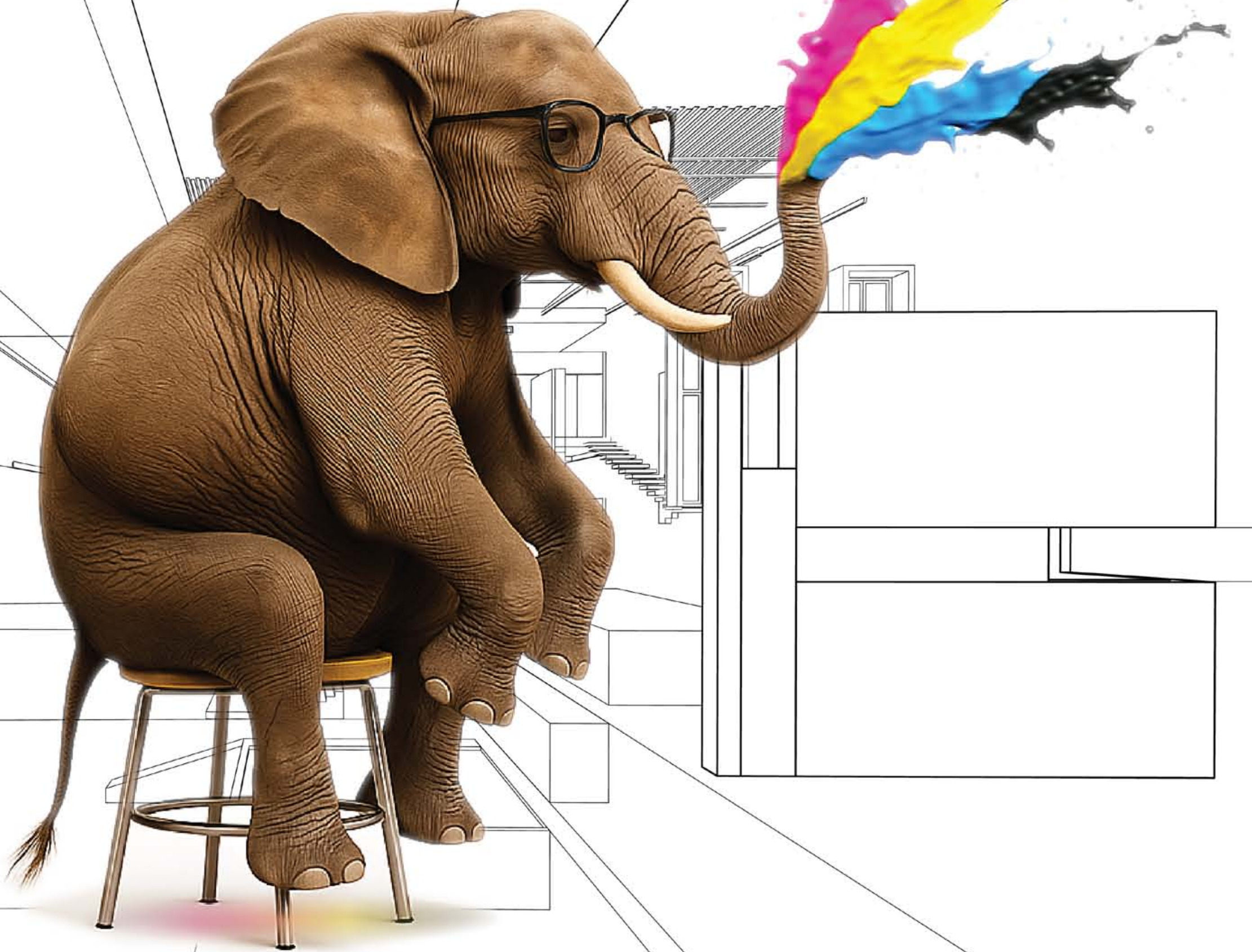


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FOR MORE

Ministry of Health opens Dialysis Unit at Ibri Referral Hospital

The unit has commenced providing its services over the past period, utilising the latest specialised medical equipment

IBRI: The Ministry of Health on Monday inaugurated the Peritoneal Dialysis Unit at Ibri Referral Hospital in Al Dhahirah Governorate. This qualitative step embodies the Ministry's commitment to providing specialised medical services that meet the needs of the governorate.



