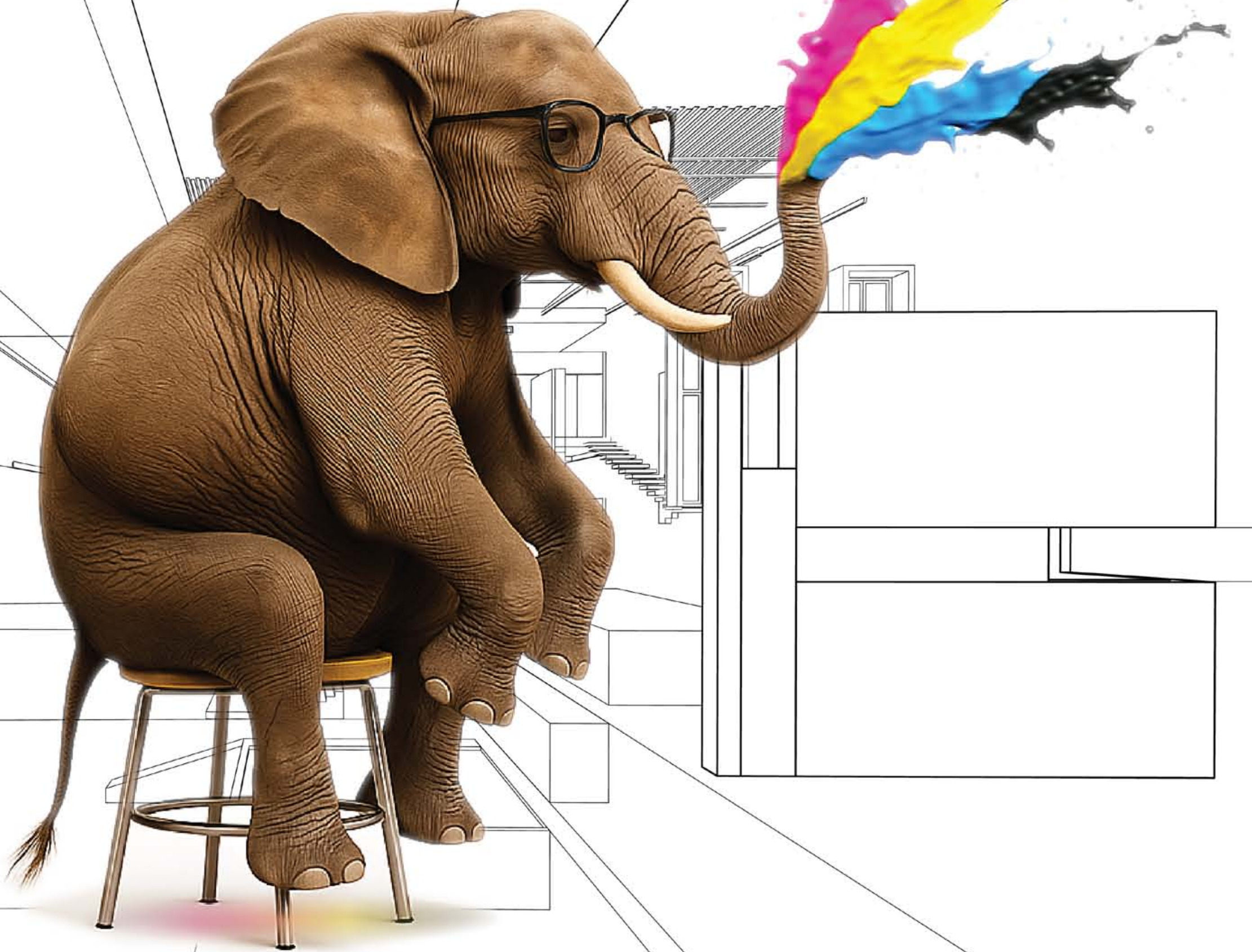




OMAN ANNOUNCES PUBLIC HOLIDAYS FOR 2026



We make your Business bigger than your problems.



We get you ahead on

- Booth production
- Event conceptualisation
- Event management

Wait, there's more

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

COMMENTARY

Don't grow old but older



SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

I was watching a retired senior executive as he was walking through a maze of people in a crowded area and I had only one thought in my mind about him.

He was probably trying to wind down the clock to get through the day. Just a year ago, before his retirement, time was swishing past faster as he was embroiled deep in his executive tasks.

So, I decided to stop him. I waved a hand at him but he ignored me. I knew that because he diverted his attention sideway to get out of the visual path I was with him. But I did not give up on him.

I stepped up the pace of my walk, did a semi-circle until I was walking opposite direction with him. He had two choices. To push me out of his way or stop and talk to me.

There was a frown in his face when I stretched my hand to greet him. It took several seconds for him to raise his hand to meet mine. The handshake said it all. He pulled out his hand quickly and tried to sidestep me to walk away.

I was going to block him but decided to shift on one side to let him go. He was obviously not happy to talk to anyone. I continued with my walk and settled in a coffee shop on a table so that I could see everyone who walked past.

Minutes later, the same man came walking towards me but quickly made a U-turn to walk back where he came from. I thought about it for the next few seconds and I came to only one conclusion about his behavior.

Probably he was having difficulties to come to terms with getting old. Perhaps he was also looking to erase his professional past and all the contacts he had while he was in the top position.

A few minutes later, a man came from behind and patted me on the back. Another

retired person but he was not in the leadership role while he was working.

He asked me if he could sit and have coffee with me.

I did not only say 'yes please' but offered to buy him coffee. He lowered himself gratefully on the chair while I got up to get him the drink. Minutes later, we were catching up with the gossips of the country and the way things are heading.

While we were at it, another man stopped by to greet us. He was about ten years older than us but the smile in his face told us he was leading a very good retired life, unlike the executive who was trying to avoid people.

We asked him what was the 'secret' behind his good mood? There was no hesitation in his answer.

"Do not grow old but older," that was his answer and quickly continued with his walk.

It took us several seconds to understand what he meant. For the next couple of minutes, we debated about the wisdom in his words. It made a lot of sense to us. You cannot fight with the time without hurting yourself.

Growing old is not against anyone and if you accept it then you are still young but just a year older no matter how many years have gone past.

"NAFADH" INITIATIVE

Telecom sector's efforts to sharpen skills of freelancers

A'SUWAIQ: The telecommunications sector in North Al Batinah Governorate opened a new outlet in the Wilayat of A'Suwaïq for the "Nafadh" initiative.

The project aims to "provide a working environment for freelancers in telecommunications and information technology," marking the first time the initiative has been launched outside Muscat Governorate.

This move is part of a broader strategy to expand the initiative's scope to include various governorates across the Sultanate of Oman.

The launch is part of the telecommunications sector's efforts to empower freelancers and provide an incubator environment that helps them develop their technical skills.

By transforming these skills into digital products and services applicable to the market, the initiative enhances their role as active partners in the digital economy and contributes to creating flexible and sustainable employment opportunities.

The initiative relies on an intensive model for executing real-world projects in systems and applications development. It qualifies participants to work on digital transformation projects in



line with the labor market needs of the telecommunications sector.

Targeting graduates of telecommunications and network engineering, the initiative offers multiple opportunities to join companies operating in the sector or to pursue freelancing and entrepreneurship.

"Nafadh" focuses on building practical skills and enhancing professional readiness, thereby supporting the digital economy and improving the efficiency of the national workforce, consistent with

Oman's directions in developing the telecommunications sector.

Since its inception, the initiative has contributed to qualifying and empowering 94 national talents in the fields of programming and technical development.

More than 36 participants have secured job opportunities in the labor market, while 6 graduates have been empowered to work as independent freelancers. Currently, 52 participants are enrolled in training to become independent business owners. -ONA

Educational institutions bridge the academic-industrial practice gap

This vision is being realised through several practical tracks, including linking education directly to industry, solving real-world challenges, and creating integrated training programmes



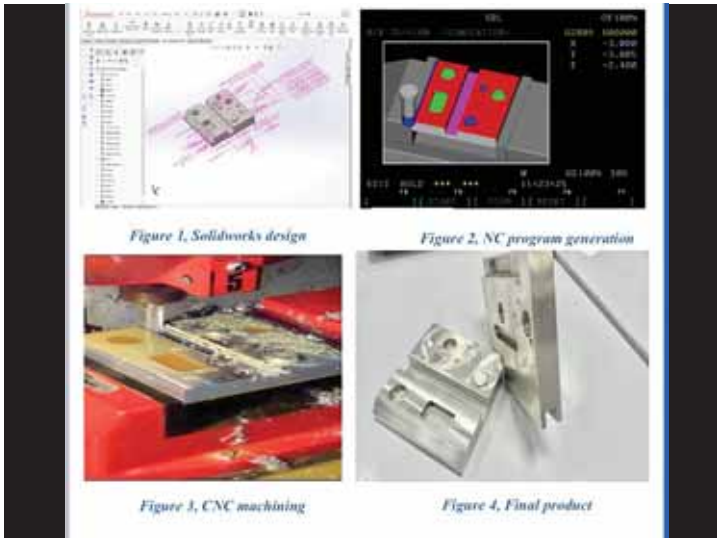
academic theory and industrial practice.

This vision is being realised through several practical tracks, including linking education directly to industry, solving real-world challenges, and creating integrated training programmes that develop specialised skills tailored to im-

mediate industrial needs.

Graduation projects in universities and colleges have emerged as one of the most effective methods for connecting Artificial Intelligence (AI) with industrial and practical applications.

These projects aim to apply acquired knowledge to solve tangible



problems and have the potential to transform into commercial opportunities, especially with the growing national focus on innovation and digital solutions.

These academic endeavors span various fields, particularly AI, where students are equipped with the technical skills necessary for

the labor market by turning theoretical ideas into applicable tools for various sectors of life.

At the University of Technology and Applied Sciences (UTAS) in Al Musannah, South Al Batinah Governorate, several standout projects have demonstrated the successful integration of AI into industrial

processes. One such project is "Detecting Traffic Violations on University Campuses," developed by students Khalsa Salem Al Maqbali, Sara Khalid Al Amri, and Nusaiba Suleiman Al Maqbali. This system utilizes advanced AI technologies, including YOLOv8, OCR (Optical Character Recognition), and OpenCV-DNN.

The project was developed as a prototype using the NVIDIA Jetson Nano platform, demonstrating high efficiency and impressive real-time processing capabilities.

By using cameras to monitor parking lots and roads, the system automatically counts vehicles and verifies if they are parked correctly.

When a violation occurs—such as illegal parking or speeding—the system detects the incident and extracts the license plate information to issue an automatic fine.

This innovative approach was recently recognised and presented at an international conference organised by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). -ONA

AL DAKHILIYAH GOVERNORATE

Family Creativity Forum begins in Wilayat of Nizwa

NIZWA: The second edition of the Family Creativity Forum commenced on Sunday in the Wilayat of Nizwa, organised by the Directorate General of Social Development in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate.

Held under the theme "Together Towards an Inspiring and Active Family," the three-day event is taking place at the Nizwa Grand Mall under the auspices of Sheikh Saleh Diab Al Rubai'ee, Wali of Nizwa.

Azza Ali Al Abdali, Head of the Empowerment and Capacity Building Department, emphasised that the forum is designed to support productive families by providing economic empowerment and reinforcing their role in Oman's sustainable development journey.

She noted that supporting these families is a fundamental pillar for achieving broader economic stability and social well-being.

Through its "Tamkeen" program, the Ministry of Social Development has adopted a clear vision to invest in the potential of individuals and families.

The goal is to transform them into active community contributors by promoting the concept of self-employment and assisting families in managing their small and medium enterprises with high efficiency.



The forum serves as a vital platform for marketing home-based products, introducing them to the public, and encouraging a local culture that prioritizes and supports domestic production.

Beyond its commercial aspect, the event fosters partnerships between various Ministry sectors and the private sector to expand the scope of empowerment programmes.

It also functions as a space for exchanging ideas, innovations, and

expertise that contribute to the local economy.

The forum's itinerary includes a variety of accompanying activities such as traditional artistic performances, practical workshops, and interactive sessions for children and adults alike.

A major highlight of the opening was the announcement of the "Best Home Project" competition results for the governorate. Organized by the Department of Partnership and Community Development, the competition saw the participation of 57 families.

The ceremony honored the top three winners for their excellence, while seven additional families received encouragement awards in recognition of their project sustainability and creative contributions to the local market. -ONA

"TASAEUD" PROGRAMME

Programme launched to empower SMEs in Sur

SUR: The "Tasa'eud" (Rising) programme was launched on Sunday in the Wilayat of Sur, South Al Sharqiyah Governorate, with the aim of supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and enabling them to transition into more advanced stages of growth and sustainability.

The programme involves 35 entrepreneurs who own small and medium enterprises and is organized by OQ Gas Networks (OQGN) in cooperation with the Office of the Governor of South Al Sharqiyah.

This initiative is designed to enhance integration between the public and private sectors while linking SMEs to available opportunities that support their expansion and long-term viability.

The "Tasa'eud" programme provides a comprehensive practical platform focused on improving the performance of participating institutions and enhancing their readiness for expansion.

This is achieved through specialised development tracks that include strategy, financial management, value building, governance, and decision-making, all under the supervision of a group of experts and specialists.

What distinguishes the program is its applied methodology, which



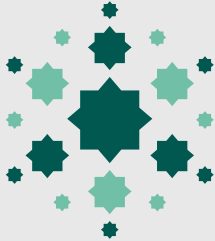
stems from the specific reality of each individual enterprise.

Rather than offering theoretical solutions or general models, the program works side-by-side with business owners to design realistic, implementable growth

paths based on actual market needs.

Eng. Faisal Ali Al Maamari, Chief Human Resources, Technology and Culture Officer at OQ Gas Networks, stated that the "Tasa'eud" programme provides practical tools and realistic development opportunities that help entrepreneurs achieve growth, enhance their competitiveness, and build long-term partnerships.

He added that the programme confirms OQ Gas Networks' commitment to enabling SMEs to achieve sustainable growth and competitiveness, aligning with the objectives of economic development and Oman Vision 2040. -ONA



ظفار الإسلامي
DHOFAR ISLAMIC

LEARNING HAS NO LIMITS
with profit rates starting at

3.49%

on education financing.



www.dhofarislamic.com | 24775777

*Terms and Conditions Apply.

TOMI 2025 Awards Best Marketing Video Concept to Bake In Oman



MUSCAT: Bake In Oman was awarded Best Marketing Video Concept at The Oman Marketing Impact Awards (TOMI), recognising a thoughtfully crafted video that brought the brand's purpose and promise to life.

