect celebration of love. The evening kicks off at 7 PM, where guests can immerse themselves in a full-course dining experience, all for a price of



OMR 39 net per person. The restaurant will indulge guests with a specially crafted menu, including a variety of delectable, gluten free dishes, such as Guacamole (avocado, ají amarillo, corn tortillas), Ceviche de

dulce de leche sauce) among a host of others. What is more, the evening will conclude with a heart-shaped cake, and one lucky cake will contain a special token for a brunch for two. A DJ will set the mood with a curated playlist, ensuring a memorable atmosphere. To enhance the atmosphere, COYA Muscat will feature a DJ spinning tracks throughout the night, setting the perfect mood and ensuring a memorable romantic vibe. Whether guests are dining indoors or enjoying the breezy terrace, the setting promises to be a captivating experience. For those looking to enjoy an exceptional evening with their loved one, COYA Muscat promises a celebration that combines fine dining, music, and a surprise to remember. Reservations can be made in advance via the restaurant's booking channels.

PROMOTION

Mazda unveils exciting 'Buy Now, Save Big for Ramadan' campaign

MUSCAT: Mazda has unveiled an exclusive campaign, offering significant benefits with the theme "Buy Now, Save Big for Ramadan." This campaign combines style, practicality and unmatched value, perfectly timed for the festive season ahead. This special offer provides buyers of the Mazda CX-5 and CX-60 with a RO 500 shopping voucher and 1,250 liters of fuel. These thoughtful rewards ensure customers can enjoy added convenience as they prepare for Ramadan. Whether it's shopping for the season or planning long trips to visit family, Mazda's campaign ensures drivers are ready for everything the festive period demands. The Mazda CX-5 AWD Premium, one of the most popular midsize SUVs, is built for versatility and elegance. Powered by a 2.5-liter Skyactiv-G engine, the CX-5 is designed to handle Oman's varied driving conditions with ease. From navigating the busy streets of Muscat to exploring the



scenic mountain roads of Jebel Akhdar, the CX-5 offers a smooth and efficient drive. Its sleek design is complemented by a refined interior featuring premium materials, advanced technology, and ample space for both drivers and passengers. Safety remains a key priority, with features like adaptive cruise control, lane-keeping assist, and blind-spot monitoring providing peace of mind on every journey. For those who demand a more luxurious driving experience, the Mazda CX-60 offers an elevated blend of sophistication and performance. Available with 2.5-liter and 3.3-liter turbocharged engines, the CX-60 delivers power, efficiency, and dynamic handling. Its bold and confident design makes a statement on the road, while the interior is a testament to Mazda's commitment to crafts-

manship. With Nappa leather upholstery, real wood accents, and state-of-the-art technology such as a 12.3-inch infotainment system, the CX-60 ensures that every journey is as enjoyable as it is stylish. Whether for daily commutes or long-distance drives, the CX-60 is a perfect choice for drivers who appreciate attention to detail and superior quality. Mazda's exclusive campaign is not only about owning a premium vehicle; it's about making life easier for customers as they prepare for one of the most important times of the year. The RO 500 shopping voucher is a thoughtful inclusion, allowing families to go for essentials or treat themselves to something special. The 1,250 liters of fuel, on the other hand, ensures that travel across Oman remains hassle-free, whether for festive gatherings or weekend adventures. Behind Mazda's success in Oman is its trusted distributor, Towell Auto Centre (TAC).

FINANCIAL REPORT

Alizz Islamic Bank Sharia Supervisory Board holds its first meeting in 2025

MUSCAT: The Shari'a Supervisory Board (SSB) of Alizz Islamic Bank held its first meeting for the year at the bank's head office in the Wilayat Bawshar, in the presence of the Chairman of the Shari'a Supervisory Board, Sheikh Dr. Essam Al Enezi and the other members of the SBB as well as Ali bin Saif Al Mani, the bank's CEO, members of the executive management team and the Shari'a Compliance & Audit Department. The meeting was also attended by scholars from the second batch of the "Tamkeen", 'Empowering the Second line of Shari'a Supervisory Board Members' program, where they participated alongside mem-



bers of the Shari'a Supervisory Board for practical experience and direct vocational training. The meeting covered various topics including the local economic performance, the bank's performance in 2024 and the way forward during the coming period. Moreover, the

meeting discussed the Financial Report for the fourth quarter of 2024 and the Shari'a Compliance and Risk Reports, as well as a number of issues of interest. It is worth mentioning that the Shari'a Supervisory Board, reaffirms its commitment to sharia compliant governance by ensuring all directives, decisions and operations align with the Islamic banking principles. It also provides expert guidance on value-added products and financing solutions to meet customers' dynamic market demand. Their involvement enhances transparency, mitigate risks and strengthens stakeholder confidence.



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The offer is valid from 11 January 2025 to 11 February 2025 and applies exclusively to 2023 & 2024 models of the Mazda CX-5 AWD Premium, Mazda CX-60 2.5 2WD Homura, Mazda CX-60 3.3T AWD Takumi MHEV and Mazda CX-60 3.3T AWD Takumi MHEV variants. Free RO 500 Lulu shopping voucher redeemable at Lulu Hypermarkets in Oman for up to 12 months from the date of issue. 1,250 liters of N95 fuel, redeemable only at Oman Oil fuel stations. This promotion is valid solely for private vehicle purchases and does not apply to fleet, ministry, taxi or rental vehicles. Specifications, availability and terms are subject to change without prior notice.

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