The unit has commenced providing its services over the past period, utilising the latest specialised medical equipment. This has contributed to alleviating the suffering of patients in the governorate. The unit was established as an extension of the kidney dialysis unit, with a built-up area of 128 square meters and a

total cost of OMR65,000. It was designed in accordance with the approved technical standards for modern kidney dialysis units and financed by Daleel

Petroleum Company. Dr. Ahmed Said Al Kalbani, Director General of Health Services in Al Dhahirah Governorate, affirmed that the inauguration of the Peritoneal Dialysis Unit at Ibri Hospital represents a qualitative addition that contributes to developing the level of specialised treatment services and providing advanced healthcare for patients in the governorate's wilayats, namely Ibri, Dhank, and Yanqul. This, he said, enhances the quality of the provided health services.

On her turn, Dr. Dalal Rashid Al Ghafri, Director of Ibri Hospital, indicated that the Peritoneal Dialysis Training Unit at Ibri Referral Hospital contains two rooms for peritoneal dialysis training, along with a number of other facilities. The inauguration of the unit reflects the hospital's commitment to providing high-quality health services and developing healthcare in the community, she added. She pointed out that the establishment of this new unit comes within the Ministry of Health's plan aimed at expanding specialised services and providing kidney dialysis units close to population centers. This, she said, alleviates the burden on patients and contributes to improving the quality of care provided to them. This new project is one of the ongoing health achievements currently witnessed in Al Dhahirah Governorate. It aligns with the Ministry's approach towards elevating the quality of health services and expanding the scope of modern medical facilities to improve the quality of specialised services across various wilayats. This supports the march of comprehensive health development in the Sultanate of Oman and contributes to achieving the goals of the "Oman 2040" vision in enhancing community health. The inauguration ceremony was held under the patronage of Dr. Said Harib Al Lamki, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health for Health Affairs, in the presence of a number of officials from A'Dhahirah Governorate. -ONA

MEETING

NEW RECRUITS

Al Rawdah Special Economic Zone Project reviewed

MUSCAT: Qais Mohammed Al Yousef, Chairman of the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones, met yesterday at the Authority's headquarters in Muscat Governorate with Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, Chairman and Group CEO of DP World. The meeting reviewed the latest developments in the Al Rawdah Special Economic Zone Project with DP World and the upcoming stages for implementing this strategic project. The meeting further touched on the executive steps for the

first phase project of developing and operating Al Rawdah Special Economic Zone, for which the designated area for the developer company is 14 square kilometres, expandable to reach 24 square kilometres in a second phase, according to the development plan submitted by the developer company on 26 May 2025. The two sides affirmed their commitment to close coordination to ensure the project is completed on schedule and according to the agreed-upon standards, while maintaining the momentum of work throughout the subsequent development stages.

Al Rawdah Special Economic Zone is an important tributary for enhancing economic activities with the UAE, benefiting from the main road network and its proximity to Sohar Port and Jebel Ali Port in Dubai. The zone is located in Al Rawdah area in the Wilayat of Mahdah in Al Buraimi Governorate. The site is approximately 85 kilometers from the Wilayat of Al Buraimi and 125 kilometers from the Wilayat of Sohar, enhancing its role as a gateway for trade and industrial cooperation between Oman and the UAE. -ONA

RAO receives new batch wishing to undergo training

MUSCAT: The Royal Army of Oman (RAO) on Monday received a new batch of citizens (males and females) who wish to obtain military training and join the RAO units. The programme is in pursuance of integrated national efforts made by the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) to employ citizens in coordination with the Ministry of Labour. The citizens will undergo basic military training as new soldier recruits scheduled to undertake national duty after passing the stages of qualification and medical fitness physical examinations. The RAO has extended its expertise, capabilities, facilities and human resources to the new recruits in a manner that provides them with a suitable environment and enable them to join the military service. The training programme constitutes part of national plans to supply the SAF and other departments of the Ministry of Defence with qualified talents and serve the nation and its beloved leader. -ONA



AT OLYMPIC ACADEMY

TWO-DAY FORUM

Oman University Sports Committee unveils details of 2026 competitions

MUSCAT: Oman University Sports Committee on Monday revealed details of its calendar of sports competitions and events for 2026 during a press conference held at the Olympic Academy headquarters. The calendar includes 21 competitions across 12 diverse sports, with the participation of over 20,000 male and female students from 30 educational institutions across various governorates. At the outset of the conference, the committee presented a detailed overview of the events. Activities will be launched this month with the Padel Championship, which attracts a wide segment of students. The calendar continues in February with events including the E-Sports Championship, Beach Volleyball Championship, Girls' Bowling Championship, and the KoraThon event, which starts in February and continues until March in partnership with Oman Logistics Academy. These are qualitative events alongside the E-Sports Championship, which has become one of the most in-demand and participated-in championships among the students. In March, the 3x3 Basketball



Championship will be held, which has become one of the season's most prominent championships due to its high turnout and the competitive environment it provides, allowing students to showcase their skills in fast-paced, collective basketball. April, which will be packed with numerous championships, will witness one of the year's most important sporting milestones with the holding of the Swimming and Athletics Championships, in addition to the Girls' Individual Games Tournament. This tournament brings together a number of dynamic sports in an interactive athletic environment aimed at enhancing student

participation in open sports. Competitions will continue through May and the rest of the year with events including volleyball, football, basketball, table tennis, shooting, chess, challenge competitions, and other activities that provide a comprehensive season of athletic movement within higher education institutions. The season concludes in December with the Handball Championship, one of the championships witnessing notable development in participation levels, with universities competing to achieve advanced results. **Introduction of new games** In the context of expanding the introduction of new games aligned with youth aspirations, the committee announced the inclusion of the Shooting Championship in October for the first time in the 2026 calendar. This step reflects its keenness to diversify individual sports and provide students the opportunity to engage in athletic experiences focusing on precision, concentration, and mental and physical skills. The committee clarified that this championship will be organised according to approved technical standards and in cooperation with specialised entities to ensure a safe environment meeting the requirements of this type of competition, thereby providing a broad scope for discovering new talents in a sport gaining increasing prominence among youth segments. The calendar also highlights the addition of a number of qualitative activities targeting specific groups. These include a sports tournament for girls, aiming to provide a safe and motivating competitive space for female students, in addition to programmes dedicated to youth seeking to hone their skills in sports, teamwork, and physical commitment. -ONA

Forum discusses current legal issues



DOHA: The Sultanate of Oman is taking part in Doha Legal Forum being held in Doha, State of Qatar. The two-day forum is attended by ministers of justice, scholars of law, policymakers and experts from different countries of the world. Oman's delegation is led by Dr. Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Saidi, Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs. Themed "Emerging Trends and Forward-Looking Insights", the forum seeks to highlight legislative and regulatory frameworks that govern vital economic sectors. It elaborates on the role of these frameworks in providing a safe and attractive environment. The forum addresses the latest legislative, judicial and academic

developments in the legal field under the Qatari law, as well as comparative legal systems. It also aims to contribute to the development of a more efficient and transparent legislative and judicial environment that enhances confidence in the judicial system and boosts the competitiveness of the national economy. The forum aims to exchange visions and experiences, discuss current legal issues and explore prospects of legal and judicial action amid successive developments taking place in the legal sector. Discussions in this context deal with technological, legislative and economic developments, the growing role of innovation and changes in mechanisms and methods used in the settlement of disputes. -ONA

Indian expats mark 77th Republic Day across Oman

The day saw widespread observances at the Indian Embassy in Muscat and at Indian schools across the Sultanate, drawing a huge crowd

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Indian expatriates across Oman celebrated 77th Republic Day with grandeur and patriotic fervour on Monday, January 26, 2026. The day saw widespread observances at the Indian Embassy in Muscat and at Indian schools across the Sultanate, drawing a huge crowd.

At the Embassy of India in Muscat, the celebrations began with a Flag Unfurling Ceremony attended by members of the Indian diaspora and friends of India. The Chargé d’Affaires of India to Oman, Tavishi Behal Pandey, paid floral tributes at the statue of Mahatma Gandhi before unfurling the national flag, followed by the National Anthem.

Pandey read excerpts from the President of India’s Republic Day address, highlighting the country’s constitutional values of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity. The address also noted the growing participation of women, digital governance initiatives, strengthening of national security, and the importance of cultural heritage in nation-building.

The Embassy additionally celebrated the achievement of the Indian Navy, as INSV Kaundinya completed its maiden voyage from Porbandar to Muscat, with Commanders Y. Hemant Kumar and Vikas Sheoran in attendance. Patriotic songs by students of Indian School Muscat, including a mass rendition of India’s National Song Vande Mataram in its 150th year, brought the Embassy celebrations to a close

Republic Day at Indian School Bousher

Indian School Bousher also observed the day with solemn grandeur. The event, themed “150 Years of Vande Mataram”, was attended by Mrs. Tavishi Behal Pandey, Deputy Chief of Mission, Indian Embassy in Oman, alongside dignitaries from the Indian Schools in Oman Board of Directors.

The celebrations featured a March Past by over 200 students from six Indian schools in Oman, including Indian School Muscat, Ghubra, Wadi Kabir, Darsait, Al Seeb, and Bousher. Cultural per-



formances included a rendition of Vande Mataram, a dance tribute to the Indian Armed Forces titled Wings, Waves and Warriors, and creative presentations interpreting the Constitution’s Preamble and the spirit of the Tricolour.

A speech by Rehmat Patel of Grade XI, themed “Atma Nirbhar Bharat: From Swadeshi to Global Leadership”, highlighted India’s journey toward economic independence and global leadership.

The day culminated with a spectacular formation by students of Grades V to VIII, depicting the Indian flag and Constitution, symbolising unity and democratic values.

The 77th Republic Day celebrations in Oman underscored the enduring patriotism of the Indian community abroad and the strong, decades-long relationship between India and Oman.



SPACE ECONOMY

Middle East Space Conference kicks off in Muscat

MUSCAT: The second edition of the Middle East Space Conference, hosted by the Sultanate of Oman, began yesterday at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre.

As many as 500 experts and CEOs in the space sector from government agencies and private sector companies representing 30 countries, in addition to more than 85 speakers are taking part in the event. The opening of the conference was held under the patronage of HH Sayyid Dr. Kamil bin Fahad Al Said, Secretary General at the Secretariat General of the Council of Ministers.

Over three days, the conference will focus on several objectives, most notably: providing a platform that brings together decision-makers to enhance space diplomacy by encouraging international and regional cooperation to transfer expertise and localise best practices; attracting experts and investors to explore promising investment opportunities at the local and regional levels; highlighting the Sultanate of Oman's position as a leading regional gateway for space services and applications supporting economic diversification; in addition to transferring and localising space knowledge and technologies and building national capacities to ensure the sustainable growth of the sector.

Dr. Ali Amer Al Shethani, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology for Communications and Information Technology, stated: "The space sector in the Sultanate of Oman represents a qualitative leap and accelerated growth, resulting from a clear national vision, enlightened by the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said and the sound implementation of the strategic initiatives outlined within the framework of



the National Policy and Executive Program for the Space Sector (2023-2033), which was launched with Royal blessings in January 2023."

In his speech, he added that the Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology, represented by the National Space Programme, in cooperation with its local and international partners, has dedicated diligent efforts across various fundamental axes to develop the space sector, especially in the field of building national capacities, scientific research and innovation, and entrepreneurship.

He pointed out that the Sultanate of Oman has become a "model hub" for the space world in general, and the region in particular, since the previous edition of the conference in January 2024. This is thanks to the successful experimental launch of a rocket from the experimental launch platform in the Wilayat of Duqm in Al Wusta Governorate, which created a wide resonance in the global space sector and turned ambitions into reality.

He reviewed the signing of the agreement for "Designing, Manufacturing, and Launching the Omani Communications Satellite" with Airbus Defence and Space, considering it one of the enabling and ac-

celerating projects for the growth of the space sector, empowering local institutions operating in the sector, and maximizing the local value added from the project.

He noted that field surveys have shown clear growth of this sector in the Sultanate of Oman since the launch of the policy until the end of 2025, as the number of companies operating in the sector doubled, investments rose by 200 percent, leading to a threefold increase in the number of available jobs within it.

Consequently, the sector's contribution to the comprehensive development of the digital economy increased.

The Undersecretary stated that the space economy in recent years has surpassed the barrier of \$600 billion, with expectations to reach about \$1.8 trillion by 2035, driven by the shift towards low Earth orbit, the increasing role of the private sector, and the emergence of new space services such as in-orbit servicing and manufacturing in microgravity environments.

This makes space a pivotal element in sustainable development and future economies.

For his part, Pacôme Révillon – CEO of Novaspace, stated that the conference proceedings embody the Sultanate of Oman's keenness to enhance the status of the space



sector as a strategic pillar for national development and a promising path for long-term sustainable progress. Stemming from a clear vision represented in supporting regional cooperation and promoting innovation in the space sector across the Middle East.

He added in his speech that over the next three days, the conference sessions, with the participation of an elite group of decision-makers from governments, agencies, and industrial institutions, will discuss ways to employ space capabilities to serve national and regional priorities. The discussions will include multiple topics, ranging from national strategies and regulatory frameworks, through infrastructure and services, to education, research, and innovation, reflecting the breadth of dimensions of the space sector and its renewed dynamism.

The, HH Sayyid Dr. Kamil bin Fahad Al Said, Secretary General at the Secretariat General of the Council of Ministers, and Eng. Said bin Hamoud Al Maawali, Minister of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology, crowned the winners of Oman Space Accelerator Programme, which attracted 10 startups within an intensive programme lasting 15 weeks, including specialized tech-

anical and commercial training and mentorship from local and international experts.

The proceedings of the first day of the conference included the signing of two agreements: The first, the "Artemis Accords," an international agreement between the Sultanate of Oman and the United States of America, aiming to enhance cooperation in the peaceful exploration of space, regulate partnerships related to the return to the Moon, prepare for future missions to Mars, and establish common frameworks for civil space activities.

It is expected to enhance the Sultanate of Oman's position on the global scientific and technological exploration map and open wide horizons for youth and researchers in space sciences and future applications.

The second agreement came in the context of supporting strategic partnerships in the space services sector, as an agreement was signed between the Omani Telecommunications Company "Omantel" and OQ Gas Networks, aiming to provide satellite services for monitoring and controlling gas pipeline networks.

On the sidelines of the conference, an exhibition was held featuring more than 50 local and

international companies specialised in space technologies and sciences, aiming to bring together service and technology providers and users to exchange expertise, build effective partnerships between actors in the sector's supply chain, in addition to attracting investment opportunities, establishing new commercial partnerships, and raising awareness about technological progress in the space industry.

The conference included a number of sessions and papers on the space sector, including: Space Strategies in the Middle East from Ambition to Reality, Seizing Investment Opportunities in the Omani Space Sector, Building Cross-Border Partnerships from the Perspective of Global Space Agencies, Building International Partnerships to Advance the Space Industry, Enabling Access to Space in the Middle East, Developing the Next Generation of Space Infrastructure, and Financing Future Horizons.

Meanwhile, the MB Group of Companies and the global company Eutelsat signed an agreement to enhance satellite communication services in the Sultanate of Oman, supporting the objectives of Oman Vision 2040 and providing secure, resilient, and sustainable connectivity that raises the readiness of the national digital infrastructure and supports the digital economy and economic diversification.

Mahfooz Salim Al Sheikh, Deputy CEO of "Diraa" Company, specializing in defense and space communications, stated that the agreement aims to design, build, and launch a large macro-geostationary satellite of the type MB-Sat-1 into orbit and begin providing satellite communication services in early 2027.

-ONA

AVIATION STRATEGY 2040

< FROM A1 Initiatives' focus on safety enhancement

Hamid Ahmed Al Barashdi, Director General of Strategic Planning at the CAA, said the National Aviation Strategy 2040 is built on nine core principles and will be implemented through 39 initiatives focusing on safety enhancement, economic growth, national workforce development, innovation, digital transformation, and sustainability.

In the field of aviation security, Rawya Nasser Al Adawi, Acting Director General of Civil Aviation Regulation, said Oman achieved a 94.4 per cent compliance rate under the Universal Security Audit Programme with Continuous Monitoring Approach, along with 100 per cent compliance in facili-



tation requirements during 2025.

She added that the Authority signed eight international air transport service agreements and conducted 21 bilateral negotiation meetings with various countries.

During the year, more than 18,000 flight permits were issued,

including diplomatic permits, in addition to 3,627 special permits related to aviation obstacles.

Highlighting air navigation performance, Eng. Saleh Abdullah Al Harthy, Director General of Air Navigation, said total air traffic movements in 2025 reached

643,069 aircraft, including 585,357 transit flights through Omani airspace, reflecting growing international confidence in its efficiency and safety.

He added that Omani airports recorded strong activity, with passenger numbers reaching 15,213,150, indicating continued recovery and rising demand in the aviation sector.

In meteorology, Abdullah Rashid Al Khadouri, Director General of Meteorology, said 2025 witnessed a major leap in early warning and forecasting systems. Key projects included the flood modeling index, the launch of the Oman Meteorology website and mobile appli-

cation, and advanced numerical weather maps with resolutions reaching 2.1 kilometres.

He noted that artificial intelligence technologies were introduced for weather data analysis and forecasting, while the number of meteorological observation stations increased to 83 nationwide. On the financial front, Hussein Salim Al Rahbi, Director General of Support Services, said CAA revenues in 2025 exceeded OMR 107 million, marking the highest actual collection in the Authority's history, driven by improved financial management and optimized resource utilisation.

Meanwhile, Mohammed Ahmed Al Yafee, Director General of Civil

Aviation in Dhofar Governorate, said the Authority received several institutional awards in 2025, reflecting its organizational maturity and commitment to continuous improvement.

Responding to media questions, CAA officials confirmed that the aircraft maintenance building at Muscat International Airport is 98 per cent complete and expected to become operational this year. They also announced that a tender for Sohar Airport construction works will be issued, while most technical studies for the Musandam Airport project have been completed, with its executive plan scheduled for approval during the current year.

-ONA



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Tender Notice

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Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources



The Ministry of Agricultural, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources Announces the following Retenders: -

Tender no.	Tender Title	Tender Document Sales Start Date	Tender Document Sales End Date	Bid Submission Closing	Companies that are eligible to participate	Tender Document fee (R.O)
42/2026/MAFWR/HQ- 2	Rehabilitation and Improvement of AL-Mitha Falaj in AL-Sifala village at Wilayat Bahla at AL-Dhakliyah Governorate	Wednesday 21/1/2026	Tuesday 10/2/2026	Monday 2/3/2026	Specialized companies registered with Second and Third grades	(10/-) Omani riyals for SMEs

- above mentioned Grade) may obtain Tender documents from the E-Tendering website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>.
- The value of the document will be paid & submitted on line on given website.
- The Tenderer should attach Bid Commitment Declaration for local companies.
- All correspondence pertaining to the tender inquiry must be online at e-tendering System.
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TENDERS COMMITTEE

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources

India and EU conclude long-pending free trade agreement successfully

According to the Commerce Secretary, the formal deal signing will be done after legal scrubbing. The deal will be balanced, forward-looking and help with better economic integration with EU

NEW DELHI: The ‘Mother of all deals’, as it has been called, the negotiations for the India-EU trade deal have concluded successfully and will be announced on Tuesday during the India-EU summit, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said on Saturday.

According to the Commerce Secretary, the formal deal signing will be done after legal scrubbing. The deal will be balanced, forward-looking and help with better economic integration with EU. The deal will propel trade and investment between both sides.

Further, the deal will enter into force sometime next year. The legal scrubbing of text is likely to take five-six months, and the formal signing to be done post that.

The President of the European Council, Antonio Costa, and the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, will represent the EU at the 16th EU-India summit in New Delhi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will host the summit.

At the summit, leaders are expected to adopt a joint EU-India comprehensive strategic agenda, which aims to increase strategic cooperation between both sides in four areas, reinforced by enablers across pillars: prosperity and sus-



tainability, technology and innovation, security and defence and connectivity and global issues.

In an interview with Euro News ahead of a high-level EU-India summit, European Union Trade Commissioner Marcos Sefcovic said the long-awaited free trade agreement with India is “very close” and could significantly open the Indian market to European firms. Sefcovic described the prospective pact as the “mother of all deals,” noting that negotiators are “checking their final numbers” as the European bloc pushes to reduce India’s steep import duties that can reach up to 150 % in some sectors.

“In some sector, India has tariff going up to 150%. And therefore, big parts of the economy has been completely closed off to the European exporters,” he said, adding: “Now the big benefit will be opening the economy.”

According to Sefcovic, the agreement would create a free trade area encompassing roughly

2 billion people and lift many Indian customs duties on European goods, although sensitive sectors will be excluded to focus on “the positive outcome.”

“This is the largest trade deal ever,” he said, highlighting that around 6,000 European companies already operate in India and trade between the two partners has surged significantly over the past decade, reported Euro News.

Brussels views the deal as a strategic move to diversify its trade ties beyond the United States and China, while Indian officials have signalled willingness to open markets to foreign investment and goods in key areas.

Senior EU leaders, including the Vice-President of the European Commission, Kaja Kallas, signalled strong momentum in EU-India relations spanning trade, security, and defence cooperation.

Kallas said that the EU is seizing the opportunity to deepen ties.

In a post on X, she said, “There is strong momentum for closer

cooperation with India, and we are seizing it. It is a pleasure to be in New Delhi on Monday and an honour to attend the Republic Day celebration. As a symbol of our deepening bond, personnel from our EU naval operations, Atalanta and Aspides, are taking part in the parade for the first time. Tomorrow, at the Summit, we will take our relationship forward by signing the EU-India Security and Defence Partnership. This will deliver concrete results in areas such as maritime security, cybersecurity, and counterterrorism.”

In October 2025, the Council of the EU endorsed the new strategic EU-India agenda and its objective of further developing EU-India ties.

At the summit leaders will also discuss trade, in context of the now concluded free-trade agreement that started in 2007 (and was relaunched in 2022). This agreement would boost bilateral trade and investment ties and drive shared prosperity. — ANI



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COMMERCIAL COOPERATION

60,000 tonnes of wheat from the US arrives in Bangladesh

Chattogram: US Ambassador to Bangladesh Brent T Christensen visited Chattogram port to reinforce commercial cooperation and strengthen bilateral ties.

On January 26, Ambassador Christensen joined Chattogram Port Authority Chairman Rear Admiral S M Moniruzzaman and Secretary of Food Md Firoz Sarker to mark the arrival of nearly 60,000 metric tonnes of high-quality US wheat, part of a larger shipment exceeding 173,000 metric tonnes — nearly 115,000 metric tons of soft white from Washington, Oregon, and Idaho and nearly 60,000 metric tonnes of hard red winter wheat Montana and Nebraska.

Taken together, these three shipments represent a critical supply of high protein nutritious grain as Bangladesh grows only 13% of its wheat consumption annually.

These historic deliveries reflect Bangladesh’s growing role as a key market for American agricultural exports.

In July 2025, Bangladesh’s Ministry of Food (MOF) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the United States Department of Agriculture-nominated trade association for wheat farmers, US Wheat Association (USWA), to purchase up to 700,000 MT US wheat annually until 2030.

Under this MOU, