

Times

GOLDEN JUBILEE

OF OMAN



50

YEARS OF LEGACY

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TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN
Conquer the Empty Quarter in Dhofar

1 Prepare for an adventure of a lifetime as you delve into the heart of Oman's Empty Quarter (Rub' al Khali) in the majestic Dhofar region. This epic 300 km crossing is more than just a drive; it's a challenging expedition into one of the world's most immense and untouched sand deserts, featuring colossal dunes and the promise of the clearest night skies. >A3

OMAN
Exhibition opens at National Museum

2 On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Oman and Russia, the National Museum inaugurated exhibition titled "Russia and the Middle East: International Relations and Cultural Influences" from the Moscow Kremlin Museums collection. >A6

MARKET
Agreement signed for Dhalkut Port

3 The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology signed a framework agreement with Abu Sultan Enterprises for the development, management and operation of Dhalkut Port in the Dhofar Governorate. This three-year strategic partnership marks a significant step in enhancing Oman's maritime and logistics infrastructure. >B1

GCC SUMMIT ENDS WITH EMPHASIS ON GREATER UNITY AND PROSPERITY



The communiqué stressed the critical need to advance integration among member states

MANAMA: The communiqué of the 46th session of the GCC Supreme Council, held in Manama yesterday, affirmed the profound historical and fraternal bonds that unite the member states and their peoples, forged by a common heritage of religion, ancestry, language and destiny. The communiqué emphasised the critical need to reinforce these deep-rooted ties and advance

integration among member states.

Visionary path
This commitment is driven by unwavering belief in the Council's noble objectives, a continuation of the visionary path set by the founding leaders, and a dedication to fulfilling the aspirations of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) citizens for enhanced stability, security, progress, and prosperity.

Bolster security
The leaders resolved to intensify coordination and integration across all political, security, economic, and social spheres, ultimately striving toward greater unity to serve shared fraternal interests and bolster security, peace and prosperity regionally and globally. The leaders expressed deep satisfaction with the tangible

achievements of joint Gulf action, realised under a cohesive defence and security framework, through prudent and balanced diplomacy, and via sustainable developmental and economic initiatives. These accomplishments reflect the Gulf Cooperation Council's political cohesion and its unified vision, objectives, and stances on diverse regional and international matters. >A2

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OMAN

PRAYER
TIMINGS



Dhuhr.....12:02pm

Asr.....3:04pm

Maghrib.....5:25pm

Isha.....6:40pm

Fajr (Tomorrow).....5:15am

HM participates in GCC Summit



King Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa of Bahrain was at the forefront to receive His Majesty, welcoming him as an esteemed guest

MANAMA: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik participated in the 46th GCC Summit, which was held at Sakhir Palace in Manama, the Kingdom of Bahrain yesterday. Upon His Majesty the Sultan's arrival at Sakhir Palace, King Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain was at the forefront to receive His Majesty, welcoming him as an esteemed guest. At the outset of the summit, verses from the Holy Quran were recited. Then, King Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa of the Kingdom of

strategic weight. It demonstrates its position as an active and influential force in regional and international politics, he said. He clarified that achieving these gains would not have been possible without the shared vision and unified policies that made it a priority to establish Gulf security, preserve national sovereignty, respect the principles of good neighborliness, and non-interference in the internal affairs of states. This, he affirmed, stems from a golden rule that the security, stability, and prosperity of the GCC states are an indivisible whole. He underlined the continuation of addressing regional issues, foremost among them the Palestinian cause, based on dialogue and political and diplomatic options that enhance stability and open wider horizons for the region's security and its sustainable development. For his part, Sheikh Mishal

Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait said, "The GCC, through the awareness and solidarity of its peoples, overcomes complex regional and international circumstances and significant challenges, and achieves stability through collective security and a common destiny. It confirms to generations that unity and collaborative efforts are two paths to overcoming challenges towards peace." He added that the GCC possesses active political and economic strength on the regional and international arenas. On his turn, Jassim Mohammed Al Budaiwi, GCC Secretary General, delivered a speech at the 46th summit in the Kingdom of Bahrain. He stated: "This year witnessed two painful incidents affecting the State of Qatar, which demonstrated to the entire world that the Gulf destiny is one, Gulf security is one, and that a united word stands strong, while a divided one weakens. Two incidents that proved what unites our states is not only proximity, but rather a shared decision, home, and protection. And that no matter how severe the crisis, it will neither weaken our resolve nor loosen the ties of our unity." He added that the stances of the GCC states towards the Palestinian cause will remain as steadfast and firm as values, unwavering and unchanging. The GCC states, he said, continue to emphasize the centrality of this issue, the necessity of ending the occupation, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital. During the summit, a commemorative photograph was taken, gathering the GCC Leaders and their representatives. Meanwhile, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik participated in the GCC-Italian Summit in Manama, in the presence the GCC Leaders and their representatives, as well as Giorgia Meloni, Prime Minister of the Italian Republic. In her speech, the Italian Prime Minister confirmed that relations between the GCC states and European countries are going through an advanced phase of constructive cooperation. During the summit, His Majesty the Sultan was accompanied by HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Sultan bin Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance, Dr. Hamad bin Said Al Aufi, Head of the Private Office and Sayyid Faisal bin Harib Al Busaidi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Bahrain. -ONA

KING OF BAHRAIN HOSTS LUNCHEON

King Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain hosted an official luncheon at Sakhir Palace in honour of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the GCC leaders and their representatives, as well as the Prime Minister of Italy. The luncheon was hosted on the occasion of the 46th GCC Summit held in Manama. After the luncheon, the King of Bahrain bade farewell to His Majesty the Sultan, the GCC leaders and their representatives, expressing his profound thanks and appreciation for their gracious participation in the summit's proceedings. — ONA



HM the Sultan meets Italian Prime Minister



MANAMA: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik met at his place of residence in Manama yesterday with Giorgia Meloni, Prime Minister of the Italian Republic. The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 46th GCC Summit. The meeting reviewed areas of cooperation between Oman and Italy. It also explored means of boosting partnership in various spheres, in addition to exchanging views on a set of regional and international issues of common concern. It was attended by members of the official delegation accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and some officials at the Italian Government. -ONA

COMMUNIQUE

<FROM
A1

GCC Summit concludes

The communique strongly affirmed the principle of respecting the sovereignty of GCC states and all regional nations, coupled with a rejection of any interference in their internal affairs or the use or threat of force. It declared that the security and stability of the GCC is indivisible, and any violation of a member's sovereignty constitutes a direct threat to their collective security. Demonstrating a steadfast commitment to achieving a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the Middle East through peaceful conflict resolution, the GCC leaders welcomed the outcomes of the Sharm El-Sheikh Peace Summit. They voiced support for all regional and international endeavours to ensure full adherence to the agreement ending hostilities in Gaza, to facilitate humanitarian aid delivery and reconstruction and to advance efforts leading to the establishment of an independent, sovereign Palestinian state on the June 4, 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem (Al Quds Al Sharqiyah) as its capital. This aligns with the two-state solution, the Arab Peace Initiative, and pertinent international resolutions, thereby fulfilling the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people and the region for a life of security and peace.

GCC Common Market
The communique outlined a forward-looking agenda for economic advancement. Leaders stressed the importance of finalising the GCC Common Market and Customs Union, boosting trade and tourism, and channeling investment into strategic sectors—especially infrastructure, transport, energy, communications, water, and food security. Accelerating digital infrastructure integration, fostering e-commerce, and developing joint digital payment and cloud service systems were highlighted as key to achieving full economic citizenship and sustainable, inclusive development. The leaders pledged to persist with economic diversification, championing an innovation-driven and sustainable economy to secure lasting prosperity. They underscored the necessity of a unified Gulf strategy to enhance cooperation in technology, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity. This aims to promote knowledge integration, share digital transformation expertise, combat cybercrime, ensure a secure digital environment, and empower youth and women in the development process. The vital role of think tanks in future foresight and policy formulation was also acknowledged. Renewing their environmental commitment, the GCC leaders pledged to address climate change, cut carbon emissions, promote clean energy, and preserve natural resources, in harmony with Gulf and global net-zero and sustainable development goals.

Regional security
The communiqué called for stronger international collaboration to safeguard regional security, deepen partnerships with allies and international bodies, and combat extremism, terrorism, and transnational crime. Support was reaffirmed for the Combined Maritime Forces in Bahrain to protect energy security and maritime trade. The GCC leaders also advocated for a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction and for curbing arms races to enhance regional stability. The GCC leaders extended full support to the Kingdom of Bahrain in its upcoming role representing the Arab Group as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, expressing confidence in its ability to advance Gulf and Arab interests and its role as a proactive partner for international peace and dialogue. Appreciation was also extended to Giorgia Meloni, Prime Minister of Italy, for her participation in summit discussions. Both sides agreed to develop a joint action plan to elevate their historical friendship to a comprehensive strategic partnership, reflecting the GCC's openness to building substantive alliances. In closing, Their Majesties and Highnesses, the GCC leaders, committed to developing institutional frameworks that broaden fraternal solidarity and strategic integration. This is to ensure the enduring security and prosperity of their nations and peoples within a stable region and to contribute to a more just and prosperous world, reaffirming their unwavering dedication to this shared future. -ONA



LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION TAKE CENTRE STAGE AT TIMES OF OMAN BUSINESS LEADERSHIP SUMMIT & AWARDS 2025



His Highness Sayyid Mohammed bin Thuwaini Al Said, Chief Guest



Ahmed Essa Al Zaidjili, Chief Executive Officer, Muscat Media Group



Fadi Kattar, Chief Operating Officer, Muscat Media Group



Adebayo Osolake, Global Trade Specialist



Gaurav Kapoor, Tax Partner, PwC Middle East



Mustafa Ahmed Salman, Chairman and CEO, United Securities



PANELISTS: Alkesh Joshi, Partner at EY; Muhsin Alrustom, Group CFO of ASYAD Group; Muadh Al-Omairi, Vice President – Commercial at Infoline; Rajeev Singh, CEO of Al Maha Ceramics; Moderator: Deepa Swaminathan, Editor of Gulf Leaders Circle

MUSCAT: The Times of Oman Business Leadership Summit & Awards 2025 took place on 2nd December at the prestigious St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort, bringing together over 200 senior government officials, top business owners, industry experts and leading CXOs. Held under the theme ‘Leading the Future of Business’, the Summit served as a powerful platform for thought leadership, collaboration and recognition.

The full-day event featured in-depth discussions and expert presentations covering pivotal sectors such as banking, investments, oil & gas, logistics, technology, manufacturing, real estate and construction. The sessions explored pressing global challenges—including geopolitical shifts, economic volatility, and rapid digital transformation—and highlighted the need for leaders to navigate with resilience, agility and a strong sense of purpose. Speakers underscored how businesses must align with Oman Vision 2040 to drive sustainable growth and long-term competitiveness.

Organized by Times of Oman in collaboration with Gulf Leaders Circle and Muscat Media Group, the Summit was supported by Infoline, United Securities, Best Infrastructure Developers, AmCham Oman and Floward. The event was held under the esteemed patronage of His Highness Sayyid Mohammed bin Thuwaini Al Said, who graced the ceremony as Chief Guest.

A highlight of the event was the high-level panel discussion titled “Thriving Amid Disruption & Transformation: Redefining the Business Playbook.” The panel featured Muhsin Alrustom, Group CFO of ASYAD Group; Alkesh Joshi, Partner at EY; Muadh Al-Omairi, Vice President – Commercial at Infoline; and Rajeev Singh, CEO of Al Maha Ceramics, with the conversation moderated by Deepa Swaminathan, Editor of Gulf Leaders Circle.

Alkesh Joshi spoke about Oman’s economic shift. “Oman’s economic story is transforming in



front of us – debt has come down, interest payments have reduced, and nearly half a billion rials of liquidity have been freed up to reinvest in growth. If we stay committed to structural reform and the long-term vision of 2040, this momentum can fundamentally reshape the country’s economic landscape.”

Muhsin Alrustom spoke about the complexities managing disruption in the logistics sector. “In logistics, risk isn’t a single variable, it’s a moving target shaped by geopolitics, freight cycles, currencies, and capital costs. Our resilience comes from preparing for all of it: diversifying our fleet, hedging intelligently, and strengthening the systems that keep us competitive. And with Oman’s integrated logistics capabilities across Duqm, Sohar, and Salalah, Asyad aims to respond to global turbulence with confidence and agility.”

Muadh Al-Omairi spoke about transformation in customer experience. “Customer experience today is completely different from what it was even three years ago: expectations are faster, smarter, and more digital.

“At Infoline, technology has helped us shift from a service provider to a solutions partner, and I believe this is how Oman can position itself: recognize its as a high-



quality, tech-driven service hub.” Rajeev Singh’s weighed in on the manufacturing sector in the country. “Manufacturing in Oman demands resilience... you’re competing against global players with lower costs, so you have to win on execution, quality, and culture. Our turnaround at Al Maha Ceramics happened because the team chose optimism, focused on productivity, and believed we could build a stronger, more forward-looking company together.”

The Summit also included forward-looking presentations by global and regional experts. Adebayo Osolake, renowned banker and former Global Head of Financial Institutions Trade Finance

Sales at JPMorgan, presented “The Future of Global Trade: Adapting to a Fragmented World,” offering an incisive look into emerging geopolitical and economic realities. Gaurav Kapoor, Tax Partner at PwC Middle East, delivered a timely presentation titled “Oman’s Next Frontier: Personal Income Tax and the Future of a Vibrant Economy.”

Another notable segment was an engaging fireside conversation with Mustafa Ahmed Salman, Founder, Chairman and CEO of United Securities. He reflected on his three-decade plus journey building a leading investment institution, sharing insights into overcoming challenges, contribut-

ing to Oman’s capital markets and advising the next generation of entrepreneurs. The day concluded with the prestigious Business Leadership Awards 2025, honouring exceptional leaders and organisations shaping Oman’s future. Among the top personality honours, the Lifetime Achievement Awards were presented to Mustafa Ahmed Salman, Founder & Chairman of United Securities, and Sunder George, in recognition of their outstanding contributions. Hussein Al-Lawati, CEO of Development Bank, was named Business Leader of the Year in Banking, while Tariq Al Farsi, CEO of National Finance, received the title of Business Leader of the Year in Finance. The award for Business Leader of the Year in Investments went to Mohammad Al Farei, CEO of Zubair Investments, and Saoud Al Riyami, CEO of Ooredoo, was recognised as Business Leader of the Year in Telecom.

In the logistics sector, Muhsin Alrustom, Group Chief Financial Officer of ASYAD Group, was honoured as Business Leader of the Year in Logistics, while Basil Macki, Non Executive Director at STS Group, received the award for Business Leader of the Year in Oil and Gas Services.