What began as a personal challenge to source quality baking ingredients and tools evolved into a solution that places everything a baker needs under one roof. Since 2020, Bake In Oman has grown into a trusted one-stop destination, making baking easier, more accessible, and inspiring for enthusiasts and professionals alike.

The award-winning video



TOMI AWARDS
THE OMAN MARKETING IMPACT

stood out for showcasing every aspect of the store and its diverse product range, clearly communicating value, convenience, and passion—earning Bake In Oman top honours for Best Marketing Video Concept at TOMI 2025.

The trophy was presented by His Highness Sayyid Suhaib Bin Barghash Bin Said Al Said. TOMI 2025, organised by Muscat Media Group, took place on 10th December at Crowne Plaza Qurum, Muscat, bringing together over 200 marketing professionals from Oman and the MENA region in a celebration of creativity, strategy, and impact.



SMARTEN UP DRIVE SAFE

A TIMES OF OMAN HANDS-FREE DRIVING INITIATIVE



CHANGAN **UNI-V 2.0T**
Luxury

LUXURY OF THE FUTURE

طراز 2026 MY

2.0L Turbo Engine, 232 hp, 8-Speed AT
SUPER WARRANTY 6 YEARS UNLIMITED MILEAGE*

*Terms and Conditions Apply

EMI starting from **OMR 142⁺** for 6 years





Wireless Charger



10.25" Infotainment Screen



Sporty Leather Seats



Power spoiler



Automatic Emergency Braking



360" HD Camera

Terms & Conditions Apply. *Easy Monthly Installment is calculated based on 20% down payment for 6 years loan tenure. Subject to credit approvals from Banks only. Applicable on vehicles purchased for personal use. Images shown are for illustrative purpose only. Specification may vary as per the model variant. #Whichever is earlier. To know more, please visit the CHANGAN Showroom.

Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment LLC

800 50800
9662 8909

800 50800
9662 8909
@ changanoman
www.changanoman.com

Showrooms:
Qurum 94641010, Mawaleh 97888180, Nizwa 96628940
Sohar 95351200, Salalah 96629050, Ibri 96628930,
Barka 96629010, Sur 96628920

From Twilight to Tomorrow, Beneath the Fireworks

As midnight nears, toast the grand countdown beneath dazzling fireworks.

Zuka invites you to savour a curated Mediterranean menu featuring the finest local seafood, dining al fresco as the night sky dazzles in welcome of 2026.

31 December 2025 | From 20:30 onwards
OMR 110 per person
Zuka

For more information, call +968 7199 7759
or message us on WhatsApp at +968 7199 7749.

JUMEIRAH
MUSCAT BAY



Elite runners to participate in Oman Desert Marathon 2026



This exceptional event combines the spirit of athletic challenge with the beauty of the Omani desert landscape, attracting professional and amateur runners from different parts of the world



BIDIYAH: The 11th edition of the Oman Desert Marathon is set to launch on 10 January 2026. The event will be held in the golden sands of the Wilayat of Bidiyah in the North Al Sharqiyah Governorate and will continue for five days, featuring elite runners from various countries around the world.

Said Mohammed Al Hajri, General Supervisor of Oman Desert Marathon and Chairman of Oman Athletics Association, stated to Oman News Agency (ONA) that the Sultanate of Oman is preparing to host one of the most prominent global sporting events at the beginning of 2026 by organising Oman Desert Marathon.

This exceptional event combines the spirit of athletic challenge with the beauty of the Omani desert landscape, attracting professional and amateur runners from different parts of the world.

He added that Oman Desert Marathon is the first event in the Middle East to obtain this unique accreditation.

The global organisation “SheRACES” works to achieve parity by supporting organisers in providing a fair and inclusive sporting environment. He noted that the accreditation certificate confirms the marathon’s commitment to providing an experience where everyone feels supported throughout the race competitions.

He explained that Oman Desert Marathon presents a unique test for runners, as temperatures vary between day and night, and the terrain shifts between soft sands, high dunes, and open tracks. This adds an adventurous dimension that enhances the race’s uniqueness and places it among the world’s most promi-



nent desert races.

Said Al Hajri emphasised that the marathon seeks to achieve several goals, most notably promoting sports tourism, boosting the local economy, highlighting the beauty of the Omani desert environment and its rich natural diversity, and establishing the concept of sport as a healthy and sustainable lifestyle within the community.

He noted that the marathon is expected to witness wide international participation from dozens of countries, serving as a platform for the convergence of different cultures, the exchange of sporting experiences, and enhancing the global presence of the Sultanate of Oman on the map of sport and adventure.

He pointed out that the marathon will start from Al Wasil Village in the Wilayat of Bidiyah, North Al Sharqiyah Governorate.

Participants will traverse varied desert routes extending through the sands of Al Sharqiyah dunes before concluding the journey on the shores of the Arabian Sea at Qahid Village in the Wilayat of Ja’alan Bani Bu Hassan, South Al Sharqiyah Governorate.

He added that the main course length is 165 kilometres for desert running, in addition to a 100-kilometre desert walking course, distributed over five stages, representing a true challenge to test physical ability and mental endurance.

He stated that the global event in its eleventh edition is held amidst exceptional winter weather as part of the “North Al Sharqiyah Winter Festival” activities.

It is not limited to long-distance races only but includes an integrated me suitable for all ages and abilities. This includes a 2-kilometre race for children, a 5-kilometre race for youth and families, a 10-kilometre cross-country race, a half marathon of 21 kilometres, and a full marathon of 42 kilometrtrs for professionals and amateurs.

He furthered that this diversity reflects the organisers’ keenness to make the marathon a community sports festival, opening the door to broad and anticipated participation, especially as these races in past editions have seen significant turnout from participants of both genders and various nationalities from within and outside the Sultanate of Oman.

It is worth noting that Oman Desert Marathon 2026 represents more than just a sporting race; it is a global message reflecting the Sultanate of Oman’s ability to organise major international events and affirms its position as a leading destination for desert sports and adventures.

It is where physical challenge meets the spirit of discovery in the heart of the Omani desert, especially with the marathon having gained international recognition.



Nama implements strategic project for purification of Wadi Dayqah Dam water

The Wadi Dayqah Dam stands out as one of the Sultanate of Oman's vital projects that have a development impact

QURIYAT: Nama Water Services company is engaged in building a water purification plant of Wadi Dayqah Dam in the Wilayat of Quriyat.

The Wadi Dayqah Dam stands out as one of the Sultanate of Oman's vital projects that have a developmental impact.

It serves as one of the basic pillars for diversifying sources of water production and raising the readiness of the supply system during emergency situations.

Eng. Nadia Juma Al Balushi, Director of projects on partnership with the private sector at Nama Water, said that progress rate in the first phase of the project has so far stood at 20 percent, which covers design and planning works.

She pointed out that the second phase, set to begin in January 2026, represents the practical implementation stage and consti-



tutes 80 percent of the total tasks of the project.

The project is scheduled to be completed in accordance with the approved timetable in March 2027, she said. Eng. Nadia said that the project is being implemented through a strategic partnership with the private sector within the context of a "build-own-and-operate system" for a period of 20 years.

The plant's production capacity will stand at 65,000 cubic metres per day.

This will enhance the flexibility of the water system and augment the reliability of the water supply chain, other stations, enabling it to operate as a support tributary dur-



ing crises and exceptional circumstances, ensuring the sustainability and continuity of water service, and enhancing the efficiency of the main water transmission network.

Nadia Al Balushi explained that the project comes as a direct response to the rapid growth in demand for water, in light of urban expansion and the growing number of subscribers.

It also constitutes a sustainable investment in natural resources, and embodies Namaa Water Services' approach towards the optimal exploitation of dam water and natural resources, reducing pressure on desalination plants, and achieving long-term sustainability

of water supply.

She added that the project contributes to enhancing local added value by providing more than 100 indirect job opportunities during the construction and operation phases, and providing a community contribution of OMR100,000 to the state of Quriyat, in addition to raising the rates of Omanisation in direct operational jobs, while giving priority to employment for the sons of the state.

She explained that the Wadi Dayqah Dam water purification plant represents a pivotal addition to the water infrastructure in Muscat Governorate, and will work to diversify water production

sources and strengthen supplies in case desalination plants are affected by marine conditions, such as cyclones and green and red tide phenomena.

She added that the project is one of the first of its kind in the region, and includes the establishment of an integrated water purification system for the dam, in addition to the establishment of a 7-kilometre water transmission line from the dam to the purification station, as well as the establishment of a collection tank with a storage capacity of 20,000 cubic metres, connected to the main water transmission network in the Muscat Governorate. -OMA

BFHI

Health ministry launches guide for medicare



MUSCAT: The Ministry of Health on Sunday launched the National Guide for the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) in primary healthcare institutions.

The launch of this national guide for primary healthcare represents the second phase of the programme.

It aims to ensure the continuity of breastfeeding support from the hospital to the community and to enhance integration across various healthcare levels, which positively impacts the health indicators of both mothers and children.

This initiative embodies the Ministry of Health's commitment to the continuous development of national programmes concerning maternal and child health.

It fosters a healthy environment supportive of breastfeeding, contributing to an improved quality of life and the achievement of sustainable health development goals in the Sultanate of Oman.

Dr. Sami bin Suleiman Al Farsi, Director of the Maternal and Child Health Center at the Ministry of Health, emphasized in his speech that breastfeeding is the cornerstone of a child's health from the first moments of life.

He highlighted its role in boosting immunity, supporting healthy growth, and preventing numerous diseases, as well as its positive impact on the mother's physical and mental health.

He noted that primary healthcare institutions serve as the first line of defense in providing awareness, counseling, and continuous support to mothers and families.

He explained that this national guide serves as a unified scientific and practical reference.

It helps enhance the efficiency of health cadres, standardises professional practices, and ensures the provision of

breastfeeding support services according to best practices and international standards, achieving continuity of care from pregnancy through childbirth and into the community.

This step is an extension of the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative, a global initiative launched by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in 1991 to protect, promote, and support breastfeeding. Oman was among the first countries to adopt this initiative in 1992; at that time, all of its hospitals received international accreditation and maintained that status until 1999.

As part of efforts to revitalise the initiative, the Department of Nutrition implemented a comprehensive national plan to reactivate it in two phases

Phase One (2020-2023) targeted hospitals and included the launch of the initiative's first national policy. It involved field visits to all hospitals in Oman to introduce the initiative and monitor challenges.

A central national team received specialised training supported by UNICEF in 2022 to evaluate institutions using an approved methodology, resulting in several hospitals achieving "Baby-Friendly" status.

Phase Two focuses on primary healthcare to ensure community integration.

Coinciding with the release, the Ministry organised an in-person training workshop with approximately 170 healthcare workers.

The workshop aimed to explain the clauses of the national guide, discuss anticipated implementation challenges, clarify assessment mechanisms for accreditation according to international standards, and review tools for measuring the knowledge efficiency of health workers in breastfeeding support. -OMA

CDAA

Woman hiker rescued from Wadi Shab

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Rescue teams from the Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority (CDAA) in the South Al Sharqiyah Governorate responded to an incident involving a woman who fell while hiking in Wadi Shab.

The CDAA teams were able to reach the injured woman, provide her with emergency medical care at the site, and transported her to the hospital to receive the necessary treatment.

Three arrested

The Directorate General of Criminal Investigations and Research arrested three persons for entering into the residence of an expatriate posing as police officers.

They ordered him to hand over his personal documents and money in possession.

VACATION PLAN

Holiday announcement draws positive reactions

<FROM A1 According to the Ministry of Labour, the early announcement enables units of the state administrative apparatus and private-sector institutions to organise their daily, quarterly and annual work schedules, programmes and timelines more efficiently, while also reducing conflicts with local and international events. The decision has drawn positive reac-

tions from across Oman.

Manoj Didwania, a business owner in Muscat, said the move would ease operational planning. "Knowing the holiday dates well in advance helps us plan staffing, deliveries and client commitments. It reduces uncertainty and last-minute disruptions," he said.

In Sohar, industrial sector representatives said the clarity would benefit factories operating on shift



The programme features cultural, social and interactive activities that respond to the aspirations of the public, enrich the experiences of visitors and investors and stimulate economic

activities in a manner that offers opportunities for small and medium enterprises and enhances Muscat Governorate's position as a leading destination for national events. -OMA

10TH MEETING

Municipal Council reviews events for Muscat Nights

MUSCAT: The Municipal Council of Governorate of Muscat on Sunday held its 10th meeting in 2025 under the auspices of Sayyid Saud bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Governor of Muscat, Chairman of the Municipal Council. The meeting was attended by the Chairman of Muscat Municipality.

The meeting dealt with "Muscat Nights 2026" as an added value to the urban and economic environment and as a programme that enhances the governorate's approaches towards promoting tourism and cultural activity, generating developmental and optimising the use of public spaces in the governorate.

"Muscat Nights 2026", scheduled to take place from 1 to 31 January, will be held in key locations in the Governorate of Muscat. The festival will comprise a wide range of innovative events.

activities in a manner that offers opportunities for small and medium enterprises and enhances Muscat Governorate's position as a leading destination for national events. -OMA



INDIAN SCHOOL DARSAIT
(Affiliated to CBSE, New Delhi, India) P.O. Box 1551, P.C. 114,
Sultanate of Oman, Tel: 24786693, 24783995
Email: office@isdoman.com Website: www.isdoman.com



TENDER NOTICE
REF: ISD/ADMIN/TENDER/2025-26/004
Indian School Darsait is seeking bids from specialised firms who are having experience in the supply of the following services:

Sl No	Name of Tender	Tender No
1	Supply & Installation of Server	ISD/ADM/T- 004A
2	Supply & Installation of UPS	ISD/ADM/T- 004B
3	Supply & Installation of CCTV Cameras for Senior School Classrooms	ISD/ADM/T- 004C
4	Supply & Installation of CCTV Cameras for Primary School Classrooms	ISD/ADM/T- 004D
5	Upgradation of existing CCTV Camera System for Senior School	ISD/ADM/T- 004E
6	Supply of Office Stationary	ISD/ADM/T- 004F

Interested parties shall collect the Tender documents from the school admin office against the payment of **RO 10/-** each as a non-refundable Tender fee from **29 December 2025 to 08 January 2026** during the working days (**Sunday to Thursday**) of the school between **07:30 a.m. and 02:00 p.m.**
The completed Tender shall be dropped in the Tender Box kept in the school office on or before **15 January 2026** by **4.00 p.m.**
The school reserves the right to reject any tender without providing any reason and does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.
The Tender document should be submitted in a sealed envelope, addressed to **The Head Purchase Subcommittee, Indian School Darsait, PO Box 1551, PC114, Darsait, Muscat.**

Principal



INDIAN SCHOOL MULADHA
(Affiliated to the CBSE, New Delhi, No. 6130007)
P.O. 42, P.C. 314, Al Muladha, Sultanate of Oman
Ph. 26811234 / 26811184, Email: ismloman@gmail.com

Ref : ISML/TA/2025-26/006

TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	Description
1	Students' School Uniforms (Class I to XII)

- Contact **School Office** for detailed specifications and tender conditions.
Timings: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on working days.
- Sealed quotations may be submitted to School office.
- Last date of tender submission – **07th January 2026**, before **2.00 p.m.**

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

MUSCAT GOVERNORATE

Strengthening health information systems

MUSCAT: A national workshop titled “The Participatory Approach in Health Service Planning” was held on Sunday in Muscat Governorate.

Organised by the Ministry of Health, the event was held under the auspices of Eng. Masoud Said Al Hashimi, Governor of South Al Batinah, in the presence of Dr. Ahmed Salim Al Mandhari, Undersecretary of the Ministry of

Health for Health Planning and Regulation.

The workshop saw the participation of 70 individuals, including Directors General and their representatives from the offices of the Governors, as well as several department directors and heads of planning sections from the Health Planning and Regulation departments across various governorates of the Sultanate of Oman.

A key highlight of the event was the inauguration of the National Guide for Health Service Planning Methodology.

This guide marks the beginning of a new phase of organised institutional work, requiring a commitment to the methodologies and standards outlined within it.

It focuses on building national capacities in analysis, planning, and evaluation, while strengthening

health information systems to ensure this theoretical framework translates into a tangible impact on human health and well-being.

The workshop aimed to foster dialogue and the exchange of expertise to deepen a shared understanding of health service planning methodology.

It also sought to clarify implementation mechanisms and review roles. -ONA



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

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

EDITORIAL: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24813153, E-mail: editor@timesofoman.com
ADVERTISING: Telephone: 22009004, E-mail: amcoman@choueirigroup.com
CIRCULATION: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24818270, E-mail: circulation@timesofoman.com

IN NORTH AL SHARQIYAH

Investment opportunities in marble sector announced

MUSCAT: As part of its ongoing efforts to enhance the attractiveness of the mining sector, the Ministry of Energy and Minerals has offered some public minerals areas for investment by local and international companies, in North Al Sharqiyah Governorate, from 28 December 2025 to 28 April 2026.

The step was in implementation of plans to provide quality investment based on geological and economic resources/principles.

The offering covers two public sites in North Al Sharqiyah Governorate. The first covers approximately 1.33 square kilometres and the second area covers approximately 1.22 square kilometres.

Initial geological indicators of the two zones show the presence of dark marble deposits with investment potential. This reflects promising opportunities to develop mining projects that contribute to supporting economic



activity in the minerals sector.

Omani marble exports are mainly go to GCC states, India and South Korea, while at the same time adhering to the policy of restricting the export of raw materials.

Within the context of promoting quality investment opportunities, the Ministry continues to

offer a number of mining sites through “Taqah” digital platform which is dedicated to showcasing building materials, targeting Omani companies and local and international investors. These include the black marble ore site in the Wilayat of Dima W’Attayeen in North Al Sharqiyah Governorate. -ONA

SOCIAL COHESION

Efforts dedicated to children protection, support discussed

MUSCAT: The National Committee for Family Affairs held its second meeting of 2025 on Sunday, chaired by Dr. Laila Ahmed Al Najjar, Minister of Social Development and Chairperson of the Committee.

The meeting focused on the stability of the Omani family and the enhancement of social cohesion.

During the session, the Committee discussed national efforts dedicated to child protection and the support of relevant legislative frameworks.

These efforts aim to provide a safe and supportive environment for child development while protecting them from various risks.

The Committee reviewed several initiatives designed to strengthen community prevention, including plans to prepare integrated national programmes focused on protecting children from the risks of unsafe use of social media and technology and raising awareness



MEETING: The Committee discussed national efforts dedicated to child protection and the support of relevant legislative frameworks.

regarding the dangers of e-cigarettes within the community and the school environment.

Furthermore, the Committee discussed its annual plan to develop and qualify the skills of the multi-disciplinary expert team for

family criminal cases.

This team, comprised of representatives from various relevant authorities, aims to enhance professional efficiency and enable members to perform their duties effectively. -ONA

Riyada launches executive plan for SME sector

The plan aims to establish a motivating and sustainable business environment that contributes to raising the competitiveness of SMEs, enhancing their contribution to the gross domestic product



Year Plan.

The plan aims to establish a motivating and sustainable business environment that contributes to raising the competitiveness of SMEs, enhancing their contribution to the gross domestic product (GDP) and opening up vistas for SMEs to access local, regional and global markets. It also supports innovation and entrepreneurship and enhances the transition towards knowledge economy.

The plan stems from a number of key strategic pillars, most notably market access and value chains, financing and investment and in-country value (ICV). These pillars, developed using a participatory methodology with contributions from government and private establishments, were

also based on benchmarking and international best practices.

The plan includes a set of quality programmes and initiatives targeting different stages of growth of SMEs, including programmes to raise SMEs aptitude for expansion and export, integrated financing programmes and the development of initiatives for supporting craft industries.

Riyada affirmed that the implementation of the executive plan will contribute to enhancing the sustainability of SMEs, generating quality employment opportunities and enabling entrepreneurs to build projects that are capable of growth and expansion—thereby boosting the competitiveness of the national economy and keeping pace with the aspirations of the next phase. -ONA

LATAKIA

Three killed amid clash during protests in Syria



HOMS: Three people have been killed by security forces during protests by members of Syria’s Alawite minority in the coastal city of Latakia on Sunday, a UK-based war monitor said.

According to The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR), the three deaths came as Syrian security forces tried dispersing the protests.

Syrian authorities said they “contained the situation” but did not confirming their forces had opened fire.

Security forces reportedly tried to separate two groups of protesters that clashed with each other.

According to an AP report, pro-government demonstrators threw rocks at the Alawites, with another group hitting a counterdemonstrator. It wasn’t initially clear how many people were injured in the clashes between the two groups.

The western inland city of Homs, too, saw violent clashes, SOHR reported, with several people injured as a result.

Why did the protests erupt?

The protests came after a deadly mosque bombing took place in the Alawite area of Homs, in which eight people were killed. This was the latest attack against the community, which has been targeted by violence since the fall of former leader Bashar Assad, who is himself part of the Alawite minority.

An extremist group called Saraya Ansar al-Sunna claimed responsibility for the attack.

Syrian officials condemned the mosque attack and said those responsible will be held accountable, with no arrests being announced so far.

The protesters on Sunday responded to a call by Ghazal Ghazal, an Alawite sheikh that does not live in Syria and heads the Supreme Alawite Islamic Council in Syria and the Diaspora. -NW

GROUNDBREAKING DISCOVERY

Archaeologists in Pakistan discover well-organised ancient civilisation dating back to the sixth century BC

ISLAMABAD: Archaeologists in Pakistan stumbled on the remains of a well-organised ancient civilisation dating back to the sixth century BC.

This groundbreaking discovery was made during their excavation operations at the Bhir Mound site near the ancient city of Taxila.

According to scientists, the excavation uncovered vestiges of early urban planning, including narrow streets, residential build-

ings, wells, grain storage facilities, and tools used in daily life.

Geometric planning

They noted that the city developed organically in an irregular manner, unlike later cities characterised by geometric planning, demonstrating the foundational structure of life for the inhabitants of that era.

The city was located along major trade routes leading to Central

Asia and Afghanistan, interpreting the discovery of a wealth of unique archaeological artifacts from different epochs.

The Bhir Mound is considered the oldest settlement in the Taxila area, which was captured by Alexander the Great during his campaign in India.

The site also forms part of the Taxila Ruins, which have been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1980. -ONA



UNSC to hold urgent meeting over Israel’s recognition of Somaliland

Israel announced the recognition on Friday, just days before Somalia is set to assume the rotating presidency of the Security Council

NEW YORK: The United Nations Security Council will convene an emergency session on Monday to discuss Israel’s decision to formally recognise Somaliland, a move that has drawn sharp criticism from Somalia and other African and Arab nations.

Israel announced the recognition on Friday, just days before Somalia is set to assume the rotating presidency of the Security Council. The announcement marked the



first time a UN member state has formally recognised Somaliland, a self-declared breakaway region, the Times of Israel reported.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the decision aligns with Israel’s broader regional outreach, adding that the move is “in the spirit of the Abraham Accords.” The decision was swiftly condemned by multiple countries. In the UN Security Council, the European Union criticised Israel’s move, reaffirming its support for Somalia’s sovereignty.

“The European Union reaffirms the importance of respecting the unity, the sovereignty and the ter-

ritorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Somalia pursuant of its constitution, the Charters of the African Union and the United Nations,” Brussels said in a statement.

“This is key for the peace and stability of the entire Horn of Africa region,” the statement continued. “The EU encourages meaningful dialogue between Somaliland and the Federal Government of Somalia to resolve long-standing differences.”

Several countries and regional groupings, including Egypt, Turkey, the GCC and the Saudi-based Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, condemned Israel’s move.

The United States also distanced itself from the decision. The US State Department said on Saturday that Washington continues to recognise the territorial integrity of Somalia, “which includes the territory of Somaliland.”

Somalia reacted sharply, calling the move a direct violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Mogadishu described Israel’s decision as a “deliberate attack” on the country’s unity and warned it would not accept any action that undermines its internationally recognised borders.

Ali Omar, Somalia’s state minister for foreign affairs, said the government would use all diplomatic channels to challenge what it called an act of “state aggression” and interference in Somalia’s internal affairs.

Speaking to Al Jazeera, he said the decision directly undermined Somalia’s sovereignty and territorial integrity. “This will never be acceptable or tolerable to our government and people who are united in defending our territorial integrity,” Omar said.

“Our government strongly advises the State of Israel to rescind its divisive actions and abide by international law,” he added.

The region declared independence from Somalia in 1991 after years of civil war but has never been recognised internationally. Despite having its own government, currency, parliament and flag, Somaliland remains unrecognised by the United Nations, with Somalia maintaining that it is an inseparable part of its territory. -ANI

EYES A THIRD TERM

Central African Republic holds key elections

BERLIN: Elections were taking place in the Central African Republic (CAR) on Sunday as President Faustin-Archange Touadera eyes a third term.

Touadera, widely expected to win, has focused his campaign on security and stability in one of the world’s poorest nations, long plagued by conflict.

Over two million voters are expected to cast their ballots in the multilevel election to choose the president along with national, regional and municipal lawmakers.

Preliminary results for the elections are expected by January 5.

The opposition field includes six candidates, led by former prime ministers Anicet-Georges Dologuele and Henri-Marie Dondra.

Touadera’s allies had unsuccessfully tried to have them disqualified for allegedly holding foreign citizenship.

Touadera’s bid for a third term follows a 2023 constitutional referendum that removed the previous two-term presidential limit.

Opponents and critics say the 68-year-old wants to maintain his grip on power for life.

Touadera, a mathematician, was first elected in 2016 amid a deadly civil war.

He was reelected in 2020 even as he faced allegations of fraud and an attempt by six rebel groups to overthrow the government.

During his decade in office, Touadera has relied on Russian mercenaries and Rwandan soldiers for security support. -DW

SAFE STATE

Acting Chairman of BNP says he plans for ‘peaceful’ Bangladesh

DHAKA: Acting Chairman of Bangladesh Nationalist Party, Tarique Rahman on Saturday said that he planned to build Bangladesh as an inclusive and safe state.

Rahman expressed his gratitude for his grand welcome to his home country after 17 years of exile. “Dear friends, sisters, and brothers across Bangladesh, Last Thursday was a day I will carry in my heart forever, the day I returned to the soil of my homeland after 17 long years. The warmth of your welcome, the sea of faces along the roads of Dhaka, and the prayers of millions are moments I will never forget. My deepest thanks to all. Words cannot fully express the respect and love my family and I feel for this homecoming. To our supporters who stood by us through every trial and never lost hope, your courage continues to give me strength,” he said in a post on X.

“To members of civil society, youth, professionals, farmers, workers, and citizens from all walks of life, thank you for reminding us that the true power of Bangladesh always lies in its people, when united. I sincerely thank the media for covering this historic moment with professionalism and care, and all those who serve our nation, including those who ensured safety and calm during my return. Your service matters,” he added.

Rahman further appreciated



the political parties that welcomed him. “I also wish to acknowledge and thank leaders of other political parties and movements who welcomed my homecoming. I appreciate the thoughtful reflections that emphasised democracy, multiparty coexistence, and the enduring will of the people. I am grateful for the warm welcome and for the hope expressed for a democratic, peaceful political culture, as well as the call to move beyond politics driven by vengeance.

I take these words with humility and respect,” he said.

Rahman further said that he was in the country with a plan to build an inclusive Bangladesh.

“When I spoke yesterday, I spoke of a plan, not just a dream, for Bangladesh’s future: a country where peace and dignity thrive, where every community feels secure and valued, and where every child can grow with hope. This is a plan for all Bangladeshis. A united, inclusive Bangladesh. A

Bangladesh that moves forward together. Thank you for welcoming me home. May Allah bless Bangladesh and all of you, now and always,” he said.

On Wednesday night, the Bangladesh Airlines regular flight (BG-202) carrying Tarique Rahman departed London’s Heathrow Airport for Dhaka.

The BNP acting chairman will become a voter on December 27.

Rahman was arrested during the army-backed caretaker gov-

ernment of 2007-08. After his release, he went to London with his family and did not return to the country.

On February 8, 2018--the day Khaleda Zia was sentenced and sent to prison in the Zia Orphanage Trust case--the BNP Standing Committee meeting appointed Rahman as acting chairman of the party. For the past seven years, he has led the party from London via video calls.

After the change in power on August 5 last year, he was acquitted one by one of the cases filed during the Awami League period through legal battles, paving the way for his return to the country.

In January this year, Khaleda Zia went to London for medical treatment and met her son after a long time. After treatment, she returned to Bangladesh, but Rahman did not. Speculation arose over his return, with party leaders repeatedly citing security concerns.

BNP had earlier announced a partial list of candidates for the 13th parliamentary election, stating that Tarique Rahman would vote for the first time from Bogura-6 constituency. Following that announcement, the possibility of his return grew stronger.

Finally, on December 12, BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir announced that Rahman would return to the country on December 25. -ANI

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT

If Ukraine refuses to end things peacefully, Russia would meet the challenges with force, says Vladimir Putin

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Saturday visited a command post of the Russian Armed Forces and his remarks there that if Ukraine refuses to end things peacefully, Russia would meet the challenges with force, as reported by TASS.

RT reported that Putin said, “If Kiev does not want peace, Russia will achieve all Special Military Operation goals by military means”.

Putin said that the establishment of a buffer zone on the Russian-Ukrainian border is proceeding well, and that Russian Armed Forces are advancing in Donbass and the Zaporozhye Region along the entire line of engagement.

Putin made the remarks after his meeting with Chief of the General Staff Valery Gerasimov and the commanders of the battle groups. He also heard on the liberation of Gulyaipole in the Zaporozhye Region and Dimitrov in the Donetsk People’s Republic (DPR) as per TASS.

It further reported that the remarks by the head of state and the

Chief of the General Staff highlighted that the regime leaders in Kiev are in “no hurry” to resolve the conflict peacefully.

His remarks came as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy reiterated that the territories which Russia occupied during the four-year-long running war and the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) are “red lines” for Ukraine, emphasising that any sensitive decisions would require consultation with the Ukrainian people through a referendum or legislative changes, ahead of his meeting with US President Donald Trump in Florida on Sunday.

In a series of posts on X, Zelenskyy, while en route to the US, said that Ukraine aims to minimise unresolved issues in any future settlement but underscored that questions related to territory, the Zaporizhzhia NPP, and national sovereignty remain highly sensitive.

He emphasised that strong security guarantees are Ukraine’s top priority in any peace process. -ANI

Zelenskyy calls Putin ‘a man of war’ after Russia’s attack on Kyiv

NOVA SCOTIA: After Russia unleashed a fresh wave of strikes on Kyiv and nearby regions, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has called Russian leader Vladimir Putin a “man of war.”

Speaking in Halifax, Nova Scotia, alongside Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, Zelensky linked the prolonged assault to Russia’s intentions, a day before his meeting with US President Donald Trump in Florida.

“We want peace,” Zelensky said. “And he’s a man of war.”

Zelensky made a stop in Canada as he prepared for talks with Trump on Sunday in Florida, where he is expected to present a 20-point peace plan aimed at ending the nearly four-year-long conflict. Trump



has earlier stated that any peace proposal would require his “approval.”

During his stopover, Zelensky held discussions with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, as well as leaders from NATO and the European Union.

He urged strong positions on both the battlefield and the dip-

lomatic front to stop Russian President Vladimir Putin from manipulating and evading a real and just end to the war.”

Following the meetings, Zelensky wrote in a post on X, “Strong positions are needed both at the front and in diplomacy to prevent Putin from manipulating and evading a real and just end to the war. The world has sufficient strength to guarantee security and peace.”

The remarks came hours after Russia launched one of its largest aerial assaults on Ukraine’s capital, Kyiv, and surrounding regions, killing at least two people and injuring four others.

Zelensky alleged that Russia fired more than 500 drones and over 40 missiles during the attack. According to CNN,

the assault lasted more than 10 hours, disrupting daily life in Kyiv and causing widespread power outages that lasted for several hours.

In a post on X, Zelensky said, “Another Russian attack is still ongoing: since last night, there have been almost 500 drones - a large number of ‘shaheds’ - as well as 40 missiles, including Kinzhals. The primary target is Kyiv - energy facilities and civilian infrastructure. Regrettably, there have been hits, and ordinary residential buildings have been damaged. Rescuers are searching for a person trapped under the rubble of one of them. In some districts of the capital and the region, electricity and heating are currently unavailable. Firefighting efforts are underway.” -DW

SPORTS

Big names miss out as Pakistan announce squad for Sri Lanka

Azam, Afridi, Rauf and Rizwan will be missing when Pakistan's T20 World Cup preparations go up a notch during the T20I series next month



LAHORE: A host of key players have missed selection as Pakistan announced their T20I squad for next month's three-match series in Sri Lanka in January.

Babar Azam, Shaheen Afridi, Haris Rauf and Mohammad Rizwan will skip the series as they feature in Australia's domestic

Big Bash League, with uncapped keeper-batter Khawaja Nafay winning a maiden call-up as part of the 15-player squad.

Nafay joins returning all-rounder Shadab Khan and skipper Salman Ali Agha in a new-look squad that Pakistan will use to

finalise their playing group for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup that commences on February 7.

Pakistan are drawn in Group B for the upcoming T20 World Cup and will play against India, Namibia, Netherlands and USA during the first round of the event

Prior to his appearance for Sydney Thunder in the ongoing BBL in Australia, Shadab was last in action in June this year, when he played in the T20I series at home against Bangladesh.

Pakistan won that series 3-0 with Shadab picking up four wickets and scoring 55 runs.

He subsequently underwent surgery to address a recurring issue in his right shoulder and returned to competitive cricket only on December 16, at the BBL, after a period of rehabilitation.

Nafay, 23, was in action in the Abu Dhabi T10 recently, and has been part of the Pakistan Shaheens squad. Nafay has featured in 32 T20 matches, scoring 688 runs at a strike rate of 132.81.

While BBL's Pakistani participants - Afridi, Azam, Rizwan, Rauf and Hasan Ali - have almost entirely been spared, Pakistan have called up several players taking part in the ongoing Bangladesh Premier League (BPL).

Nafay, Abrar Ahmed, Mohammad Nawaz, Sahibzada Farhan and

Usman Khan are currently playing in the BPL, which clashes with the three-match series. They will leave their respective BPL sides to link up with the squad in Sri Lanka.

When announced, this series was viewed as a way to fine tune preparations ahead of the T20 World Cup.

World Cup squad

A statement on the PCB website declared that the "series would provide Pakistan an opportunity to finalise their squad" ahead of the World Cup.

However, with the exclusion of some players whose place in the World Cup is largely guaranteed, it represents a chance for a number of new players to stake a claim in the medium term.

Top-order batter Abdul Samad has been knocking on the door of the national side for the best part of a year and, alongside Nafay, offers Pakistan further top-order depth in an already crowded field of players vying for a spot in the top four. Fast bowler Salman Mirza

had begun to establish a first-team slot for himself at the back end of last year, playing most recently in Pakistan's tri-series final win over Sri Lanka.

In the absence of either Afridi or Rauf, he will, alongside Naseem Shah, be the leader of Pakistan's seam attack in Sri Lanka, likely vying for a fast-bowling slot at the World Cup alongside Mohammad Wasim, Naseem and Rauf.

Pakistan have one other series before the World Cup begins, three home matches against Australia at the end of January.

Pakistan squad: Salman Agha (capt), Abdul Samad, Abrar Ahmed, Faheem Ashraf, Fakhar Zaman, Khawaja Nafay (wk), Mohammad Nawaz, Salman Mirza, Mohammad Wasim, Naseem Shah, Sahibzada Farhan (wk), Saim Ayub, Shadab Khan, Usman Khan (wk), Usman Tariq.

T20I series:

January 7: 1st T20I, Jan 9: 2nd T20I, Jan 11: 3rd T20I. (All matches in Dambulla). - Agencies

AUSTRALIAN PACERS

Ex-England batter and ECB boss Morris dies

LONDON: Hugh Morris, the former England and Glamorgan batter and England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) chief executive, has died at the age of 62 on Sunday.

He was diagnosed with bowel cancer in January 2022 and, having returned to work later that year, he left his role as Glamorgan chief executive in September 2023 to spend time with his family as he underwent treatment. A prolific opening batter, Morris had two spells as Glamorgan captain and led the county to the Sunday League title in 1993.

He also won three full England caps and captained England A on tours of South Africa, West Indies and Sri Lanka.

After retiring, the Welshman spent 16 years in various



senior roles at the ECB.

As chief executive, he oversaw a highly successful period for the England men's Test team, who won three consecutive Ashes series.

Morris returned to Wales as Glamorgan's chief executive and spent nine years at his home county. He was appointed MBE in 2022 for services to cricket and charity and, in September 2024, Morris was inducted into the Welsh Sports Hall of Fame. - Agencies

Lee credits Lillee after induction to Hall of Fame

MELBOURNE: Brett Lee credits fellow fast-bowling legend Dennis Lillee with setting him on the path to greatness in a career that has led to his induction into the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame.

Lee, renowned for his express pace, first set his sights on crashing through the 160kph/100mph barrier and wearing the baggy green, when he was nine years old. But it was as a teenager that Lee had his first encounter with Lillee at a fast-bowling camp.

"You're the quickest here, but if you don't change your [bowling] action, in two years I reckon you'll have a broken back," Lee, now 49, recalls Lillee saying.

At the time, Lee ignored the advice. "When you're 16 you think you're invincible, and two years later I broke my back," he said.

Crickets Australia (CA), then known as the Australian Cricket Board, was desperate to nurture Lee's talent and flew him to Perth to work with Lillee.

"Throughout my whole career



he's been incredible in modifying my action, changing my action and allowing me to play - I wouldn't say pain-free - but to get to the speeds I did," Lee said.

Lee went on to become one of the quickest and most feared bowlers in cricket history, claiming 310 wickets in 76 Tests during one of Australia's most formidable fast-bowling eras.

He was also one of the nation's greatest limited-overs bowlers, taking 380 wickets in 221 ODIs and 28 wickets in 25 T20Is over an international career that spanned 1999-2012. One of three brothers, Lee recalls he couldn't bat or bowl leg-spin as a kid, and always dreamed of bowling fast.

He treated the 160kph mark like runners did the four-minute mile,

idolising the likes of Lillee and Jeff Thomson. Lee's fastest delivery in international cricket was clocked at 161.1kph - among the fastest balls ever bowled.

"I wanted to bowl quick and to have that thrill of being able to run in and see the stumps fly, it became this obsession," Lee said. "That's what I wanted to do. I think back to the age of nine or 10 and I wanted to break that 160kph barrier."

"Jeff Thomson was a guy I looked up to through the 70s and 80s and 160.45kph was his record. I thought, 'I want to have a crack at that one day' - and I was lucky to achieve it."

Lee was a key figure in an era of Australian dominance, contributing to ODI World Cup titles in 2003 and 2007, as well as multiple Ashes campaigns. Fittingly, he was unveiled as a Hall of Fame inductee on Sunday at the foot of Lillee's statue outside the MCG, after a Boxing Day Test that was dominated by bowlers. - Agencies

Performance Meets Price

Ford Year-End Power Deals.

2025

56

Raffle Draw[#]

Test Drive⁷ and Win⁷

iPhone 17

5-Year/100,000 km Service^{**}

5-Year/100,000 km Manufacturer's Warranty[@]

Complimentary Registration^{***}

Complimentary Accessories[®]

Campaign Period: 23 November 2025 to 31 December 2025 on Ford models (Territory, Taurus, Everest, Mustang, Expedition, Explorer, Bronco, Ranger and F-150) except Transit & Super Duty. Benefits applicable for all purchases except Government Organizations & Ministries, taxi, rent-a-car, driving school usage, companies or any form of commercial usage. ^{**}5 Years / 100,000 Kms Service (whichever is earlier except Transit & Super Duty) covering 10 services at 10,000 Kms service interval based on normal operating conditions for Territory, Taurus, Everest, Mustang, Expedition, Explorer, Bronco, Ranger and F-150. ^{***}Free 1 year Registration on all models for private vehicles only, except Transit & Super Duty. [@] 5 Years / 100,000 Kms (whichever is earlier) Manufacturer's Warranty on all models. ⁷Free Accessories on Territory, Taurus, Everest, Mustang, Expedition, Explorer, Bronco, Ranger and F-150. (Excluding Transit & Super Duty) [#]Test Drive and Win (Raffle Draw): 7 iPhone 17 on Territory, Taurus, Everest, Mustang, Expedition, Explorer, Bronco, Ranger and F-150. (Excluding Transit & Super Duty). Raffle Draw will be conducted on 20 January 2026. Vehicles may include dealer-installed items. For further details & to ascertain availability of stocks, please visit your nearest Ford showroom. Pictures and colours shown above are for illustrative purposes only. Campaign will not be applicable for ministry and government deals/supplies.

Like on on

www.fordoman.com

For enquiries visit our showrooms / get in touch with us today:

MUSCAT-98240776/98959452, MAWALEH-99385022, SOHAR-91107931, SALALAH-93220476

Arabian Car Marketing Co. LLC C.R.No:1052055

Take a test drive today!

MARKET



MSX index ends lower

Takaful Oman, up 5.36%, was the top gainer while, Salalah Port Services, down 8.33%, was the top loser at the end of trading session

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 5,940.46 points, down 1.67% respectively. Prices of Muscat Finance, Sohar International Bank, OMINVEST, Oman & Emirates Investment, Bank Ni-zwa were down by 1.85%, 1.21%, 1.18%, 0.98%, 0.91% respectively. Industrial Index closed at 7,809.41 points, up 0.42%. Prices of Oman Cables Industry, Voltamp Energy, A'Saffa Foods, Al Anwar Ceramics were up by 1.78%, 1.78%, 1.60%, 1.13% respectively. Prices of Barka Desalination, National Gas, Al Jazeera Services, Sharqiyah Desalination, Al Batinah Power were up by 1.33%, 1.08%, 1.06%, 0.65%, 0.62% respectively. Prices of Oman Education & Training, SMN Power Holding, OQ Exploration & Production, Renaissance Services, Ooredoo were down by 3.34%, 1.76%, 0.81%, 0.62%, 0.34% respectively. – **United Securities**

up by 5.36%, 3.45%, 2.11%, 2.03%, 1.67% respectively. Prices of Muscat Finance, Sohar International Bank, OMINVEST, Oman & Emirates Investment, Bank Ni-zwa were down by 1.85%, 1.21%, 1.18%, 0.98%, 0.91% respectively. Industrial Index closed at 7,809.41 points, up 0.42%. Prices of Oman Cables Industry, Voltamp Energy, A'Saffa Foods, Al Anwar Ceramics were up by 1.78%, 1.78%, 1.60%, 1.13% respectively. Prices of Barka Desalination, National Gas, Al Jazeera Services, Sharqiyah Desalination, Al Batinah Power were up by 1.33%, 1.08%, 1.06%, 0.65%, 0.62% respectively. Prices of Oman Education & Training, SMN Power Holding, OQ Exploration & Production, Renaissance Services, Ooredoo were down by 3.34%, 1.76%, 0.81%, 0.62%, 0.34% respectively. – **United Securities**

SILVER

Why the price of ‘poor man’s gold’ hit a record

NEW YORK: Silver has experienced a remarkable bull market, more than doubling in value from around \$30 (€24.54) per ounce at the start of the year to an all-time high of \$67.65 per ounce on December 18.

The metal traded on COMEX – the commodity division of the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) – near \$30 in January and hovered between \$37 and \$40 through the summer before breaking decisively higher in September.

Momentum then accelerated, with the strongest moves in the last three months of the year.

The more than 110% year-to-date gain represents a dramatic turnaround for the precious metal, long regarded as the poorer cousin of gold, whose price typically outpaces silver during bull markets.

Although some investors are warning of a potential short-term price correction, sentiment around silver remains bullish for next year.

Before 2025, silver had spent much of the past decade in the \$15 to \$25 range, with occasional spikes above \$30 during periods of investor enthusiasm. But it struggled to sustain upward momentum.

Even in previous peaks in 1980 and 2011, silver topped out near \$49 per ounce, far below gold's surges above \$1,900.

However, this year, gold has underperformed, rising 60% to around \$4,340 per ounce, compared with silver's more than doubling in price.

The breakout was partly fuelled by a falling US dollar and expectations of US Federal Reserve rate cuts, which make precious metals



more attractive as safe-haven assets. But far bigger factors pushed the rally higher, including tightening global supply as production struggles to keep pace with demand.

What challenges are facing silver production?

Latin America, which produces more than half of the world's silver, is facing declining output as mines age and reserves dwindle.

Mexico, responsible for 25% of the world's supply, has seen double-digit output drops in recent years.

One of the country's largest mines, San Julian, in northern Chihuahua state, is approaching end-of-life by 2027. The mine is one of operator Fresnillo's biggest operations. Its ore grades are falling and reserves are being depleted.

Meanwhile, Peru, Bolivia and Chile, which together supply nearly a third of global silver, are

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES							
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%	
MSX 30 INDEX	5,976.49	5,938.09	5,940.46	5,956.33	-15.87	-0.27	
FINANCIAL INDEX	9,991.31	9,952.94	9,955.09	9,962.44	-7.35	-0.07	
Industry Index	7,812.85	7,758.00	7,780.41	7,776.97	32.43	0.42	
Services Index	2,436.91	2,420.81	2,425.73	2,429.38	-3.65	-0.15	
MSX Shariah Index	528.49	525.49	528.11	526.24	1.87	0.36	
MSX TR INDEX	8,982.99	8,925.28	8,928.84	8,952.70	-23.86	-0.27	
FINANCIAL TR IDX	11,870.02	11,824.44	11,826.99	11,835.73	-8.74	-0.07	
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	9,632.57	9,564.94	9,628.32	9,588.34	39.99	0.42	
SERVICES TR IDX	3,177.91	3,156.92	3,163.33	3,168.09	-4.76	-0.15	
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,206.62	1,206.62	1,206.62	1,206.62	0.00	0.00	

Trading Summary							
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
138,971,821	37,840,464	4,288	32,173,970,218	21	25	24	70

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAV VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	462,923	44,359	37	0.095	0.097	0.095	0.097	0.095	0.002	2.105	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.100	16,975,000
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	995	2,559	3	2.580	2.580	2.570	2.570	2.525	0.045	1.782	2.570	2.310	2.570	0.100	230,529,000
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	11,652	12,563	11	1.050	1.050	1.050	1.050	1.070	0.019	1.776	1.089	1.060	1.089	0.100	101,944,733
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	4,925	2,463	5	0.500	0.508	0.500	0.508	0.500	0.008	1.600	0.508	0.500	0.520	0.100	10,980,000
OM0000002188	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	359,430	83,186	28	0.175	0.179	0.177	0.179	0.172	0.002	1.130	0.179	0.177	0.180	0.100	39,380,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	38,117	7,141	15	0.187	0.190	0.187	0.190	0.188	0.002	1.064	0.190	0.187	0.190	0.100	8,140,168
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	131,690	49,719	11	0.377	0.378	0.377	0.378	0.375	0.003	0.800	0.378	0.378	0.377	0.100	614,607,722
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	68,478	11,149	6	0.163	0.163	0.162	0.163	0.162	0.001	0.617	0.163	0.162	0.163	0.100	110,066,651
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	10,507	1,713	2	0.163	0.163	0.163	0.163	0.162	0.001	0.617	0.163	0.163	0.163	0.100	116,448,223
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	90,603	6,347	11	0.070	0.071	0.069	0.070	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.100	24,928,911
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	8,148,493	1,795,852	472	0.198	0.198	0.198	0.198	0.196	0.000	0.000	0.198	0.198	0.196	0.100	848,802,288
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	4,083,131	4,305,793	107	1.055	1.056	1.053	1.053	1.056	-0.003	0.284	1.053	1.053	1.054	0.100	788,750,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	42,310,279	14,490,433	819	0.341	0.345	0.340	0.340	0.341	-0.001	-0.293	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.100	2,552,175,001
OM0000008854	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	2,265,845	770,459	499	0.341	0.341	0.338	0.339	0.340	-0.001	-0.294	0.339	0.338	0.339	0.100	261,097,800
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	1,558,265	451,743	45	0.291	0.292	0.287	0.290	0.291	-0.001	-0.344	0.290	0.287	0.290	0.100	188,738,867
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	526,712	108,503	4	0.206	0.206	0.206	0.206	0.207	-0.001	-0.483	0.206	0.214	0.218	0.100	41,200,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	96,798	31,284	15	0.325	0.325	0.323	0.323	0.325	-0.002	-0.615	0.323	0.323	0.328	0.100	76,390,430
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	634,192	196,646	17	0.310	0.314	0.308	0.308	0.310	-0.002	-0.645	0.308	0.308	0.308	0.100	30,380,000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	684,795	74,882	27	0.109	0.111	0.109	0.109	0.110	-0.001	-0.509	0.109	0.108	0.109	0.100	243,827,880
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	18,588	6,250	5	0.336	0.337	0.336	0.336	0.340	-0.004	-1.176	0.336	0.335	0.336	0.100	314,399,096
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	29,614,124	4,872,368	462	0.165	0.166	0.163	0.163	0.165	-0.002	-1.212	0.163	0.163	0.166	0.100	1,078,611,142
Total		92,112,320	27,304,516	2,599												
Parallel Market																
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	314,798	18,389	44	0.055	0.060	0.055	0.059	0.056	0.003	5.357	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.100	14,750,000
OM0000007043	LIVA GROUP	60,950	18,031	14	0.290	0.300	0.290	0.300	0.290	0.010	3.448	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.100	119,512,303
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFA	1,888,888	253,450	467	0.149	0.151	0.148	0.151	0.148	0.003	2.027	0.151	0.148	0.151	0.100	459,008,978
OM0000001384	FINANCIAL SERVICES	62,601	3,759	4	0.060	0.061	0.060	0.061	0.060	0.001	1.667	0.061	0.059	0.060	0.100	1,220,000
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	17,000	2,595	5	0.150	0.153	0.150	0.153	0.151	0.002	1.325	0.153	0.152	0.153	0.100	11,554,866
OM0000007910	ABMAN REAL ESTATE	5,000	386	5	0.080	0.081	0.079	0.081	0.080	0.001	1.250	0.081	0.079	0.082	0.100	16,200,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	124,545	11,598	12	0.093	0.094	0.092	0.094	0.093	0.001	1.075	0.094	0.093	0.093	0.100	7,980,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	761,842	89,136	32	0.118	0.119	0.116	0.117	0.116	0.001	0.862	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.100	34,390,693
OM0000004689	SHARQIYAH DESALINATION	1,524,474	236,232	8	0.154	0.155	0.154	0.155	0.154	0.001	0.649	0.155	0.143	0.161	0.100	15,159,325
OM0000003314	BARKA WATER AND POWER	1,300	582	3	0.180	0.180	0.178	0.178	0.175	0.001	0.571	0.178	0.180	0.180	0.100	19,180,000
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	1,530	1,111	5	0.725	0.729	0.725	0.729	0.725	0.004	0.552	0.729	0.725	0.729	0.100	69,255,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INV	61,000	9,088	10	0.149	0.150	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.000	0.140	0.147	0.144	0.148	0.100	22,060,000
OM0000001388	CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL INDUSTRIES	200	15	1	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.000	0.000	0.074	0.074	0.075	0.100	4,825,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	10,000	4,950	1	0.495	0.495	0.495	0.495	0.495	0.000	0.000	0.495	0.494	0.501	0.100	163,781,991
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FINANCIAL SERVICES	10,000	1,400	1	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.000	0.000	0.140	0.139	0.154	0.100	44,158,380
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	3,000	558	1	0.186	0.186	0.186	0.186	0.186	0.000	0.000	0.186	0.186	0.186	0.100	503,464,860
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	1,000	1,622	4	0.323	0.323	0.323	0.323	0.323	0.000	0.000	0.323	0.300	0.335	0.100	1,782,353
OM0000003000	ALMAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	190	199	1	1.048	1.048	1.048	1.048	1.048	0.000	0.000	1.048	0.000	1.048	0.100	72,312,000
OM0000004735	SEMBOORP SALALAH	419,187	85,276	29	0.203	0.205	0.200	0.204	0.204	0.000	0.000	0.204	0.199	0.204	0.100	194,732,678
OM0000003005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	1,622	445	2	0.274	0.275	0.274	0.275	0.275	0.000	0.000	0.275	0.275	0.275	0.100	19,577,120
OM0000005280	OMAN ARAB BANK	10,000	1,780	2	0.178	0.178	0.178	0.178	0.178	0.000	0.000	0.178	0.175	0.179	0.100	356,688,313
OM0000005983	PHOENIX POWER	651,450	100,975	12	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.000	0.000	0.155	0.152	0.155	0.100	226,703,226
OM0000007407	DHOFA GENERATING	25,880	2,286	3	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.000	0.000	0.088	0.088	0.090	0.100	19,577,120
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	24,740	2,419	5	0.097	0.098	0.097	0.098	0.098	0.000	0.000	0.098	0.097	0.098	0.100	63,561,851
OM0000001020	ASYAD SHIPPING	18,540,651	3,400,710	359	0.184	0.185	0.183	0.183	0.183	0.000	0.000	0.183	0.183	0.183	0.100	963,200,303
OM0000001509	DHOFA INTERNATIONAL DEV. & INV.	5,254	1,546	3	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.256	-0.001	-0.391	0.255	0.250	0.255	0.100	128,494,316
OM0000009908	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	10,773,400	2,048,135	368	0.191	0.191	0.189	0.189	0.190	-0.001	-0.526	0.189	0.189	0.189	0.100	653,843,771



ADVERTISE WITH US,
FIND THE RIGHT **CANDIDATES**
FOR YOUR COMPANY

CONNECT

PRINT EDITION

WWW.TIMESOFOMAN.COM
MONDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2025

PLACE YOUR
ADVT HERE

Email to : amcoman@choueirigroup.com



RENT

CARGO

VACANCY



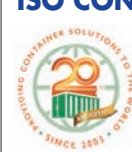
RENT OR
SALE?

PLACE YOUR
ADVT HERE

Email: amcoman@choueirigroup.com

DNV 2.7-1 OFFSHORE CONTAINERS, REEFER CONTAINER SALES & RENTALS
ISO CONTAINER SALES, CONVERSIONS & RENTALS

CONTAINER SOLUTIONS LLC
Po Box 522, Pc 322, Falaj Al Qabail, Sohar Free Zone, Oman
Tel: +968 9358 5556, +968 99508921, +968 26942610
FAX: 26942611, Email: sales@containersolutions.com.
www.containersolutions.com



For High Impact Professional

WEBSITES
GULFCYBERTECH
E-Solutions

Tel: 99818819 Email: 24130929 info@gulfcybertech.com
www.gulfcybertech.com

Oman Web Award Winner

Designing & Maintenance
E-Commerce Solns.
Domain & Hosting
Mobile Applications
Email Ads & Promotions

WJ Towell Group Company



**Quality car rentals
at competitive prices.**

Muscat 9679 0594 9679 0684 Sohar 9731 6218 9429 9325 www.orbit-oman.com

أوربيت ORBIT
Car Rental & Lease

- Fleet of 2,000 vehicles
- Choose from a wide range of brands & models
- PDO, OXY and BP spec vehicles available
- Attractive rates for short-term & long-term lease

JOB WANTED

DOCUMENT CONTROLLER

Experienced document controller seeking immediate placement in Oman. QA/QC, project coordination, skilled in EDMS, sharepoint, Aconex, and administrative support.

Contact: +971 585841339
Email: bajifazil@gmail.com

MANAGER

Finance and Accounts Manager well experienced, MBA finance with 16years experience in Oman. Looking for senior position in Accounts and finance.

Contact No. 95920740
Email ID: alhameed1527@gmail.com

MEDICAL

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

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

GENERAL MANAGER

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

Contact: 92022786 or 97403883
Email: gm.seekers.2025@gmail.com

LOOKING FOR
ARCHITECT JOB?



Send email to: amcoman@choueirigroup.com

SALE

PARTNERS IN PROGRESS **DESCON** Descon Engineering Oman LLC

Advertisement for the Sale of Scrap Material TDR#0005

Item Details	Unit of Measurement	Quantity for Sale
Steel Scrap (Used Pipes, Plates, Fittings etc.)	LOT	1
Scrap of Mix Tools Material (Hand Tools Pneumatic Tool/Power Tool/Lifting Tool/ Photocopiers/Electrical cables) 64 Items	LOT	1
Scrap of Mix Category Office Equipments (Chairs/AC/Photocopiers) 13 Items	LOT	1

Time of Tender Form collection:
Tender forms can be collected from Sohar from 28 December 2025 (Sunday) till 01 January 2026 (Thursday)
Working Hours: 8:00 AM till 05:00 PM, Working Days: Sunday to Thursday.
Tender Closing Date: 04 January 2026 (Sunday)
Note: All Material available for inspection at our warehouse, Phase 07 Sohar Industrial Area, (Near to Moon Steel).

For Enquiries & General Conditions:
Syed Bagh Ali Shah
Descon Engineering Oman LLC
Building# 389-390, Street 73, Phase 07, Sohar Industrial Area, Near Moon Steel, Sultanate of Oman
Contact Number: +968 93679207
Email ID: bagh.shah@descon.com

OUR TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- Tender Fee is OMR 30 (Non-Refundable).
- Letter of Authorization required from company for tender form issuance.
- Sealed Tender should be submitted to our Sohar Office within bid closing dates.
- Quote required for serial number wise & Lumpsum quote will not be accepted.
- All Materials & Equipment listed are as is where is condition.

JOB VACANCY

URGENTLY REQUIRED

Civil Planning Engineer, Junior Civil Quantity surveyor, Junior MEP Co-ordinator, Junior MEP Engineer, Construction Tools repairer for an reputed civil construction company.

Locally available candidates and those who are ready to join immediately are preferable.

Contact/Whatsapp: 00968-99881459

URGENTLY REQUIRED

- Urgently Required Omani with minimum 2 years experience in Media house.
- Knowledge of English both writing & speaking preferred.

Interested candidate please forward
Cv-ASamarani.OPS@ChoueiriGroup.com



LOST

SAID KHADIJA OMAR
has lost Tanzanian
passport TAE 158037.
Finder please hand
over to ROP.

**PLACE YOUR
ADVT HERE**

Send email to: amcoman@choueirigroup.com





LOOKING FOR
LOGISTIC JOB ?

Send email to:
amcoman@choueirigroup.com

SERVICE

Cleaning services & pest control specialized cleaning of buildings carpet, sofa shampooing pest control, termite treatment Painting, plumbing, electrical works manpower supply. Glow Services Trading LLC Contact: 99844284, 99450130

JOB VACANCY

ACCOUNTS

A reputed company is looking for junior accountant with 1 yr experience on latest accounting software & Oman driving license. Cont. whatsapp - 99212416

SALES/MARKETING

Urgently required Electric Engineers for sales. Please send CV to "fm@futureelectricoman.com"

Looking for Sales Partner in Oil & Gas related supplies & services. Contact : ohvacancy977@hotmail.com

Urgently required for a logistics company Business development executive (expatriate). The candidates with minimum 5 years of marketing experience in logistics familiar in imports/ exports.The candidates will be preferred having valid degree certificate in logistics field.Interested local candidates with NOC may send cv to jobsnow2015@yahoo.com

A reputed company is looking for sales executives with minimum 2 yrs experience in equipments & machinery sales, having Oman driving license. contact: whatsapp-99212416

EDUCATION/TRAINING

Teachers wanted for an IGCSE and Alevel school in sohar.Masters and bachelors degree in mathem atics,biology,physics,ICT,B.ED and O&A level teaching experience will be preferred.send CV to bangladeshschool.sohar@gmail.com/morad_086@yahoo.com

ENGINEER

Store Manager & Quality Controller with 12 yrs experience (Oman). Diploma in Warehouse & Procurement Management, B.Com graduate. Skilled in inventory, procurement, and compliance. Seeking a suitable position. Email: rajeshkumarkvtm@gmail.com Ph: +968 90218550

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Senior Accountant with 14 yrs experience (Oman & UAE) seeking suitable position in Oman. Mob:93150057

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

Indian male accountant 6+ yrs experience in Oman & India, expert in AP,AR,BRS,LC,cash flow & payroll. Currently working in Oman, available for immediate joining with local transfer. Mob: 94006534

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Indian male, Sr. Accountant (M.com & MBA finance), having 10 years of Oman experience up to finalization. valid D/L Mob : 97524285, Bobykkj@gmail.com

Accountant looking for job. Contact: 75024166

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

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

MBA Finance Senior accountant, 13-yrs GCC experience looking for a job upto finalization. Contact: 98868499

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

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

ADMINISTRATION

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

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

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

JOB WANTED

Highly skilled accounting and administrative professional with diverse experience in technical and office administration roles Contact: 90473476. Email: kpsanjay202@gmail.com

ARCHITECT

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

DRIVER

Driver with 8 yrs experience. Contact : 92392272

Driver with 25 yrs experience, PDO licence looking for job. Contact: 99116288

EDUCATION/TRAINING

Indian female, completed MCA and also having experience in teaching, available in Oman on family visa, looking for a suitable job. Contact: +91 79090343/ +968 94117967, Email: induchandran01@gmail.com

IT

Project management Indian male, PMP*, currently working as Program Manager with 9 yrs total experience in leading AI-driven digital platforms, workflow coordination and process improvement. looking for a suitable opportunity Contact: 74144323

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

ENGINEER

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

ENGINEER

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

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

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

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

LOGISTICS

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

Indian male, 23 yrs of experience in store, logistics & commercial operations, looking for a suitable job. Mob: 91425510

Indian male 23 yrs of experience in store, logistics & commercial operations, looking for a suitable job. Mob: 91425510

MANAGER

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

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

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

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

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

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

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

SALES/MARKETING

Indian male, 15+ yrs Sales exp. (IT/ Software). Open to Sales/BD roles in any industry. Valid Oman D/L. Contact: 94110178

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

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

B.com graduate with 2 years marketing experience looking for a job , contact 91447565

Indian male (35) MBA in Oman 10 yrs exp in marketing in FMCG, pharma Contact - 79755795

Snow storm blankets New York City, disrupting holiday travel

New York City received about 4 inches of snow with up to 10 inches of snow seen in other parts of the state

NEW YORK CITY: A winter snow storm spread to New York City and other parts of the US Northeast over the weekend, causing major travel headaches during the holiday season.

New York City received about 4 inches of snow on Friday night into early Saturday, with up to 10 inches of snow seen in other parts of the state.

“The good news is that the heaviest snow is done,” said Bob Oravec, a Maryland-based forecaster at the National Weather Service.

“The storm is definitely winding down, a little bit of flurries across the Northeast [on Saturday morning],” he added.

More than 1,600 flights were



cancelled nationwide on Friday and another 800 flights were cancelled on Saturday, according to air traffic tracker FlightAware.

Many more flights were delayed due to the wild weather. Most of the cancellations were flights out of New York’s John F. Kennedy and LaGuardia airports, as well

as nearby Newark airport. Additional flights were cancelled as far away as Philadelphia and Toronto.

Cities emerge from state of emergency

Ahead of the snow storm, New York Governor Kathy Hochul de-

clared a state of emergency for more than half the state.

“The safety of New Yorkers is my top priority, and I continue to urge extreme caution throughout the duration of this storm,” she said in a statement on Friday.

But as the weather cleared later on Saturday, many took to New

York’s parks to enjoy the winter wonderland, with one interstate tourist telling the Associated Press news agency that the blanketing was “absolutely beautiful.”

Acting New Jersey Governor Tahesha Way had also declared a state of emergency.

“This storm will cause danger-

ous road conditions and impact holiday travel,” she said.

“We are urging travelers to avoid travel during the storm and allow crews to tend to the roads. Drivers should plan their travel accordingly, monitor conditions and road closures, and follow all safety protocols.” -**AW**

OUTAGE



Major winter storm sweeps across Nordic countries

HELSINKI: A post-Christmas storm named Johannes swept across the Nordic nations on Saturday, leaving one person dead and thousands of homes without power.

Forecasters say the storm, which downed trees, disrupted traffic and cut overhead power lines, is moving south and is likely to peak overnight into Sunday.

Storm turns deadly in Sweden

In Sweden’s central town of Sandviken, a man died after being struck by a falling tree branch, the news agency TT reported. Police spokesperson Mats Lann told AFP news agency that the man was taken to the hospital but died from his injuries. SVT reported that the man was in his 50s and had been walking in a nature reserve near Kungsberget ski resort.

In Jarvso, a person was taken to the hospital after becoming trapped under a sheet metal roof

that had blown down, the broadcaster said. More than 40,000 homes were left without power and numerous rail services were canceled, TT reported.

Wind speeds approaching hurricane strength were recorded in parts of the country. News outlet Aftonbladet cited a forecaster as saying Johannes was now moving south and that the country would experience even stronger winds on Saturday night.

Power cut to thousands across Finland

Known as Hannes in Finland, the storm caused hazardous travel conditions with strong winds and up to seven-meter waves, the Helsinki Times reported.

More than 5,000 homes lost power in the early hours of Saturday, with electricity cut to a wider area throughout the day, the paper said. Public broadcast-

er Yle put the total number of homes without power at 33,000. Flights at Kittila airport in northern Finland were grounded after heavy winds pushed a passenger jet and a smaller plane off the runway and into a bank of snow, local media reported. There were no injuries.

Several ferry and cruise routes were suspended due to dangerous sea conditions. Local newspapers wrote that strong winds combined with snow created white-out conditions in several regions.

Northern Norway also faced disruption

In Norway’s Nordland region, emergency crews were pushed to their limits as the fire department responded to more than 200 weather-related incidents, broadcaster NKO reported.

The storm cut power to around 23,000 homes in Nordland, a sparsely populated area. -**AW**

COLLABORATION

US seeks Pakistan’s help for sale of locomotives, mineral exploration

ISLAMABAD: The current US administration under President Donald Trump has approached Pakistan to explore partnerships in the sale of American locomotives and cooperation in mineral exploration, including assessment studies and agreements aimed at accelerating extraction, The Express Tribune reported, citing claims made by sources from Pakistan’s Government.

According to The Express Tribune, sources claimed that discussions on the matter took place during Pakistan’s Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb’s visit to Washington in October, on the sidelines of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) annual meetings.

Pakistani authorities have since held internal consultations to evaluate US interest in the transport and minerals sectors.

The Express Tribune reported that the Pakistani Finance Minister held several meetings with senior US officials, including Raymond Emory Cox, Special Assistant to the US President for International Economic Relations, and Ricky Gill, Special Assistant to the US President and Senior Director for South and Central Asia, according to sources.

The sources claimed that during the meetings, Gill had requested Pakistan’s support for the purchase of American locomotives under a tender that had already been issued.

Pakistan had previously procured 55 locomotives from the United States. However, Pakistan Railways is currently facing liquidity constraints and is relying



mainly on repairs and refurbishment of its existing fleet, according to The Express Tribune.

The sources further claimed that Gill also sought favourable consideration of Starlink’s licence application to provide high-speed internet services in Pakistan, particularly in rural and remote areas, The Express Tribune reported.

The report further claimed that US officials said protecting and advancing American commercial interests was a key priority of President Trump’s administration and stressed the need for a level playing field for US companies.

They also appreciated Pakistan’s decision to withdraw a proposed 5 per cent digital services tax to facilitate a trade understanding, the sources said, as reported by The Express Tribune.

Further sources noted that US officials highlighted cooperation in critical minerals as a major priority.

The US Congress has established a USD 135 billion fund for

global investments in critical minerals, while the US Exim Bank has approved a USD 1.25 billion loan for the Reko Diq Mining Company in Balochistan, The Express Tribune reported.

In a separate meeting, Thomas Lersten, a senior official at the US State Department’s Bureau of Economic, Energy and Business Affairs, reiterated Washington’s interest in Pakistan’s critical minerals sector, sources claimed, as reported by The Express Tribune.

He proposed collaboration on reserve assessments and offtake agreements to expedite extraction and noted that artificial intelligence would be a strategic US priority.

Aurangzeb also met with Robert Kaproth, Assistant Secretary of State for International Finance, who discussed regional financial developments and outlined the US focus on private-sector digital finance solutions and cross-border digital frameworks, according to sources reported by The Express Tribune. -**ANI**

RETURN TO DEMOCRACY

Myanmar junta holds first elections since coup amid ongoing civil war

NAYPYIDAW: Nearly five years after overthrowing Myanmar’s elected government, the military junta on Sunday began polling in a tightly controlled national election. The poll marks the first nationwide election organised by the junta since it seized power in February 2021, a takeover that triggered mass protests and plunged the country into a civil war.

The military has claimed the election will pave the way for a return to democracy. However, opposition groups and human rights organisations have dismissed the vote as a move designed to legitimise continued junta rule.

The elections are happening even as Myanmar’s most popular political leader, whose government was overthrown by the military in February 2021, remains imprisoned. Her party, the National League for Democracy (NLD), has been dissolved, effectively exclud-



ing it from the political process.

According to CNN, the electoral landscape is heavily tilted in favour of the military junta, with the ballot dominated by parties aligned with or backed by the junta.

Voting began on Sunday in parts of the country and is being conducted in three phases, with additional rounds scheduled for January 11 and January 25. Authorities have not announced when the final results will be released.

Large areas of Myanmar will not participate in the election due to ongoing fighting.

Continued clashes between junta forces and a mix of ethnic armed groups and pro-democracy fighters have made voting impossible in several regions, particularly in border areas and parts of central Myanmar.

Over the past year, rebel forces have inflicted notable losses on the Junta military, briefly raising

hopes among opponents that the junta’s grip on power could weaken. Security has been tightened nationwide ahead of the three-phase vote.

Hundreds of people have been arrested under a newly enacted law that criminalises criticism of the election or efforts to disrupt the process.

The military has continued its operations against opponents even as polling takes place. The military has rejected accusations of abuse, saying it is targeting “terrorists” and maintains that the poll aims to build what it calls a disciplined multiparty democratic system.”

It has dismissed international criticism of the polls. The United States and most Western countries do not recognise the junta as Myanmar’s legitimate government. Several Asian nations, including Japan and Malaysia, have also criticised the election. -**AW**



LIFESTYLE

AVATAR: HOW THE NA’VI LANGUAGE WAS CONSTRUCTED

“It’s been quite a remarkable event in my life,” says linguist Paul Frommer, recalling his first encounter with James Cameron.

Searching for someone to develop a constructed language for a science-fiction film, the renowned director had sent an email to the linguistics department of the University of Southern California.

In his application for the job, Frommer convincingly expressed his enthusiasm for the challenge.

“Welcome aboard,” Cameron told the doctor in linguistics at the end of their first 90-minute talk in 2005.

“My life really hasn’t been the same ever since,” Frommer tells DW ahead of the release of “Avatar: Fire and Ash,” the third film of the epic franchise, 20 years later.

Creating an unusual language

Cameron’s premise for the language was that it should sound “nice” — “of course, that’s a subjective kind of thing,” says Frommer. It also had to be easy enough for actors to learn it, as it was clear from the start that there wouldn’t be any electronic manipulation of the characters’ voices.

“So the underlying assumption was that the Na’vi have a vocal production mechanism that’s essentially equivalent to ours, so they can make the sounds that we can in human language.”

Even though there are different aspects of Na’vi that can be compared to other languages, it can’t be directly linked to any single one. “I wanted to make it unusual,” says Frommer.

A language ‘on steroids’

Describing the process of developing the language, Frommer refers to the different “modules” used in linguistics — the building blocks he worked with.

First of all, at the core of a language are its phonetics and phonology, or its “sounds and the sound system,” he explains.

The sounds that are omitted from the language are just as important as the ones that are included, points out Frommer, “because that gives it its specific flavour.”

He included, for example, ejective sounds — popping sounds that can be heard in parts of Africa, Asia and Native American languages. He also included unusual combinations of consonants in the language, basically “taking familiar sounds, but putting them together in unfamiliar ways.”

Then, Frommer determined the language’s morphology, which is how words are built: “That takes a certain amount of creativity,” he says. Even though he was inspired by constructions that also exist in other human languages, he “took certain things and put them on steroids.”

For example, there are five levels of verb conjugation: the present, the immediate past, the distant past, the immediate future and the distant future.

Word order is also very flexible in sentences. The function of a word in Na’vi is not determined by its placement in a sentence, but through declension, with six different cases. The German language, by comparison, has four grammatical cases — nominative (subject), accusative (direct object), dative (indirect object) and genitive (possession).

Then there’s the whole question of coming up with the vocabulary. “That in a way is maybe the most artistic part of the process,” says the linguist. The words had to fit in the frame of the language, but the way Frommer came up with new terms was simply by “playing around with words” and seeing how they roll in the mouth.

Giving thought to each word

With each film in the franchise, new colloquialisms and dialects are developed to reflect the way the different Na’vi clans speak. The vocabulary thereby keeps expanding, and Frommer estimates there are now more than 3,000 Na’vi-language words.

With this vocabulary, Frommer explains, you can already discuss all types of human experiences in terms of relationships and

everyday activities.

Na’vi doesn’t cover technical or scientific fields, but “you can get your message across even if you don’t have a lot of nuance at this point.” By comparison, there are approximately 600,000 word forms in the Oxford English dictionary, and an educated native speaker might know around 40,000 words.

In the two decades since the first “Avatar” film was produced, AI has appeared as a powerful new tool. But even though large language models could presumably spit out countless new Na’vi words that would follow Frommer’s rules, the linguist says he’d “rather go more slowly and just give each word its own thought and make sure that it just feels right to me.”

Na’vi enthusiasts can also suggest new terms through a platform called the Lexical Expansion Project. But the linguist has the final say on new additions: “I am still the only gatekeeper.”

Finding a special community

Fans of “Star Trek” or J.R.R. Tolkien’s “Lord of the Rings” famously demonstrate their enthusiasm for these complex fictional universes by learning Klingon or Elvish, which are also constructed languages — or “conlangs.”

Similarly, there is now a community of Na’vi learners around the world, with a printed dictionary and a wealth of online resources for those who are interested in the language.

“I’m not going to tell you it’s thousands of people, but it’s a fairly decent-sized community,” says Frommer. The two countries with the strongest interest in Na’vi are the United States and Germany, he adds.

To find out what motivated these people to devote so much time and effort into learning the constructed language, a Canadian linguistic anthropologist, Christine Schreyer, researched the community of Na’vi learners.

She found that some of them are obsessed with the movie; they perhaps even wish they could visit Pandora, the films’ fictional planet. Learning the language spoken there is their way of connecting to that world.

Some are motivated by the linguistics aspect of Na’vi, since it’s an absolutely new and unusual language to learn.

Another motivational factor is that it’s comparatively easy to become one of the world’s top experts in the language.

And then, there are others who just want to use it to express their creativity.

Like so many other niche hobbies, those who learn Na’vi have created “a place where they can get together and meet other like-minded people.” Frommer is grateful for all the connections and deep friendships he has developed through this ongoing project.

Or to quote a classic Na’vi sentence, people in this community can say to each other: “Oel ngati kameie.” That means “I see you” — or more specifically, “I understand you deeply.” -DW

Very few people get to invent a new language that is heard by millions: The author speaks to linguist Paul Frommer about how he developed the “Avatar” aliens’ language

SPORTS

Arsenal regain top spot with thrilling win over Brighton



Odegaard scored his first Premiership goal of the season at the Emirates Stadium

LONDON: Martin Odegaard scored his first Premier League goal of the season as Arsenal survived a nervy finale to beat Brighton 2-1 and return to the top of the Premier League table at Emirates Stadium on Saturday.

The Gunners, who had dropped to second place after Manchester

City beat Nottingham Forest in Saturday's early match, took the lead when Bart Verbruggen's goal-kick was intercepted and Bukayo Saka teed up captain Odegaard to score from the edge of the area.

Arsenal's one-goal half-time lead did not match their first-half

dominance as they produced 15 shots, five on target, and restricted Brighton to none.

But they doubled their lead seven minutes into the second half when makeshift right-back Declan Rice's corner was flicked into his own net by Georginio Rutter, the fourth own goal that has gone Arsenal's way in their past four games.

Arsenal seemed set for a comfortable victory but Brighton pulled one back with their first shot on target when Yasin Ayari's effort bounced off the post and Diego Gomez hammered in the rebound.



Brighton manager Fabian Hurzeler had introduced winger Yankuba Minteh at half-time and his pace caused problems.

Arsenal goalkeeper David Raya had to produce a magnificent save to ensure his side took all three points when he kept out Minteh's curled effort that was heading towards the top corner.

Speaking after the win, Gunners' manager Mikel Arteta said: "Very happy with the performance, individually and collectively, so dominant. We were a big threat, so very pleased with all of that. But the margins should have been much bigger. I mean, with

the amount of situations, chances, open chances that we generated through the game, it should never be 2-1.

"But that's the Premier League, that's the step that we have to make. I think the first shot that they had, they scored the goal and then David had to make another save to maintain the result. But what I like is that we're having a lot of issues, we're dealing with it in an incredible way.

"Yesterday we lost Jurrien, today we lost Calafiori in the warm-up, Declan has to play as a full-back and you see the performance that he put in. So, that's the spirit

and that's how much our players want it."

Brighton manager Fabian Hurzeler said: "In the first half we were too passive, we weren't brave enough and didn't play with enough courage or personality," said the head coach.

"In the second half we did all that. It's about personality and courage, we showed that, but we didn't start well and weren't able to push out. It was a mix of believing in our own quality and pressing - and that's what we missed."

Other results: Brentford 4 Bournemouth 1, Burnley 0 Everton 0, West Ham United 0 Fulham 1. - Agencies

TWO-GOAL HERO



Super sub Watkins shines as Villa rally to defeat Chelsea

LONDON: Ollie Watkins emerged from the bench to spearhead a superb Aston Villa revival as they came from behind to confirm their Premier League title credentials at Chelsea with a 2-1 win on Saturday, their 11th successive win in all competitions. Chelsea deservedly led after 37 minutes when striker Joao Pedro got a vital touch in a goalmouth scramble as Villa tried to clear Reece James' corner.

Villa, seeking to equal a club record set in both September 1897 and March 1914, had been second best until manager Unai Emery made a triple substitution just before the hour, sending on Watkins, Amadou Onana and Jadon Sancho for Emiliano Buendia, John McGinn and Donyell Malen.

Emery's golden touch worked inside four minutes as Watkins raced on to Morgan Rogers' pass,



Chelsea keeper Robert Sanchez saving at his feet only to see the rebound bounce in off the striker.

Villa were transformed, and it needed crucial saves by Sanchez from Ian Maatsen and Boubacar Kamara to keep Chelsea, who had dominated for so long, on level

terms. However, Chelsea were unable to keep a rampant Villa at bay, Watkins the scorer once more as he rose to power Youri Tielemans' corner past Sanchez.

Villa's win keeps them just three points behind Premier League leaders Arsenal. - Agencies

VS NOTTINGHAM FOREST

Cherki nets winner for Man City

LONDON: Rayan Cherki scored a late winner as Manchester City defeated hosts Nottingham Forest 2-1 to stay in touch with leaders Arsenal at the top of the Premier League on Saturday.

The hosts threatened to deliver a blow to City's title hopes after Omari Hutchinson cancelled out Tijjani Reijnders' second-half opener.

But Cherki struck late to continue City's ominous form - they have now won their past eight games in all competitions.

For struggling Forest, who paid an emotional tribute to club legend John Robertson, it will be a hard defeat to take and they have slipped to successive losses under Sean Dyche for the first time, following their 1-0 reverse at Fulham on Monday.

Forest frustrated City in the



first half with Murillo and Nikola Milenkovic exceptional, but their resistance was broken just three minutes into the second half when Reijnders steered past John Victor.

Yet it was Reijnders who lost the ball on the edge of his own penalty area six minutes later for Morgan Gibbs-White to break and find Igor Jesus, who teed up

record signing Hutchinson for his first Forest goal. Before that, City briefly sensed a crucial second when John Victor turned Cherki's drive on to the post, before his smart save stopped Phil Foden restoring City's lead. But the Forest keeper could do nothing to keep out Cherki's 83rd-minute drive when he found the corner from the edge of the box. - Agencies

WOLVES WINLESS

Wirtz scores as Liverpool beat Wolves

LONDON: Florian Wirtz scored his first Liverpool goal as they held out to beat Wolves 2-1 on an emotional Saturday afternoon at Anfield as Diogo Jota was remembered by both sets of fans.

Arne Slot's side scored twice in two minutes through Ryan Gravenberch and Wirtz in the first half and though Wolves pulled one back through Santiago Bueno, Liverpool made it three Premier League wins in a row - and now sit fourth. Wolves remain winless in the top flight this season.

Dinis and Duarte, Jota's sons, were mascots for the game and came out on to the pitch alongside Liverpool captain Virgil van Dijk.



Jota, who played for Liverpool and Wolves, during his time in England, was remembered again when both sets of fans sang his song in the 20th minute. Liverpool retired his shirt number '20' following his death in a car crash in July. Rob Edwards' Wolves held

firm for most of the first half until Gravenberch broke the deadlock in the 41st minute as he finished from Jeremie Frimpong's ball.

A minute later, Wirtz got on the end of Hugo Ektike's delivery and slotted past Jose Sa to double Liverpool's lead.

The visitors had a glimmer of hope six minutes into the second half, as Bueno scored the rebound after Alisson saved Tolu Arokodare's header from a Wolves corner. Edwards made three changes just after the hour mark as his side hunted for an equaliser but Liverpool held firm to make it seven games unbeaten in all competitions. - Agencies

TRIBUTES

Jota's wife thanks Reds' fans for their 'love'

LONDON: The widow of footballer Diogo Jota has thanked Liverpool fans for their "love" in "this incredibly difficult time" after he died in a car crash.

Rute Cardoso posted a message on Instagram after two of the couple's three children led tributes before Liverpool's game against Wolves. The Portugal forward, 28, was killed in a car crash in Spain in July, alongside his 25-year-old brother Andre Silva.

His widow said in an Instagram message: "From the bottom of my heart, thank you to the club and to all the fans for the love, respect and support shown during this incredibly difficult time. "Your messages

and gestures have meant more than words can express."

A banner which read: "Diogo Jota, forever in our hearts" was held aloft in the Kop stand before kick-off.

Jota joined Wolves on an initial season-long loan deal from Atletico Madrid in 2017 and went on to score 44 goals in 131 appearances.

He scored 65 goals in 182 appearances for Liverpool, helping them win the FA Cup and EFL Cup in 2022 and the Premier League title last season. The Merseyside club retired Jota's No.20 shirt following his death.

Chants of "Diogo, Diogo, Diogo" rang out from the Wolves fans in

the away end before all of Anfield stood and applauded as Liverpool supporters sang in tribute to Jota in the 20th minute. Dutch midfielder Ryan Gravenberch scored Liverpool's opener and dedicated it to Jota - recreating the shark-style celebration that the Portugal forward sometimes used.

On Friday, Wolves players and staff laid wreaths outside Anfield in memory of their former forward, who joined the club on an initial season-long loan deal from Atletico Madrid in 2017 and went on to score 44 goals in 131 appearances.

In his programme notes before Liverpool's final home fixture of 2025, head coach Arne Slot said he

hopes the affection Jota is held in can bring his family "solace".

"Reflecting on everything that has happened over the last 12 months ignites a rollercoaster of emotions but it is normal at this time of year to look back to everything that has happened," said Slot.

"Doing so leads me to think especially of the family of Diogo Jota on what will be their first Christmas without him.

"It is not my place to tell them where they should look for comfort - if that is even possible - but I can only hope that the feeling of love and affection that Diogo still generates brings them some solace." - Agencies



OSIMHEN STARS FOR SUPER EAGLES

Nigeria survive Tunisia rally to reach knockouts



FES: Victor Osimhen starred as Nigeria became the second qualifiers for the Africa Cup of Nations knockout stage after Egypt by surviving a late Tunisia onslaught to win 3-2 in Fes on Saturday.

The Super Eagles were cruising to victory when leading 3-0 through goals from Osimhen, captain Wilfred Ndidi and Ademola Lookman. But Tunisia refused to surrender in the top-of-the-table Group C clash and Montassar Talbi and Ali Abdi scored to set up a tense finish.

Tunisia had two chances to level during seven minutes of added time, but a header from captain Ferjani Sassi and a shot by substitute Ismael Gharbi were just off target.

Nigeria have six points, Tunisia three and Tanzania and Uganda one each with the final round of group matches set for Tuesday.

The showdown was the seventh time the Super Eagles and the Carthage Eagles had faced each other at an AFCON.

Nigeria won three times and Tunisia once. Another two meetings went to penalty shootouts with each nation winning one.

Tunisia broke out of a defensive shell on 32 minutes and forced a corner. The set-piece ended with the ball coming back to Abdi, whose shot flew well over.

Several Tunisian raids reaped no reward and on 44 minutes the goalless deadlock was broken with Osimhen, predictably, the scorer.

The goal involved two former African players of the year with 2024 winner Lookman crossing the ball and Osimhen rising between Abdi and Talbi to head powerfully into the net.

Just five minutes into the second half Nigeria stretched their lead to two goals as they once again exposed the aerial weaknesses of the Tunisian defence.

Atalanta striker Lookman was the architect again, floating a corner into the heart of the goalmouth where Ndidi soared to beat goalkeeper Aymen Dahmen and score his first international goal.

After creating the first two goals, Lookman scored the third on 67 minutes after being set up by Osimhen. He had time to control the ball in the box before slamming it into the net off the post.

Tunisia pulled one goal back with 16 minutes remaining. The North Africans finally got the better of an aerial duel and Talbi nodded a Mej bri free-kick into the net.

The goal had a dramatic effect as Tunisia took control and scored again with three minutes left when Abdi converted a penalty awarded after a VAR review showed Bright Samuel handled. - Agencies



Mane rescues Senegal in draw with DR Congo

The Lions of Teranga salvaged a point to maintain their top spot in Group D at the Africa Cup of Nations

TANGIERS: Sadio Mane's equaliser earned 2022 champions Senegal a 1-1 draw with the Democratic Republic of Congo in their heavyweight Africa Cup of Nations clash on Saturday.

Cedric Bakambu had given the Leopards the lead just after the hour mark in Tangiers but Al Nassr forward Mane replied soon after and the result ensured Senegal stay on top of Group D with one round of matches still to play.

Both teams have four points but Senegal have a superior goal difference before their final group match against Benin on Tuesday.

Benin have three points after a 1-0 victory earlier Saturday in Rabat against Botswana, who are bottom without a point or a goal scored.

Sebastien Desabre's Congolese side were seeking revenge after a dramatic defeat in the last meeting of the nations, in World Cup



qualifying in September.

Senegal came from 2-0 down to win that encounter 3-2 in Kinshasa, a result which allowed them to go on and top their group to secure a place at next year's finals in North America.

DR Congo were therefore forced to settle for second place but can still make the World Cup if they win a one-off play-off against either New Caledonia or Jamaica in Mexico in March.

The Lions of Teranga, fresh from beating Botswana 3-0 and seen as perhaps the biggest threat to Morocco's chances of winning the title on home soil, had more of

the possession and more chances on the day.

However, the Leopards took the lead in the 61st minute when Theo Bongonda -- scorer of the only goal in their opening win against Benin -- had a shot at the end of a fine move parried by goalkeeper Edouard Mendy and Real Betis striker Bakambu pounced to convert the loose ball.

But Senegal were only behind for eight minutes, their equaliser coming after a superb run by teenage substitute Ibrahim Mbaye.

The 17-year-old Paris Saint-Germain winger Mbaye, who was born in France and represented

them up to Under-20 level, recently committed his international future to Senegal, for whom he qualifies through one of his parents. He replaced Ismaila Sarr just after Bakambu's opener, and made the leveller from a penetrating run down the right.

Mbaye burst away from Arthur Masuaku, who appeared to injure himself going to tackle, and then saw his shot blocked by Lionel Mpasi, but Mane was on hand to score.

It was a 10th AFCON goal for former Liverpool superstar Mane, who is appearing at his sixth tournament. - Agencies

AFCON GROUP C



Tanzania hold Uganda in frenetic East African derby

RABAT: East African rivals Tanzania and Uganda played out a frenetic 1-1 draw at the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON), with Uganda missing a late penalty in torrential rain in Rabat on Saturday.

While the first half contained a lot of endeavour but little quality, the second burst into life just before the hour mark when the Taifa Stars were awarded a spot kick of their own for handball and Simon Msuva sent an unstoppable finish into the roof of the net.

Tanzania, who have now failed to win any of their 11 matches at AFCON final tournaments, held on to their lead until the 80th minute, when substitute striker Uche Ikepeazu, who was born in London and plays in Scotland's second tier for St Johnstone, executed a classic diving header to level proceedings.

The heavens opened as both sides went in search of a winner, creating some comical moments as players struggled in the chaotic conditions.

Allan Okello was the man presented with a golden opportunity to claim all three points for the

Cranes when full-back Haji Mno-ga was adjudged to have tugged his opponent's shirt in the box, but the wideman sent his penalty high over the bar after a stuttering run up in the final minute of regular time.

The result leaves the sides with one point each from their opening two games - and both now face a difficult task to make it to the second round. Tanzania finish Group C by taking on Tunisia in Rabat on Tuesday, with Uganda travelling to Fes to face Nigeria at the same time.

A tale of two penalties

Ugandan striker Uche Ikepeazu has not scored a league goal for St Johnstone since August, but found the equaliser for Uganda

The teams came into the game knowing victory was needed to ensure a decent shot of reaching the last 16. While Tanzania competed well in their 2-1 defeat to Nigeria, Uganda was disappointed in their 3-0 loss against Tunisia.

Five minutes after the break, Msuva saw a goal-bound effort

blocked for a corner by two desperate sliding defenders.

But the 32-year-old, who is playing at his third AFCON, made no mistake with his penalty, awarded after Baba Alhasan turned away from Alphonse Mabula's shot but left both arms hanging out by his side.

Referee Jalal Jayed deemed them to be in an unnatural position and immediately pointed to the spot.

Cranes striker Jude Ssemugabi passed up a decent headed opportunity to equalise before he was replaced by Ikepeazu, a change which quickly paid dividends for boss Paul Put.

The imposing 30-year-old, who has also played for Middlesbrough, Cardiff City, Wycombe Wanderers and Hearts, flung himself full-length at Okello's cross from the right to power home.

But having played the role of provider, Okello could not keep his penalty down to improve Uganda's miserable AFCON run which has seen the 1978 runners-up win just one of their last 10 matches at the finals. - Agencies

GROUP D

Benin edge Botswana to seal their maiden AFCON victory

RABAT: Benin earned their first-ever Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) win as Yohan Roche's deflected first-half strike sealed their first points of the 2025 tournament in Rabat on Saturday.

Defender Roche exchanged a one-two with returning targetman Steve Mounie, who missed Benin's opening defeat to DR Congo, before sending a looped finish from inside the box over goalkeeper Goitseone Phoko. Roche's goal made history for his country with their first victory inside normal time in their 16th Afcon match spread over five editions.

Botswana suffered a second defeat of the group stage but were unfortunate not to equalise when Mothusi Johnson bent a superb free-kick against the crossbar shortly after Roche's goal.

Phoko made two fine saves after the break, pawing Tamimou Ouorou's shot away and showing great reflexes to intervene when another drive by the right-back took a heavy touch off Johnson. Roche scored his first international goal on his 13th AFCON appearance, including qualifying

Benin went into that game depleted by injuries and suspensions but manager Gernot Rohr was able to restore several influential players for this crucial-looking contest, including national team record scorer and former Huddersfield Town striker Mounie, goalkeeper Marcel Dandjinou, centre-back Mohamed Tijani and winger Junior Olaitan.

New Botswana coach Morena Ramoreboli, who was also aiming to guide the nation to a first AFCON win on their second appearance at the finals, brought in 19-year-old Cape Town Ubuntu



forward Losika Ratshukudu as part of a Zebras team who might have led early on when Tumisang Orebonye lashed a close-range volley high over the crossbar.

Botswana showed signs of nerves during the initial exchanges but defended with discipline behind a high line until Mounie and Roche took advantage of a pocket of space on the edge of the box.

With Sessi D'Almeida fre-

quently dictating play for Benin during the first half, South African tactician Ramoreboli made a triple change at the break in an unsuccessful attempt to shift the momentum. However, it was only Phoko's impressive display that denied Benin a wider margin of victory, with Dodo Dokou blazing a shot over the bar with only the goalkeeper to beat during the dying moments of the game. - Agencies

ROUND-UP

Sohar International receives major approval from CBO to open a Representative Office in Hong Kong

The approval underscores Sohar International’s ambition to play a more active role in facilitating cross-border trade, investment, and financial collaboration between Oman, Asia, in line with Oman’s Vision 2040 to promote economic diversification, strengthen international trade links, and consolidate the Sultanate’s position as a globally recognised financial and commercial hub

MUSCAT: As part of its ongoing pursuit of strategic growth and enhanced international presence, Sohar International has received approval from the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) to establish a representative office in Hong Kong, marking a significant milestone in the bank’s international growth journey and reinforcing its commitment to strengthening Oman’s connectivity with key global financial markets.

The approval underscores Sohar International’s ambition to play a more active role in faci-

lating cross-border trade, investment, and financial collaboration between Oman, Asia, in line with Oman’s Vision 2040 to promote economic diversification, strengthen international trade links, and consolidate the Sultanate’s position as a globally recognised financial and commercial hub.

Commenting on the approval, Abdulwahid Al Murshidi, Chief Executive Officer of Sohar International, said, “Securing the Central Bank of Oman’s approval to establish a representative office



in Hong Kong represents a pivotal step in advancing Sohar International’s long-term international strategy. Asia is central to global trade, capital flows, and economic influence, and our presence in one of its leading financial hubs will enhance our ability to support clients as they navigate increasingly interconnected markets. This expansion comes as a continuation of our previous steps, including the recent inauguration of the Riyadh branch in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This expansion reflects our commitment to establishing Sohar International as a trusted Omani banking partner that bridges geographies, enables opportunity, and contributes to

the Sultanate’s broader economic ambitions.”

Hong Kong continues to serve as a critical engine for global economic activity and a gateway for cross-border investment and trade facilitation.

Establishing a representative office in this region will enable Sohar International to deepen institutional relationships, engage more closely with Asian financial institutions and corporates, encourage knowledge sharing in line with best practices, and provide enhanced on-ground support to clients involved in international trade, treasury, and investment activities.

The representative office is

intended to serve as a platform for relationship-building, market engagement, and business development, reinforcing Sohar International’s role in connecting Omani businesses with international opportunities while attracting global interest into the Sultanate. Through this presence, the bank aims to enhance information exchange, facilitate partnerships, and support the evolving needs of clients operating across multiple jurisdictions.

This development is part of Sohar International’s broader ambition to build a balanced international footprint and be present across key financial corridors across various active business

hubs. Following the recent inauguration of its branch in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the bank continues to advance its strategy of establishing a diversified geographic presence that connects Asia, the Middle East, and beyond. Together, these milestones reflect Sohar International’s overarching objective to serve as a trusted Omani banking institution with a global outlook, supporting cross-border growth, strengthening international connectivity, and delivering sustainable long-term value for clients and the national economy.

About Sohar International: Sohar International is Oman’s fastest-growing bank, guided by a clear vision to become a world-leading Omani service company that helps customers, communities, and people prosper and grow. With a purpose to help people ‘win’ by delivering responsive banking for their ever-changing world, the bank offers innovative solutions across Commercial and Investment Banking, Wealth Management, Islamic Banking, and more. Operating with a strong digital-first approach and an expanding regional footprint—including presence in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—Sohar International is committed to driving value through strategic partnerships and a dynamic customer experience. Learn more at www.SIB.om

INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES



Oman Oil Marketing Company concludes its annual Health, Safety, Environment, and Quality Week

MUSCAT: Oman Oil Marketing Company recently concluded its annual Health, Safety, Environment, and Quality Week through a dynamic programme of interactive activities aimed at strengthening health, safety, environmental, and quality awareness across the company and its partner network.

The week commenced with the annual forum for contractors executing company projects. The forum served as a key platform for engagement with contractors and partners from across the Sultanate of Oman, enabling alignment on safety expectations, compliance requirements, and best practices. This collaborative approach reinforced the shared responsibility to uphold the highest standards of health, safety, environment, and quality across all operations.

The initiative featured a wide range of activities that brought together employees, service providers, and key stakeholders, with the objective of raising safety awareness and embedding a culture of shared responsibility throughout the organisation.

The programme reflected Oman Oil Marketing Company’s ongoing commitment to safe and sustainable operations, placing people at the heart of all activities.

As part of its commitment to employee and community well-being, the company organised a blood donation campaign in coordination with the Central Blood Bank.

The initiative saw strong participation from employees in support of national healthcare needs and embodied the company’s

The forum served as a key platform for engagement with contractors and partners from across the Sultanate of Oman, enabling alignment on safety expectations, compliance requirements, and best practices

strong culture of social responsibility. Health and safety remained a central theme throughout the week, with employees benefitting from on site medical checkups conducted by healthcare professionals.

In addition, a dedicated health and safety session for female employees focused on psychological resilience, work related stress management, and general health, within an open and supportive environment.

One of the key highlights of the programme was the interactive virtual reality safety experience. Employees took part in realistic simulations designed to enhance learning in hazard identification,

emergency response, and high risk operational scenarios. This initiative aimed to elevate safety awareness by making learning more engaging, practical, and closely aligned with real workplace conditions.

Leadership engagement played a central role during the week, with the executive management team conducting field visits and safety inspection tours at selected service stations. These visits supported on ground reviews of safety practices, encouraged direct interaction with frontline teams, and demonstrated leadership’s commitment to excellence in health and safety standards.

Commenting on the successful conclusion of the week, a representative of Oman Oil Marketing Company said, “Safety is a daily practice embedded in our sites, teams, and partnerships. Health, Safety, Environment, and Quality Week reinforces that caring for our employees, listening to them, and supporting their wellbeing are fundamental to how we operate and grow as a company,”

Commented Mr. Tarik bin Muhammad Al-Junaidei CEO of Oman Oil Marketing Company (OOMCO)

The success of Health, Safety, Environment, and Quality Week further reinforces Oman Oil Marketing Company’s commitment to integrating safety, quality, and wellbeing into everyday operations.

By combining awareness and learning, the company continues to strengthen its position as a responsible organisation dedicated to protecting its employees, partners, and the communities it serves.

CAMPAIGN

Toyota’s 50th Anniversary Mega Celebration thrills customers! 8 more chances now to win Toyota Yaris!

MUSCAT: The excitement of Toyota’s 50th Anniversary Mega Celebration continues to sweep across Oman as Saud Bahwan Automotive, the official distributor of Toyota vehicles, announced the latest raffle winners. Each draw is transforming Toyota ownership into an unforgettable experience, with winners now driving home a brand-new Toyota Yaris.

The campaign marks five decades of excellence and trust between Saud Bahwan Automotive and Toyota, celebrating a journey defined by quality, reliability, and customer satisfaction. Alongside the chance to win a Yaris, participants enjoy exclusive benefits including 50% VAT coverage, 5 Years / 50,000 Kms Service, 50% Insurance coverage, and RO 50 worth of Thiqah Loyalty Points.

This edition of winners features individuals and companies from different corners of Oman, all reflecting a unique story of loyalty and faith in the Toyota brand.

Maward Mining LLC from Sohar, who purchased a Land Cruiser, shared, “Our Land Cruiser has

always been a reliable partner for our operations. Winning a Yaris now feels like an extra reward for our loyalty to Toyota. It is truly a special moment for us.”

Mr. Saif Nasser Salim Al Maqbali from Barka, who purchased a Hilux, expressed, “We depend on Toyota vehicles to handle demanding conditions. Winning a Yaris during this 50th anniversary celebration is an exciting surprise for us.”

Ms. Nadyah Saif Marhoon Al Maamari from Ibri, who purchased a Fortuner, said, “Toyota has always been part of my milestones. Receiving a Yaris as part of this special campaign makes it even more memorable.”

Mr. Abooda Jamil Abdullah Al Hajri from Ibra, who purchased a Hiace, shared his joy: “Toyota has always been part of my daily life. Winning a Yaris now adds a new layer of excitement to this milestone celebration.”

Dakan International Business Trad LLC from Seeb, who purchased a Hiace, said, “We trust Toyota to deliver dependable performance every day. Being se-

lected as a Yaris winner during the 50th anniversary campaign is truly rewarding.”

Building on the momentum of the giveaway, the customer holding Coupon No. 15002 saw their Toyota purchase rewarded with a landmark celebratory milestone, capturing the true essence of this anniversary year.

With each new raffle draw, the thrill of winning continues to grow, giving customers yet another reason to celebrate Toyota’s golden milestone.

Those who haven’t participated yet are invited to visit their nearest Toyota showroom and explore the chance to drive home their favourite Toyota — and maybe become the next Yaris winner.

For the latest Press Releases, Test Drive requests and more, please visit www.toyotaoman.com, www.youtube.com/toyotaoman, www.facebook.com/toyotaoman, and instagram.com/toyotaomanofficial/. For any further details & to ascertain availability of stocks, please visit your nearest Saud Bahwan Automotive Showroom.





DRIVE YOUR WAY INTO 2026

4 YEARS **0%** INTEREST



MAZDA CX-60



MAZDA CX-90

AAA ROADSIDE
ASSISTANCE FOR
3 YEARS

WARRANTY
3 YEARS / 100,000 KM
WHICHEVER COMES FIRST

4
YEARS UNLIMITED
KILOMETER SERVICE



بالتعاون مع بنك صحر

*CONDITIONS APPLY