LET'S TALK
Times OF OMAN

SQU TO ORGANISE CONFERENCE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Sultan Qaboos University, represented by the UNESCO Chair for Artificial Intelligence, will organise the "International Conference for Artificial Intelligence: Applications, Innovation and Ethics" during the period from 3-5 February 2025. The event will discuss applications of AI in the fields of education, medicine, industry, digital economy and energy. >A3

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HIS MAJESTY CALLS FOR PROMPT JUSTICE, ACCELERATING LITIGATION PROCEDURES

His Majesty the Sultan gave directives to establish the Court of Investment and Trade

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik chaired a meeting of the Supreme Judicial Council at Al Barakah Palace yesterday.

At the outset of the meeting, His Majesty the Sultan underscored the fundamental role of the judiciary in achieving justice and consolidating the principles of law and order. He stressed the need to regularly update the justice system in a manner that suits the requirements of time and the aspirations of citizens and in line with Oman Vision 2040.

His Majesty the Sultan also stressed the need to continue achieving prompt justice by accelerating litigation procedures, diminishing adjudication time and avoiding the accumulation of unresolved cases.

His Majesty the Sultan underlined the importance of developing the digital infrastructure of the judicial sector to support the realisation of prompt justice and enhancing transparency. In this context, His Majesty the Sultan commended the Supreme Judicial Council's strategy 2024-2040. He laid emphasis on taking instant action to implement the strategy's operational plans.

His Majesty the Sultan expressed his satisfaction with the 'qualitative shift'—the tangible transformation—in the functioning of the judiciary, which, he observed, broadly met the aspirations of citizens, residents and investors by providing high-quality judicial services using modern technologies.

His Majesty the Sultan lauded the efforts of members of the Supreme Judicial Council and all other personnel, including judges, members of the Public Prosecution and notary publics. >A2

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN
Oman and India to boost trade ties

1 Qais Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion on Monday received at Invest Oman lounge Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of India. >A2

OMAN
Oman Air's voluntary resignation notices

2 The Shura Council Committee met with affected employees of Oman Air and representatives of the General Federation of Oman Workers to discuss the circumstances behind voluntary resignation notices. >A3

SPORTS
Brathwaite hails team win in Pakistan

3 West Indies Test captain Kraigg Brathwaite hailed his team's 120-run victory over Pakistan in Multan, marking their first win on Pakistani soil since 1990, reported ESPNcricinfo. >A8

ENHANCE COOPERATION

Sayyid Asa'ad patronises opening of Muscat Global Knowledge Dialogue

MUSCAT: HH Sayyid Asa'ad bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs, Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan yesterday patronised the opening of Muscat Global Knowledge Dialogue.

The two-day event, held in Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC), is organised by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation in cooperation with the International Science Council (ISC).

Dr. Rahma Ibrahim Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation delivered a speech in which she underscored the importance of this event in exchanging knowledge and expertise to enhance cooperation between countries and peoples to face global challenges.

She stressed the necessity of converting knowledge and innovative ideas to economic and social gains in a bid to achieve a knowledge-based economy in accordance with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

The Minister pointed out that Muscat Global Knowledge Dialogue constitutes an ideal opportunity for more than 500 elite intellectuals, researchers, scientists, policy makers and partners from all over the world to discuss global challenges and predict the priorities of international cooperation in the field of science.

On his turn, Prof. Sir Peter Gluckman, President of the International Science Council (ISC) underlined the importance of such dialogues and meetings in bridging the gap between science and policy within regional contexts. >A2

SOCIAL PROTECTION BENEFITS

Sayyid Shihab chairs Social Protection Scheme meeting

MUSCAT: The ministerial committee entrusted with the Social Protection Scheme on Monday held a meeting under the auspices of HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Chairman of the Social Protection Committee. The meeting was attended by ministers who are members of the Committee.

The meeting discussed a number of topics on its agenda and took appropriate decisions in their regard.

The meeting also touched on the main indicators of the number of beneficiaries of social protection benefits, as well as indicators of insured persons.

Annual plans

The meeting discussed the annual plans of two related funds: the "Social Protection Fund" and the "Military and Security Services Retirement Fund". One of the most important objectives of the Social Protection Committee is the evaluation and monitoring of the performance of the Social Protection Scheme.

The overall aim is to ensure the application of a fair, functional and sustainable insurance coverage for all segments of society and to achieve the objectives set for the Social Protection Scheme. -ONA

OMAN

PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....12:25pm
Asr.....3:33pm
Maghrib.....5:56pm
Isha.....7:09pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)..... 5:31am

ROYAL KEENNESS

Directives to establish Court of Investment and Trade

< FROM A1

His Majesty the Sultan valued the Supreme Judicial Council members' commitment to integrity in performing their duties.

His Majesty gave his directives to intensify professional training and application of programmes for judges, Public Prosecution members and employees of the Supreme Judicial Council, to ensure that they keep pace with legal and technical developments.

His Majesty the Sultan also underlined the need to continuously provide the Council with specialised cadres.

Pursuant to his Royal keenness on the development and advancement of the investment sector and the consolidation of the investment environment in the Sultanate of Oman, His Majesty the Sultan gave his directives to finalise procedures for establishing the "Court of Investment and Trade".

The court will be mandated to adjudicate investment and settle commercial disputes in a prompt and professional manner.

His Majesty the Sultan pointed out that this step stems from the Sultanate of Oman's vision to promote the investment environment and attract capital by providing a specialized judiciary that supports the growth of commercial activities and ensures the protection of the rights of litigants.

His Majesty the Sultan also gave his Royal directives to complete procedures towards the issuance of the Supreme Judicial Council's organisational structure, so that the Council could continue to provide high-quality judicial services that consolidate confidence in the rule of law.

At the conclusion of the meeting, His Majesty the Sultan reiterated his full support for the independence of the judiciary. He underlined the Council's role in enhancing stability and achieving sustainable development.

He also stressed the importance of cooperation between state institutions to realise an integrated national vision in the field of justice. -ONA

MUSCAT GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE

Discussion on using science to achieve a sustainable future

< FROM A1

During the event, the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation and the International Science Council signed a letter of good intent to implement a special programme in the fields of science, technologies and innovation.

The letter covers several areas of cooperation, namely exchanging official representation between the Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, and the International Science Council through the establishment of a regional office for the ISC in the Middle East headquartered in Muscat.

The letter of good intent was signed by Rahma Ibrahim Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation and Prof. Sir Peter Gluckman, President of the International Science Council (ISC).

Muscat Global Knowledge Dialogue included several discussion panels covering a range of topics, such as the role of science in facing global challenges and the role of innovation and technology in achieving sustainability, as well as discussing priority fields to utilise sciences to achieve a sustainable future. -ONA

Al Amerat Heights Health Complex opens

The complex offers a comprehensive range of primary healthcare services, including general medicine clinics, an expanded immunization programme, as well as a variety of specialised clinics

MUSCAT: As part of the Sultanate of Oman's commitment to enhancing a sustainable healthcare system and ensuring community well-being, and in response to the growing demand for healthcare services, the Ministry of Health (MoH) celebrated on Monday the opening of the Al Amerat Heights Health Complex in the Governorate of Muscat.

The opening ceremony was held under the patronage of Ahmed Saleh Al Rashdi, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs, in the presence of Dr. Ahmed Salim Al Mandhari, MoH Undersecretary for Planning and Health Regulation.

During the ceremony, Dr. Samira Mousa Al Maimani, Acting Director-General of Health Services in the Governorate of Muscat gave a speech during which she pointed out that the opening of the health complex is part of ongoing efforts to provide high-quality healthcare services that meet the needs of both citizens and residents. She emphasised that this represents an important step towards achieving the goals of Oman Vision 2040, which aims to build a sustainable healthcare system that enhances the quality of life and raises the standard of healthcare services.

The Al Amerat Heights Health Complex offers a comprehensive range of primary healthcare services, including general medicine clinics, an expanded immunisation programme, as well as a variety of specialised clinics such as those for chronic diseases, hypertension and diabetes, and asthma.

Furthermore, the complex includes dedicated clinics for maternal care, an early detection program for non-communicable diseases, breast cancer screening, elderly health checkups, and a smoking cessation clinic.

With regard to specialised care, the complex includes a range of secondary healthcare specialised clinics, such as internal medicine, pediatrics, otolaryngology, and ophthalmology, as well as a laboratory, pharmacy, two examination rooms, a meeting and training hall, and a room for computer system control.

Additionally, the complex is equipped with 19 beds, with the possibility of expansion, distributed across various clinics within the facility. It is worth noting that the construction of the complex took 16 months, covering a building area of 15,000 square meters, with a total cost of approximately OMR750,000.

This complex represents a significant addition to the healthcare system and reflects the government's ongoing efforts to provide comprehensive healthcare services with high-quality standards. -ONA

OMANI-INDIAN COMMITTEE

Oman and India to boost economic cooperation

MUSCAT: Qais Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion on Monday received at Invest Oman lounge Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of India.

The meeting comes within the framework of the 11th session of the joint Omani-Indian Committee, held in Muscat.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed areas of cooperation in the fields of technology, pharmaceuticals, renewable energy and infrastructure. They also touched on means of attracting Indian investments to Oman.

Both sides underscored the importance of the 11th session of the joint Omani-Indian Committee as a strategic platform to enhance bilateral cooperation.

The two ministers lauded the prosperity of economic relations between Oman and India. Trade exchange between the two countries in 2023 reached OMR2.05 billion. Meanwhile, the value of Indian investments in Oman reached OMR298.8 million.

Further, the Indian delegation toured Invest Oman lounge and were introduced to the services offered by the lounge to investors, as well as the prominent investment opportunities that are available in Oman. The meeting was attended by several officials from both sides. -ONA

OPEN DOORS

ROHM's outreach initiative for disadvantaged people

Times News Service

MUSCAT: While Royal Opera House Muscat is known for its exceptional programme of world-class performances including classical music, Arabic music, opera, and ballet, it also strives to enrich lives through diverse artistic, cultural and educational programmes.

With Open Doors, the exceptional community outreach project that began this season, ROHM has created a bridge that aims to strengthen inclusivity and engagement in cultural and artistic activities outside the doors of the opera house.

Open Doors closed 2024 with a profound impact, reaching into the heart of two special communities for whom the experience was extraordinary.

Following on from Desert Bridges, a collaborative concert between Swiss and Omani musicians, which was performed in a Welfare Home in Al Rustaq in December, Orchestra Filarmonica Italiana performed a concert at the Association of Early Intervention for Children with Disability.

Umberto Fanni, Director General of Royal Opera House Muscat stressed the importance of such initiatives saying, "Alongside the founding vision of the opera house to provide an enriching season of music at the opera house and to create lasting cultural partnerships around the world, we have always placed initiatives which connect with the community at the centre of the season's activities and programme.

Bringing performances to our communities, no matter what their situation is, is a fundamental tenet of all cultural institutions. By throwing the doors open in this way, we can endeavour to make a real difference to people's lives.

In 2024, we found new outlets for our Open Doors initiative, in what we hope to be a true collaboration between institutions that demonstrates the infinite value of art and culture to all".

Sabah Al Bahlani, CEO of Association of Early Intervention for Children with Disability, was happy to express the positive impact this initiative. "We are truly grateful to Royal Opera House Muscat for the Open Doors initiative, which brought the magic of music and creativity to our children.

The performance and workshop by the Italian Philharmonic Orchestra were not only inspiring but also provided a unique opportunity for the children to connect with art in a meaningful way.

Experiences like these play a significant role in fostering joy, confidence, and inclusion for children with disabilities, and we look forward to future collaborations that continue to create lasting memories."

Open Doors is now an integral part of ROHM's education and community programmes, ensuring greater access to the opera house's performances to a wider audience.

THE DIFFERENCE...

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Shura Council panel reviews Oman Air's voluntary resignation notices

The discussion focused on the implications of the restructuring, the severance benefits offered to affected employees, and the working conditions within the company

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Youth and Human Resources Committee of the Shura Council met this on Monday with affected employees of Oman Air and representatives of the General Federation of Oman Workers to examine the circumstances surrounding the issuance of voluntary resignation notices to a group of employees excluded from the airline's new organisational structure.

During the ninth meeting of the second annual session (2024–2025), the Committee listened to the concerns of employees impacted by the ongoing restructuring at Oman Air.

The discussion focused on the implications of the restructuring, the severance benefits offered to affected employees, and the working conditions within the company. The meeting also included representatives from the General Federation of Oman Workers, who elaborated on their efforts to address the fallout from Oman Air's decisions.

The Federation shared its perspective on the exclusion of employees from the company's new structure and highlighted their ongoing advocacy for the workforce.

Discussions extended to potential solutions and demands proposed by the Federation, the details of ongoing legal proceedings, the number of employees affected by the voluntary resignation notices, and the involvement of relevant government authorities in addressing the issue.

Additionally, the Committee engaged with the Federation on the Ministry of Labour's recent Wage Protection System decision. The dialogue explored the implications of the policy on the workforce and proposed solutions to mitigate any adverse outcomes.

The meeting was chaired by Younis Ali Al Mandhri, Chairman of the Youth and Human Resources Committee, and attended by committee members.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMME

NDC delegation explores the roles and mandates of Shura Council

MUSCAT: Khalid Hilal Al Ma'awali, Chairman of the Shura Council, received Rear Admiral Ali bin Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Shidi, Commandant of the National Defence College (NDC), along with the academic staff and participants of the 12th National Defence Course on Monday.

The visit was part of the college's academic programme, which includes field trips to key institutions in Oman, aimed at understanding their roles and functions as outlined in the Basic Statute of the State.

At the outset of the meeting, Al Ma'awali welcomed the delegation, commending the vital role played by the National Defence College in enhancing the skills of Omani professionals and refining their capabilities.

He highlighted the college's contribution to nurturing national talent, in line with the leadership's vision for the development and empowerment of Omani human resources.

The visiting delegation expressed their interest in understanding the evolution of the Shura Council, its significant contributions to Oman's legislative process, and its oversight of governmental performance.

They emphasised their admiration for the Council's alignment with Oman Vision 2040 and its role in supporting the nation's renewed renaissance.

During a visual presentation led by Al Ma'awali, the delegation was introduced to the Council's legislative and oversight powers.

He detailed the Council's authority in discussing and approving draft laws referred by the government, proposing new legislation, and amending existing laws.

He touched on the Council's role in reviewing economic and social agreements. The presentation included statistical insights into the Council's legislative achievements and its active use of oversight tools during the current and past terms.

He highlighted key laws reviewed by the Council, many of which were issued as Royal Decrees, and shed light on the collaborative efforts between the Shura Council and the Council of Ministers to address national priorities and achieve shared objectives for the public good.

As part of their visit, the delegation toured the Council's main chamber, where they were briefed on the electronic voting mechanisms and advanced digital systems utilised during deliberations.

They also visited the Oman Council Library to gain a deeper understanding of the resources available to support legislative and oversight functions.

The meeting was attended by Ahmed Mohammed Al Nadabi, Secretary- General of the Shura Council, along with several members of the Council.

SHURA COUNCIL

Final draft of Real Estate Regulation Law approved

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Shura Council's Legal and Legislative Committee and the Services and Public Utilities Committee convened a joint meeting on Monday, during which they approved the final draft of the Real Estate Regulation Law proposed by the government.

The draft is set to be presented for discussion in upcoming Council sessions.

The meeting involved a detailed review of the law's provisions, where the Legal and Legislative Committee shared its perspective while the Services and Public Utilities Committee presented its views.

Disputed articles were debated to reach a consensus, with additional proposed amendments to certain provisions also considered.

Earlier, the Services and Public Utilities Committee had hosted several real estate experts alongside representatives from relevant government entities involved in drafting the law.

These consultations aimed to gain informed insights and evaluate the proposed legislation thoroughly.

The Real Estate Regulation Law aims to foster transparency in property transactions, ensure adequate protection for investors, sellers, and buyers, and bolster the local real estate market's efficiency and development.

Stimulate investment

The law also seeks to stimulate real estate investment, enhance this vital sector, and establish legal clarity in the payment of property taxes and fees.

In line with Oman's legislative framework, draft laws prepared by the government are referred to the Council of Oman for approval or amendment before submission to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik for ratification and issuance.

Should the Council propose amendments, His Majesty may refer the draft back for reconsideration of these changes before it is resubmitted with the Council's recommendations.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Hamoud Ahmed Al Yahyai, Chairman of the Services and Public Utilities Committee, and Dr. Ahmed Ali Al Saadi, Chairman of the Legal and Legislative Committee, with the participation of committee members.

APPLICATIONS

SQU to organise AI conference

MUSCAT: Sultan Qaboos University, represented by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Chair for Artificial Intelligence, will organise the "International Conference for Artificial Intelligence: Applications, Innovation and Ethics" during the period from 3-5 February 2025.

Education, medicine

The event will discuss applications of Artificial Intelligence in the fields of education, medicine, industry, digital economy and energy, as well as using Artificial Intelligence in predicting tsunami waves and earthquakes.

It will also review ethics related to AI. Fifteen discussion panels will be held during the conference with the participation of 80 researchers from different countries of the world. -ONA

ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Oman, India ink protocol on double taxation avoidance

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of India yesterday signed in Muscat an amended protocol for the agreement on avoidance of double taxation and prevention of financial evasion.

The protocol was signed by Nasser Khamis Al Jashmi, Chairman of the Tax Authority and Amit Narang, Ambassador of India to Oman.

Al Jashmi underscored the importance of signing this protocol in a bid to enhance economic relations between Oman and India.

The signing of the protocol, he added, comes as a result of efforts exerted to boost bilateral cooperation in the field of taxation. -ONA

OMAN

Sooty falcon population sees encouraging rise in Oman

The sooty falcon is currently classified as a vulnerable species on the IUCN Red List due to a decline in its global population and breeds in the Middle East and north-eastern Africa

MUSCAT: A research team from the Environmental Conservation Office at the Environment Authority has recorded a promising increase in the sooty falcon (Falco concolor) population on an island in northern Oman. A survey conducted in 2024 counted 32 birds, up from 21 in 2023. This field study provides valuable evidence of a positive trend for this vulnerable species.

Sayyid Taimur bin Abdullah Al Said, Director of Environmental Affairs at the Environmental Conservation Office, explained that the sooty falcon survey team undertook field surveys in two phases. The first phase ran from 13th to 20th August, and the second from 22nd September to 3rd October 2024.

The primary objectives of the survey were multifaceted: to provide and update data on the sooty falcon's status and nesting sites on these islands; to provide training for personnel; to prepare a comprehensive project report; and to publish the survey results in peer-reviewed scientific journals.

This field study provides valuable evidence of a positive trend for this vulnerable species

The sooty falcon is currently classified as a vulnerable species on the IUCN Red List due to a decline in its global population. This medium-sized falcon breeds in the Middle East and north-eastern Africa, and spends its winters along the south-eastern coast of Africa and Madagascar.

The islands within the Muscat and South Al Batinah governorates in Oman are recognised as globally significant breeding sites for this species.

In an exciting development, the research team successfully tracked the migration route of a juvenile sooty falcon from Oman to Madagascar between October and December 2024 using satellite tracking devices. The bird, fitted with a tracking device on 3rd October 2024, travelled through Saudi Arabia, Sudan, South Sudan, western Kenya, and Mozambique, finally reaching Madagascar on 14th December 2024. The juvenile covered an impressive distance of 9,200 kilometres in approximately 50 days.

Total value of FAO Oman's projects witnesses a substantial surge of 83%

In 2024, FAO's project portfolio in the Sultanate of Oman reached a value of $4,276,985, compared to $2,335,819 in 2022

MUSCAT: The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) has significantly enhanced its collaboration with the Sultanate of Oman, achieving an 83% increase in the total value of its projects.

In 2024, FAO's project portfolio in the Sultanate of Oman reached a value of $4,276,985, compared to $2,335,819 in 2022.

Food security

FAO's diverse range of projects, developed in partnership with the Omani government and private sector, aims to bolster food security and strengthen local capacities. Key initiatives focus on climate resilience, apiculture, improving agricultural practices, and implementing value-added projects in the fisheries and livestock sectors.

Dr. Thaer Yaseen, interim FAO Representative in Oman commented: "This year, as we celebrate FAO's 80th anniversary, we are proud to launch and implement numerous initiatives in close collaboration with the Omani government, private sector, and civil society. These efforts underscore our steadfast commitment to supporting the Sultanate of Oman in achieving sustainable development and food security."

As part of its commitment to addressing climate challenges, FAO is collaborating closely with the Environment Authority to align its climate resilience initiatives with Oman's National Environmental Strategy.

Through innovative programs, FAO supports the restoration of degraded lands, promotes water conservation in agriculture, and integrates advanced technologies to improve adaptation and mitigation practices.

These efforts not only protect Oman's unique ecosystems but also enhance the resilience of communities to climate-related risks, setting a benchmark for sustainable development in arid regions.

In addition to its work in Oman, FAO continues to promote global initiatives such as the International Year of Camelids.

This celebration emphasises the vital role camelids play in enhancing food security and livelihoods in arid regions.

It also highlights the importance of preserving and sustainably utilising these animals to improve the well-being of communities that rely on them.

FAO's success in Oman is driven by its close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Water Resources (MAFWR), the Environment Authority (EA), and Sultan Qaboos University (SQU), as well as its strong partnerships with private sector entities such as Al Jisr Foundation, Oman India Fertiliser Company (Omifco), and Al Zubair Corporation. Together, these partnerships amplify FAO's impact and support Oman's vision for a sustainable and food-secure future. — ONA

OCCI'S LABOUR MARKET COMMITTEE

Observations of business owners on wage protection system reviewed

MUSCAT: The Labour Market Committee of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) held its first meeting of the current year (2025) under the chairmanship of Mohammed Hassan Al A'nasi, Head of the committee.

The meeting discussed the observations of business owners on the implementation of the Wage Protection System and associated fines.

The meeting affirmed OCCI's keenness to study the impacts of implementation of the Wage Protection System on private sector establishments.

The study of the issue, made in cooperation with the authorities concerned, seeks to reach practical solutions that consider the common interests of all parties, enhance economic growth and ensure the generation and sustainability of employment opportunities.

Through the OCCI's official channels, the Committee reiterates its continuous monitoring of the challenges facing business owners. The panel operates in partnership with government institutions to improve the business environment and develop policies that support the national economy and contribute to the realisation of the goals of Oman Vision 2040.

During the meeting, the committee discussed means of enhancing the work environment and developing the labour market in line with Oman Vision 2040. The committee reviewed the most prominent achievements it made last year, focusing on the challenges it faced and the solutions that it implemented.

The Committee also followed up its initiatives aimed at developing labour legislation and supporting the balance between employers and workers. During the meeting, the committee stressed the importance of maintaining these efforts in a manner that enhances the sustainability of the labour market in Oman. — ONA

Bank Muscat Oryx Fund

Chairman Statement

Dear Unit-holders,

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Management Body, to present the results of Bank Muscat Oryx Fund for the twelve-month period ended 31st December 2024.

2024 was an eventful year for the global markets with multiple factors driving the market performance during the year and the year ended with mixed performance across various markets. The year started with a key focus on inflation levels and interest rates amidst geopolitical conflicts and elections in some of the key economies in the world including US. As the year progressed, the economic data in the US continued to remain strong, inflation came off, thus leading to reversal in interest rates. This resulted in a rally in the risk assets with MSCI World index and MSCI Emerging Market index gaining 17% and 5%, respectively during the year.

2024 was a year of mixed performance for the GCC markets with S&P GCC Composite index delivering a return of 2% during the year. The performance of individual markets remained mixed with the Dubai market delivering positive returns along with Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia while Abu Dhabi and Qatar markets remained under pressure during the year.

Oryx Fund maintained its track record of consistent outperformance against the benchmark. The Fund's NAV gained 4.4% during 2024 as against a gain of 2% by S&P GCC Composite index, thus generating an outperformance of 2.4%. The fund also distributed dividends of RO 0.072 per unit during the year. This is a testament to the experience and skillset of the investment team and investment process of the Fund. The Fund's strategy has been proven over various market cycles. The Fund widened its investor reach with its presence on the mobile banking and internet banking platform of Bank Muscat. This was widely appreciated by the investors based on the new subscription growth during 2024.

Considering the positive performance of the Fund, it is proposed to pay a dividend of 74 baisas per unit for 2024.

Going into 2025, GCC member countries are likely to maintain strong fiscal spending as part of economic diversification plans. The expected interest rate trajectory remains downward. However, owing to a strong economy and sticky inflation, the projected rate cut expectations for 2025 have been narrowed downwards. The oil prices are expected to remain stable driven by supply and demand side factors, thus maintaining positive investor sentiment. The corporate performance of the GCC companies during the first nine months of 2024 has remained robust, driven by local drivers with GCC aggregate earnings excluding Energy sector growing more than 10%. We remain optimistic about businesses operating in the non-oil sectors in GCC to benefit from local structural drivers.

Further, the valuation of the regional markets remains attractive along with support from higher dividend yields. Bank Muscat Oryx Fund continues to benefit from these trends, aiding outperformance over underlying benchmark.

I would like to thank the Financial Services Authority and the Muscat Stock Exchange for their commitment to development of capital markets in the Sultanate of Oman. Above all, I would like to express our gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, whose visionary leadership continues to inspire us all.

Chairman - Management Body

Audited Statement of Comprehensive Income for year ended 31st December 2024

	31-Dec-24 RO'000	31-Dec-23 RO'000
Income		
Dividends	1,680	1,209
	1,680	**1,209**
Expenses:		
Management fees	(1,146)	(955)
General and administrative expenses	(574)	(658)
	(1,720)	(1,613)
Net Investment Income	**(40)**	**(404)**
Fair value Gain or (Loss)	5,901	13,459
Realised (Loss) or Gain on sale	(3,285)	395
Net Profit for the period	**2,576**	**13,450**
Earnings per unit	**0.134**	**0.723**

Audited Statement of Financial Position as at 31st December 2024

	31-Dec-24 RO'000	31-Dec-23 RO'000
Assets		
Investments	61,363	58,545
Bank & Cash	1,358	482
Other Receivable	10	26
Total Assets	**62,731**	**59,053**
Liabilities:		
Creditors and accruals	(117)	(120)
	(117)	**(120)**
Net Assets	**62,614**	**58,933**
Composition of net assets:		
Units issued	19,217	18,489
Retained Earnings	43,397	40,444
	62,614	**58,933**
Net Asset Value (NAV) per unit (Rial)	**3.258**	**3.188**

Record date for the dividend of Oryx Fund is 5th March 2025. The book closure will be on 6th March 2025. Any investor wishing to receive the dividend in cash should fax/email their request to the fund managers on 24704478 / FundInvestorServices@bankmuscat.com not later than 5th March 2025.

Note: Due to figures displayed in 000's, immaterial variance is likely with actual numbers. The complete accounts will be sent by mail to any Unitholder who requests them, in either Arabic or English, as requested, within 7 days of receipt of request.

Managed by Bank Muscat SAOG, Asset Management Division

PO Box 134, Postal Code 112, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman. Call +968 24801866 Fax +968 24704478 or email us on FundInvestorServices@bankmuscat.com

www.bankmuscat.com

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PAKISTAN SCHOOL MUSCAT

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANNUAL TENDER

PSM intends to offer **Annual Contract of Canteen for the year 2025 – 2026 for**

Pakistan School Sohar.

The contractors with relevant experiences are invited for following bidding:

Tender No	Tender's Name	Tender Collection Date &Time	Final Submission Date & Time
2025/001	Running of School Canteen	Jan 28, 2025 to Feb 02, 2025 07:30 AM to 02:00 PM Working Days/Hours	Before and Until Feb 04, 2025 before 2:00 PM

Experienced contractor(s) having relevant experience of at least 3 years of similar nature / jobs, preferably in Oman, who wishe/es to participate in the bidding may collect the documents after payment of **RO. 20.000** (non-refundable) per Job.

Admin Office

PAKISTAN SCHOOL SOHAR
P.O. Box 644, P.C. 311, Sohar, Sultanate of Oman:
In case of any query you may also contact 00968 95518680
Email: zaighem@pakistanschool.edu.om, bodschairman@gmail.com

The tenders shall be submitted in Original and complete with all relevant documents. Tenders not in compliance with tender's requirements shall not be considered.

Tender Documents shall be submitted in sealed envelope with clearly mentioned Tender Number/name, Company Name and POC's Number/name. The sealed envelope shall be dropped in the Tender Box available at Admin Office on or before the date mentioned above and addressed to:

PAKISTAN SCHOOL MUSCAT

(PSM is not bound to accept the lowest Tender or any Tender)

Ministry of Health

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Health invites specialized companies to participate in the following Tenders:

Tender Ref.	Description	Last date for Collection of tender Document	Closing Time/ Day/ Date	Eligibility	Tender Fee (Non-Refundable)
2025/232	Maintenance work on the building of the Engineering Affairs and Maintenance Department of the General Directorate of Health Services in North Al Sharqiyah Governorate.	Before 10 am on Sunday 09/ February/ 2025	Before 10 am on Sunday 09/ March /2025	Specialized companies registered with the Tender Board with fourth grades.	R.O 25 Per set

- All Specialized and interested Companies registered with Tender Board on the above mentioned Grade may obtain Tender documents from the E. Tendering website: https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om against non-refundable payment as mentioned above for each set of document.
- Ministry is not bound to accept the lowest tender and reserves the right to accepts or reject any tender.

(https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om)
Any Clarification, you may contact via
Telephone: 24402200
Email id: etenderhd@mtcit.gov.om

OMAN/WORLD

Commerce ministry, OCCI praise Royal directives

The establishment of a court specialised in investment issues would contribute to creation of a stable legal environment that encourages attraction of foreign investments

MUSCAT: The Supreme Judicial Council and Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) reaffirmed the significance of the Royal Directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on completion of the procedures for establishment of the Investment and Commerce Court to provide a stable legal environment that attract foreign investments and upgrades the competitiveness indicators of Oman's economy.

Sayyid Mohammed bin Sultan Al Busaidi, Vice President of the Supreme Judicial Council, said that the Supreme Judicial Council will implement the Royal Directives of His Majesty the Sultan in relation to implementation of the strategic plan of the Supreme Judicial Council and the operation plans in a way that keep abreast of the latest developments in the field and the aspirations of citizens and in consistent with Oman Vision 2040 and His Majesty's directives on completion of the procedures and issuance of the organisational structure of the Supreme Judicial Council and establishment of the Investment and Commerce Court.

He said that His Majesty's directives on completion of the procedures for establishment of the Investment and Commerce Court represent a significant step in the Omani judicial march.

The Investment and Commerce Court is concerned with all cases of which a merchant is a party to the case and whose business and arising disputes relate to the investment contract. This court will mitigate the pressure on the other courts, he added.

He said that the establishment of a court specialised in investment issues would contribute to creation of a stable legal environment that encourages attraction of foreign investments and would upgrade the indicators of competitiveness of Oman's economy.

Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, said that the directives of His Majesty to complete the procedures for establishing the Investment and Trade Court, come as an affirmation of His Majesty's keenness to develop the investment and trade sector and enhance the investment environment in the Sultanate of Oman in line with the aspirations of the Oman 2040 vision.

Faisal bin Abdullah Al Rawas, Chairman of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), said that the Royal Directives of His Majesty on completion of the procedures for establishment of the Investment and Commerce Court, when he presided over the meeting of the Supreme Judicial Council, are supportive to the judicial service in Oman and represent one of the key pillars for attraction of investments and capitals.

The Royal Directives also boost sustainability and the growth of the private sector through the presence of a judiciary specialised in the issues of investment and commerce.

He said that the Royal Directives come within the keenness of His Majesty the Sultan for development of the investment sector and enhancement of the investment environment in the Sultanate of Oman. - ONA

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EUROPEAN UNION

France says EU could agree to ease Syria sanctions

BRUSSELS: European Union foreign ministers were likely to agree on lifting some sanctions on Syria, officials said on Monday ahead of a meeting in Brussels.

Hungary also dropped its veto to the extension of sanctions against Moscow over its invasion of Ukraine, allowing the bloc to renew its wide-ranging sanctions.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot said that the easing of sanctions would apply to the energy, transport and financial sectors.

"Regarding Syria, we are going to decide today to lift, to suspend, certain sanctions that had applied to the energy and transport sectors and to financial institutions that were key to the financial stabilization of the country," Barrot said after arriving at the foreign ministers' meeting.

The Reuters news agency cited EU top diplomat Kaja Kallas as saying that she was hopeful an agreement on easing sanctions could be reached.

Bashar Assad's regime in Syria was toppled by rebel groups on December 8.

The EU has called for Syria's new authorities to implement an "inclusive" political process and respect human rights, including those of Syria's ethnic and religious minority groups.

During Syria's 13-year civil war, Western states drastically restricted exports to the Levantine country and cut off diplomatic and financial ties, citing the Assad regime's abuses.

EU likely to renew Russia sanctions

Barrot also said that a deal had been struck under which Hungary would accept the renewal of sanctions on Russia.

"The sanctions will be renewed," the French foreign minister said. Later on Monday, the bloc's foreign ministers agreed to renew the sanctions on Moscow.

In order for the penalties on Moscow to continue, the EU's 27 member states had to unanimously approve the rollover by January 31.

Budapest had said it wanted to wait for the inauguration of US Donald Trump before agreeing to the continuation of the sanctions regime. Trump had previously called for a negotiated settlement between Kyiv and Moscow to end Russia's invasion.

On Friday, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban threatened to veto the renewal, calling on the EU to pressure Ukraine to reopen a gas pipeline supplying Hungary and other Central European states. — DW

NORTH KIVU PROVINCE

DR Congo says Rwanda army in Goma

GOMA: Congo's government on Monday accused Rwanda of an incursion into the North Kivu province in the east of the country, hours after the Rwandan-backed M23 rebels claimed control over the provincial capital Goma.

"The government continues to work to prevent carnage and loss of life in light of Rwanda's clear intentions," government spokesperson Patrick Muyaya said in a post on the platform X.

He spoke of the "presence of the Rwandan army" in Goma.

Muyaya said Kinshasa urged residents of the eastern city to stay at home and to refrain from committing acts of vandalism and looting.

As rebels entered Goma, thousands of inmates broke out of the city's Munzenze prison.

The UN-backed Radio Okapi station reported that the jailbreak had been caused by a fire at the facilities. The Reuters cited UN sources as saying that Congolese forces exchanged artillery fire with Rwandan troops across the border between the two Central African countries.

Rwandan army spokesperson Ronald Rwivanga said that five civilians were killed and 25 were wounded on the outskirts of the border town of Gisenyi, according to the AFP news agency.

The Rwanda-Congo border near Goma was closed on Monday, AFP cited a European consulate source as saying.

The Congolese government statement comes hours after ethnic Tutsi-led M23 rebels said they had taken control of Goma.

On Saturday, international peacekeepers from South Africa, Malawi and Uruguay were killed in clashes with M23 fighters. — DW

SOUTHERN KRASNODAR REGION

Amid ongoing Black Sea oil spill, locals lead cleanup effort

ANAPA: A wave of cancellations is sweeping through spas and children's camps in Anapa, a Russian town on the Black Sea. As the pollution from a huge December 2024 oil spill washes onto local beaches, many Russians are abandoning their holiday plans in the southern Krasnodar region.

According to the Telegram channel Kub Mash, "parents don't want to send their children to the hazardous coastline." It also reported that companies that had issued travel vouchers to employees as bonuses were now demanding refunds.

Speaking to the Russian paper Parlamentskaya Gazeta, the head of Russia's State Duma Committee on Family Affairs, Nina Ostanina, said bookings at Anapa's children's recreation and health retreats had plummeted by more than 27% in January and 40% for the summer.

The oil spill began on December 15 when a storm swamped two aging Russian tankers traveling through the Kerch Strait, which separates Russia from the Crimean Peninsula. One ship sank and the other was damaged when it ran aground.

Ongoing environmental disaster

More than a month later, fuel oil continues to leak into the sea from the sunken tanker. Russian authorities have reported that they haven't been able to weld the damaged part of the ship closed, because the hole was too close to the oil storage tankers.

According to official reports, up to 5,000 of the 9,200 tons of mazut, a heavy, low-quality oil product, being transported by the tankers may have already leaked into the sea.

The mazut has been settling on the seabed and washing ashore, contaminating at least 50 kilometres (31 miles) of coastline, mostly around Anapa.

While Russia's Emergencies Ministry has claimed there is no effective method to clean up this type of oil, environmental experts have said appropriate methods have been available since 2002, when the Prestige tanker carrying similar heavy fuel oil sank off the Spanish coast, polluting some 2,000 kilometers of coastline.

Russian officials are warning of further problems in the summer, when rising temperatures cause the oil to dissolve and wash ashore in larger amounts.

Severe consequences for wildlife, people

Eugene Simonov, of the environmental protection group Ukraine War Environmental Consequences Work Group, told DW it could take a decade for local ecosystems to recover. "This oil spill could have disastrous consequences for some species," he said.

Environmental organization Greenpeace has reported the deaths of 32 dolphins and 1,355 birds as of early January. Anna Jerzak, an expert with the organization for Central and Eastern Europe, told DW that high concentrations of hydrocarbons had a toxic effect on fish, disrupting food chains and causing populations to decline.

"In the long term, oil products poison seaweeds, which destroys the habitats of a number of organisms," she said.

Looking to the upcoming summer, Simonov said the heavy fuel also posed health risks to swimmers. "People may experience a bad smell," he said. "For many, it will worsen existing respiratory issues, and all of this can have carcinogenic effects."

Jerzak warned that toxic fumes, allergic reactions and skin inflammation were also likely.

Volunteers step in despite government inaction

Some 10,000 volunteers are helping with the spontaneous cleanup effort, said ecologist Evgeny Vitishko, adding that some 2,500 birds have been rescued so far.

"That's about half the birds affected by the oil spill, which is higher than the global average. Usually, only about 10-12% are rescued," said Vitishko, adding that he was lobbying for a bird rehabilitation center where the rescued wildlife could be kept for three to six months.

"We've only got a month left before there are no more birds left to save," he said.

One helper explained that the volunteer network had initially been funded by donations. In time, volunteers began asking donors to order the necessary supplies and gear online and have it shipped directly to the volunteer center.

All volunteers receive free lodging and provisions from local hotels, whose own survival depends on the upcoming summer season.

Environmental authorities call for stricter monitoring of cleanup effort

Initially, authorities had provided volunteers with protective suits from China, as DW learned, and the distribution of special gear was slow at best.

But even if these issues have since been resolved, many volunteers are under the impression that they, not the state, are the ones doing most of the cleanup work. They complain that government representatives are only interfering with their efforts.

In a ministerial meeting, Russian President Vladimir Putin had apparently called upon those in office to engage more actively in cleanup duties. When employees of Russian Environment Ministry visited Anapa in early January, they caused a scandal when they released some 160 rescued birds without consulting local volunteers in advance.

"They did it as a PR stunt," one helper told DW. The incident took a tragic turn, when nearly all the birds that had been released were found dead along the coast the following day. Experts explained that the oil had damaged the natural insulation lining in the birds' feathers, which hadn't had the chance to recover in such a short period.

Following the event, the volunteer center installed a representative responsible for liaising with authorities and the media. But helpers said the representative is actually responsible for monitoring the content of their internal group chats.

One volunteer said there had initially been an open atmosphere at the center. "I was amazed at how friendly people were to each other. Some did the heavy lifting, other washed birds, and still other distributed protective gear," he said. "It felt great to be a part of it."

But once authorities began pressuring the volunteer center, he starting doubting the official statistics and work practices. Instead, the helper suspects local authorities are trying to cover up numbers and activities.

"Despite the free food and lodging, I barely have any savings left over," he said. But he still wanted to stay, if only for the sense of contributing to something important. — DW

Thousands of displaced Palestinians begin returning to northern Gaza

Thousands of people spent the past two nights in the open on Rashid and Salah al-Din Streets, despite the bitter cold, waiting for the occupation forces to allow them to return to their homes after forcing them to leave and flee to the south

GAZA: Thousands of displaced Palestinians began returning to Gaza City and the northern Gaza Strip on Monday via Rashid Coastal Street in the central Gaza Strip.

At 9:00 a.m., the displaced persons will be allowed to travel by vehicles to the northern Gaza Strip after being inspected, via Salah al-Din Street.

Thousands of people spent the past two nights in the open on Rashid and Salah al-Din Streets, despite the bitter cold, waiting for the occupation forces to allow them to return to their homes after forcing them to leave and flee to the south.

Most of the displaced persons are walking the return route via Rashid Street, a distance of at least 7 kilometers.

The Rashid Coastal Street extends from the northern Gaza Strip to its southern part, and witnessed dozens of massacres committed by the occupation forces against citizens who were on their way to flee from the north to the south during the 470-day of aggression.

Between October 7, 2023 and January 19, 2025, the Israeli occupation forces launched an aggression on the Gaza Strip, which resulted in the killing and injury of more than 158 thousand people, most of whom were children and women, and left more than 14 thousand missing.

The Israeli occupation aggression resulted in the displacement of more than 85% of the citizens of the Gaza Strip, more than 1.93 million citizens out of 2.2 million, from their homes after their destruction, and about 100 thousand citizens have left the Strip since the beginning of the aggression.

Jordan's PM reaffirms his country's unwavering stance on Palestinian issue

Jordan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi reiterated his country's unwavering stance on the Palestinian issue, stressing that the solution to the Palestinian cause lies in Palestine, according to Jordan's official news agency, Petra.

This came during in-depth discussions with the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Sigrid Kaag.

Safadi highlighted that regional security and stability depend on the realisation of Palestinian rights through the establishment of an independent, sovereign state alongside Israel, based on international law and legitimacy.

Safadi emphasised Jordan's unwavering commitment to supporting Palestinian presence on their land, linking this to ongoing Gaza reconstruction efforts.

"Our position on the two-state solution as the path to peace is unchangeable, as is our rejection of displacement," he said, emphasizing that these views are not just policies but vital components for maintaining regional stability.

He stressed that addressing the Palestinian issue in a just manner that guarantees their rights is the only way to achieve the regional security that has long eluded the area.

"This is not just an unshakeable Jordanian position, but a necessity for achieving the security and stability we all seek," Safadi added.

Safadi also reaffirmed that Jordan's reconstruction efforts in Gaza would persist until conditions worthy of Palestinian life are established following all the suffering, destruction, and loss of life.

"The peace we seek, which the region deserves and ensures security and stability, must be acceptable to peoples, fulfilling their rights, specifically the Palestinian people's right to live freely and with dignity on their national soil," he emphasized.

The minister outlined immediate priorities, including securing a lasting ceasefire, ensuring the continuous flow of aid, alleviating Gaza's suffering, and launching joint peace efforts that guarantee Palestinian rights. He underscored King Abdullah II's ongoing leadership in mobilizing international efforts for a just peace

Kaag praised Jordan's role in facilitating aid to Gaza through the Jordanian corridor, noting that UN operations have continued through this route with unwavering support from the Jordanian government.

She reaffirmed the UN's commitment to advancing a clear path toward establishing a viable Palestinian state alongside Israel, despite the current humanitarian challenges in Gaza. Agencies

BILATERAL TIES

India's Jaishankar to visit the UAE

NEW DELHI: India's External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar is set to embark on an official visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from January 27-29, 2025 to strengthen the bilateral relationship between the two countries, with a focus on advancing their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

"The visit will provide an opportunity to advance the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the two countries and add new momentum to the India - UAE relationship," an official press release by the Ministry of External Affairs stated.

EAM Jaishankar will meet with UAE leaders to discuss the growth of their comprehensive strategic partnership and explore new ways to enhance collaboration across various sectors.

Additionally, he will deliver the keynote address at the inaugural session of Raisina Middle East in Abu Dhabi, a key forum for political dialogue in the region.

India and the UAE have long enjoyed robust relations, with diplomatic ties established in 1972. This visit follows a series of high-level exchanges between the two countries, the most notable being Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the UAE in 2015, marking the first Indian prime ministerial visit in 34 years.

This visit paved the way for a stronger partnership, which has been further solidified by subsequent visits, including Prime Minister Modi's attendance at the COP28 World Climate Action Summit in Dubai in November-December 2023. The relationship is bolstered by the large Indian diaspora in the UAE, which constitutes around 35 per cent of the country's population. — ANI

INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

NASA astronaut shares stunning images of 2025 Maha Kumbh Mela from ISS

Prayagraj: NASA astronaut Donald Pettit recently shared breathtaking images of the 2025 Maha Kumbh Mela taken from the International Space Station (ISS).

In his post on X (formerly Twitter), Pettit remarked: "2025 Maha Kumbh Mela Ganges River pilgrimage from the ISS at night. The largest human gathering in the world is well lit."

His perspective highlights the grand scale of the event, which has attracted millions of devotees from around the globe.

The ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj has already seen over 110 million people join in the first 14 days of the religious festival, marking it as one of the largest spiritual gatherings in the world. The event, which occurs every 12 years, is expected to continue drawing an immense crowd until its conclusion on February 26, 2025. With millions of devotees arriving from all corners of the globe, the festival serves as a vibrant celebration of faith and unity.

Pilgrims travel to the Sangam--the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and the Saraswati rivers (now extinct)--to take a ritual bath, believed to wash away sins and pave the way to moksha (liberation). This sacred dip is central to the spiritual significance of the festival, which is rooted in Sanatan Dharma.

The gathering occurs during a celestial alignment that creates a rare and auspicious window for spiritual cleansing and devotion. The Maha Kumbh Mela not only brings together millions of religious devotees but also carries profound spiritual and cultural meaning. Despite the cold weather, large congregations of devotees have braved the cold to bathe in the sacred waters of the Sangam. The event is a poignant symbol of collective spirituality, transcending boundaries of language, lifestyle, and tradition.

As the festival continues, authorities are making extensive preparations for the upcoming Mauni Amavasya on January 29, expecting even larger crowds. The expected turnout during this period, with an estimated 45 crore visitors, will mark a historic occasion for India.

The Maha Kumbh Mela remains an awe-inspiring sight for visitors, as people from diverse backgrounds and walks of life converge in Prayagraj for a shared spiritual purpose. — ANI

MEDIA REPORTS

Bangladesh, Pakistan plan to start direct air flights after shipping links

DHAKA: Bangladesh and Pakistan are making strides to strengthen their bilateral ties, with both countries working toward restarting direct flights after launching direct shipping services.

According to media reports, this step marks a new phase in the relationship between the two nations.

Multidimensional ways

"Now the relations between Pakistan and Bangladesh have started a new era. The relations are going to be strengthened in multidimensional ways. The direct flights between the two countries have not yet been established. But it is a demand of the people of both sides of the two countries," said Iqbal Hussain Khan, the Bangladesh High Commissioner in Pakistan.

Notably, since Sheikh Hasina's ousted from power in August 2024, Pakistan and Bangladesh have edged closer. That's not how Dhaka and Islamabad have viewed their relationship for much of the 54 years since Bangladesh broke away from Pakistan, winning independence after one of the 20th century's bloodiest wars in 1971.

An internal crisis

In 1971, an internal crisis in Pakistan resulted in a third war between India and Pakistan and the secession of East Pakistan, creating the independent state of Bangladesh.

Khan further explained, "Both sides are working to facilitate the concerning airlines to start the connections as early as possible. So far I know, from Bangladesh's side, Bangladesh (Biman) Airlines, which is our national carrier, has planned to operate Dhaka to Karachi to London ways also this country has started working."

He made these comments during a seminar in Peshawar, and his speech was uploaded on YouTube by BNN News. The Bangladesh High Commissioner's visit to Peshawar is part of his ongoing travels across Pakistan, including recent visits to Lahore and Multan.

The High Commissioner expressed optimism about the potential impact of direct flight services, stating, "I am confident that after starting the direct flight connections, a high momentum will be started for trade, business, investment, education, and tourism." This move is expected to further strengthen the ties between the two nations in multiple sectors.

Significant development

A significant development in the relationship between Bangladesh and Pakistan came with the start of direct shipping services between the two countries. This initiative began following a political change in Bangladesh.

Khan also mentioned that Bangladeshi patients have begun travelling to Pakistan for medical treatment, further boosting people-to-people connections.

This development comes after a turbulent period in Bangladesh's political landscape, overriding the historical animosity between Islamabad and Dhaka.

In August last year, a student-led movement ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina after weeks of protests and violence that resulted in over 600 deaths.

Hasina, 76, fled to India, and an interim government led by Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus was subsequently formed. — ANI

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Tender Number	Tender Name	Last Date for Collection of Documents	Time & Last Date for Proposal Submission	Tender Fee (OMR) Including VAT (5%)
DISC/2025/001	SUPPLY OF WOODEN POELS FOR NAMA DHOFAR SERVICE	11-Feb-2025	20-Feb-2025	52.500
DISC/2024/002	Supply of Vertical Booster Pumps & Submersible Pumps	19-Nov-2024	20-Feb-2025	105.000

- To purchase the tender document website via the link or the Barcode below: **https://isupplier.nama.om:4443/OA_HTML/OA.jsp?OAFunc=XXTEN_TENDER_FLOAT_DISC_F**
- Every company wishing to participate in this tender must attach with its bid a bid bond in the form of a bank guarantee from one of the banks operating in the Sultanate of Oman. Any bid that does not contain the bid bond will be disqualified.
- The original bid bond must be submitted in an envelope sealed with red wax and addressed to the chairperson of the minor tender committee and written on outside the Tender name and the Tender number and it should be paced in the tender box in Nama Dhofar Services in Salalah before 10:00 am of the last day for submitting Bids.
- Bids shall be submitted online through using **"isupplier portal"**. No hard copies are accepted.
- The Tender fees are not refundable. However, Tenderers who are holding "Riyada" card issued from public authority for SME development will be exempted from providing the tender fee and the Bid bond.
- The company is not obliged to accept the lowest or any other bid.
- In the event of receipt of the tender document on behalf of another company, the interested purchasers in the above tender document should provide details of the person's name and the company details.

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Dhofar Integrated Services Company

SPORTS

Brathwaite praises West Indies side after victory over Pakistan

The victory, driven by a spirited performance from a relatively young squad, levelled the two-match Test series

MULTAN : West Indies Test captain Kraigg Brathwaite hailed his team's 120-run victory over Pakistan in Multan, marking their first win on Pakistani soil since 1990, reported ESPNcricinfo.

The victory, driven by a spirited performance from a relatively young squad, levelled the two-match Test series and showcased the team's grit and adaptability in challenging conditions.

Reflecting on the significance of the win, Brathwaite expressed pride in his team's achievement.

"We haven't played in Pakistan for a number of years, but we haven't won here in a while, so to come here and do it as a young group is incredible," he said, as quoted from ESPNcricinfo.

A key factor in West Indies' success was their bravery with the bat on a testing surface, particularly in the second innings. Brathwaite highlighted the importance of adapting to such conditions.

"On this pitch, there's a ball with your name on it around the corner. We did that with the bat in the second innings, and it was good to see. It was a good experience. When you get on better pitches, you can have a similar mindset, and it will help you in the long run," he explained.

The West Indies skipper also reserved special praise for Jomel Warrican, who was the standout performer with both bat and ball in the series. Warrican's lower-order contributions, along with Gudakesh Motie, played a pivotal role in setting up the victory in Multan.

"He always says he's one of the best players of offspin in the Caribbean, it's good to see him get some runs. Him and Motie in the first innings really set the game up for us," the ESPNcricinfo report citing Brathwaite added.

Warrican, who has been in and out of the side over the years, made a strong statement with his performances, finishing the series with 19 wickets and earning the Player of the Match and Player of the Series honours.

Brathwaite acknowledged his class and consistency, saying, "He's been in and out for a long time, but he showed his class, and he's here to stay."

With this win, the West Indies not only ended a decades-long drought in Pakistan but also displayed the potential and promise of their younger players. Brathwaite's side will look to build on this historic achievement as they aim to strengthen their position in Test cricket.

The visitors needed just over an hour on the third day to decimate Pakistan's final six wickets, with a brief 39-run stand between Mohammad Rizwan and Salman Agha offering some resistance. Pakistan were bowled out for a mere 133 runs.

The writing was on the wall for Pakistan early on as Kevin Sinclair struck just three balls into the day, coaxing Saud Shakeel into edging a sharply spinning delivery to first slip. The pressure mounted in the very next over when nightwatchman Kashif Ali was undone by Warrican, who sneaked the ball through his defense to trap him in front, leaving the hosts in disarray.

Rizwan and Agha fought valiantly to steady the innings against the relentless West Indies spinners. With Kemar Roach sidelined due to injury, the visitors leaned heavily on their spin trio, who tightened their grip on the game. Rizwan punished the occasional loose delivery, but such opportunities were rare as the spinners maintained suffocating pressure, leaving Pakistan struggling to break free.

The seventh-wicket partnership held firm for 12 overs before Warrican delivered the breakthrough. A low, skidding delivery struck Agha on the back pad in line with the stumps, leaving the umpire with an easy decision and exposing Pakistan's fragile tail.

Warrican wasn't done yet. He soon accounted for Rizwan, who misjudged a delivery that drifted in and breached the bat-pad gap, scattering the stumps. The end was now inevitable. Gudakesh Motie removed Noman Ali, and Warrican fittingly claimed the final wicket, as Sajid Khan dragged one onto his stumps. Warrican finished with another five-wicket haul, taking his series tally to an impressive 19 wickets.

The West Indies erupted in celebration, with Warrican's signature thigh-thumping gesture serving as a symbolic reminder of how the visitors had outplayed Pakistan at their own game. -ANI

MULTAN TEST

Shan Masood reflects on Pakistan's defeat, calls for learning, adaptation

MULTAN : Pakistan captain Shan Masood addressed his team's shortcomings after their 120-run defeat to West Indies in Multan, admitting that recurring issues, such as letting lower-order batters score freely, cost them dearly, ESPNCricinfo reported.

Despite the loss, Masood emphasized the importance of learning from mistakes and staying brave in challenging conditions.

Reflecting on West Indies' tail-end contributions, Masood said, "I think the only option left was to bring the fast bowler on and maybe have a crack. Yes, they batted well, but we have to learn too. It's been a habit [letting the lower order score runs], it happened in South Africa as well," as quoted from ESPNcricinfo.

The Pakistani skipper also addressed the debate surrounding the Multan pitch and whether a change in approach to such surfaces is necessary. However, Masood backed the conditions, pointing out that Pakistan had won three of their last four Tests on similar wickets.

"We've won three out of four Tests, but even in the game we've lost, on the first day we were in the position we wanted, even better maybe when we had them eight down. One bad performance can't have a domino effect. We still have to be brave and replicate conditions. Even when we fail, there are a lot of learnings. Now we realise as a team that one extra wicket, one extra partnership, can have a huge effect on the game," he said as quoted by ESPNCricinfo.

Masood emphasized the need for domestic cricket to mirror these challenges, as they prepare players for international cricket.

"100%. It's a game of all stakeholders. We should also appreciate the players for throwing themselves in the den without preparation. But I think domestic cricket also will be played like this. We won three out of four matches in these conditions, and we dominated the first hour of the first day here as well. It's very important," he added.

The captain also spoke about the mindset needed for batters to succeed on such challenging pitches. He praised the proactive approach of players like Saud Shakeel, Mohammad Rizwan, and Babar Azam, who played with intent even when big scores were hard to come by.

"We've seen encouraging signs, batsmen being proactive like Saud and Rizzy getting fifties. Even my fifty was off 60 balls; Babar played proactively as well yesterday. It's about realizing that you might not get hundreds here, but even 30s and 40s contribute to winning situations. Kraigg Brathwaite was the ideal example yesterday," Masood explained.

Despite the disappointment of the loss, Masood's remarks highlight the team's commitment to improving and adapting to tough situations, both on and off the field.

Jomel Warrican and the rest of the West Indies' spin attack turned the tables on Pakistan, dismantling their batting line-up for a mere 133 runs in Multan, their first win on Pakistani soil since 1990.

It took the visitors just over an hour on the third day to decimate Pakistan's final six wickets, with a brief 39-run stand between Mohammad Rizwan and Salman Agha offering some resistance.

The win also levelled the series, a triumph built on masterful spin bowling, as per ESPNcricinfo.

Pakistan Test captain Shan Masood launched a tirade and slammed a journalist, who questioned the freedom he has in decision-making and his future with the team.

With another defeat in their kitty, Pakistan ended the ongoing World Test Championship final at the bottom of the standings, with nine defeats in 14 matches.

The series ended level at 1-1, leaving Masood and the entire Pakistan team in the line of fire of criticism. During the post-match press conference, Massod was confronted by a journalist, and the question stirred him up.

The journalist questioned him about Masood's lack of freedom and autonomy in decision-making. Along with this, he went on to ask if Masood would decide his fate or wait for the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to make a decision.

Masood was left agitated by the question and replied, "The way you asked about the previous tours, I can't answer that. If you want to talk about facts, you can talk about it. Your facts are completely inaccurate. Even in the England series, we had all the information and preparations. We felt that was the best playing XI according to the conditions."

"I respect your opinion, but you should respect your players. PCB is the decision maker. Whatever the decision the PCB has taken, all the players have accepted it. We are your people. Nobody will tolerate such disrespect. All our efforts have been to push for results for Pakistan. If we hadn't made a mistake on the opening day, the result would have been on our side. You should complete your research and then criticise," he concluded. -ANI

ICC

Tickets for Champions Trophy in Pakistan to go on sale today

DUBAI : Tickets for the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy matches in Pakistan will be available starting Tuesday, January 28, from 13:00 Gulf Standard Time / 14:00 Pakistan Standard Time (PST), according to the International Cricket Council (ICC).

The eight-team cricket tournament, featuring heavyweight ODI sides, will take place across four venues, Karachi, Rawalpindi, and Lahore in Pakistan, as well as Dubai in the United Arab Emirates.

"We are thrilled to announce the official ticket on-sale for the ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025. This is a significant moment for cricket in Pakistan, hosting their first global cricket tournament since 1996," ICC Chief Commercial Officer Anurag Dahiya said, according to ICC website.

The eight-team tournament - which will be played from February 19 to March 9 - will be hosted by Pakistan, with India playing their games in Dubai.

The general stand ticket prices will start at 1,000 Pakistan rupees while the premium seating will be available from 1,500 Pakistan rupees in different categories.

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"The affordable ticket pricing ensures that fans from all walks of life can be part of this historic spectacle, making it a celebration for all generations of cricket lovers," said tournament director Sumair Ahmad Syed.

"We have made tickets not only affordable but also easily accessible through the official online platform and more than 100 outlets across Pakistan," he added.

Ticket information regarding the UAE matches featuring India will be made available in the coming days.

The tickets for the Final - scheduled for Sunday 9 March - will be available for purchase following the conclusion of the first semi-final in Dubai.

Hosts Pakistan will take on New Zealand in the opening fixture in Karachi. -ANI

FOOTBALL

Kylian Mbappe on fire without Vinicius

MADRID: Real Madrid extended their lead at the top of La Liga to four points over Atletico Madrid, while Barcelona showed they haven't given up on the title. Here are some takeaways from the weekend in Spain:

Mbappe in top form

Although nobody expected anything other than an away win for Real Madrid at bottom side Valladolid on Saturday, Kylian Mbappe used the match to confirm that he's back to top form.

The forward admitted during the week that Madrid's defeat in Bilbao before Christmas was a low point for him, and he vowed to improve. His recent form has been excellent, with both goals and assists, highlighted by his opening goals in Valladolid alongside Jude Bellingham and Rodrygo.

Notably, Vinicius Jr was suspended on Saturday, and Mbappe played on the left of Madrid's attack rather than in a more central role. Perhaps Vinicius will be the one who must adapt when he returns.

Barca end league crisis

Barcelona hosted Valencia having dropped 18 of their previous 24 points in La Liga, raising questions as to why their league form was so different from that shown in other competitions.

Ninety minutes later - and seven goals later - that debate looked to be over after a rampant display from Hansi Flick's side produced a 7-1 demolition.

Valencia had been encouraged by improved performances under Carlos Corberan, but after going 2-0 down inside 10 minutes, they collapsed completely. Barca sensed the chance for a big win to reinsert themselves into the title race while priming themselves for their Copa del Rey visit to Valencia on November 6.

Villarreal frustrate Atletico

Atletico Madrid appears to be experiencing altitude sickness following their climb to the top of La Liga with a 2-1 triumph at Barcelona before Christmas. They've now dropped five points in the last two games, converting a one-point lead over Real Madrid into a four-point deficit.

After losing 1-0 to Leganes a week ago, they stumbled again on Saturday, held 1-1 at home by a Villarreal side content to sit back and absorb pressure once Samuel Lino had canceled out Gerard Moreno's penalty for the visitors. -Xinhua

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by March 2025 reaching $81.36, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by 40 cents from the price of Friday, which was $81.76. - ONA

MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,561.07 points, up by 0.17% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.48% at 413.17 points. Sharqiyah Desalination, up 9.38%, was the top gainer while Construction Materials, down 7.46%, was the top loser.

Treasury bills worth OMR52.80mn issued

Treasury bills promote the local money market by creating a benchmark yield curve for short-term interest rates

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) raised OMR52.80 million by a way of allotting treasury bills on Monday.

The value of the allotted treasury bills amounted to OMR 2 million, for a maturity period of 28 days. The average accepted price reached OMR 99.700 for every OMR 100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR 99.700 per OMR 100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 3.91071 per cent and 3.92248 per cent, respectively.

Whereas, the value of the allotted treasury bills amounted to OMR 10 million, for a maturity period of 91 days. The average accepted price reached OMR 98.945 for every OMR 100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR 98.945 per OMR 100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 4.23159% and 4.27671 per cent, respectively.

While, the value of the allotted treasury bills amounted to OMR 40 million, for a maturity period of 182 days. The average accepted price reached OMR 97.830 for every OMR 100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR 97.825 per OMR 100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 4.35192 per cent and 4.44846 per cent, respectively.

On the other hand, the value of the allotted treasury bills amounted to OMR 0.80 million, for a maturity period of 364 days. The average accepted price reached OMR 95.850 for every OMR 100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR 95.850 per OMR 100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 4.16140 per cent and 4.34158 per cent, respectively.

Treasury Bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds. The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo).

It may be noted that the interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 5.00 per cent while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 5.50 per cent.

Furthermore, treasury bills promote the local money market by creating a benchmark yield curve for short-term interest rates. Additionally, the government may also resort to this instrument whenever felt necessary for financing its recurrent expenditures. -ONA

SHARIA SUPERVISORY BOARD

Meethaq SSB conducts 1st meeting for 2025

MUSCAT: The Sharia Supervisory Board (SSB) of Meeting of Meethaq Islamic Banking from Bank Muscat convened its first meeting of 2025 at the bank's head office.

The meeting was chaired by Sheikh Dr. Abdullah bin Mubarak Al Abri, Chairman of the Board, and attended by other Board members, as well as senior representatives from the Sharia supervisory and audit departments.

During the meeting, the Board reviewed the financial statements for 2024, the internal technical audit report, the annual Sharia audit report for the charitable fund, and the activities of the Sharia Control Department. The Board also approved the annual Sharia Compliance report for 2024.

The SSB discussed several key items, including structured financing transactions and new products that Meethaq intends to launch during the coming period. It also endorsed the Sharia certificate for separation of Meethaq funds.

The regular meetings of the Sharia Supervisory Board play a vital role in deliberating on topics pertaining to Islamic transactions, business contracts and practices. These discussions enable the Board to formulate the necessary recommendations and resolutions to ensure compliance with Sharia principles.

The Sharia Supervisory Board comprises renowned scholars with expertise in Islamic jurisprudence, particularly in Islamic transaction processing and contemporary economy. Their primary scope of duties encompasses the review and approval of products, services, activities, investments, operations, and transactions before implementing them for business practices.

GREEN FINANCING FRAMEWORK

OETC's framework to drive Oman's low-carbon economy

Times News Service

MUSCAT: As part of its commitment to environmental sustainability and in alignment with the high standards of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) practices, Oman Electricity Transmission Company (OETC) has recently launched its Green Financing Framework (the Framework).

This strategic initiative aims to support the company's goals in Oman's transition towards a low carbon economy, in line with the national objectives of Oman Vision 2040 and the target of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. The OETC's Green Financing Framework was structured in collaboration with the "Citi Bank".

This Framework allows the company to increase its funding potentials through green bonds, sukuks, and green loans, which will be dedicated to green investments in areas such as electricity transmission, renewable energy, energy efficiency, green buildings, sustainable water and wastewater management, and pollution prevention and control.

These efforts aim to enhance the reduction of carbon emissions, improve energy security, and ensure grid reliability, among other benefits. OETC is well-positioned for success in this area, with one of its main strengths being its focus on transmitting clean and renewable energy through its nationwide electricity transmission network.

The company has also received a Second Party Opinion ("SPO") from Det Norske Veritas ("DNV"), which confirmed that the Framework aligns with the latest guidelines of the Green Bond Principles issued by the International Capital Market Association (ICMA), as well as the Green Loan Principles set by the Loan Market Association ("LMA"), Loan Syndications and Trading Association ("LSTA"), and Asia Pacific Loan Market Association ("APLMA").

Reaffirming OETC's commitment to the low carbon transition, Eng. Saleh bin Nasser Al Rumhi, the CEO of OETC, highlighted the company's efforts, plans, and initiatives, along with the various projects it is implementing to strengthen the green and renewable energy sector. He also emphasized the meticulous steps the company is taking to grow in this area, adhering to internationally approved frameworks, regulations, and standards.

Al Rumhi added, "Launching OETC's Green Financing Framework is a significant and bold step, and part of the strategies for enabling a more sustainable future for Oman and its economy. This initiative not only enhances our position as a responsible and leading company and as enablers of this green transformation but also supports Oman's broader objectives and contributes to achieving Oman Vision 2040."

It is worth mentioning that OETC, a member of Nama Group, is the only company responsible for the transmission and control of electricity across the Sultanate of Oman's network. The electricity is transmitted from production stations to distributed load centres in the governorates.

The transmission network operates at a voltage of 132kV and above to cover most of the governorates in the Sultanate of Oman, whether in the north or the south. Furthermore, OETC manages the interconnection lines between Oman and the GCC interconnection network, which operates at a voltage of 220kV.

'HAI AL NASEEM' AND 'YANAIER' PROJECTS

Alizz Islamic Bank partners with Adrak Developers to offer home finance facilities

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Alizz Islamic Bank and Adrak Developers have signed an agreement to provide home financing solutions for the bank's customers who wish to own a home in the 'Hai Al Naseem' Project in Wilayat of Barka and 'Yanaier' Project in Sultan Haitham City.

The agreement was signed by Saif Al Yahyai, Acting Chief Retail Banking Officer at Alizz Islamic Bank on behalf of the bank and Dr. Aadil Alexander, Executive Director on behalf of Adrak Developers.

Under this agreement, customers will receive competitive financing rates to purchase residential units in the 'Hai Al Naseem project located in Barka and that will provide 1,051 residential units designed in an ecosystem that balances nature and tradition with modern living standards. Customers will also be able to receive competitive finance rates to purchase residential units in the 'Yanaier' project in Sultan Haitham City, which will offer more than 700 apartments, spanning studio units to three-bedroom homes as well as a range of commercial spaces.

Alizz Islamic Bank strives to partner with various real estate development companies, with the aim of providing multiple financing solutions to customers in purchasing homes that match their needs and financial capability across Oman.

OIL PRICES

Oil slips as Trump repeats call for Opec to reduce prices

SINGAPORE: Oil prices fell more than 1% yesterday after US President Donald Trump called on Opec to reduce prices following the announcement of wide-ranging measures to boost US oil and gas output.

Brent crude futures dropped 87 cents, or 1.11 per cent, to $77.63 a barrel after settling up 21 cents on Friday. US West Texas Intermediate crude was at $73.77 a barrel, down 89 cents, or 1.19 per cent.

Trump on Friday reiterated his call for the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries to cut oil prices. However, Opec and its allies including Russia has yet to react to Trump's call, with Opec+ delegates pointing to a plan already in place to start raising oil output from April.

Gold edges lower as Dollar rises, Fed meeting in focus

Gold prices edged lower in early Asian hours today as the dollar gained, while investors awaited more guidance on interest rate decision from the US Federal Reserve's first meeting of 2025 later this week.

Spot gold was down 0.1% to $2,768.01 per ounce. US gold futures shed 0.2% to $2,772.70.

US Fed policymakers are expected to keep rates on hold in the current 4.25%-to-4.50% range in their 28-29 January meeting.

As for other precious metals, spot silver was 0.3% lower to $30.52 per ounce, palladium dropped 0.8% to $979.72 and platinum fell 0.4% to 945.20. -ONA

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Sharqiyah Desalination, up 9.38%, was the top gainer while Construction Materials, down 7.46%, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,561.07 points, up by 0.17% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.48% at 413.17 points. Sharqiyah Desalination, up 9.38%, was the top gainer while Construction Materials, down 7.46%, was the top loser. Shares of OQBI were the most active in terms of number of shares traded while Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 1067 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 2.3 million, with more than 13.73 million shares changing hands. Out of 55 traded securities, 17 advanced, 16 declined, and 22 remained unchanged.

At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR 902K while domestic investors were net buyers for OMR 836K, followed by foreign investors for OMR 66,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,868.71 points, up 0.32%. Prices of Global Financial Investments, Oman & Emirates Investment, Ominvest, Al Anwar Investment, Sohar International Bank were up by 2.33%, 1.59%, 1.53%, 1.49%, 0.71% respectively. Prices of Takaful Oman, Muscat Finance, National Finance were down by 2.13%, 2.13%, 0.81% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,370.81 points, up 0.11%. Prices of Galfar Engineering, Oman Fisheries, Gulf International Chemicals, A'Saffa Foods, Raysut Cement were up by 3.90%, 3.13%, 2.78%, 2.06%, 1.00% respectively. Prices of Construction Materials, Oman Flour Mills, Oman Cement, Oman Cables Industry were down by 7.46%, 2.05%, 0.76%, 0.72% respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.02% before closing at 1,692.73 points. Prices of Sharqiyah Desalination, Oman National Engineering, Al Batinah Power, Abraj Energy, OQ Gas Networks were up by 9.38%, 2.50%, 1.49%, 0.84%, 0.76% respectively. Prices of SMN Power Holding, National Gas, Oman Telecom, Shell Oman Marketing were down by 3.15%, 2.53%, 0.77%, 0.17% respectively.

— United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,566.11	4,552.08	4,561.07	4,553.31	7.75	0.17
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,871.63	7,842.06	7,868.71	7,843.47	25.24	0.32
Industry Index	5,398.60	5,359.60	5,370.81	5,365.01	5.80	0.11
Services Index	1,695.55	1,687.74	1,692.73	1,693.06	-0.33	-0.02
MSX Shariah Index	416.07	413.17	413.17	415.18	-2.01	-0.48
MSX TR INDEX	6,394.83	6,375.19	6,387.77	6,376.91	10.86	0.17
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,942.98	8,909.39	8,939.66	8,910.99	28.67	0.32
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,228.71	6,183.70	6,196.63	6,189.95	6.69	0.11
SERVICES TR IDX	2,028.95	2,019.61	2,025.58	2,025.98	-0.40	-0.02
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,166.89	1,166.89	1,166.89	1,166.89	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
13,739,955	2,296,395	1,067	27,631,589,575	17	16	22	55

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 27

REGULAR MARKET

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVESTMENT	30,607	3,758	8	0.121	0.123	0.121	0.123	0.120	0.003	2.500	0.123	0.124	0.123	0.100	18,450,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	30,119	2,651	4	0.089	0.089	0.088	0.088	0.086	0.002	2.326	0.088	0.087	0.088	0.100	17,600,000
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	14,986	5,958	13	0.384	0.398	0.384	0.396	0.388	0.008	2.062	0.396	0.396	0.396	0.100	47,520,000
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	53,000	3,292	4	0.062	0.064	0.062	0.064	0.063	0.001	1.587	0.064	0.062	0.064	0.100	7,800,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	73,175	24,163	20	0.328	0.332	0.326	0.332	0.327	0.005	1.529	0.332	0.330	0.332	0.100	221,897,321
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	646,147	43,342	15	0.067	0.068	0.067	0.068	0.067	0.001	1.493	0.068	0.067	0.068	0.100	45,892,345
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	304,251	32,077	38	0.106	0.107	0.103	0.107	0.106	0.001	0.943	0.107	0.100	0.107	0.100	23,540,000
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	607,925	145,934	95	0.244	0.244	0.240	0.240	0.238	0.002	0.840	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.100	184,848,000
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	1,964,603	259,182	56	0.131	0.133	0.131	0.132	0.131	0.001	0.763	0.132	0.132	0.133	0.100	571,642,357
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	2,071,977	291,021	51	0.140	0.141	0.140	0.141	0.140	0.001	0.714	0.141	0.135	0.146	0.100	933,031,724
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	5,000	1,225	1	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.000	0.000	0.245	0.236	0.245	0.100	24,500,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	3,400	996	1	0.293	0.293	0.293	0.293	0.293	0.000	0.000	0.293	0.264	0.290	0.100	476,402,282
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	78,800	4,649	2	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.000	0.000	0.059	0.058	0.059	0.100	21,011,511
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO.	32,600	2,380	5	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.000	0.000	0.073	0.073	0.074	0.100	6,570,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	1,713,880	437,671	69	0.256	0.257	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.000	0.000	0.255	0.255	0.262	0.100	1,914,131,251
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	71,755	25,975	24	0.365	0.365	0.360	0.364	0.364	0.000	0.000	0.364	0.364	0.365	0.100	86,053,240
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	5,101	1,148	4	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.000	0.000	0.225	0.224	0.225	0.100	146,462,452
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	55,001	5,385	4	0.097	0.098	0.097	0.098	0.098	0.000	0.000	0.098	0.097	0.098	0.100	93,548,051
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	30,500	2,548	6	0.084	0.084	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.000	0.000	0.083	0.083	0.085	0.100	14,525,000
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	464,332	31,270	13	0.067	0.068	0.067	0.068	0.068	0.000	0.000	0.068	0.067	0.068	0.100	48,579,631
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	11,394	6,847	7	0.601	0.601	0.600	0.600	0.601	-0.001	-0.166	0.600	0.600	0.601	0.100	57,000,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	10,715	4,200	6	0.392	0.392	0.392	0.392	0.395	-0.003	-0.759	0.392	0.394	0.434	0.100	129,702,102
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	205,715	184,462	58	0.905	0.905	0.893	0.899	0.906	-0.007	-0.773	0.899	0.897	0.906	0.100	674,250,000
Total	23	8,484,983	1,520,134	504												

Parallel Market

OM0000004669	SHARQIYAH DESALINATION	47,443	6,617	7	0.139	0.140	0.139	0.140	0.128	0.012	9.375	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.100	13,692,302
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	582,733	46,149	26	0.078	0.080	0.078	0.080	0.077	0.003	3.896	0.080	0.080	0.084	0.100	16,238,916
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	15,000	1,110	3	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.072	0.002	2.778	0.074	0.073	0.075	0.100	1,554,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	105,000	7,235	6	0.069	0.069	0.068	0.068	0.067	0.001	1.493	0.068	0.068	0.069	0.100	14,428,240
OM0000001020	OMAN CHROMITE	348	1,096	3	3.150	3.150	3.150	3.150	3.150	0.000	0.000	3.150	3.000	3.150	1.000	10,395,000
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	35,241	16,993	7	0.482	0.490	0.482	0.482	0.482	0.000	0.000	0.482	0.483	0.489	0.100	39,236,126
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	46,818	4,568	11	0.098	0.098	0.097	0.098	0.098	0.000	0.000	0.097	0.097	0.098	0.100	219,221,397
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	28,000	4,200	5	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.000	0.000	0.150	0.149	0.150	0.100	250,411,500
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	424,239	25,288	17	0.058	0.060	0.058	0.060	0.060	0.000	0.000	0.060	0.058	0.060	0.100	87,756,088
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	15,249	1,037	3	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.000	0.000	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.100	10,577,427
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	22,487	1,417	3	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.000	0.000	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.100	14,001,120
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	4,840	353	4	0.072	0.074	0.072	0.073	0.073	0.000	0.000	0.073	0.070	0.075	0.100	37,130,085
OM0000009908	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	2,082,022	231,229	265	0.112	0.112	0.111	0.111	0.111	0.000	0.000	0.111	0.111	0.111	0.040	384,003,484
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	1,034,691	342,023	106	0.330	0.332	0.330	0.330	0.331	-0.001	-0.302	0.330	0.330	0.340	0.010	2,640,000,000
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	3,230	8,954	6	2.790	2.849	2.750	2.750	2.770	-0.020	-0.722	2.750	2.710	3.000	0.100	246,675,000
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	200,000	24,580	12	0.123	0.123	0.122	0.123	0.124	-0.001	-0.806	0.123	0.120	0.123	0.100	70,565,627
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	2,500	293	1	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.119	-0.002	-1.681	0.117	0.118	0.126	0.100	69,198,115
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	3,005	1,298	4	0.439	0.439	0.430	0.430	0.439	-0.009	-2.050	0.430	0.421	0.482	0.100	67,725,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	69,429	3,194	7	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.047	-0.001	-2.128	0.046	0.046	0.047	0.100	14,128,731
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	10,000	460	2	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.047	-0.001	-2.128	0.046	0.044	0.047	0.100	11,500,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	167,500	12,934	14	0.078	0.078	0.077	0.077	0.079	-0.002	-2.532	0.077	0.077	0.078	0.100	6,545,000
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	2,040	674	5	0.330	0.338	0.330	0.338	0.349	-0.011	-3.152	0.338	0.330	0.338	0.100	67,476,833
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL INDUSTRIES	18,732	1,161	2	0.063	0.063	0.062	0.062	0.067	-0.005	-7.463	0.062	0.063	0.069	0.100	3,875,000
Total	23	4,920,547	742,863	519												

IN 2026 FISCAL

India's MRO industry revenue to rise 50%

NEW DELHI: Revenue of the domestic aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) industry will surpass Rs 4,500 crore in fiscal 2026, clocking an impressive 50 per cent growth over fiscal 2024, said Crisil Ratings in a report. The increase in scale is expected to enhance profitability margins, besides strengthening credit profiles.

According to the rating agency, this growth in MRO space will be fueled by fresh demand for maintenance services emanating from rising operating fleet size of Indian aircraft carriers - expected to grow by up to 20-25 per cent by next year.

It will be aided by new aircraft getting added and grounded aircraft (post-engine-related issues) resuming operations. Additionally, the reduction in Goods and Services Tax (GST) on aircraft components and services not only positions domestic MROs more competitively with their overseas competitors but also ease their working capital blockage.

This along with players' improving profitability will have MRO players savouring improved credit profiles over the medium term.

Indian MRO players typically provide three types of services, Line checks (undertaken before every take-off), Airframe checks (every 12-18 months which involves grounding the aircraft for 3-4 weeks) and Redelivery checks (at the time of expiry of the lease period of 6-7 years). -ANI

PARTNERSHIP

Visit Oman and Spanish travel tech to boost tourism in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The national travel operator - Visit Oman, and the Spanish travel tech startup, Passporter, have joined forces to boost tourism to the Sultanate of Oman. The partnership, announced at Fitur 2025, aligns with Visit Oman's strategy to create an omnichannel framework that expands the digital distribution of the country's tourism supply chain.

Passporter — a travel planning tool revolutionising the tourism industry by offering a community-driven platform that inspires, plans, executes, and shares travel experiences — will play a key role in showcasing Oman's beauty and diversity to a global audience. With over 1 million followers, Passporter supports users throughout their journey, from planning to sharing experiences, making it an ideal partner for Visit Oman's ambitious tourism goals.

With a 360-degree marketing approach, the campaign will feature influencers from Spain, France, and Germany exploring Oman's hidden treasures and creating inspiring content to captivate travellers worldwide. The campaign will leverage Passporter's extensive reach, distributing engaging content in five languages across its platforms to maximise visibility and attract a wider audience.

Targeting end consumers, with a specific focus on travellers from Spain and other European countries, the campaign will highlight Oman's unique cultural experiences, breathtaking landscapes, and luxurious hospitality. The aim is to increase European tourism to Oman and drive bookings for the country's various tourism services.

Shabib Al Maamari, Managing Directorof Visit Oman, commented: "The activation of Passporter's destination marketing campaign is a crucial step in our strategy to establish an omnichannel framework. By collaborating with leading digital platforms like Passporter, we are enhancing our digital distribution efforts, raising awareness about Oman, and inspiring travel to the country. This integrated approach will seamlessly connect travellers with booking experiences through online travel agencies (OTAs), support our local tourism providers, and strengthen Oman's position as a preferred travel destination."

Diego Rodríguez, CEO of Passporter, added: "At Passporter, we believe that inspiring travel experiences are key to driving bookings and turning a country into a must-visit destination. We are thrilled to partner with Visit Oman to showcase the captivating beauty and diverse experiences this incredible country has to offer. Our platform inspires travellers through interactive itineraries and engaging storytelling to support Visit Oman's goal of attracting a global audience. With a community of over one million engaged followers who 'plan, travel, and share' their adventures, we are confident we can spark enthusiasm for Oman and encourage its inclusion on their travel lists."

This strategic partnership between Visit Oman and Passporter aims to harness the power of digital storytelling and influencer marketing to position Oman as a preferred destination for discerning travellers, and drive significant growth in inbound tourism.

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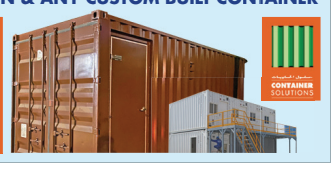

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Email: salihputhussery@gmail.com

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Female, well-versed in **Project Administration** with 13 years of proven experience in training, recruitment, administration, finance, and secretarial support.
As an **Executive MBA** holder, I can contribute effectively to your organizational goals and looking forward to an interview call and the opportunity.

Contact: 98260708 | meena.v24@gmail.com

FINANCE

Looking for an entry level job in Financial Planning and Analysis, Corporate Finance or Investment Banking.

Indian male, graduate with a BSc. (Hons.) in Applied Accounting from Oxford Brookes University, England and ACCA finalist with experience in auditing.

Contact: +968 92132425
Email: suhailaziz123@gmail.com

FINANCE

Indian male, CPA, CMA, CA finalist & B.com with 10+ yrs of experience. Currently working as finance manager, looking for senior management roles in finance.

Contact: 78611653
Email: jobcpacma@gmail.com

ENGINEER

Indian, BE Civil Engineer with 10 years experience (8 years in Oman & 2 years in India) in commercial and residential project with valid oman D/L. Currently available in Oman with local NOC / Relese.

Contact: +968 7900 6803
Email: thirumurugan9360@gmail.com

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Contact: +968 92148608
+91 7510366356

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1. **Cook** with minimum 5-6 years of experience in Indian & Continental cooking.
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PROJECT DIRECTOR cum SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER

With minimum 20+ years of experience and civil autocad draughtsman with minimum 5+years of experience required for an reputed construction company.

Interested candidates can send cv's to:
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+968 99881459

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Experienced P.E. / P.M. required for an Excellent Grade and reputed construction company.

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Email: omanjobs922@gmail.com

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For a Muscat based well known Excellent Grade Construction Company.

PURCHASE STAFF

With 2 to 3 years of experience in the same field. Should have Bachelor's Degree, Tally software knowledge & Oman Driving License. Ready to join within 1 month with NOC.

Send your CV to:
Email: sebinphilp609@gmail.com Tel:96174368

WANTED

Mechanical construction company having running steel workshop, completed two years in business with good credentials.
Looking for a working partner or an investor.
Contact: 79977043

JOB VACANCIES

International Consulting firm wishes to recruit highly qualified personnel for the project in Sultanate of Oman.

- **Electrical Engineer** (BE in Electrical Engineering)
  Experience: 15+ years in design and supervision of power generation, transmission, and distribution projects in Oman, preferably with a design and supervision consultancy firm.
- **Team Leader - Technical Support** (BE in Electrical/Mechanical Engineering)
  Experience: 15+ years, leading technical teams, specializing in diesel-based power plants and high/medium-speed DG sets.
- **Electrical Engineer** (BE in Electrical Engineering)
  Experience: 10+ years, with expertise in power generation systems, focusing on diesel power plants.
- **Mechanical Engineer** (BE in Mechanical Engineering)
  Experience: 10+ years, specializing in mechanical aspects of diesel-based power plants.

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CONNECT

JOB VACANCY

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Required project coordinator (construction site) with 4-5 years' experience in GCC & Oman D/L.
Call/Whatsapp: +968 97123333

DESIGNER/ AUTOCAD DRAUGHTMAN

Required Draftsman 5 years of experience in steel, aluminum, and woodwork, with knowledge of civil and architectural building drawings. Send CV to: TQ.BITC@gmail.com

MANAGER

Required Workshop and manufacturing manager 10 years of experience in steel, metal, aluminum, and wood industries, as well as general building construction. Send CV to: TQ.BITC@gmail.com

MISCELLANEOUS

Required young Gardener for family in Qurum. Experience is must.
Contact: 99373548

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Accts, Finance manager, knowledge of finalisation of accounts, audit, VAT, tax, LC, LTR, budget, oracle ERP, tally, focus, quickbooks etc.
Contact: 92383882

Business Analyst with 12 yrs experience. Handled migration projects in Banking. IT experience in SQL, Oracle and SAP HANA/BW. Financial experience in GL, core banking. Seeking an opportunity.
Contact: 91799438

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

Indian, male, with MBA In finance Graduate with 2+ yrs of experience in Oman as Accountant. Looking for suitable job.
Contact: 78927842

Sr. Accountant, accountant, 16 yrs of experience in Oman. Accounts up to finalisation and auditing.
Contact 94001764.

Indian male accountant with 1yr experience inOman,looking for suitable job.
Contant: 76896289

Sr. Accountant, finance officer ACCA (last paper), CA Inter, MS finance. 12 yrs gulf experience. Ready to join immediately. NOC & D/L available. Contact: 77258382

Accountant MBA (Finance) having 5 yrs experience in airport & logistics ready to join immediately.
Contact: 77596968, Email: mohdirfanahmed64@gmail.com

Junior accountant, Indian, male B.com graduate 2yrs experience in Oman seeking suitable job.
Contact: 7804 7716

Senior Accountant cum purchaser 18 yrs of exp in Oman. Expert in finalisation, banking, VAT, auditing etc. Well known of tally ERP, quickbook, with valid D/L.
Contact: 93653482

Highly skilled Chief accountant looking for suitable position.
Contact: +968 79888153

Indian male, Accountant, M.com (finance), 12 yrs experience in Oman. Handling accounts up to finalization independently, Noc & D/L available. Contact: 99859141

Indian male, having 2.5 yrs of experience in Accounts, finance, admin looking for job.
Contact: +968 79414996,
Email: sajadzn29@gmail.com

Indian male with 4+ yrs exp. in Oman, worked as Accounts & admin executive Bachelor Degree in Management (BBA) with valid D/L, ready to join immediately.
Contact: 93536020,
Email: naseemtm24@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATION

Executive secretary with 20+ yrs of experience in India and Oman looking for suitable placement. NOC available.
Contact: 97932277

Dynamic and well-experienced professional: 5 yrs of Dubai and 4.5 yrs of Muscat experience in operations management, business excellence or key account management looking for new challenges. Contact: 96766702, Email: ilyas3299@gmail.com

Indian (M), Oman experience in projects, corporate communications, CEO office. WhatsApp: +968 97457945.

Indian male MBA(HR) & Btech (Comp) with nearly 10 yrs of over all experience seeks job. Contact: +968 94168194, +91 9745020204, Email: gokulgopan91@hotmail.com

Female, B.com, seeks Admin, finance job. Presently in Oman .
Contact: 78354801

ARCHITECT

Qualified junior Architect with experience in software such as Auto- CAD, lumion, sketchUp, revit, 3Ds max etc. looking for job in Oman.
Contact: +968 78902260, E-mail: ar.mohamedadhelka@gmail.com

Indian male graduate Architect with 5 yrs of GCC experience in a consultancy office looking for job.
Contact: 79565499

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

Graduate Architect with valid Oman D/L. Proficient in various Design software. Looking for Architect, interior designer roles.
Contact: 93249129,
Email: psmenez2015@gmail.com

DESIGNER/ AUTOCAD DRAUGHTMAN

Autocad electrical draughtsman, 12 yrs of experience in Oman MEP, Architecture. Contact: 76450342
Email: sajid.bro85@gmail.com

Indian, 17 years successful experience in managerial positions with building-construction materials business industry in Oman, looking for suitable positions.
Please contact: 71215216

10 yrs Oman experienced Draftsman with valid D/L seeking for suitable positions.
Contact: 94408342

DRIVER

Light vehicle driver with 14yrs experience in Oman & 9 yrs in Dubai. Contact: 93043727

Indian male with 15 yrs Oman experience as driver cum office assistant seeking suitable placement. Contact: 76487066

Looking for driving job.
Contact: 91891433

Looking for driving job with 10 yrs experience. Contact: 78193255

Looking for driving job with 15 yrs experience. Contact: 78037801

Looking for driving job with experience. Contact: 78137708

Looking for driving job have car.
Contact: 98586920

Looking for driving job.
Contact: +968 99532361

Looking for driving job with 2 yrs experience. Contact: 97995898.

EDUCATION/TRAINING

Indian female, completed MCA and also having experience in teaching, available in Oman on family visa, looking for a suitable job.
Contact: 79090343/94117967,
Email: induchandran01@gmail.com

Chemistry teacher with 7 yrs experience of teaching IGCSE chemistry (Pakistani). Currently in Oman. Contact: +968 78684306

ENGINEER

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

Indian male with 10 yrs. Experience in Oman, have 3 yrs Electrical diploma, General maintenance, valid Oman D/L. Contact: 93220672

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

BE Civil site, project engineer (Keralite) having 12 yrs of experience in Oman looking for a suitable position as a site engineer (part time/full-time) in any reputed companies. having valid Oman D/L. Contact: 91281006, 78385414

Project manager in civil with 18 yrs experience (14 yrs in gulf region) seeks suitable placement. Ready to join immediately, with D/L. Contact: 95181197,
Email rooswin.anto@gmail.com

ETC Engineer with hands-on training in industrial automation and project implementation. Proficient in SQL, Proteus, VMware workstation, and CISCO. Eager to apply my skills in electronics design, automation, or telecommunication.Seeking opportunities. Contact: +968 76343443,
Email: zarifaga7@gmail.com

Senior Civil engineer having 15 yrs exp in government & private projects and tendering, looking for a suitable position with Oman D/L,
Contact: 95962450
Email: solanki.ahmed@gmail.com

BE Project engineer 12-13yrs experience. Contact: 93850875,
Email: abdulcivilco2015@gmail.com

MEP Mechanical Engineer with 5+ yrs of experience in the GCC, specializing in project implementation, estimation, product sales, and cost estimation. Holds a valid GCC D/L.
Contact: +968 92503075,
Email: afham232@gmail.com

Civil engineer supervisor, 14 yrs experience civil & tower project with D/L & own visa.
Contact: 78002980

ENGINEER

B-Tech Civil Engineer with total 16yrs GCC experience include 11 yrs Oman experience, project manager job seeking. Contact: 97733497

Mechanical engineer with over 4 yrs experience in sales and operations having Oman D/L with MSc in Engineering management from UK available to join immediately.
Contact: 96111283,
Email: dobin.mathew@gmail.com.

Indian male, civil engineer telecom. Total 11 yrs experience 7 yrs GCC experience job seeking.
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IT Manager with 23 yrs of expertise in ERP implementation, IT infrastructure development, and administration. Seeking a suitable position. Mob: 93362311, Email: ragesh.vr@gmail.com.

BTech (Computer Science) graduate with 4 yrs experience in software and network implementation, as well as crypto mining farm setup operations, holds a valid Oman D/L. Contact: 94187460,
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Email: dd.mcp@hotmail.com

Indian female, under graduate looking for a suitable job in any field. Contact: 94594501

Female software Engineer with advance skills with 5 yrs experience looking for an opportunity. Contact: 78462153

MANAGER

Workshop Manager 30 yrs experience in electrical mechanical machines and equipments seeking suitable opportunities.
Contact: 78473341

Fresher operational manager with D/L. Muscat. Contact: 79471027

Indian, 17 years successful experience in managerial positions with building-construction materials business industry in Oman, looking for suitable positions.
Contact: 71215216

Finance manager with 15 yrs of experience in oil & gas multinational company looking for suitable placement. Contact: 95230609

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

LOGISTIC

Indian female, MBA in HR & finance, Diploma in logistics & supply chain management with 6mths exp as CS, 1 mth internship in logistics, looking for job.
Contact: 98233405,
Email:nivyakraj123@gmail.com

Sudanese Supply chain professional with CSCP certificate, MBA and 10 yrs experience in supply chain, logistics, procurement and project management.
Contact: 95272472,
Email: kemeir@hotmail.com

PROCUREMENT/ PURCHASE

27 yrs experience in Oman, Indian, looking for a manager position in purchase, sales, holding valid Omani D/L.
Contact: 94338072, 78177167

Indian male, with 6 yrs of GCC experience as a purchase cum storekeeper in the hospitality industry, seeking a suitable job opportunity. Contact: 78026010

Procurement engineer, Sudanese, 10yrs experience in Oman,MEP, firefighting, projects, D/L,
Contact: 79027138

SALES/MARKETING

Indian male 37 yrs old with 15+yrs' experience in Oman FMCG market, handled leading key accounts, market experience, looking TT and MT sales supervisor position.
Contact: 77329533,
Email: Jasfeerjaleel@hotmail.com

Indian male, Sales executive (MBA in Marketing) with 10 yrs of experience in FMCG & automobile with strong communication skills, holding valid Oman D/L.
Contact: 92350798

Indian male MBA graduated specialized with Marketing & HR (fresher). Looking for suitable positions . Currently in Muscat Oman.
Contact: +96871084371,
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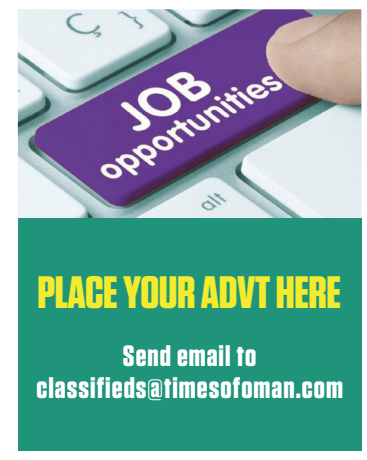

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LIFESTYLE

GREEN TEA MAY PROTECT AGING BRAIN: STUDY

A study by Kanazawa University has linked daily green tea consumption to reduced white matter lesions in older adults without dementia.

Research conducted by the university's Graduate School of Medical Sciences reveals that drinking three or more glasses of green tea daily may benefit brain health. The study found that higher green tea intake is associated with fewer cerebral white matter lesions—brain changes connected to cognitive decline and Alzheimer's disease.

The findings, part of the Japan Prospective Studies Collaboration for Ageing and Dementia, analyzed MRI data to explore the effects of green tea and coffee on brain structure, including white matter lesions, hippocampal volume, and total brain size. Although both beverages are known for their neuroprotective properties, coffee showed no significant effect in this study.

Published in npj Science of Food, the research highlights a strong link between regular green tea consumption and reduced white matter lesions in older adults without dementia, even after adjusting for other factors.

"Our findings indicate that drinking green tea, especially three or more glasses per day, may help prevent dementia," the researchers stated. However, they stressed the need for further longitudinal studies and basic research to validate these results.

The study suggests that green tea could be an easy and accessible way to support cognitive health in aging populations.

SPORTS

Winter training camp for 21 young sailors by Oman Sail

The training camp will be led by Sultan Al Zadjali, Munther Al Kindi and Ahmed Al Wahaibi

MUSCAT: Oman Sail is hosting its first training camp of the year when sailors from the Mussanah, Al Mouj Muscat, and Sur Sailing Schools convene in Mussanah from 26 January to 13 February.

The Winter Training Camp brings together sailors in Optimist, ILCA 4, ILCA 6, ILCA 7 and 29er classes with the aim of improving on tactical and technical aspects of sailing by learning from each other and Oman Sail's expert coaches.

The training camp will be led by Sultan Al Zadjali, Oman Sail's Optimist Coach, and Munther Al Kindi and Ahmed Al Wahaibi, coaches of the ILCA class. During the two week camp, the coaches will aim to ensure sailors are in peak physical and mental condition in anticipation of several upcoming regattas.

The most impressive ILCA 4 and ILCA 6 sailors will also have the chance to join the ASYAD Sailing Team for this year's sailing events – a calendar which includes: Winter Cup, GCC Beach Games, Oman Sailing Championship and Mussanah Race Week.

Sultan Al Zadjali, Oman Sail's Optimist coach, said, "The Winter Training Camp is an opportunity early in the year to gather our most promising sailors in all classes together for two weeks of focused sailing tuition in an encouraging environment at our world class venue at the Mussanah Sailing School."

"We head into a busy year with optimism and the chance for our sailors to be part of the ASYAD Sailing Team for the season is an excellent opportunity to develop at a high level. We look forward to seeing our talented young sailors out on the water in Mussanah and guiding them towards reaching their undoubted potential," he added.

Following the conclusion of the training camp, Oman Sail's Optimist squad will travel to Thailand to take part in the Admiral's Cup before heading to Doha for the 2025 Qatar International Optimist Regatta in February. Later in the year, Oman Sail will host the 2025 IODA Optimist Asian & Oceanian Championship in Mussanah from 25 October to 1 November 2025.

ICC AWARDS

Afghanistan all-rounder wins Men's ODI Cricketer of Year

DUBAI : Afghanistan all-rounder Azmatullah Omarzai on Monday was announced as the ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year at the ICC Awards, the ICC Cricket website reported.

The 24-year-old also enjoyed a strong year in T20Is and franchise cricket, but it was in ODIs where he proved most influential. He finished the year as his national team's second-highest run scorer (behind Rahmanullah Gurbaz) and second-highest wicket-taker (behind AM Ghazanfar), with Afghanistan winning four of their five ODI series in 2024.

His individual excellence wasn't enough to earn Afghanistan a series win away in Sri Lanka at the start of the year, but he was central to four straight ODI series wins for Afghanistan, as his team won against Ireland, South Africa, Bangladesh and Zimbabwe.

The Afghanistan all-rounder was a standout performer with bat and ball throughout the year, scoring his runs at an average of 52.12 and bagging his wickets at 20.47.

The 24-year-old's brilliance lay not just in the overall numbers but in his individual performances, starting off in his very first ODI of the year, where he smashed an unbeaten 149* in a remarkable rearguard effort in defeat against Sri Lanka.

A destructive 86* from just 50 deliveries against South Africa was another memorable performance, with his rapid scoring helping set up a crushing win in the second ODI to win the series.

Azmatullah repeatedly stood up when Afghanistan needed big contributions, but there are few better examples than with his series-defining performance in the third ODI against Bangladesh in Sharjah in November.

With the series on the line, Azmatullah bowled economically before delivering a death-overs masterclass to deny the Tigers the strong finish they were looking for, cleaning up set batter Mehidy Hasan Miraz among his three late wickets as he finished with figures of 4/37 from seven overs.

Faced with a target of 245 to win the match and series, Afghanistan limped through the first 20 overs, losing three of their top four cheaply, with the score at 84/3 when Azmatullah came to the crease.

But the right-hander won the game and series, building a century partnership with Rahmanullah Gurbaz before accelerating when the opener was dismissed, hitting the winning runs with a massive six to end unbeaten on 70* from 77 balls, sealing the victory with ten deliveries to spare. -ANI

INDIA'S VICE-CAPTAIN

Axar Patel in new role ahead of 3rd T20I against England

RAJKOT : Ahead of the third T20I of the five-match series against England, India's vice-captain and all-rounder Axar Patel was seen in an all-new role where he was seen making the Vlog of the Indian Cricket Team on Monday.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) took to their official social media handle, X and posted a video in which Axar was seen making a Vlog where he covered the Men in Blue's journey from Chennai airport to the hotel in Rajkot where the third match of the series is set to be played.

In the video, the all-rounder was seen talking to his teammates and coaching staff of the team. In the Vlog, the 31-year-old was seen interacting with the team's bowling coach Morne Morkel, all-rounders Ramandeep Singh and Hardik Pandya and also with the leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi.

Later in the video, Axar also spoke to right-arm seamer Harshit Rana as well as to the youngsters of the side like Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, and Dhruv Jurel.

At the end of the video, the team was seen receiving a warm welcome from the hotel management as the full team arrived at the destination for the upcoming fixture of the series.

Speaking about Axar Patel, the left-arm spinner is currently the second-highest wicket-taker in the five-match T20I series against the Three Lions where he has managed to snap four wickets in the eight overs at an average of 13.50 in the two matches so far.

The third T20I between India and England is set to be played on Tuesday at the Niranjan Shah Stadium in Rajkot. The match will kickstart at 7 PM IST.

Squads:

India: Sanju Samson(w), Abhishek Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav(c), Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Rinku Singh, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Axar Patel, Ravi Bishnoi, Arshdeep Singh, Varun Chakravarthy, Mohammed Shami, Washington Sundar, Dhruv Jurel, Harshit Rana.

England: Ben Duckett, Philip Salt(w), Jos Buttler(c), Harry Brook, Liam Livingstone, Jacob Bethell, Jamie Overton, Brydon Carse, Jofra Archer, Adil Rashid, Mark Wood, Saqib Mahmood, Gus Atkinson, Jamie Smith, Rehan Ahmed. -ANI

COMFORTABLE 5-0 WIN

Barcelona crush Real Madrid to win Spanish Women's Super Cup

MADRID: FC Barcelona once again made clear their dominance of the women's game as they cruised to a comfortable 5-0 win over Real Madrid in the final of the Women's Super Cup on Sunday.

Barcelona, who has a 100 percent record in Spain's Liga F, looked to control the match from the kick-off, and gave Madrid, currently second in Spain's domestic competition, a chance.

Barca had already missed a couple of chances before Norway's Caroline Graham-Hansen opened the scoring on the half-hour with a shot from outside the area that took a deflection to wrong-foot Misa Rodriguez in the Real Madrid goal.

Polish forward Ewa Pajor doubled Barca's lead in the 37th minute with a simple finish after full-back Ona Batlle ran to the goal line and pulled the ball back for her to score with a tap-in.

After Irene Paredes headed over from a corner in first-half injury time, Pajor headed in Barca's third of the game with the last action of the half. The striker got up to meet Graham-Hansen's corner to all-but ensure the win for Barcelona.

Patri Guijarro scored Barca's fourth with a powerful shot from distance in the 62nd minute, and only a flying save from Rodriguez soon afterward stopped Aitana Bonmati from adding a fifth.

Alexia Putellas fired wide when it looked easier to score in the 80th minute, but the Barcelona captain was not to be denied and made it 5-0 with a close-range header after Pajor's initial effort was blocked.

The win means Barca's women's team has now won four consecutive Super Cup titles. - Xinhua

Now or never: Unbeatable prices on your favourite Suzuki models

Customers can now get their hands on their favourite Suzuki vehicles at 'Now or Never' prices, offering significant savings across models like the Suzuki Fronx, Grand Vitara, Jimny 5-door, Ciaz, Baleno, Swift and Dzire

MUSCAT: Suzuki Oman is excited to announce a time-limited, exclusive offer on a variety of its best-selling models, available only through the end of January 2025.

Customers can now get their hands on their favourite Suzuki vehicles at "Now or Never" prices, offering significant savings across models like the Suzuki Fronx, Grand Vitara, Jimny 5-door, Ciaz, Baleno, Swift, and Dzire.

The offer is not only about great prices but also includes a chance to win one of six 16 iPhone Pro units, making this an unmissable opportunity for Suzuki lovers in Oman.

"This limited-time offer is designed to make owning a Suzuki even more attractive to our customers. With the combination of unmatched prices, exclusive offers, and the chance to win an iPhone Pro, we are giving Suzuki enthusiasts a reason to upgrade their ride. The campaign reflects Suzuki's commitment to providing high-quality, affordable cars with exceptional after-sales service. We are thrilled to bring these great deals to Oman and can't wait to see the excitement build over the next couple of months," commented Muhammad Faisal Nawaz, Marketing Manager, Suzuki Oman.

Until January 31, 2025, all customers who purchase a Suzuki vehicle will receive extra benefits, including free registration, free insurance for Oman & UAE, and 3 years or 60,000 km service. Additionally, Suzuki is offering an extended 5-year unlimited mileage warranty and VAT on them. This is the perfect time for customers to own a Suzuki at an unbeatable price, with limited stock and limited time available.

"Suzuki's longstanding relationship with Moosa Abdul Rahman Hassan & Co. has always been a driving force in delivering top-quality automotive products and services to the Omani market. The partnership has been instrumental in expanding Suzuki's presence across Oman, ensuring that customers receive the very best in vehicle options, customer service, and exclusive promotions. The current "Now or Never" offer is a testament to this collaboration, highlighting the dedication of both Suzuki and Moosa to provide customers with affordable, reliable vehicles paired with an exceptional ownership experience. This partnership continues to grow stronger, bringing innovative solutions to car buyers in Oman." Mr, Nawaz further added.

Suzuki also inaugurated its new showroom in Azaiba last year, offering customers a better and more convenient buying experience. The modern showroom features state-of-the-art facilities and a dedicated sales team, ensuring a seamless, comfortable, and personalized car-buying journey for every customer. This new location reflects Suzuki's commitment to providing the best service and customer experience in Oman.

INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT

ISM celebrates 76th Republic Day in style

MUSCAT: Indian School Muscat commemorated the 76th Republic Day of India with great zeal and reverence, hosting a well-curated and memorable event.

The NMPH was embellished with striking decorations, creating an ambience brimming with energy and festive spirit.

The programme commenced with the soulful rendition of the Indian National Anthem, igniting a deep sense of nationalism in all attendees. Aryan Kishore, Assistant Head Boy of the Senior Section, warmly welcomed the gathering, setting a tone of unity and respect. A deeply inspiring moment ensued as the Chief Guest read poignant excerpts from the President's message, highlighting the aspirations and visionary leadership that continue to propel India towards progress and prosperity. The ceremony then turned to a moment of sincere recognition, as the long-serving staff members were honoured with cash awards, a tribute to their resolute dedication and invaluable contributions to the institution's growth and success.

The patriotic song rendered by the school choir reverberated throughout the venue, stirring the hearts of all present and infusing the air with a deep sense of pride and national fervour.

VIBRANT PLATFORM

Saud Bahwan Automotive invites kids to dream big in 18th Toyota Dream Car Art Contest

MUSCAT: Saud Bahwan Automotive recently announced the 18th edition of the popular Toyota Dream Car Art Contest, a vibrant platform that invites young minds to unleash their creativity and imagine the car of their dreams.

With exciting prizes up for grabs, this annual competition has become a favourite among young artists across Oman. The deadline for submission is 28th February 2025 and eager participants can collect official drawing sheets from any Toyota showroom or service facility.

The 18th Toyota Dream Car Art Contest will be held across Saud Bahwan Automotive's Toyota showrooms in Oman and is open to all legal residents aged 15 years or younger. This inspiring initiative encourages children to dream big and translate their creative visions onto paper, fostering innovation and imagination in a fun and engaging way.

Speaking about this unique initiative, a spokesperson from Saud Bahwan Automotive said, "At Toyota, we believe that every great innovation starts with a dream. The Toyota Dream Car Art Contest is a reflection of our commitment to nurturing the creative spirit of young dreamers in Oman. We are excited to see their unique ideas come to life and inspire the future of mobility".

Winners of the national competition will not only receive thrilling prizes like Gift Vouchers of RO 100, RO 130 and RO 150 but also get a chance to compete on the world stage in the global contest. Participants can create their automotive masterpieces using water colours, markers, crayons, or any other hand-drawn medium. Digitally created artwork is not permitted. Each submission should include a well-crafted background and must be completed on the official entry forms available at Toyota showrooms or service centres.

A distinguished panel of judges will evaluate entries based on originality, creativity, artistic expression and use of colour. To ensure fair participation, each entry must be accompanied by a completed and signed form from a parent or guardian. The age categories are Under 8 Years, 8-11 Years and 12-15 Years.

Since its inception in 2004, the Toyota Dream Car Art Contest has inspired young artists worldwide with the theme 'Your Dream Car,' encouraging them to imagine a brighter and more innovative future.

Parents and guardians can visit the nearest Toyota showroom to collect the drawing sheets and encourage their children to participate in this exciting journey of creativity.

To explore previous submissions and gain inspiration, please visit https://www.toyota-dream-carart.com/meca/en/ and take a look at the artistic marvels created by children from across the region.

Don't miss out on this extraordinary opportunity to turn dreams into reality with the 18th Toyota Dream Car Art Contest.

NEW FINANCING CAMPAIGN

Dhofar Islamic offers competitive financing solutions for Haj, Umrah

MUSCAT: Dhofar Islamic, the Islamic banking window of BankDhofar, has introduced a new financing campaign enabling customers to realise their Haj and Umrah pilgrimage aspirations.

This special financing offer features a competitive profit rate of 4.75% for all customers, available from January 16 to March 31, 2025. Additionally, customers will benefit from exemptions on ATM usage fees in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during the holy months of Ramadan and DhulHijjah 1446, as well as a waiver of travel financing application fees for Hajj and Umrah.

The financing initiative is tailored to accommodate the needs of citizens and residents planning to perform Hajj or Umrah during the Hajj season. It offers unparalleled competitive pricing alongside a variety of additional benefits and conveniences.

Amor bin Said Al Amri, Deputy General Manager and Head of Retail Banking at Dhofar Islamic, stated: "At Dhofar Islamic, we strive to earn our customers' trust and satisfaction by providing exceptional banking services and facilities that address their needs, ambitions, and aspirations.

"With this in mind, we have launched flexible financing options featuring a profit rate starting at 4.75%, enabling our customers to effectively plan their financial requirements while performing Hajj and Umrah. This initiative underscores Dhofar Islamic's commitment to offering banking products, services, and financing solutions that bring added value to our customers."

Dhofar Islamic, the dedicated Islamic banking arm of BankDhofar, was rebranded last February in celebration of its 10th anniversary. The updated logo symbolizes Dhofar Islamic's transformation from a single star to a constellation, representing its enhanced capabilities and dedication to core values.

This rebranding highlights the bank's focus on advancing banking services and ensuring customer satisfaction. Since its establishment, Dhofar Islamic has played a vital role in promoting Shariacompliant financial services and addressing the growing demand for these solutions within Oman. The bank has secured a notable market share within Oman's Islamic banking sector, driven by growth in assets,, customer deposits as well as customer base.

INDIAN SCHOOL BOUSHER

76th Republic Day celebrated with spectacular athletic meet

MUSCAT: The 76th Republic Day of India marked a proud celebration of democracy, unity, and progress, honouring the nation's rich heritage. Indian School Bousher celebrated the day with its Annual Athletic Meet and Drill Display for Grades I - V, showcasing students' energy, teamwork, and vibrant performances in a spectacular display of sportsmanship and precision.

The event began with a warm Welcome Address, followed by the Memento Presentation where the Chief Guest, Rushit Sanghvi, was honoured with a token of appreciation, recognizing his unwavering support for the institution's extracurricular activities.

The proceedings truly came to life with the Torch Run, symbolizing the spirit of unity and the start of a memorable event. The little brigades, dressed in vibrant colours, marched proudly to represent the three defence forces of India, setting the tone for a day of sporting prowess and camaraderie.

Patriotism was beautifully showcased through a captivating Patriotic Dance, followed by a serene Mandala Yoga session that demonstrated the students' focus and mindfulness. The energetic Cheer Dance led into the Steps of Unity, where Grade I students performed, illustrating teamwork and coordination, while the highlight of the event, the Spirit of the Nation, was a powerful performance by Grade II students, celebrating India's unity and strength.

Athleticism took precedence in the competitive 80 metre Running Races of Grades I & II students sprinting towards victory with remarkable speed and agility which showcased their enthusiasm and determination.

The event culminated in the highly anticipated Prize Distribution Ceremony, where the chess and the 80 metre race champions were recognized. The atmosphere was filled with pride as medals and certificates were presented to the young achievers, further reinforcing the values of perseverance and sportsmanship.

The event concluded with a heartfelt Vote of Thanks, recognizing the contributions of teachers, staff, students, and the chief guest.

ROUND-UP

Outward Bound Oman and Mission Spiritus celebrate success of 21 days scientific research expedition

This global initiative is conducted over a four-year period and focuses on collecting samples from extreme environments, including icy landscapes and dry deserts

MUSCAT: Under the auspices of Sheikh Mahmoud bin Rashid bin Hilal Al Saadi, Wali of Al Qabil, Outward Bound Oman and "Mission Spiritus" celebrated the successful completion of a 21-day scientific research expedition, crossing more than 1,000 km from Salalah, across the Empty Quarter Desert, to the final destination at Outward Bound Oman's Desert Training Centre in the Sharqiyah Sands.

"Mission Spiritus"is an extraordinary research expedition led by British Explorer Alan Chambers and Columbia University. It represents a critical milestone in advancing environmental research and raising global awareness about the impact of micro and nano plastics in remote environments.

This global initiative is conducted over a four-year period and focuses on collecting samples from extreme environments, including icy landscapes and dry deserts. Its goal is to study key environmental issues, such as the presence of nano and micro plastics and their effects of climate change on coastlines. Following their groundbreaking work in Antarctica, the "Mission Spiritus" team chose the Empty Quarter Desert in Oman as their second destination for research.

This ambitious mission was conducted in Oman in collaboration with Outward Bound Oman and Sultan Qaboos University, showcasing the Sultanate's commitment to supporting global research efforts and environmental preservation.

Outward Bound Oman is a pioneering educational non-profit organization that was launched in May 2009 and was further established in 2014 by Ministerial Decree. It provides transformative programmes that foster personal growth, resilience, and leadership skills through unique training courses in the Sultanate of Oman's stunning natural landscapes.

As the first Outward Bound centre in the Arabian region, Outward Bound Oman proudly contributed to empowering more than 28K participants including youth, professionals, and communities to excel in their personal and professional lives, aligning with Oman's 2040 vision for a sustainable future.

SHARIA-COMPLIANT

Muzn Islamic Banking introduces Corporate Running Wakala Financing Solution

MUSCAT: The National Bank of Oman (NBO) Muzn Islamic Banking has launched its innovative Corporate Running Wakala Finance Product, offering a Sharia-compliant alternative to conventional overdraft facilities. This solution empowers businesses of all sizes by addressing their critical working capital needs, receivable financing, and other funding requirements.

Commenting on this milestone, Salima Al Marzooqi, Assistant General Manager & Chief Islamic Banking Officer at NBO, said, "At Muzn, we continuously strive to enhance Sharia-compliant products to meet the evolving needs of our corporate clients. The Corporate Running Wakala Financing solution is a testament to our dedication to offer innovative and ethical financial services. This product caters to businesses seeking Sharia-compliant alternatives to conventional banking products. We are proud to support all businesses in Oman by providing flexible solutions that align with their operational and financial goals."

The solution offers several key benefits that make it a unique option for corporate clients. The product enables financing for a wide range of short-term requirements, including cash flow management and liquidity needs. Additionally, the financing process is simple and transparent, designed to support business requirements effectively.

This innovative offering underscores Muzn Islamic Banking's commitment to pioneering Islamic financial solutions that tackle real-world corporate challenges. It provides clients with a flexible arrangement, allowing them to focus on their core operations while benefiting from an efficient financial partnership. NBO Muzn leads the way in making its offerings widely accessible to benefit Oman's corporate sector.

OFFER

TYREPLUS announces special New Year discount on Michelin tyres

MUSCAT: TYREPLUS, a division of MHD ACERE and the exclusive distributor of Michelin tyres in Oman, is kicking off the New Year with an exciting offer for customers. The customers can enjoy up to OMR 90 off on the purchase of two Michelin tires. This offer is valid till 25th February 2025.

This special New Year promotion is valid across all TYREPLUS outlets in Oman, including its nine strategically located branches in Wadi Kabir, Al Khuwair, Azaiba, Mabela, Barka, Sohar, Nizwa, Khat Al Batinah, and Salalah.

Michelin tires are globally renowned for their quality, performance, and durability, making them a preferred choice for drivers seeking superior handling, traction, and longevity. This exclusive offer is designed to make Michelin's premium tires more accessible to customers in Oman.

Terms and conditions:
The offer is valid only on Michelin tires for passenger cars and SUVs.

The discount applies to DOT 2023 Michelin tires of selected sizes, available while stocks last.

A minimum purchase of two tires is required to avail of the discount, with a 25% discount applied.

The offer cannot be combined with any other promotions or discounts.

Mohsin Hani Al Bahrani, CEO of MHD ACERE, commented on the initiative-"At MHD ACERE, we are committed to delivering exceptional value to our customers by offering premium products and unmatched services. This New Year offer on Michelin tires reflects our dedication to enhancing customer satisfaction and ensuring safe and smooth journeys for all drivers in Oman."

Since its inception in 2002, TYREPLUS has grown to over 1,600 franchises across 26 countries, offering expert tire services and a wide range of products. In Oman, TYREPLUS continues to be the trusted destination for world-class tire solutions.

Don't miss this limited-time opportunity to equip your vehicle with Michelin's top-quality tires at an unbeatable price.

CANTONESE DINING

Hakkasan Muscat at The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort celebrates Year of the Snake

MUSCAT: Celebrate the auspicious arrival of the Year of the Snake with Hakkasan Muscat at The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort, where fine Cantonese dining meets rich traditions.

Renowned for unforgettable celebrations, Chinese New Year holds a special place in Hakkasan's culinary calendar. Available from 28 January to 12 February, this year's festivities promise to elevate the occasion with limited-edition dishes, desserts and beverages. Each guest dining will be given a bespoke wishing ribbon to write their aspirations for the year ahead before hanging them around the restaurant, a tradition that symbolizes hope and prosperity.

The Year of the Snake is associated with wisdom, charm, and elegance, which has been used as inspiration for the ingredients and design of the dishes to create a unique and standout menu.

The limited-edition menu is available for parties of two or more and will run alongside the à la carte and signature menus at Hakkasan. Highlights include Golden "Yuan Bao", Snake Fruit, Persimmon, and Avocado Salad, Plum Braised Beef Short Ribs and Lucky Red Envelope. Additional standout beverages have been curated to celebrate the Year of the Snake, which surrounds a gold snake print ice cube designed to make every toast unforgettable.

Guests will be able to immerse themselves in a unique blend of tradition and modern luxury, all within Hakkasan Muscat's unmistakable ambience.

WINTER SALE

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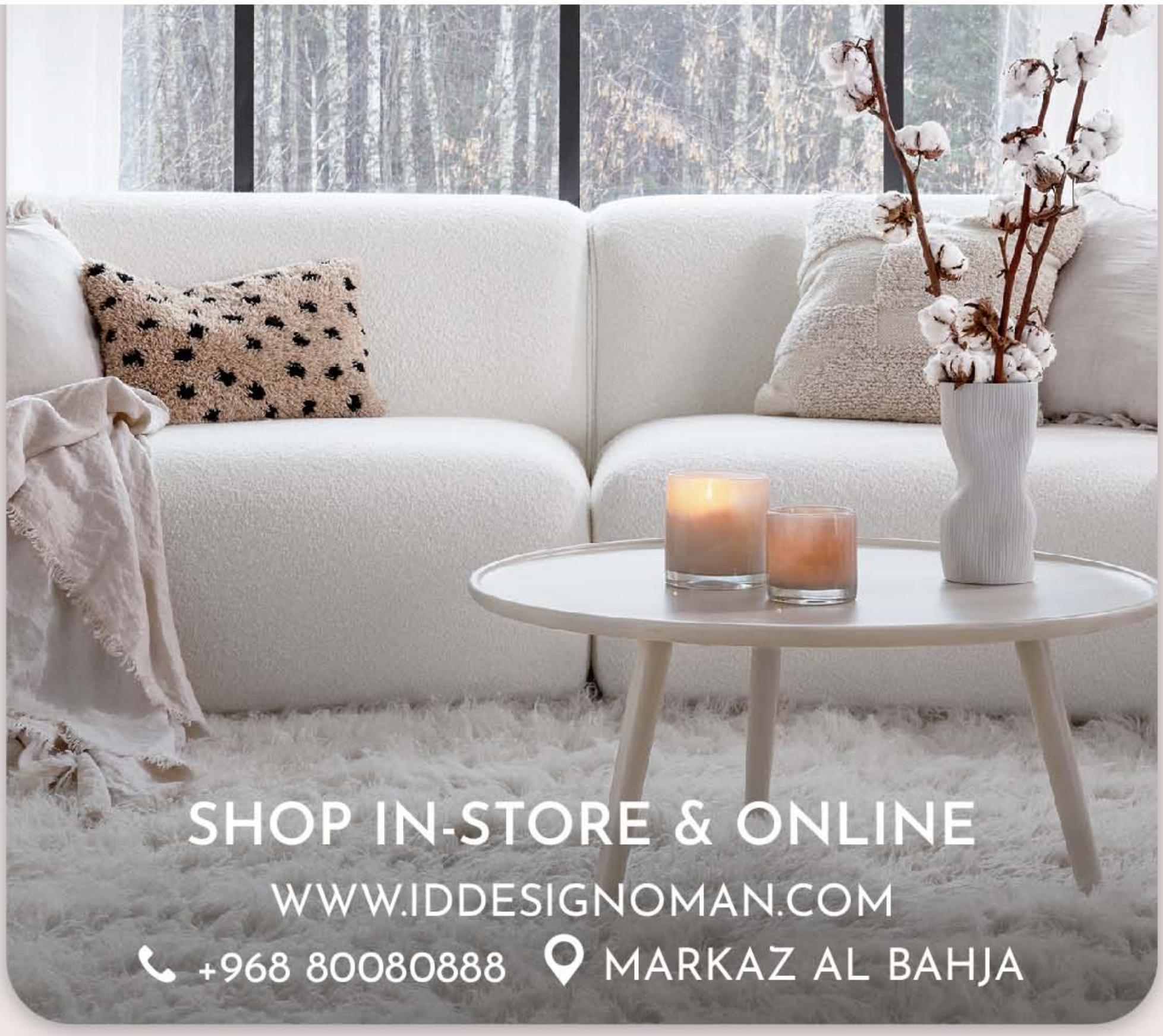

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The campaign will run from 27th January to 29th January 2025 and is valid only while stocks last. VAT will be applicable to the stated prices. The vehicles displayed are for illustrative purposes only, and their actual specifications may differ. Specifications are subject to change without prior notice. This offer is applicable only to 2024 model vehicles.

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