Hussain Al Balushi, Chief Financial Officer of Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company, was acknowledged as Business Leader of the Year in Utilities. Rajeev Singh, CEO of Al Maha Ceramics, was named Business Leader of the Year in Ceramic Tiles, and Gopalakrishnan G, General Manager of Asian Paints Middle East, received the award for Business Leader of the Year in Paints Manufacturing. Harsha Shetty, CEO of Jindal Steel Oman, was honoured as Business Leader of the Year in Industrial Excellence, while Nitin Sapre, CEO of Europarc Oman, Bahrain & Saudi Arabia, was recognised as Business Leader of the Year in Mobility Services. Muadh Al-Omairi, Vice President – Commercial at Infoline, received the award for Business Leader of the Year in CX Excellence, and Ali Asgar Shroff, CEO of ABQ Education Group, was celebrated as Business Leader of the Year in Education. In the institutional categories, Awars was named Company of the Year in Telecom, while Mitsubishi secured the title of Company of the Year in Automotive (Overall). GMC was recognised as Company of the Year in the Commercial Vehicles Segment, ROX as Company of the Year in the Luxury New Energy Vehicles Segment, and Changan as Company of the Year in the Premium Segment. Shanfari Trading and Furnishing Co. was awarded Company of the Year in Interior Fitouts & Furnishing, and Best Infrastructure Developers was named Company of the Year in Construction. Talent Electric Services earned the title of Company of the Year in Electrosafety Excellence, while Badr Al Samaa Royal Hospital was honoured as Company of the Year in Premium Healthcare. The Times of Oman Business Leadership Summit & Awards 2025 concluded with a powerful message of optimism and forward-looking ambition—echoing the spirit of a nation steadily progressing towards its Vision 2040 aspirations.



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT: Mustafa Ahmed Salman, United Securities



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT: Sunder George



BUSINESS LEADER OF THE YEAR – BANKING: Hussein Al-Lawati, Chief Executive Officer, Development Bank



BUSINESS LEADER OF THE YEAR – FINANCE: Tariq Al Farsi, Chief Executive Officer, National Finance



BUSINESS LEADER OF THE YEAR – INVESTMENTS: Mohammad Al Farei, Chief Executive Officer, Zubair Investment



BUSINESS LEADER OF THE YEAR – TELECOM: Saoud Al Riyami, Chief Executive Officer, Ooredoo



BUSINESS LEADER OF THE YEAR – LOGISTICS: Muhsin Alrustom, Group Chief Financial Officer, ASYAD Group



BUSINESS LEADER OF THE YEAR – OIL AND GAS SERVICES: Basil Macki, Non-Executive Director, STS Group



BUSINESS LEADER OF THE YEAR – UTILITIES: Hussain Al Balushi, Chief Financial Officer, Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company



BUSINESS LEADER OF THE YEAR – CERAMIC TILES: Rajeev Singh, Chief Executive Officer, Al Maha Ceramics



BUSINESS LEADER OF THE YEAR – PAINTS MANUFACTURING: Gopalakrishnan G, General Manager, Asian Paints Middle East



BUSINESS LEADER OF THE YEAR – INDUSTRIAL EXCELLENCE: Harsha Shetty, Chief Executive Officer, Jindal Steel, Oman



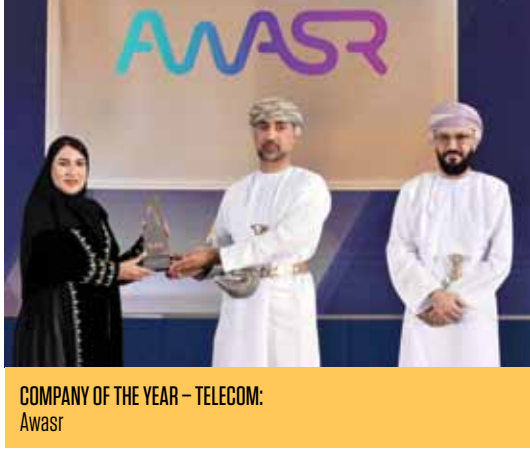
BUSINESS LEADER OF THE YEAR – MOBILITY SERVICES: Nitin Sapre, Chief Executive Officer, Europarc Oman, Bahrain & Saudi Arabia



BUSINESS LEADER OF THE YEAR – CX EXCELLENCE: Muadh Al-Omairi, Vice President – Commercial, Infoline



BUSINESS LEADER OF THE YEAR – EDUCATION: Ali Asgar Shroff, Chief Executive Officer, ABQ Education Group



COMPANY OF THE YEAR – TELECOM: Awars



COMPANY OF THE YEAR IN AUTOMOTIVE (OVERALL): Mitsubishi



COMPANY OF THE YEAR IN AUTOMOTIVE – COMMERCIAL VEHICLES SEGMENT: GMC



COMPANY OF THE YEAR IN AUTOMOTIVE – LUXURY NEW ENERGY VEHICLES SEGMENT: ROX



COMPANY OF THE YEAR IN AUTOMOTIVE – PREMIUM SEGMENT: Changan



COMPANY OF THE YEAR – INTERIOR FITOUTS & FURNISHING: Shanfari Trading and Furnishing Co



COMPANY OF THE YEAR – CONSTRUCTION: Best Infrastructure Developers



COMPANY OF THE YEAR – ELECTROSAFETY EXCELLENCE: Talent Electric Services



COMPANY OF THE YEAR – PREMIUM HEALTHCARE: Badr Al Samaa Royal Hospital

Oman’s Tax Authority signs CRS amendment

Nasser bin Khamis Al Jashmi, Tax Authority Chairman, signed the annex related to the Common Reporting Standard amendment in New Delhi

NEW DELHI: The Sultanate of Oman took part in the 18th meeting of the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes, held in New Delhi, Republic of India. Oman's delegation was chaired by Nasser bin Khamis Al Jashmi, Chairman of the Tax Authority. The meeting witnessed wide participation, including 400 representatives from 124 member states, along with 12 observers and 7 invited entities from outside the membership. Besides, representatives from civil society and the



academic authorities took part as well. The meeting discussed strategic dimensions on which the Forum relies to achieve its objectives centered around three main pillars: the ongoing monitoring and review of the implementation of international transparency standards, conducting peer reviews and assessing the effectiveness of these standards' application in the

member states. The meeting also reviewed the activities of capacity-building programs and technical assistance aimed at supporting member states to develop their tax systems. Nasser bin Khamis Al Jashmi, Chairman of the Tax Authority, signed the annex related to the amendment of the Common Reporting Standard (CRS). This step reflects the ongoing efforts to develop regulatory systems, enhance the effectiveness of the automatic exchange of information and keep pace with global developments in order to support the Sultanate of Oman's commitment to achieving the highest standards of transparency in tax matters. — **ONA**

ACADEMY OF STRATEGIC AND DEFENCE STUDIES

National symposium on consolidating public-private sector integration concludes

MUSCAT: The Academy of Strategic and Defence Studies yesterday held a ceremony marking the conclusion of the 2025 National Symposium titled “Enhancing public-private sector integration towards generating employment opportunities.” The ceremony was held at Al Shafaq Club, Sultan's Armed Forces, under the auspices of retired Lt. Gen. Ahmed bin Harith Al Nabhani, in the presence of Maj. Gen. Hamid bin Ahmed Sakroon, Chairman of the Academy of Strategic and Defence Studies.



Brigadier Nasser bin Abdullah Al Qatabi, Head of the Centre for Strategic and Defence Studies, said, “The Centre is keen to provide a platform for dialogue visions and the exchange of visions to cement institutional ties and develop practical policies with the aim of drafting recommendations that support the establishment of a sustainable national economy and the realisation of the objectives of

Oman Vision 2040.” The ceremony included visual presentations about the themes of the symposium, discussion of the recommendations of the symposium, a review of key initiatives and the launch of a platform codenamed “My Institution's Sustainability”. The symposium aimed to boost public-private sector partnership, devise sound national frameworks for achieving development, enhance joint initiatives, generate employment opportunities, ensure operational efficiency and innovate practical solutions. — **ONA**

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND CULTURAL INFLUENCES

‘Russia and the Middle East’ exhibition opens at National Museum

MUSCAT: On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Russian Federation, the National Museum yesterday inaugurated the exhibition “Russia and the Middle East: International Relations and Cultural Influences” from the Moscow Kremlin Museums collection. The opening ceremony was held under the patronage of HH Sayyedah Dr. Mona bint Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Assistant Vice-Chancellor of Sultan Qaboos University for International Cooperation and Deputy Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Museum. The opening of this exhibition comes as an extension of the ongoing cooperation between the two sides. In July 2024, the National Museum inaugurated the “The Splendor of Silver: Treasures from the Omani Court” exhibition and Oman Day activities at the Moscow Kremlin Museums, with the aim of marking the manifestations of Omani silver as a historically pioneering craft and showcasing a curated selection of artefacts belonging to the Sultans of Oman in Muscat and Zanzibar. The exhibition features more than 80 artefacts of exceptional historical and artistic value, some of which are being displayed outside the Russian Federation for the first time, while others have never before left the walls of the Kremlin in Moscow—the oldest part of the Kremlin collection. These precious pieces, brought from various Eastern countries, were carefully preserved for centuries in the treasuries of Russian sovereignty and later became crown jewels of the Armoury Chamber Museum, including weapons, armor, horse adornments and decorative artworks. One of the most significant and



intriguing themes highlighted by the exhibition is the influence of Eastern art on the jewellery and weapon workshops of the Russian royal court, as well as on the overall appearance of the Russian court during the 16th and 17th centuries.

Also, on display are items that showcase the use of precious incense—frankincense, traditionally imported to Russia from Oman. The exhibition will remain open to the public until 3 April 2026. Oleg Vladimirovich Levin, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Sultanate of Oman, delivered a speech in which he stated that cultural cooperation between the Sultanate of Oman and the Russian Federation is witnessing remarkable growth, reflecting the



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HIGHEST GLOBAL CLASSIFICATION

Omani Search and Rescue Team braces for INSARAG ‘Heavy Level Classification’

MUSCAT: The Omani Search and Rescue Team, Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority, yesterday held a press conference during which it affirmed its readiness to upgrade its status to the “Heavy Level Classification” granted by the United Nations’ International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG)—the highest global classification of its kind. The press conference was held under the auspices of Mohammed bin Said Al Balushi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information. Brigadier Eng. Ali bin Saif Al Muqbali, Deputy Chairman of the Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority (CDAA), said that the Omani Search and Rescue Team recently embarked on an integrated preparedness plan that comprised advanced training programmes held in partnership with Singapore Civil

Defence Academy. He added that the programmes include the enhancement of equipment and supplies in accordance with the requirements of the envisaged “Heavy Level Classification” and the finalisation of operational and organisational procedures in accordance with the standards set by the INSARAG. Al Muqbali pointed out that the team will undergo a set of administrative, technical and field tests that focus on the application of readiness and response skills, incident site management and “Search Under Rubble” operations. The programmes will be carried out under the supervision of international assessors from 12 countries selected by the United Nations to review the Omani team's performance and evaluate its compliance with international standards, he added. — **ONA**



depth of the ties between the two countries' peoples. He affirmed that the National Museum's hosting of the “Russia and the Middle East: International Relations and Cultural Influences” exhibition from the Moscow Kremlin Museums Collection represents an important milestone in the shared cultural journey, highlighting the mutual commitment to preserving heritage and enhancing cultural exchange. He also commended the joint efforts in organising artistic and museum events throughout the year, emphasising that culture remains a lasting bridge for communication and understanding among nations. He concluded by expressing his hope that the exhibition will further contribute to fostering intellectual and cultural closeness. Dr. Elena Gagarina, General Director of the Moscow Kremlin Museums, affirmed in her speech that the exhibition comes in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Russian Federation. She noted that it forms an integral part of the international arts and culture festival “Russian Seasons”, organised by the Government of the Russian Federation and the Russian Ministry of Culture and held in the Sultanate of Oman. The

festival, coinciding with this anniversary, serving the purpose of strengthening and developing cultural diplomacy. She added: “This project continues the fruitful collaboration between our museum and the National Museum of the Sultanate of Oman. In 2024, the exhibition ‘The Splendor of Silver: Treasures from the Omani Court’ was held at the Kremlin Museums in Moscow and achieved great success, with total visitor numbers exceeding thirty thousand. I hope that the exhibition ‘Russia and the Middle East: International Relations and Cultural Influences’ will offer its visitors an unforgettable impression with unique works of masters from the past, and that it will become a significant milestone along the path of expanding cultural dialogue between our two countries.” The Kremlin Museums in Moscow receive around two million visitors each year, and house more than 160,000 artworks preserved within the Kremlin Museums, in addition to over 4,000 pieces permanently displayed in the Armoury Chamber. The collections date from the late third millennium BC up to the present day, with the main portion of the museum's holdings belonging to the period of medieval Russian history and the modern era. — **ONA**

His Majesty the Sultan returns home



representative of His Majesty the Sultan, HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, Sheikh Abdulmalik bin Abdullah Al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council, Khalid bin Hilal Al Ma'awali, Chairman of the Shura Council, Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior, Sayyid Mohammed bin Sultan Al Busaidi, Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council, Nasr bin Hamoud Al Kindi, Secretary General of the Royal Court Affairs, Dr. Madeeha bint Ahmed Al Shibani, Minister of Education, Sheikh Al Fadl bin Mohammed Al Harthy, Secretary General of the Council of Ministers, Lt.Gen Hassan bin Mohsin Al Shuraiki, Inspector General of Police and Customs, Lt.Gen Said bin Ali Al Hilali, Head of the Internal Security Service, Dr. Mohammed bin Said Al Ma'amari, Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs, Vice Admiral Abdullah bin Khamis Al Raisi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces, Maj.Gen Mattar bin Salim Al Balushi, Commander of the Royal Army of Oman, Air Vice Marshal Khamis bin Hammad Al Ghafri, Commander of the Royal Air Force of Oman, Rear Admiral Saif bin Nassir Al Rahbi, Commander of the Royal Navy of Oman and Maj.Gen Musallam bin Mohammed Jaouboub, Commander of the Sultan's Special Force.

His Majesty the Sultan was accompanied by a high-ranking official delegation comprising HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tariq Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Sultan bin Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance, Dr. Hamad bin Said Al Aufi, Head of the Private Office and Sayyid Faisal bin Harib Al Busaidi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Kingdom of Bahrain. -ONA

His Majesty the Sultan expressed sincere appreciation to the King of Bahrain for the warm welcome and reception extended to His Majesty and his accompanying delegation during the summit

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq returned home on Wednesday evening, arriving from the Kingdom of Bahrain after participating, alongside the GCC Leaders and their representatives, in the 46th GCC Summit and the GCC-Italian Summit, which concluded their proceedings in the Bahraini capital, Manama.

His Majesty the Sultan has sent a cable of thanks to the King of Bahrain.

In the cable, His Majesty expressed his sincere appreciation to the King for the warm welcome and reception extended to His Majesty and his accompanying delegation during the summit.

His Majesty lauded the efforts of the Kingdom of Bahrain under the leadership of the King in enhancing the march of joint Gulf action and advancing it towards further partnership, mutual support and solidarity, fulfilling the goals and aspirations of the GCC peoples.

His Majesty was accompanied during the participation by a high-ranking official delegation.

Seen off

In Bahrain, His Majesty the Sultan was seen off at Sakhir Airbase by Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Personal Representative of the King of Bahrain.

HM arrival

Earlier in the day, upon his arrival at Sakhir Air Base in Bahrain, His Majesty and the accompanying delegation were welcomed by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

His Majesty the Sultan then passed between two rows of the Royal Bahraini Guard of Honour.

After that, His Majesty shook hands with members of the welcoming party, who were Jassim bin Mohammed Al Bedaiwi, GCC Secretary General; Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Nawaf bin Mohammed Al Ma'awda, Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments; Ramzan bin Abdullah Al Nuaimi, Minister of Information; Sheikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Khalifa, Governor of the Southern Governorate; Sayyid Faisal bin Harib Al Busaidi, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the Kingdom of Oman and a number of military leaders.

On his turn, His Royal Highness shook hands with the members of the delegation accompanying His Majesty the Sultan.

Thereafter, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa escorted His Majesty the Sultan to the reception hall, where His Royal Highness renewed his warm welcome to His Majesty in his second home. For his part, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere thanks to His Royal Highness for the warm welcome and reception.

Following this, His Majesty the Sultan, accompanied by His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, proceeded to the Sakhir Palace, the place of residence of His Majesty.

Seen off at the Royal Airport

His Majesty was seen off at the Royal Airport by HH Sayyid Asa'ad bin Tariq al-Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs and Personal Rep-

GCC SUPREME COUNCIL

Oman's crucial role in facilitating US-Ansar Allah ceasefire hailed

MANAMA: The GCC Supreme Council, in the communiqué of its 46th session held in Manama, Bahrain yesterday, commended the Sultanate of Oman's pivotal announcement on 6 May 2025 of securing a ceasefire between the US and Ansar Allah.

The GCC Council specifically hailed Oman's instrumental diplomatic efforts, undertaken to safeguard international maritime navigation and trade, and its successful role in securing the release of detained crew members from the vessel "Galaxy".

The GCC Council underscored the critical imperative of maintaining maritime security and the safety of vital sea lanes.

- ONA

STATE COUNCIL

Eleventh Five-Year Plan and 2026 draft budget discussed

MUSCAT: The State Council on Wednesday discussed the draft of the Eleventh Five-Year Development Plan (2026 - 2030) and the draft of the State General Budget for the fiscal year 2026, during its second session of the third ordinary convening of the eighth term.

The session was held under the chairmanship of Sheikh Abdulmalik bin Abdullah Al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council.

The Council reviewed the report of the Expanded Economic and Financial Committee regarding the draft Five-Year Plan. The Council also discussed the committee's report on the draft State General Budget for 2026.

Then, the Council approved the two reports of the Expanded Economic and Financial Committee related to the draft Eleventh Five-Year Development Plan and the draft State General Budget for the fiscal year 2026, in preparation for submitting them to the Council of Ministers.

The session concluded with a review of the report of the General Secretariat on the Council's activities. - ONA



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TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited from interested parties for the following tenders:

Sr. No.	Name of Tender	Tender No.
1	Staff Medical Insurance Policy	ISS/10/2025-26
2	Supply of Textbooks and notebooks for the year 2026-27	ISS/11/2025-26

Tender documents may be collected from the school office upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **RO 10/-** from **6th December 2025 to 11th December 2025**, between **8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.** The completed tender, addressed to "The Principal", must be submitted to the school office on or before **14th December 2025 by 7:00 p.m.**

Indian School Sur reserves the right to accept or reject any tender.



INDIAN SCHOOL IBRI
Contact No:- 25690767, Email:- indianschoolibri@gmail.com

TENDER

I S Ibril/ 201/Tender/2025-26

- Quotation for Staff Group Medical Insurance with effect from 01-01-2026.
- Quotation for Group personnel Accident Policy -Students, Group Life Policy & Workmen Compensation – Employee, Fidelity, Public Liability, Fire Insurance Policy, Money Insurance Policy with effect from 01-04-2026
- Quotation for Procuring and Supplying of Text Books (CBSE Syllabus) for the academic year 2026-27 as per school requirement.
- Quotation for Printing and supplying Note Books as per the requirement.

Please Note:-

- Details can be collected from the School Office during office hours and requirement details can be mailed to the vendors on request (Contact Email:- financehindsibri@gmail.com, with a cc to indianschoolibri@gmail.com).
- Tenderers are requested to send the quotations clearly indicating the subject & Date of advertisement on the top of the Sealed Cover addressed to:- "Principal, Indian School Ibril, P.O. Box 160/511 Ibril , Sultanate of Oman" within 7 days from the date of Tender.

Principal



**MUSCAT GOVERNORATE
MUSCAT MUNICIPALITY**

Announcement of public Auction No. (49/2025)

Muscat Municipality, represented by the Auction Committee, announce the establishment of a public auction as per the following details:

	Items	Location
Set No.1	Water coolers-AC's-Windows-Refrigerators-AC's Ducts-Electrical Cables	Auction Yard at Al Wadi Al Kabeer
Set No.2	PC's-Printers-Scanners-Office Phones-Batteries-Office Furniture-Metal Lockers & Racks	MM Store at Gala
Set No.3	Porta Cabins	MM Labor Camp at Al Amerat
Set No.4	Porta Cabins	MM Yard at Quraiyat

Interested individuals for this Auction must comply with the conditions set out here under:

- Those wishing to enter the auction must pay a fee and its amount (=4 OMR) (four Omani rials) which are not refundable, and an amount of (500 OMR) (five hundred Omani rials) as a temporary deposit to participate in the auction (refundable). The payment shall be done electronically to Muscat Municipality's representative on the auction day at site.
- The person who wins the auction is obligated to pay the full price of the **items** if they were awarded to him plus 5% as value added tax, and the brokerage fees by (=3%OMR) of the total amount of the **items**. The payment shall be done electronically to Muscat Municipality's representative on the auction day at site.
- Items** are sold in their current condition, and Muscat municipality is not responsible for the loss or damage of any part of it once its value has been paid; and it does not bear any obligation regarding the sold **items**. Those wishing to participate in the auction must inspect the **items** on the day specify for that purpose.
- The sold **item** is neither refundable nor devalued, and no appeal will be accepted in this regard.
- The buyer is obligated to transfer the **items** that have been awarded to him after paying their full value within a period not exceeding two weeks from the date of purchase. In the event of delay, a daily penalty of (=50 OMR) shall be imposed for each day, but not exceeding one month. Muscat Municipality shall not be responsible of the sold items if it were not transferred within the specified period; and it reserve the rights to resell the items on the expenses of the buyers.

The auction details are specified as follows:

Set No.1: Auction Yard at Al Wadi Al Kabeer Set No.2: MM Store at Gala Set No.3: MM Labor Camp ar Al Amerat Set No.4: MM Yard at Quraiyat	Location
From 09/12/2025 to 11/12/2025 From 08: 00 AM to 12:00 PM	The Date/Time of the inspection
Auction locations as per the above details	The location for submitting the participation fees
Set No.1: 14/12/2025 at 8:00 AM Set No.2: 14/12/2025 at 10:00 AM Set No.3: 15/12/2025 at 8:00 AM Set No.4: 15/12/2025 at 10:30 AM	Auction date
Please contact the Auction Committee representative on (24753487 – 24753694)	For inquires and coordination
- The VAT specified in the law will be applied to the successful bidder. - It is not allowed to enter the auction yard without paying the entrance fee and the insurance amount. - Muscat Municipality reserve the rights to cancel or postpone the sale without providing any justification. - The security deposit will not be refunded in these cases: 1. If the buyer does not pay the value of the sold items. 2. If the buyer does not transfer the items from the auction yard within the specified period.	Other terms

Website: www.mm.gov.om

SPORTS

BARCELO MUSSANAH RESORT

First-ever World Sailing Inclusion Championships begins in Oman

Times News Service

MUSSANAH: The 2025 World Sailing Inclusion Championships officially began at Barceló Mussanah Resort on Wednesday, marking the first-ever global sailing event for athletes with disabilities.

Organised by Oman Sail, the championship features 155 sailors from 37 countries competing until 8 December.

The opening ceremony, held under the patronage of His Highness Sayyid Azzan bin Qais Al Said, President of the Oman Olympic Committee, included the raising of the championship flag and a parade of participating nations.

David Graham, CEO of World Sailing, formally declared the competition open, praising Oman's hospitality and the event's inclusive spirit.

The inaugural ceremony also coincided with the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.



Graham said: "This is the very first edition of the World Sailing Inclusion Championships, and what a wonderful place to host the inaugural one. In the sunshine, with warm water and a racecourse just outside the marina, the mountains as a backdrop - cultures and

rituals that go back centuries; but the most wonderful thing here is the people, the warm, happy generous and very hospitable Oman people, thank you Oman for making us feel so welcome."

Also present at the opening ceremony were Dr. Abdullah bin



Khamis Ambusaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education for Education, Dr. Khamis Al Jabri, CEO of Oman Sail, as well as representatives of regional and international federations.

Al Jabri highlighted the championship's broader significance,

saying it promotes empowerment, equality, and human determination while reflecting Oman Vision 2040.

"Since launching the SailFree programme in 2019, we have believed the sea is wide enough for everyone. Today, this initiative has become an Omani success story," he said.

The championship features four boat classes, including Hansa 303 and RS Venture Connect, with Oman represented by seven sailors. The regatta also integrates cultural tours and a Race Village showcasing Omani heritage and local businesses. The event is supported by World Sailing, Oman Sail, the Oman Maritime Sports Committee, and partners across government and private sectors.

The inaugural edition represents the largest participation in a sailing event for persons with disabilities, positioning Oman as a leading host of inclusive international sporting events.

The venue of the world inclusion championship previously hosted the 2022 RS Venture Connect World Championship, the first dedicated Para sailing event in Oman, and is officially accredited as a Category A High-Performance Centre by the Asian Sailing Federation.

Markram, Brevis power SA to record chase, level series

Kohli's 53rd ton and Gaikwad's maiden century go in vain as India fall short in second ODI match

RAIPUR: It was a night to remember for South Africa on Wednesday as Aiden Markram's commanding 110 and Dewald Brevis's blistering 34-ball 54 propelled the Proteas to a thrilling four-wicket victory over India, chasing 359 to level the three-match ODI series 1-1.

On a dewy evening at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium, South Africa matched the record for the highest successful chase by a visiting side in India, a feat previously achieved only by Australia in 2019.

Despite Virat Kohli's 53rd ODI century and Ruturaj Gaikwad's maiden hundred, India were undone by ordinary fielding, damp conditions, and an inability to accelerate in the death overs.

The dew-laden outfield made gripping the ball challenging, and even seasoned fielders like Ravindra Jadeja struggled to contain the visitors.

South Africa's chase showcased a blend of power, precision, and calm under pressure. Markram's 98-ball 110, studded with 10 boundaries and four sixes, set the tone. He became only the fifth visiting South African opener, and the first since 2010, to score a century in India.

Brevis and Matthew Breetzke (68) added crucial momentum, sharing a 92-run fourth-wicket stand in just 69 balls, maintaining



the required run rate with fearless striking.

Injuries tested South Africa's lower order. Tony de Zorzi's hamstring forced him to retire hurt, while No. 11 Nandre Burger had

already been sidelined. Yet, Corbin Bosch's unbeaten knock of 29 off 15 ensured the Proteas crossed the finish line with four balls to spare, turning a potentially tricky endgame into a historic triumph.



India's bowlers struggled to contain the visitors, while the old, wet ball further hampered the home side's efforts.

Prasidh Krishna and Harshit Rana leaked runs under pressure,

though Krishna claimed the crucial wicket of Breetzke, and Arshdeep Singh dismissed Marco Jansen to keep hopes alive.

Earlier, Kohli and Gaikwad's 195-run partnership thrilled the

crowd, but once they were dismissed, India could not rebuild the momentum.

KL Rahul's valiant unbeaten 66 was not enough, and contribution from Jadeja (24 off 27) fell short of a match-defining total as they scored 358/5.

Speaking after scoring the winning runs, Bosch said: "There's always a belief in this team that we can always chase anything. And we showed that. The game was set perfectly, the guys at the top order set it up nicely for the lower order. The dew made it tough for the bowlers and made it a bit easier for us to score the runs. I am very happy batting at No. 8 and just happy to contribute."

Brief scores: India 358/5 (Virat Kohli 102, Ruturaj Gaikwad 105, KL Rahul 66*; Marco Jansen 2/63) lost to South Africa 362/6 in 49.2 overs (Aiden Markram 110, Matthew Breetzke 68, Dewald Brevis 54, Corbin Bosch 29*; Arshdeep Singh 2/54, Prasidh Krishna 2/85). - **Agencies**

DISC REPLACEMENT SURGERY

Woods admits slow recovery

NEW YORK: Tiger Woods on Tuesday said that his recovery from disc replacement surgery has been "slow", with no date currently set for his return.

The 49-year-old has been sidelined since missing the cut at The Open in July 2024. He had surgery in October this year after "experiencing pain and lack of mobility" in his back.

It was his seventh back procedure in the past decade. "It's not as fast as I'd like it to be. It was a good thing to do, something I needed to happen, it just takes time and dedication to the rehab process," Woods said on his recovery.

"Unfortunately I've been through this rehab process before and it's step-by-step. It was six weeks since last Friday [since the operation] and it's been slow.

"You can't really do much with a disc replacement, now we have the OK to start cranking it up in the gym and start strengthening."

The 15-time major champion did not say when he expected to make his return, explaining that he was waiting to "get a feel for



the recovery process" before deciding on where and when.

His initial return was delayed in March when he had surgery to repair a ruptured left Achilles tendon sustained while training at home. Woods had already been playing a limited schedule since suffering severe injuries in a car accident in February 2021. But when asked why he was making yet another comeback after so many injuries, Woods insisted it was "my passion to just play".

"I haven't done that in a long time and it's been a tough year," Woods added. "I've had to sit on the sidelines for a number of months of this year and the end of last year. I'd like to come back to just playing golf again." - **Agencies**

FIVE T20IS

Hardik back in India's squad for SA series

MUMBAI: Hardik Pandya was on Wednesday named in India's 15-member squad for the five-match T20Is against South Africa after an injury layoff kept him out of action for over two months.

India's T20I vice-captain Shubman Gill, who has been recovering from a neck injury he sustained in the first Test in Kolkata, was also named in the squad, but his participation will depend on his fitness clearance from the BCCI's Centre of Excellence (COE). Suryakumar Yadav will lead the squad for the five-match series starting on December 9.

There was no place in the side for Rinku Singh and allrounder Nitish Kumar Reddy who had toured Australia recently for the T20I series. Those were the only two omissions from India's last T20I assignment.

Hardik returned to action on Tuesday in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT), India's domestic T20s, for Baroda. He opened the bowling for figures of 1 for 52 and then batted at No. 4 to smash an



unbeaten 77 off 42 balls with four sixes and seven fours for a seven-wicket win over Punjab. That was his first match since the Asia Cup Super Fours match against Sri Lanka on September 26.

Rinku didn't bat at all on the Australia tour and was picked in the XI only for the last T20I of the series, in Brisbane, which was washed out after 4.5 overs.

That was his only international outing since hitting the winning

runs in the Asia Cup final and he is currently playing in the SMAT for Uttar Pradesh.

Reddy also didn't get any chances in the T20Is in Australia but his exclusion was expected once Hardik was fit again.

If Gill doesn't regain his fitness in time, Sanju Samson could open along with Abhishek Sharma, which he has been doing while leading Kerala in the ongoing domestic T20s. In Australia, Samson

batted at No. 3 in the only chance he got, in the second T20I in Melbourne. He was also in the XI for the opening game but Suryakumar batted at No. 3 and the match was washed out after 9.4 overs.

Jitesh Sharma is the second wicketkeeper in the side. Jasprit Bumrah will lead the fast-bowling attack along with Arshdeep Singh and Harshit Rana. Hardik, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel and Washington Sundar are the all-rounders while Varun Chakravathy and Kuldeep Yadav are the frontline spinners.

The five matches will be played on December 9, 11, 14, 17 and 19 in Cuttack, New Chandigarh, Dharamsala, Lucknow and Ahmedabad respectively.

India's T20I squad: Suryakumar Yadav (capt), Shubman Gill (vice-capt)*, Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Sanju Samson (wk), Jasprit Bumrah, Varun Chakravathy, Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav, Harshit Rana, Washington Sundar.

(*Subject to fitness clearance from BCCI COE)

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by February 2026 reaching \$63.43, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by 44 cents from the price of Tuesday, which was \$63.87. - **ONA**

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX 30 index concluded session at 5,836.70 points, gaining 63.9 points, or 1.11 percent, compared to the previous close of 5,772.80 points. The total trading value reached OMR41,722,771, reflecting a decline of 27.1% from the previous session's value of OMR57,207,104.

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Commercial arbitration and dispute resolution discussed

Muscat Arbitration Days conference aims to enhance the position of Oman as a regional and international centre for dispute settlement by hosting leaders of regional and international arbitration centres, an elite group of speakers, and decision-makers in this field

MUSCAT: Deliberations of the first edition of Muscat Arbitration Days conference commenced on Wednesday. Organised by Oman Commercial Arbitration Centre (OAC), the conference was inaugurated under the patronage of Abdul Salam Mohammed Al Mursidi, Chairman of Oman Investment Authority.

The two-day conference aims to enhance the position of the Sultanate of Oman as a regional and international centre for dispute settlement by hosting leaders of regional and international arbitration centres, an elite group of speakers, and decision-makers in this field. It also seeks to expand the partnerships of Oman Commercial Arbitration Centre locally and internationally to bolster its competence.

Dr. Khalid Salim Al Saidi, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Oman Commercial Arbitration Centre, pointed out that convening the conference stems from a

clear vision of the Centre, which is based on enhancing its role as a leading institution in supporting the arbitration and dispute resolution system and developing the legal environment that meets the needs of economic and investment development in the Sultanate of Oman.

In his opening remark, he stated that the Sultanate of Oman, with its modern and developed legal system and ambitious economic vision, fully realises the importance of arbitration. Therefore, it has considered arbitration a fundamental pillar and one of the targets of "Oman Vision 2040," which aims to build a competitive, knowledge-based economy that attracts investment and is centered on the principle of the rule of law, institutional efficiency, and sustainable development.

The conference discusses a range of specialised topics in the field of arbitration, including arbitration in the maritime sector, ar-



bitration in the oil and gas sector, arbitration in insurance, and arbitration in finance and contracts. Additionally, it addresses legislative developments, the role of arbitral institutions, and the future of arbitration in light of the digital transformation.

Muscat Arbitration Days conference is expected to constitute a leading professional platform that gathers experts and specialists, thereby enhancing the development of the arbitration system in the Sultanate of Oman and solidifying its position as a pivotal hub for commercial arbitration at both regional and international levels.

During the opening session, Oman Commercial Arbitration Centre signed some Memoranda of Understanding with institutions and commercial arbitration centres in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, Arab, and Asian countries.

These MoUs focus on enhancing cross-border cooperation, developing institutional capabilities, and elevating the status of the Sultanate of Oman as a reliable and influential arbitration centre in the region.

Through these Memoranda of Understanding, Oman Commercial Arbitration Centre and its

partner institutions commit to exchanging best practices, supporting training and capacity building, encouraging knowledge exchange regarding procedural innovation, and creating opportunities for joint programmes and events.

These partnerships will enhance the international presence of Oman Commercial Arbitration Centre, expand access to global expertise, and contribute to building a more interconnected, efficient, and modern arbitration ecosystem, in line with Oman Vision 2040.

The conference features 45 speakers from inside and outside the Sultanate of Oman, representing an elite group of presidents and representatives of international arbitration centres and specialised experts, across 11 dialogue sessions addressing the latest developments in commercial arbitration and dispute resolution.

The opening of the conference was attended by some ministers, senior officials and specialists in the legal and investment sectors. - **ONA**

STOCK MARKETS

Rupee slide, FII outflows drag Indian equity indices into red

MUMBAI: Indian equity indices ended Wednesday in negative territory, possibly due to the rupee's weakness against the US dollar, Foreign Institutional Investor (FII) outflows, and ongoing trade uncertainties.

At the closing of the trade, BSE Sensex ended at the 85,106.81 level, slipping 31.46 points, or 0.04 per cent, while the NSE's Nifty declined 46.20 points, or 0.18 per cent, to end at the 25,986 level.

All the sectoral indices closed in the red zone, with the metal, oil & gas, private Banks, consumer durables, and media indices down 0.5 per cent each.

Major development

In a major development, the Indian rupee breached the 90 mark against the USD on Wednesday morning, extending its depreciation run through sessions now and hitting a fresh all-time low for the Indian currency.

At the time of filing this report, the Rupee was trading at 90.21 per US dollar. So far this year, the currency has depreciated by over 5 per cent on a cumulative basis.

Observing the market's movement, Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said, "Indian equities continued to consolidate as the rupee slid to a record low, weighed down by FII outflows and ongoing trade uncertainties."

He added that industrial activity moderated in November, with the manufacturing PMI indicating slow new orders, softer export demand, and a spike in the trade deficit. - **ANI**

DATA

Inflation rate rises in Oman by 1.5% in October 2025



MUSCAT: The general consumer price index (CPI) in the Sultanate of Oman recorded an increase of 1.5 percent in October 2025 compared to the corresponding month in 2024, based on the base year 2018. The average inflation rate for the period from January to October of the current year also rose by 0.9 percent.

Miscellaneous

Data issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) showed that the average inflation rate for the group of miscellaneous personal goods and services in the Sultanate of Oman during the period from January to October 2025 reached 6.6 percent.

This group topped the list of the groups with the highest increase at 8.8 percent in October compared to the same month in 2024, followed by the transport group at 3.9 percent, then the restaurants and hotels group at 2.6 percent, the furniture, furnishings, household equipment, and maintenance

group at 2.5 percent, and the education group at 2.2 percent.

The data indicated that the food and non-alcoholic beverages group saw a slight increase of 0.4 percent, while the prices of the clothing and footwear group and the health group increased by 0.1 percent each.

Conversely, the prices of the culture and entertainment group decreased by 0.3 percent, while the prices of the housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels group, the communications group, and the tobacco group remained stable without recording any change.

Regarding the prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages, the data confirmed an increase in a number of sub-groups. The fish group led at 5.6 percent, followed by the sugar, jam, honey, and confectionery group at 3.7 percent, then the food products not classified elsewhere group at 3 percent. The prices of the milk, cheese, and eggs group also rose by 0.9 percent, while the oils and fats group and the bread and cereals

group each increased by 0.5 percent.

Meanwhile, the prices of the vegetables group decreased by 3.7 percent, followed by the fruits group at 0.4 percent. The meat group and the non-alcoholic beverages group also witnessed a slight decrease of 0.1 percent each.

At the governorate level in the Sultanate of Oman, the data showed that Al Dhahirah Governorate recorded the highest inflation rate until the end of October 2025 compared to the same period last year at 2.9 percent, followed by Al Dakhiliyah Governorate at 2.1 percent, then Al Buraimi Governorate at 2 percent.

The inflation rate in both Musandam and Muscat Governorates reached 1.5 percent each, in South Al Batinah Governorate at 1.3 percent, then Dhofar Governorate at 1 percent. Both North Al Batinah and South Al Sharqiyah Governorates recorded an inflation rate of 0.9 percent, while the inflation rate in Al Wusta Governorate reached 0.8 percent. - **ONA**

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Framework agreement signed for development, management and operation of Dhalkut Port

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology signed a landmark framework agreement with Abu Sultan Enterprises for the development, management and operation of Dhalkut Port in the Dhofar Governorate.

This three-year strategic partnership marks a significant step in enhancing Oman's maritime and logistics infrastructure.

The agreement aligns with the strategic goals of Oman Vision 2040 and the National Logistics Strategy 2040, reinforcing Oman's position as a premier regional logistics hub and stimulating economic activity.

Eng. Khamis bin Mohammed Al Shammakhi, Undersecretary of the Ministry for Transport, signed the agreement whilst Abdulaziz bin Salim Al Rawahi, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Abu Sultan Enterprises, signed for the private sector entity.

Under the terms of the agreement, Abu Sultan Enterprises is authorised to commence the development of a comprehensive financial and commercial model for the port's upgrade.

This work will involve identifying optimal operational and commercial practices to ensure long-term project viability and maximise efficiency.

The company is also tasked with formulating a future strategic vision for the port, designed



to significantly expand its operational capacity and broaden its logistics and commercial service offerings. The Undersecretary for Transport emphasised that this framework agreement is a core component of the Ministry's strategy to develop medium and small-sized ports, ensuring they integrate seamlessly with Oman's network of major ports.

He noted that the developer will assume control of the port within six months to conduct essential maintenance and initiate preliminary operations.

The three-year framework period will be dedicated to crafting and implementing a detailed, long-term commercial operational plan.

Through this pivotal project, the Ministry aims to dramatically increase the port's efficiency, thereby contributing to national economic growth, fostering greater public-private sector collaboration and implementing advanced economic models to deliver enduring value to both the maritime sector and the broader Omani economy. - **ONA**

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Oman Fisheries, up 7.41%, was the top gainer while Financial Services, down 9.47%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 5,836.70 points, up by 1.11% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 1.20% at 505.90 points. Oman Fisheries, up 7.41%, was the top gainer while Financial Services, down 9.47%, was the top loser. Shares of Asyad Shipping were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 4883 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 41.72 million, with more than 191.66 million shares changing hands. Out of 74 traded securities, 44 advanced, 15 declined, and 15 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net buyers for RO 1374K while GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for RO 789K, followed by domestic investors for RO 585K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 9,411.24 points, up 1.03%. Prices of Al Omaniya Financial Services, Ahli Bank, Al Madina Investments, Muscat Finance, and

OMINVEST were up by 3.85%, 3.40%, 2.50%, 1.96%, and 1.88% respectively. Prices of Financial Services, Takaful Oman, DIDIC, and Bank Dhofar were down by 9.47%, 1.89%, 1.18%, and 0.65% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 7,376.57 points, up 1.24%. Prices of Oman Fisheries, Construction Materials, Jazeera Steel Products, Oman Cables Industry, and Raysut Cement were up by 7.41%, 4.76%, 4.35%, 2.33%, and 2.27% respectively. Prices of Oman Chlorine were down by 3.21%.

Services Index was up by 0.82% before closing at 2,402.10 points. Prices of OQ Gas Networks, Oman Education & Training, Phoenix Power, Oman National Engineering, and National Gas were up by 3.70%, 3.67%, 3.38%, 2.99%, and 2.38% respectively. Prices of Muscat Desalination, Barka Desalination, Al Batinah Power, Renaissance Services, and Al Suwadi Power were down by 2.44%, 1.37%, 1.20%, 0.61%, and 0.60% respectively.

— United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	5,841.56	5,771.34	5,836.70	6390	1.11	
FINANCIAL INDEX	9,413.83	9,313.04	9,411.24	9,314.84	1.03	
Industry Index	7,381.29	7,287.39	7,376.57	7,286.07	1.24	
Services Index	2,405.53	2,381.90	2,402.10	2,382.49	0.82	
MSX Shariah Index	506.17	500.74	505.90	499.88	1.20	
MSX TR INDEX	8,780.19	8,674.64	8,772.88	8,676.84	1.11	
FINANCIAL TR IDX	11,183.96	11,064.21	11,180.88	11,066.36	1.03	
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	9,100.49	8,984.72	9,094.68	8,983.09	1.24	
SERVICES TR IDX	3,136.99	3,106.18	3,132.52	3,106.95	0.82	
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,205.12	1,205.12	1,205.12	1,205.12	0.00	

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
191,663,749	41,722,771	4,883	31,903,320,178	44	15	15	74

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

SN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF. RD	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAV. VALUE	MARKET CAP
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REGULAR MARKET

OM0000000216	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	29,300	17,580	6	0.600	0.600	0.600	0.600	0.575	0.025	4.348	0.600	0.580	0.603	0.100	74,938,776
OM0000000972	OQ GAS NETWORKS	27,570,977	5,358,339	792	0.191	0.197	0.191	0.196	0.189	0.007	3.704	0.196	0.189	0.196	0.100	848,892,288
OM0000001070	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	35,161	83,697	14	2.181	2.200	2.180	2.200	2.150	0.050	2.325	2.200	2.200	0.100	19,340,698	
OM0000002804	ASAFA FOODS	500	240	1	0.480	0.480	0.480	0.480	0.470	0.010	0.128	0.480	0.460	0.490	0.100	7,590,000
OM0000001533	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	123,230	41,519	19	0.320	0.327	0.318	0.325	0.319	0.006	1.881	0.325	0.317	0.325	0.100	34,106,269
OM0000000894	UNVEST FINANCE	7,741,674	2,500,774	573	0.325	0.330	0.323	0.325	0.320	0.005	1.663	0.325	0.325	0.325	0.100	250,315,000
OM0000002274	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	36,600	2,396	3	0.065	0.066	0.065	0.066	0.065	0.001	1.538	0.066	0.064	0.066	0.100	23,504,402
OM0000003125	OMAN TELECOM	505,391	105,094	46	0.205	0.210	0.205	0.210	0.207	0.003	1.449	0.210	0.205	0.210	0.100	42,000,000
OM0000003026	SOLAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	2,250,291	2,402,985	181	1.059	1.074	1.057	1.074	1.060	0.014	1.321	1.074	1.071	1.074	0.100	805,500,000
OM0000003398	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO	40,495,207	6,538,538	274	0.181	0.183	0.180	0.182	0.180	0.002	1.250	0.182	0.182	0.182	0.100	1,071,583,596
OM0000002440	AL SUWADI POWER	56,298	5,050	13	0.080	0.091	0.089	0.089	0.088	0.001	1.136	0.089	0.088	0.089	0.100	8,010,000
OM0000002226	AL SUWADI POWER	12,741	2,553	3	0.184	0.186	0.184	0.185	0.183	0.002	1.063	0.185	0.180	0.186	0.100	7,955,063
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	36,500	13,432	5	0.367	0.369	0.367	0.369	0.366	0.003	0.820	0.369	0.367	0.368	0.100	598,974,205
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	6,838	1,905	3	0.278	0.280	0.278	0.280	0.277	0.002	0.719	0.280	0.267	0.280	0.100	28,000,000
OM0000002188	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	282,179	48,542	29	0.171	0.173	0.171	0.171	0.170	0.001	0.588	0.171	0.171	0.172	0.100	37,520,000
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	45,837	12,856	4	0.933	0.933	0.933	0.935	0.931	0.004	0.430	0.935	0.935	0.950	0.100	57,528,306
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	19,083,182	6,492,175	617	0.941	0.942	0.940	0.940	0.940	0.000	0.340	0.940	0.940	0.940	0.100	2,582,175,001
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	10,991	1,159	5	0.105	0.106	0.105	0.106	0.106	0.000	0.000	0.106	0.105	0.109	0.100	23,717,021
OM0000004789	MADINA TAKAFUL	45,800	4,178	12	0.091	0.091	0.090	0.091	0.091	0.000	0.000	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.100	11,563,000
OM0000003968	QOREDOO	197,173	56,876	27	0.287	0.290	0.287	0.288	0.289	-0.001	-0.346	0.288	0.289	0.289	0.100	18,471,638
OM0000004953	AL SUWADI POWER	113,925	18,922	22	0.187	0.187	0.185	0.185	0.186	-0.001	-0.602	0.186	0.185	0.186	0.100	17,877,046
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	265,654	87,126	16	0.328	0.328	0.325	0.327	0.329	-0.002	-0.608	0.325	0.325	0.329	0.100	77,906,070
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	44,711	7,409	7	0.187	0.187	0.185	0.185	0.187	-0.002	-1.198	0.185	0.185	0.186	0.100	11,356,428
Total		23	98,995,380	23,853,742	2,976											

Parallel Market

OM0000001388	CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL INDUSTRIES	5,885	458	1	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.063	0.003	0.065	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.100	4,125,000
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FINANCIAL SERVICES	5,000	475	1	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.130	0.005	3.746	0.135	0.130	0.135	0.100	42,581,256
OM0000002580	OMAN EDUCATION & TRAINING INV	106	165	1	1.555	1.555	1.555	1.555	1.500	0.055	3.667	1.555	0.000	1.555	0.100	108,850,000
OM0000002200	ABU BANK	37,227	5,480	1	0.147	0.152	0.147	0.152	0.147	0.005	3.401	0.152	0.147	0.153	0.100	411,453,648
OM0000005863	PHOENIX POWER	895,526	105,753	54	0.150	0.153	0.150	0.153	0.148	0.005	3.378	0.153	0.153	0.154	0.100	223,778,023
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REEF	27,088	5,670	10	0.151	0.155	0.150	0.155	0.150	0.005	3.333	0.155	0.154	0.155	0.100	91,672,716
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INV	6,000	813	3	0.135	0.138	0.135	0.138	0.134	0.004	2.985	0.138	0.130	0.145	0.100	20,700,000
OM0000001962	AL MAZNA INVESTMENT HOLDING	10,645	436	3	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.040	0.001	2.500	0.041	0.039	0.041	0.100	3,485,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	74,523	8,397	13	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.087	0.002	2.381	0.086	0.085	0.086	0.100	7310,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	245,161	12,704	9	0.051	0.052	0.051	0.052	0.051	0.001	1.961	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.100	19,971,608
OM0000001897	MALAN COLLEGE	59,283	8,011	14	0.134	0.137	0.134	0.137	0.134	0.002	1.493	0.137	0.137	0.138	0.100	12,240,000
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	17,594	1,232	3	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.069	0.001	1.449	0.070	0.068	0.070	0.100	14,700,000
OM0000005280	OMAN ARAB BANK	305,069	45,455	10	0.149	0.149	0.149	0.149	0.147	0.002	1.361	0.149	0.148	0.149	0.100	298,408,757
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHEROM PRODUCTS	16,678	1,972	10	0.296	0.300	0.296	0.299	0.295	0.004	1.352	0.299	0.297	0.299	0.100	13,863,974
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	34,422	2,995	5	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.086	0.001	1.183	0.087	0.085	0.089	0.100	19,334,880
OM0000009936	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INV	38,715,354	6,983,589	636	0.180	0.182	0.179	0.181	0.179	0.002	1.117	0.181	0.181	0.182	0.100	638,197,844
OM0000001881	OMAN EMIRATES (SFZ)	10,324	1,352	64	0.097	0.099	0.097	0.097	0.096	0.001	1.042	0.097	0.095	0.099	0.100	11,821,875
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	1,313,629	152,208	79	0.102	0.103	0.099	0.101	0.100	0.001	1.000	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.100	30,153,846
OM0000001178	AL OMANIYA FINANCIAL SERVICES	5,885	475	1	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.134	0.001	0.987	0.135	0.112	0.129	0.100	3,450,000
OM0000001020	ASYAD SHIPPING	40,572,755	7,205,224	571	0.178	0.180	0.178	0.178	0.177	0.001	0.565	0.178	0.178	0.178	0.100	92,715,642
OM0000004248	SUN POWER HOLDING	6,157	1,469	1	0.218	0.218	0.218	0.218	0.218	0.000	0.849	0.218	0.218	0.218	0.100	45,720,186
OM0000003000	ALMAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	16,778	17,359	5	1.034	1.035	1.034	1.035	1.034	0.001	0.067	1.035	1.035	1.035	0.100	74,145,000
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	79	36	1	0.475	0.475	0.475	0.475	0.475	0.000	0.000	0.475	0.475	0.475	0.100	78,533,125
OM0000001608	OMAN PACKAGING	4,000	280	1	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.000	0.000	0.155	0.000	0.155	0.100	5,027,558
OM0000001748	ALMAHA CERAMICS	39,298	14,594	16	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.000	0.000	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.100	14,845,445
OM0000002848	NATIONAL FINANCE	5,825	845	1	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.000	0.000	0.145	0.145	0.153	0.100	88,178,348
OM0000003281	TAKAFUL OMAN	1,545	16,891	2	0.187	0.190	0.187	0.190	0.190	0.000	0.000	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.100	158,911,918
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	53,200	14,726	14	0.277	0.277	0.275	0.277	0.277	0.000	0.275	0.275	0.277	0.277	0.100	15,235,000
OM0000007910	OMAN ARAB BANK	305,069	45,455	10	0.149	0.149	0.149	0.149	0.147	0.002	1.361	0.149	0.148	0.149	0.100	298,408,757
OM0000009075	QUL EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	7,806,015	3,007,035	232	0.384	0.386	0.384	0.385	0.385	0.000	0.385	0.385	0.385	0.385	0.100	3,080,000,000
OM0000000000	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INV	6,000	813	3	0.135	0.138	0.135	0.138	0.134	0.004	2.985	0.138	0.130	0.145	0.100	20,700,000
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	40,800	8,059	6	0.189	0.189	0.187	0.188	0.189	0.001	0.668	0.188	0.187	0.188	0.100	18,000,000
OM0000002349	AL THOHAL	57,335	8,397	4	0.155	0.155	0.152	0.154	0.153	0.001	0.645	0.154	0.153	0.154	0.100	468,129,840
OM0000001920	AL THOHAL	57,335	8,397	4	0.155	0.155	0.152	0.154	0.153	0.001	0.645	0.154	0.153	0.154	0.100	468,129,840
OM0000001969	AL THOHAL	57,335	8,397	4	0.155	0.155	0.152	0.154	0.153	0.001	0.645	0.154	0.153	0.154	0.100	468,129,840
OM0000001969	DHOFAR INTERNATIONAL DEV & INV	255,258	58,181	18	0.251	0.252	0.251	0.252	0.251	0.003	1.176	0.252	0.251	0.250	0.100	125,006,000
OM0000001969	BARAKA DESALINATION	255,258	58,181	18	0.251	0.252	0.251	0.252	0.251	0.003	1.176	0.252	0.251	0.250	0.100	125,006,000
OM0000004376	TAKAFUL OMAN	2,000	104	1	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.053	0.001	1.887	0.052	0.051	0.058	0.100	13,900,000
OM0000001969	BARAKA DESALINATION	255,258	58,181	18	0.251	0.252	0.251	0.252	0.251	0.003	1.176	0.252	0.251	0.250	0.100	125,006,000
OM0000002024	OMAN CHLORINE	26,600	6,511	6	0.245	0.245	0.241	0.241	0.248	0.008	3.213	0.244	0.230	0.244	0.100	17,233,348
OM0000002024	OMAN CHLORINE	26,600	6,511	6	0.245	0.245	0.241	0.241	0.248	0.008	3.213	0.244	0.230	0.244	0.100	17,233,348
OM0000001384	FINANCIAL SERVICES	5,885	475	1	0.090	0.090	0.088	0.088	0.085	0.009	4.474	0.088	0.086	0.090	0.100	1,770,000
	Total	914,133	177,967	1,836												



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Contact : 99279626

ENGINEER

Indian, B.Tech-Mech Engineering Holder having 13 years of experience in Oman specialized in Steel Fabrication looking suitable position.
Contact: Mobile : 95945230
Email : Arungopalakrishnan85@yahoo.com

MEDICAL

Pharmacist with 16 yrs exp. in retail & hospital pharmacy in Muscat & India. Previously registered with MOH, Oman with work License, NOC with D/L, currently in Muscat
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CONTACT: 95392251

FINANCE

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CONTACT: 96741587
Email-umarustad@gmail.com.

MANAGER

Supply Chain/ Warehouse Manager, Male, with 20 year's experience across India, Africa and Oman. Expert in Warehouse, Logistics, Procurement, Cold Storage Inventory, Fleet Management, WMS, SAP and leading high-volume operations. NOC available.
Contact: 72722029 - Email:REENAIR83@gmail.com



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Contact: 94792025 / vjinura@gmail.com

FINANCE

Financial & Management Accountant with 15 yrs exp in manufacturing, trading, contracting, oil and gas, insurance, construction, IT. Skilled in accounting, auditing, VAT, payroll, budgeting, cost control, and financial reporting.
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Email: lizmarytherese@gmail.com



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JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Indian Male Chartered Accountant Inter holder and M.com graduate with more than 8 yrs Oman experience Looking for suitable position. D/L and NOC.Contact 78793414 Email iqbalpmr@gmail.com

Group Finance Manager Indian 26yrs of experience, looking job change, Contact-98066226

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

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

Indian male, Bcom, MBA Finance, 14 yrs of Oman and Indian experience, seeking suitable jobs in accounts. Have valid Oman D/L. Contact:97436925. Email sasdrk@gmail.com

Looking for Accounts data entry, purchase, stores, with D/L. Contact. 92505721, mail:sagarjohn28@gmail.com

Indian Male, M.com (Finance), 10 years accounting experience in Oman. Seeking suitable position. Noc & D/L available Contact: 99859141

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

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

Indian Male MBA, Senior accountant, admin having 10 yrs experience. Contact : 95416322, Email: aabynarayan@gmail.com

MBA Finance & B com Computer with experience of 2yrs as an accountant in Muscat Oman, having Oman D/L. Presently in Oman. Contact: 93965857

Indian Male, Bcom, MBA finance, 14 yrs of Oman and Indian experience, seeking suitable jobs in accounts. Have valid Oman D/L. Contact: 97436925.Email: sasdrk@gmail.com

Indian Male, B.com, MBA finance, 14 yrs of Oman and Indian experience, seeking suitable jobs. Contact: 97436925. Email: sasdrk@gmail.com”

ADMINISTRATION

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

ADMINISTRATION

Indian Male, 29 yrs, MBA with NEBOSH certified with 2+ yrs experience in administration looking for safety or administration jobs. Contact +968 74105832, Email : ashikhthahir@gmail.com

Sri Lankan Management Executive, 13 yrs operations and business development experience in distribution, manufacturing, service industries. Contact: 93297579

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

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JOB WANTED

EDUCATION/TRAINING

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

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

B. Tech Civil Engineer with 15+yrs experience. Society Engineering certificate, valid Omani D/L. Looking for a suitable position. Available for immediate join. NOC available. Mob: 78790123,91693008

Electrical Engineer, experience 17 year in Oman . Contact 98148034

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PURCHASE/ PROCUREMENT

Indian male 41 yrs MBA, B.com having 13 yrs experience in procurement UAE & Oman with valid UAE D/L,seeking suitable opportunities in Oman. Contact +971529546753

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

Indian Male 40 yrs Bcom MBA having 13 yrs experience in procurement UAE & Oman with valid UAE D/L,seeking suitable opportunities. Contact: +971529546753

SALES/MARKETING

28 yrs experience in Sales, marketing and procurement in the consumer durables and FMCG. Indian MBA, strong relationships with major retailers in Oman. Contact: 93340457

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

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

Indian Senior Sales & Operations, 7+ yrs exp, with D/L. Seeks suitable position. Cont: 71713865 | Email: praveenmkg@gmail.com

Indian male 15+yrs FMCG experience in sales and retail in Oman with valid D/L. Contact 92772821.Email pawandhanariya@gmail.com

MEDICAL

Indian Female with 5yrs of strong clinical & administrative experience & skills in Dental,seeking roles in medical, dental, healthcare, admin fields, valid Oman Resident Card. Immediate joining. Contact 79424264 . Email nancydas055@gmail.com

Talks ‘constructive’, ‘no compromise’ reached in Russia-Ukraine peace talks

The meeting was one of the most extensive exchanges between Washington and Moscow since the conflict began

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin held five hours of talks at the Kremlin with US President Donald Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff on efforts to end the nearly four-year war in Ukraine, but “no compromise” was reached on territorial issues, senior Kremlin adviser Yuri Ushakov said on Wednesday.

Ushakov said the meeting was one of the most extensive exchanges between Washington and Moscow since the conflict began. He noted that both delegations reviewed potential paths toward a settlement, but key disputes remained unresolved.



“We are no closer to resolving the crisis in Ukraine, and there is much work to be done,” he said, adding that discussions continued late into the night.

He confirmed that while fresh proposals were presented by the American side, major sticking points persisted around Ukrainian territory. Ushakov said senior Rus-

sian officials, including investment envoy Kirill Dmitriev, were present for the talks, which examined multiple options for ending hostilities. Ushakov stressed that the discussions would remain private. “The discussion was confidential,” he said. “We agreed not to disclose the substance of the negotiations.”

According to him, meaningful progress has yet to be achieved, but diplomatic engagement “continues.” The Kremlin adviser also said Putin asked Witkoff to pass “a number of important political signals” directly to President Trump. “They will present their findings to Trump and contact us,” he said, indicating that further communication between the two governments is planned. In Washington, Trump told a cabinet meeting that his representatives were in Moscow “to see if we can get it settled,” while acknowledging that the situation is “not easy.” US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who has been revising elements of the American peace framework to address concerns from Ukraine and European governments, said Witkoff’s mission was aimed at moving negotiations forward.

Ahead of meeting the US delegation, Putin criticised European involvement in the peace process, accusing EU governments of submitting proposals “aimed at only one thing: to block the entire peace process altogether.” He said European demands were “absolutely unacceptable to Russia” and argued that they were obstructing Trump’s diplomatic efforts. Putin also sent a warning to NATO countries, saying Russia would not start a conflict with Europe but if one erupted, “it would end so swiftly that there would be no one left for Russia to negotiate with.”

He further threatened to limit Ukraine’s maritime access in response to drone attacks on vessels linked to Russia’s “shadow fleet.” Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said Putin’s remarks demonstrated a lack of interest in a genuine settlement.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, speaking in Dublin, said Kyiv would evaluate the outcome of the Moscow discussions. “There will be no easy solutions. It is important that everything is fair and open, so that there are no games behind Ukraine’s back,” he said, adding that his government expected immediate updates from the US side.

The war, now in its fourth year, has seen Russia struggle to achieve its broader military goals while encountering strong Ukrainian resistance supported by the US and Europe. **-ANI**

PHASING OUT

Dawn of a new era, as EU moves towards full energy independence from Russia

BRUSSELS: The European Union announced it is entering a “new era” by phasing out all Russian gas and oil imports, with gas imports to stop by autumn 2027, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said on Wednesday.

“This is the dawn of a new era, the era of Europe’s full energy independence from Russia,” von der Leyen told reporters following an overnight agreement between European Union institutions.

This plan includes a ban on new long-term Russian gas pipeline contracts by September 30, 2027, and LNG contracts by January 1, 2027. The bloc is also drafting a separate plan to end Russian oil imports by the end of 2027.

European Union Energy Commissioner Dan Jorgensen posted on X that “We’ve made it: Europe is turning off the tap on Russian gas, forever,” and added, “We’ve chosen energy security and independence for Europe.”

This agreement is part of the REPowerEU Plan launched in 2022 to reduce dependency on Russian energy following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

Under the deal, long-term pipe-



line gas contracts will stop from 30 September 2027 if storage levels allow, and in any case by 1 November 2027. Long-term liquefied natural gas agreements will end from 1 January 2027, with short-term liquefied natural gas contracts ending from 25 April 2026 and short-term pipeline gas contracts finishing from 17 June 2026.

A European Council statement

tracts under the ban. The deal also asks the European Commission to prepare a plan to phase out Russian oil supplies to Hungary and Slovakia by the end of 2027.

The European Union reduced Russian oil imports in 2022 but granted exemptions to Hungary and Slovakia due to their landlocked status. The shift away from Russian fuel comes almost four years after the invasion of Ukraine, as Brussels works to cut a major source of revenue linked to energy supplies.

Russian gas accounted for 45 per cent of the European Union’s imports in 2021, but declined to 19 per cent in 2024. While pipeline deliveries have decreased, liquefied natural gas transported by sea and fed into European systems continues to arrive.

The United States supplied 45 per cent of liquefied natural gas imports in 2024, while Russia supplied 20 per cent, equal to nearly 20 billion cubic meters out of approximately 100 billion. Imports of Russian liquefied natural gas into the European Union were still expected to total around 15 billion euros this year. **-ANI**

SEEKS SUPPORT

Pakistan President reaffirms to protect rights of persons with disabilities

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has reaffirmed the national commitment to protecting the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities and ensuring their full participation in the national life.

In a message on the ‘International Day of Persons with Disabilities,’ being observed on December 03, he called on citizens, public and private institutions, civil society and international partners to support persons with disabilities and recognise their identity with respect.

“Their participation in education, entrepreneurship, public service and national development is vital for Pakistan’s future,” he added.

The president said the Government of Pakistan, through federal and provincial bodies, was taking steady steps to improve accessibility, education, healthcare, mobility and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.

Measures such as the special logo on the national identity card, the issuance of disability certificates, wider access to social protection schemes and the strengthening of rehabilitation and community-based support show their resolve to build a society where everyone had the chance to contribute, he added.

“I believe that an inclusive environment, supported by accessible infrastructure and public services, is essential for a fair society. It is our shared duty to remove physical and social barriers, as well as unhelpful attitudes, that limit the ability of persons with disabilities to lead productive and independent lives,” President Secretariat Press Wing, in a press release, quoted the president as saying.

He further stressed upon working together for a Pakistan where no one was left behind. **-APP**

BOEING 777 PLANE

Search for missing MH370 flight to resume



KUALA LUMPUR: The search for the missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 will recommence at the end of December, Malaysia’s transport ministry said on Wednesday.

The Boeing 777 plane disappeared on March 8, 2014. It was carrying 239 passengers, mostly Chinese nationals, and crew when it vanished from air radar during a flight from Malaysia’s capital Kuala Lumpur to Beijing.

The plane wreckage has never been found despite numerous search attempts, and its fate is one of the world’s biggest aviation mysteries.

The ministry said in a statement that it “wishes to update that the deep-sea search for missing wreckage of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 will be resuming on 30 December 2025.”

The ocean exploration and sur-

vey company Ocean Infinity will conduct the search operations for 55 days, the transport ministry said. The search would be conducted intermittently.

The most recent search in the southern Indian Ocean in April this year was suspended due to poor weather conditions and rough seas.

That operation focused on a 15,000 square kilometer (5,800 square mile) area off the coast of Perth, Australia. It was conducted on the “no find, no fee” principle, with the government only paying out if the firm finds the aircraft.

The initial search for the plane led by Australia covered an area of 120,000 square kilometers over three years. This search was suspended in 2017 in agreement between China, Malaysia and Australia. Only a few small pieces of debris were ever uncovered. **-aw**

NATIONAL SECURITY CONCERNS

US suspends immigration application processing from 19 countries

WASHINGTON DC: The US government on Tuesday suspended the processing of all immigration applications from 19 countries in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

President Donald Trump’s administration cited national security concerns as the basis for the move after an attack on National Guard members in Washington last week. An Afghan national was arrested as a suspect.



What is the US immigration ban?

Under the new policy, all applicants from the affected countries must undergo a comprehensive vetting process. The administration has not specified how long the pause will last or whether additional nations could be added.

Officials said the shift is intended to ensure the integrity of the immigration system and prevent what they called “security gaps.” Critics warn the move could leave thousands in legal uncertainty while the review continues.

Several of the countries on the list were already subject to a partial travel ban.

Countries facing the most severe restrictions include Afghanistan, Burma, Chad, the Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. These

states saw full suspensions on most entries in June, with limited exceptions.

Others on the list — Burundi, Cuba, Laos, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan and Venezuela — had partial restrictions and will now see expanded scrutiny.

What does the policy mean?

The new policy places a hold on pending applications and mandates a comprehensive re-review of all cases from the affected nations. This may include new interviews and security assessments.

Sharvari Dalal-Dheini, senior director of government relations for the American Immigration Lawyers Association, said the organization had received reports

of cancelled oath ceremonies, naturalisation interviews and adjustment-of-status appointments for individuals from countries on the list.

Since returning to office in January, Trump has prioritised immigration enforcement, expanding federal deployments to major US cities and further limiting access to asylum at the US-Mexico border. While deportations have been at the center of his messaging, legal immigration had received comparatively less attention until now.

Minnesota Somali community targeted by ICE

Meanwhile, US federal authorities are believed to be preparing a

focused US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operation in Minnesota that would primarily target Somali immigrants living unlawfully in the country.

ICE swoop

A person familiar with the planning told the AP news agency that an ICE swoop could begin in the coming days and would concentrate on individuals in the Minneapolis–St Paul area who have final deportation orders.

US President Donald Trump has recently intensified his rhetoric about the state’s Somali community with remarks that community leaders say have increased fears of profiling and inflamed local concerns. **-aw**

Queiroz blasts refereeing after Oman go down to Saudi Arabia

The Red Warriors fought valiantly before falling 2-1 in their opening match of the FIFA Arab Cup at the Education City Stadium in Doha on Tuesday night

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman head coach Carlos Queiroz launched a scathing attack on the match officials after his side's narrow 2-1 defeat to Saudi Arabia in their FIFA Arab Cup Group B clash on Tuesday night, describing the refereeing as "unbelievable" and accusing the VAR team of ignoring a clear red-card incident.

Speaking at the post-match press conference at the Education City Stadium, a visibly frustrated Queiroz said the game had been "decided by an incident the referee refused to look at," insisting that Saudi defender Nawaf Boushal should have been sent off for a "harsh and dangerous challenge" on an Omani player [Jameel Al Yahmadi] late in the second half.

"It's unbelievable that the player wasn't sent off," the experienced Portuguese coach said.

"What happened was clear for everyone to see — you can watch the replay. Neither the referee [Jordan's Adham Al Makhadema] made a decision, nor did VAR in-



tervene. It changed the rhythm of the game completely."

Queiroz, who otherwise praised his players' intensity and discipline, said the Red Warriors "gave everything" and were "hurt to lose like this after such a performance."

"It's very difficult to give your all and lose like this," he added.

"The players performed brilliantly and deserved a result. But when there is a challenge that is clearly a red card and the officials ignore it, it becomes impossible."

Queiroz congratulated Saudi Arabia but doubled down on what he called "illogical" officiating. "The referee looked straight at the incident, then VAR checked it and still did nothing. I have no explanation. This is not acceptable at this level."

Oman fall after spirited fight
On the pitch, Oman delivered a spirited, structured performance and showed no hesitation in taking



the game to their higher-ranked opponents.

Queiroz's side opened brightly and nearly struck in the 16th minute when Ali Al Busaidi whipped in a dangerous set-piece delivery, only for Thani Al Rushaidi to misjudge his header from close range.

Saudi Arabia, coached by Hervé Renard, grew into the match but struggled to find fluency in the final third. Oman goalkeeper Ibrahim Al Mukhaini made two strong stops before the break, denying Mohamed Kanno and then Saleh Abu Al Shamati.

Oman threatened again immediately after the restart, with Al Busaidi forcing Saudi keeper



Nawaf Al Aqidi into action from a curling free-kick. But it was Saudi Arabia who broke the deadlock in the 55th minute when Salem Al Dawsari floated an inch-perfect cross for Feras Al Brikan, who headed past Al Mukhaini.

Oman responded superbly. A well-worked corner in the 70th minute saw Ghanim Al Habashi

rise highest to nod the ball into the path of Thani Al Rushaidi, who powered in the equaliser and reignited Omani hopes.

Just as momentum shifted, Saudi Arabia struck again in the 77th minute. Musab Al Juwayr split the Omani defence with a precise through ball, Al Dawsari squared across the box, and Saleh Al Shehri smashed home what proved to be the winner.

Oman continued pushing until the end, with Al Mashaikhi testing the keeper from range and the defence scrambling to contain late Saudi counters. Al Dawsari nearly added a third in the 89th minute, but his effort crashed off the crossbar.

The result leaves Oman needing a strong showing against Morocco on Friday to stay alive in Group B, while Saudi Arabia face Comoros. In another group match, Morocco defeated Comoros 3-1 on Tuesday.

FIH JUNIOR WORLD CUP

Oman finish pool stage winless; Chile prevail in rain-hit match



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's debut campaign at the FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup 2025 continued to be a harsh learning curve as they slipped to their third successive defeat, going down 2-0 to Chile in a rain-affected Pool B match at Chennai's Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium on Tuesday.

Having earlier fallen to Switzerland 4-0 and suffered a heavy 17-0 loss to India, Oman showed resilience to restrict the South Americans to just two penalty-corner conversions — Felipe Duisberg in the 10th minute and Tomas Tabor-

ga in the 47th minute.

Chile captain Felipe Richard said the conditions forced them to adapt: "The pitch had too much water and it was difficult to pass the ball. We trained for this using aerial balls, and I think we did a great job."

Oman, who finished bottom of the pool, now head into the 17-24 classification bracket and face Bangladesh on Wednesday as they chase their first win of the tournament.

Quarter-finals locked in
With the pool phase concluding on Day 5 on Tuesday, the quarter-final line-up is now confirmed.



Six pool winners, Germany, India, Argentina, Spain, Netherlands and France, were joined by the two best runners-up, New Zealand and Belgium.

The last-eight matches on 5 December will see Spain meet New Zealand, France face Germany, Netherlands take on Argentina, and hosts India battle Belgium.

In other matches on Tuesday, Spain crushed Namibia 13-0, Belgium overwhelmed Egypt 10-0, and the Netherlands romped to an 11-0 win over Austria. France were pushed hard by Bangladesh before edging a 3-2 victory, while England beat Malaysia 3-1 and

Australia defeated Korea 3-1. India completed the day with a composed 5-0 win over Switzerland to seal top spot in Pool B.

Challenger Trophy
Oman now enter the Challenger Trophy, the 17-24 classification competition, where they meet Bangladesh in their opening match. The Trophy is a new initiative introduced by FIH President Tayyab Ikram to provide meaningful competition and encouragement for emerging nations, giving teams like Oman a platform to gain valuable experience on the world stage.

FORMULA ONE

Hadjar replaces Tsunoda at Red Bull, Lindblad promoted



LONDON: Isack Hadjar will replace Yuki Tsunoda as Red Bull's second driver in 2026, with Arvid Lindblad to make his Formula 1 debut by taking Hadjar's seat at Racing Bulls, Red Bull announced on Tuesday.

With no remaining F1 race seats for 2026, Tsunoda is set to remain within the Red Bull family as a test and reserve driver. "[Hadjar] has displayed great maturity and proved to be a quick learner. Most importantly, he has demonstrated the raw speed that is the No. 1 requirement in this sport. We believe Isack can thrive and produce the magic on track," said Red Bull

team principal Laurent Mekies.

"I'm so grateful to Red Bull for giving me the opportunity and trust to race at the highest level of F1," said Hadjar.

Hadjar will be replaced at Racing Bulls by Red Bull junior Lindblad. The 18-year-old Briton currently lies sixth in the 2025 F2 series, and has long been tipped for an F1 seat. Lindblad will partner incumbent Liam Lawson at Racing Bulls, with the Kiwi set to embark on his second full season in F1. Tsunoda's demotion comes after the Japanese was promoted from Racing Bulls to Red Bull in early 2025, swapping places with Lawson. - Agencies

FIRST TEST: NZ VS WI



Five-wicket Duffy puts Kiwis on top

CHRISTCHURCH: A five-wicket haul by Jacob Duffy gave New Zealand a 64-run first-innings lead over the West Indies after the tourists all out for 167 in the first Test on Wednesday.

At stumps on day two in Christchurch, New Zealand were 32-0 in their second innings to be 96 ahead. Devon Conway was 15 not out with Tom Latham on 14.

Once the forgotten man of New Zealand domestic cricket, Duffy found himself the enforcer in only his second Test. "There was a point in time I didn't think I would be playing any Test cricket," said the 31-year-old, who made his international debut against Zimbabwe four months ago.

"It's my second Test, the first at home, and it feels really cool to get a 'five-for'. And to put our team in a good position is pretty huge."

In 16 deliveries following a rain break in the final session, Duffy removed the last four West Indian batsmen while conceding only two runs off his bowling.

The fast bowler had earlier dismissed the West Indies top scorer Shai Hope for 56 to finish with career-best figures of 5-34 off 17.4 overs. Half-centuries from Hope and Tagenarine Chanderpaul provided the backbone of the West Indies innings in a 90-run stand for the third wicket.

But Chanderpaul said it was difficult to bat on a second-day wicket that continued to be bowler-friendly. "It was seaming around all day and you just had to try and hang in there," he said.

Hope, wearing sunglasses under heavily overcast skies because of an eye infection, went to the crease with the West Indies

in early trouble at 10-2.

Despite being affected by conjunctivitis and needing breaks to be treated with eye drops, he produced a near-chanceless sixth Test half-century. But on 56 he allowed a short ball from Duffy to brush his gloves on its way to wicketkeeper Latham.

Matt Henry struck twice with a double-wicket maiden having Roston Chase and Justin Greaves caught behind by Latham as the West Indies slumped from 100-2 to 106-5. Chanderpaul battled his way to 52 from 169 deliveries before he was undone by Zak Foulkes as the floodlights came on under murky skies after the tea break. The West Indies opener had been dropped twice, on five and 24, by Conway at leg slip.

But Conway, leaping to his left, pounced the third chance and sent his way at midwicket.

After a 30-minute rain interruption Duffy removed Tevin Imlach (14), Johann Layne (0), Jayden Seales (2) and Ojay Shields (0). The West Indies took just three balls to end the New Zealand first innings at the start of the day, without an addition to the overnight score of 231.

Foulkes, the last man out, was then immediately in the action with the ball, removing John Campbell for one with his first delivery. Will Young completed the dismissal with a smart one-handed catch to his left at third slip, but then dropped a regulation chance when Alick Athanaze, on four, edged Henry.

However, the scoreboard had not moved before Henry bowled Athanaze in his following over. - Agencies

Barca move four points clear after win over Atletico Madrid

The Catalan giants fought back from behind to earn full points in La Liga at the Nou Camp

BARCELONA: Barcelona opened up a four-point lead at the top of Spanish La Liga as they came from behind to defeat Atletico Madrid 3-1 on Tuesday night.

Raphinha cancelled out Alex Baena's opener for the visitors at the Nou Camp, before Dani Olmo's smart finish turned the match around with 25 minutes left to play and Ferran Torres scored a late third.

Barcelona trailed league leaders Real Madrid by five points after a 2-1 defeat in El Clasico in October, but five games later have a buffer at the top having played one game more.

Los Blancos will travel to Bilbao to face Athletic Club on Wednesday night.

Atletico took a 19th-minute lead when Baena latched on to a long pass over Barcelona's high defensive line and beat goalkeeper Joan Garcia with a dinked finish.

The assistant referee flagged for offside, but the goal was given after a video assistant referee (VAR) check.

Raphinha drew Hansi Flick's side level seven minutes later when he ran on to Pedri's precision through ball, rounded Jan Oblak and finished into the empty goal.

Barca dominated the remainder of the first half and were awarded a penalty when Pablo Barrios felled Olmo, but Robert Lewandowski blazed his effort well



over the crossbar.

The second half descended into a breathless end-to-end encounter, and Barca took advantage when Olmo dragged a shot into the bottom corner following a mazy dribble from the talented Lamine Yamal.

Diego Simeone's side should have equalised when Thiago Almada somehow missed an open goal after rounding Garcia, but Torres wrapped up the win with a close-range finish after controlling Alejandro Balde's cross.

Victory for Barcelona was soured by a shoulder injury sustained by Olmo in the act of scoring, as well as glaring misses by Lewandowski and Raphinha.

Copa Del Rey

Elsewhere, in the second round of the Copa del Rey, Deportivo Alaves secured a routine 3-0 victory away to fifth-tier Portugalete, booking a place in the last 32.

Mallorca won 3-2 away to fourth-tier Numancia, with Abdon Prats scoring twice. The top-flight side endured a tense final 15 minutes after Numancia's second goal.

Raul Garcia scored twice as Osasuna came back from a goal down to win 5-3 away at Elbro, with Moi Gomez, Seraldo Becker and Victor Munoz also on the scoresheet against a rival that again highlighted Osasuna's problems away from home. - Agencies

GERMAN DFB CUP

Leverkusen down Dortmund to book spot in quarter-finals

BERLIN: Bayer Leverkusen advanced to the German DFB Cup quarterfinals with a disciplined 1-0 win over Borussia Dortmund, surviving late pressure in a tactically charged contest on Tuesday.

Leverkusen opened the scoring midway through the first half when Ibrahim Maza reacted quickest to a loose ball in the box, steering it home to give his side the lead. The goal capped a lively opening period, with both teams pushing aggressively through midfield but struggling to create clear chances.

Dortmund, having heavily rotated their squad from the previous league match, grew into the game and created two promising chances before halftime, only for Karim Adeyemi to miss the target on both occasions.

After the break, Dortmund asserted control, pinning Leverkusen deep with sustained pressure and a flurry of corners. Emre Can and Jude Bellingham drove the hosts forward, but the visitors remained solid in defense.

Leverkusen thought they had doubled the lead when Martin Terrier finished off a flowing move just before the hour mark, only for VAR to rule the goal



out for a marginal offside.

The closing stages became increasingly frantic as Dortmund launched near-constant attacks, but Leverkusen's defense held firm. Anton went close from a tight angle, and Adeyemi's stoppage-time header drifted just wide, encapsulating a frustrating evening for the hosts.

Leverkusen's victory sent them into February's quarterfinals and extended their strong cup run, while Dortmund must quickly regroup ahead of upcoming

Bundesliga fixtures.

Elsewhere in the round of 16, Hertha Berlin stormed into the quarterfinals with a commanding 6-1 win over FC Kaiserslautern.

St. Pauli joined them after Louis Oppie struck a late winner to stun Borussia Monchengladbach 2-1. RB Leipzig also advanced, beating 1. FC Magdeburg 3-1 thanks to a brace from Christoph Baumgartner. The draw for the quarter-finals will take place later this week. - Agencies

FASTEST TO REACH MILESTONE

Haaland hits 100th Premier League goal in City's victory

LONDON: Erling Haaland became the quickest player to reach 100 goals in Premier League history on a night when Manchester City ramped up pressure on leaders Arsenal by fending off Fulham's impressive fightback with a 5-4 win on Tuesday night.

The win moves them within two points of Arsenal, who will host Brentford on Wednesday night.

Norway international Haaland got his landmark goal in the 17th minute of Tuesday's game at Craven Cottage, firing in first time from Jeremy Doku's cross. It meant he reached the century in 111 league games, 13 fewer than the previous record holder Alan Shearer.

The goal also ended a mini drought for Haaland, having gone three consecutive games without scoring. It was his 15th goal in 14 league games this season but was just a taste of what was to come.

Haaland got the assist for Manchester City's second, slipping the ball through for Tijjani Reijnders to coolly lift the ball over Bernd Leno and into the back of the net.

Phil Foden got City's third. A fantastic header by Emile Smith Rowe moments later gave Fulham some hope at 3-1 down, but Foden got his fourth goal in two games



soon after the break, smartly firing home at the near post from Haaland's ball.

Doku's shot then deflected off Sander Berge to put City in a seemingly unassailable 5-1 lead.

But Fulham would not give in and Alex Iwobi curled in their second from 20 yards to signal a continuing threat to City, before substitute Samuel Chukwueze had the home side dreaming of an incredible comeback.

First, he drove in from a cross, before placing a neat finish into the back of the net six minutes later.

Elsewhere, Jack Grealish scored the only goal as Everton continued its slightly chaotic season with a 1-0 win away to a Bournemouth side that has lost four of its last five matches.

Newcastle United and Tottenham drew 2-2 at St James' Park. Bruno Guimaraes put Newcastle ahead before a penalty converted by Anthony Gordon, awarded after VAR ruled Rodrigo Bentancur had fouled Dan Burn at a corner, appeared to settle the contest, only for Cristian Romero to equalise with his second of the match. - Agencies

24 TEAMS IN FRAY

England and Wales clubbed in same 2027 Rugby World Cup group

LONDON: England and Wales have been paired together in the pool stages of the 2027 Rugby World Cup in Australia, with Tonga and minnows Zimbabwe rounding out Pool F.

The pair famously met at the same stage in the 2015 tournament, with Wales' victory at Twickenham contributing to hosts England's early exit.

Ireland and Scotland also share a pool, just as they did at France 2023, where Ireland won 36-14 and Scotland failed to progress to the knockout stages. Uruguay and Portugal, who both impressed as underdogs in France, are also in

Pool D. Neither Pool D or Pool F's winners can meet holders and top-ranked South Africa until the final, presuming the Springboks top their own group.

If the pools play out according to the world rankings, New Zealand and France, leading contenders for the trophy, would also be kept apart from England and Ireland until the final.

Despite their current wretched run of form, with just two wins in 22 Tests over the past two years, Wales have a great chance of progressing as Pool F runners-up at the very least, with Tonga, the lowest-ranked team in band three of



the draw, and Zimbabwe, making their first appearance at the tournament since 1991, also in their group.

Pool F's runners-up will face a last-16 knockout tie against the runners-up of Pool C, containing Argentina, Fiji, Canada and Spain.

Hosts Australia have been drawn together with trans-Tasman rivals and three-time winners the All Blacks in Pool A. The Wallabies will open the tournament in Perth on 1 October 2027, with the full fixture list to be revealed in February.

Holdings South Africa have drawn Italy, Georgia and Roma-

nia in their pool, while France are grouped with Japan, 2031 hosts the USA and Samoa.

The tournament has expanded to 24 teams from the 20 who took part in France in 2023, with a last-16 knockout round included for the first time.

Rugby World Cup 2027 draw:

Pool A: New Zealand, Australia, Chile, Hong Kong; **Pool B:** South Africa, Italy, Georgia, Romania; **Pool C:** Argentina, Fiji, Spain, Canada; **Pool D:** Ireland, Scotland, Uruguay, Portugal; **Pool E:** France, Japan, USA, Samoa; **Pool F:** England, Wales, Tonga, Zimbabwe.

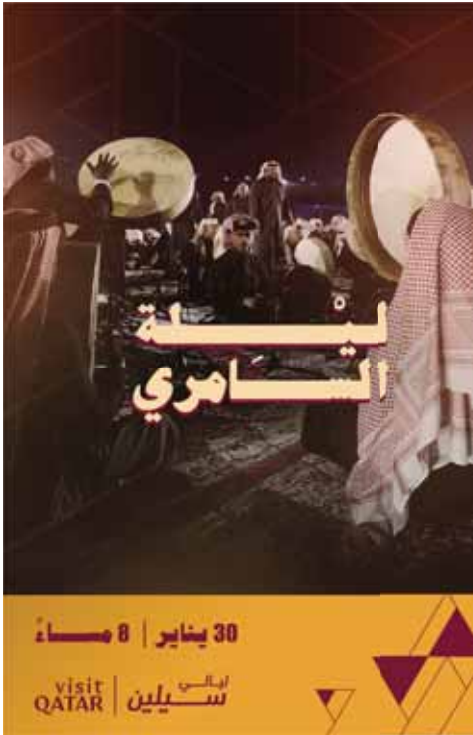
WINTER DESTINATION

Visit Qatar announces line-up of concert and activities for the 2026 Sealine Season

DOHA: Sealine Season is a signature winter experience and one of many exciting events taking place in Qatar's this December and January

Visit Qatar is set to launch Sealine Season, an immersive desert experience running throughout the month of January 2026. Sealine Season will showcase Qatar's desert landscapes as a standout winter destination, offering visitors from within Qatar and the GCC live cultural performances, local cuisine, recreational experiences, and family-friendly entertainment.

The season will feature a series of weekend concerts as part of Sealine Nights, which will be held at Sealine Circuit Sports Club (Mawater) celebrating traditional and regional performances, beginning with Moudi and Sultan Khalifa on January 16, a live concert by renowned musician Khalid Abdulrahman on January 23, and concluding with Samri Night on January 30. Each evening is curated to offer audiences a memorable celebration of culturally rooted musical expressions set against a scenic desert backdrop. The concert nights will



taking place across the country, Sealine Season complements a vibrant line-up of experiences featured in Qatar Calendar, which showcases the best of what Qatar has to offer throughout the year. December 2025 in particular promises an exceptional programme of national celebrations, global sporting events, cultural showcases, and world-class performances.

Qatar calendar

Flagship highlights include the Doha Tattoo, FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2025™, and the Qatar T100 Triathlon World Championship Final. Cultural moments return with Darb Al Saai and Qatar National Day festivities across Msheireb Downtown Doha, Lusail Boulevard, and The Pearl–Gewan Islands. Music enthusiasts can also enjoy headline concerts by Omar Khairat, Kadim Al Sahir, and Miami Band, adding to a memorable month of entertainment and celebration.

For more information on Qatar Calander's 2025 events, visit [www.visitqatar.com](https://visitqatar.com), download the Visit Qatar app, and follow @QatarCalendar on social media.

Sharjah Ruler inaugurates Independence Square project

The inauguration coincides with the UAE's 54th Eid Al Etihad celebrations

SHARJAH: His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, inaugurated the Independence Square project on Tuesday morning, following the completion of works that included the construction of the Independence Monument, along with the development of the square and surrounding buildings.

The inauguration coincides with the UAE's 54th Eid Al Etihad celebrations and commemorates the anniversary of the country's independence on 2nd December 1971.

The Ruler of Sharjah unveiled the commemorative plaque of the 34-metre-high monument at the centre of the square, topped with a seven-pointed star symbolising the seven emirates. The monument stands as a prominent urban landmark reflecting the site's historical and national significance. Its four sides display historical information about the UAE's independence.

The main plaque notes that on the morning of 2nd December 1971, the Rulers of the Emirates met and agreed to form a state called the United Arab Emirates after the country gained independence from Britain.

Another plaque records that British control over the Emirates lasted 151 years, dating back to the signing of the British treaty by the Rulers on 8th January 1820.



A third plaque states that the Sharjah Civil Air Station was established on 22nd July 1932, and that on 2nd December 1971, the British military base was abolished while the civil air station continued to operate.

The final plaque refers to the establishment of the British military base on the civil air station, contrary to the agreement signed between Sharjah and Britain.

The Ruler of Sharjah toured Independence Square, learning about the operation of the two fountains located on either side of the monument, which add a

dynamic and aesthetic dimension to the site.

He viewed the landscaping works, green areas, pedestrian pathways and the newly installed lighting system that enhances both design elements and visual appeal.

The Ruler of Sharjah received a briefing on the redevelopment of the buildings overlooking the square, which included enhancing the façades of 24 buildings with architectural detailing and new finishes consistent with Sharjah's architectural identity.

Additionally, 95 commercial signboards around the square



were replaced and unified to ensure a harmonious urban setting, alongside modern lighting to highlight the aesthetic features of the buildings at night.

The renewal of Independence Square reflects the vision of the Ruler of Sharjah to enhance urban aesthetics and create an integrated environment that meets the needs of residents and visitors. It contributes to improving the quality of life and visual appeal of the emirate, and embodies Sharjah's commitment to values of unity, development and national identity.

Infrastructure works included a comprehensive project to upgrade roads, pavements and parking areas, improving traffic flow, safety and efficiency. All lighting columns around the square were also replaced as part of the development. The redevelopment of Independence Square forms part of wider urban projects across Sharjah, reflecting the Ruler's dedication to enhancing vital areas and providing cultural and service facilities that preserve the city's aesthetic and heritage character for residents and visitors.

The Ruler of Sharjah also inaugurated the Imam Al-Nawawi Mosque, adjacent to the square, originally built in 1995 and restored

in the Fatimid architectural style.

He unveiled the commemorative plaque marking the official reopening, aligning with his directives to restore mosques across Sharjah and preserve mosques as icons of the emirate.

The Ruler of Sharjah prayed in the mosque and then reviewed the key works completed in the renovation, including raising the height of the two minarets and the mosque walls, adding an external arcade, and upgrading the facilities and amenities to enhance the mosque's religious and social role.

The works reaffirm Sharjah's commitment to maintaining, expanding and developing mosques to meet the needs of residents and worshippers. The Ruler of Sharjah was accompanied during the inauguration by: Sheikh Fahim bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Chairman of the Department of Statistics and Community Development; Sheikh Majid bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Chairman of the Districts Affairs Department; Abdulrahman bin Mohammed Al Owais, Minister of State for Federal National Council Affairs; and a number of senior officials. -WAM

SAUDI ARABIA



Jazan emerges as sustainable tourism model under Vision 2030

JIZAN: Jazan Region is witnessing increasing popularity as a tourism destination, offering a mix of towering mountains, verdant plains, and Red Sea islands. The region combines rich heritage and diverse environments, suitable for relaxation and eco-adventures.

Jazan Principality and government agencies have taken exceptional steps to establish sustainable tourism in line with Vision 2030, including comprehensive development projects that improve infrastructure, roads, and facilities to high environmental standards. Development also supported the private sector, leading to the launch of eco-resorts and hotels, and creating quality job opportunities in hospitality and eco-tours for local youth.

Jazan's diverse geography offers two distinct environments: the mountains, which feature terraced agricultural lands, ancient mist-shrouded villages, the heritage-rich Khawlan coffee farms, deep valleys, and hot springs ideal for adventure and contemplation; and the coast, where the Farasan Islands boast pristine beaches and unique coral reefs, making them ideal for diving and boating, with educational programs dedicated to marine environment conservation to balance tourism and nature. -SPA

ABU DHABI

UAE President inaugurates Zayed National Museum



ABU DHABI: UAE President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan officially inaugurated the Zayed National Museum, located in Abu Dhabi's Saadiyat Cultural District, in the presence of Their Highnesses the Supreme Council Members and Rulers of the Emirates. The inauguration took place as part of the UAE's celebrations marking the 54th Eid Al Etihad.

The Zayed National Museum chronicles the life of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the UAE's Founding Father, and tells the story of the land and

its people – from ancient times to the present – through an immersive journey that blends advanced technologies with soundscapes, visual storytelling, artefacts, and historical items. Architecturally, the museum is a landmark inspired by the soaring wings of a falcon, symbolising the UAE's ambitions and its deep-rooted connection to its cultural heritage and the natural world.

H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed said the Zayed National Museum stands as a monument that pays tribute to the legacy of the late Sheikh Zayed – encom-

passing his leadership, vision, and enduring humanitarian values. He added that the museum also connects the UAE's rich past with its present and future, and serves as a gateway for people to explore and understand the country's culture, heritage, and traditions across generations.

H.H. highlighted the museum's role in documenting key milestones in the nation's history and the achievements that have shaped its identity and global standing.

He also affirmed that preserving and passing on the legacy

of the late Sheikh Zayed as a source of inspiration for future generations is a shared national responsibility.

The museum's collection comprises more than 3,000 pieces, with 1,500 currently on display, each helping to tell the story of the UAE and its people.

Zayed National Museum also features a dedicated space for temporary exhibitions, alongside Al Masar Garden – a 600-metre-long open-air gallery that introduces visitors to the landscapes, stories, and history that shaped the UAE. -WAM

ROUND-UP

Sohar International sponsors Energy Executive Circle and Green Hydrogen Summit Oman

Building on its sponsorship of last edition, the bank's continued support underscores its commitment to advancing the national sustainability agenda and empowering platforms that foster strategic alignment, policy readiness, and investment mobilisation in the accelerating hydrogen and clean-energy sectors

MUSCAT: Reaffirming its position as a leading enabler of Oman's sustainable economic transformation, Sohar International has extended support to the Green Hydrogen Summit Oman (GHSO) 2025 as the Exclusive Banking Sponsor, while also serving as the Exclusive Sponsor of the Energy Executive Circlea high-level forum held on the sidelines of the Summit.

Building on its sponsorship of last edition, the bank's continued support underscores its commitment to advancing the national sustainability agenda and empowering platforms that foster strategic alignment, policy readiness, and investment mobilisation in the accelerating hydrogen and clean-energy sectors.



Held with the participation of more than 250 senior officials, global decision-makers, and energy executives, the Energy Executive Circle aims to catalyse informed dialogue on the future of clean energy and the transition toward a hydrogen-driven global economy. As a long-term supporter of GHSO, Sohar International views this platform as central to driving impactful cooperation between governments, energy companies, financial institutions, and clean-tech innovators ahead of the Summit scheduled for 1–3 December 2025 at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Commenting on the bank's support, Abdulwahid Mohamed Al Murshidi, Chief Executive Officer of Sohar International, stated: "Sohar International remains deeply committed to supporting Oman's transition toward a low-carbon, innovation-driven economy. Our support to the Green Hydrogen Summit Oman and the Energy Executive Circle reflects our belief in the power of strategic collaboration to unlock new opportunities, attract high-value investments, and accelerate the development of the hydrogen ecosystem."

"As a financial institution, we recognise our role not only in providing capital, but in enabling transformative initiatives that shape the future of Oman's energy landscape and reinforce its position as a global clean-energy contender."

As part of the programme, Abbas Hassan Al Lawati, Senior Executive Vice President & Head of Investment Banking, FIG and International Operations, represented the bank in a panel discussion titled "Energy Transition Scale-Up: Technology, Capital, and Market Development." His participation

highlighted the bank's critical role in mobilising capital, structuring investments, and enabling financial solutions essential to expanding hydrogen infrastructure and clean-energy markets.

The broader launch programme also featured key events such as the Oman–EU Green Hydrogen Forum and the Energy Leaders Forum, which focused on strengthening international cooperation and aligning national initiatives in preparation for the Summit.

Discussions spotlighted Oman's progress in regulatory reform, strategic land allocations for re-

newable energy, advancements in hydrogen licensing frameworks, and the nation's competitive foundation for large-scale green hydrogen production.

By supporting GHSO 2025 and its associated executive forums, Sohar International continues to champion initiatives that accelerate national economic diversification. The bank's sustained sponsorship reflects its strategic ambition to serve as a proactive financial partner driving the Sultanate's clean-energy future and supporting its long-term growth priorities.

TOP-QUALITY MEDICAL TREATMENT

Meethaq Medical Finance: Your optimal choice for exceptional and comprehensive healthcare experience

MUSCAT: Meethaq Islamic Banking from Bank Muscat has launched "Meethaq Medical Finance," reinforcing its commitment to fostering innovation and providing Sharia-compliant financial solutions that meet the evolving needs of customers across Oman.

Based on the Service Ijarah concept, "Meethaq Medical Finance" enables customer to access top-quality medical treatment through partnerships with leading healthcare institutions.

The new solution offers a range of benefits, including medical financing covering up to 100% of the treatment cost at leading hospitals and healthcare centers across Oman. Customers can also enjoy convenient repayment options and competitive rates that simplify access to advanced medical services and comprehensive healthcare.

Eligible customers may avail a repayment period of up to 36 months, with financing amounts of up to OMR 15,000. Omani nationals and expatriates earning a minimum monthly salary of OMR 500 and OMR 1,000, respectively, can apply for Meethaq's medical treatment financing facilities.

On this occasion, Sami Bait Rashid, Assistant General Manager – Meethaq Personal Banking stated: "Meethaq Medical Finance is launched as part of Meethaq's ongoing efforts to develop innovative and comprehensive financial solutions that enhance individuals' wellbeing and meet their diverse needs, in cooperation with trusted domestic healthcare institutions. Meethaq has become one of the key pillars of the Islamic

Your health comes first with Meethaq Medical Finance

banking sector in the Sultanate, driven by unwavering commitment to delivering Sharia-compliant and flexible banking products.

"The launch of this new solution reaffirms Meethaq's pioneering role in supporting the Sultanate's economic and social development. We remain dedi-

cated to providing diverse banking solutions and competitive options that support the aspirations of our valued customers."

The full suite of Meethaq's Sharia-compliant solutions and products aligns with its strategic direction of creating long-term value for society and contributing to the

national development in line with Oman Vision 2040.

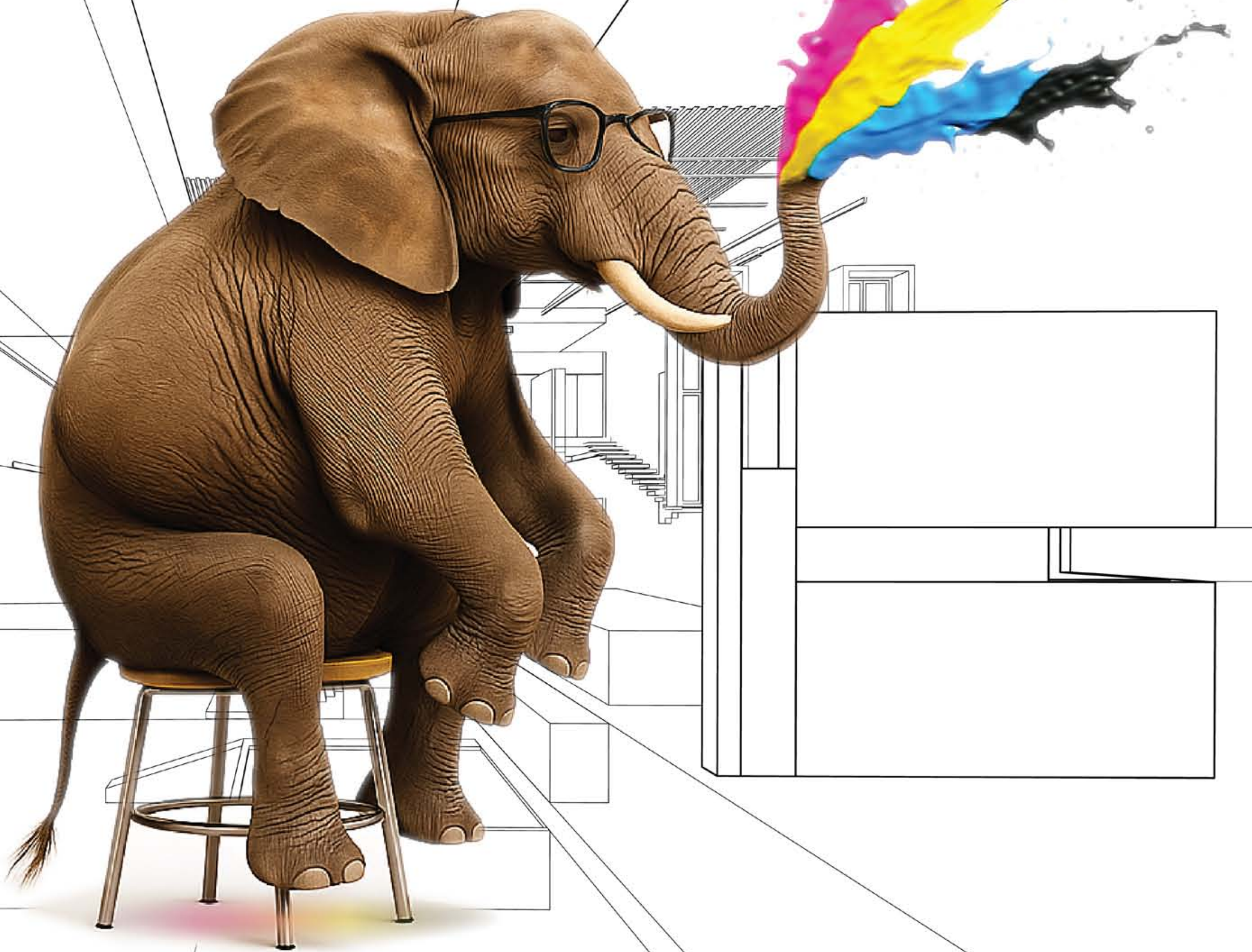
Meethaq also operates the largest branch network within the Islamic banking sector in Oman, with 32 branches across various governorates, in addition to more than 64 cash deposit and withdrawal machines.

Meethaq customers can also access around 900 Bank Muscat ATMs, enabling them to conveniently explore the banking services and solutions available to them.

As a testament to its pioneering role in delivering exceptional Sharia-compliant banking solutions, Meethaq has received multiple

prestigious accolades, including the Market Leadership in Islamic Banking Award from Global Islamic Finance, the Best Islamic Digital Bank in Oman from Global Finance, the Best Islamic Bank in the Oman from Euromoney, and the Best Islamic Investment Bank from Islamic Finance News.

We make your Business bigger than your problems.



We get you ahead on

- Booth production
- Event conceptualisation
- Event management

Wait, there's more

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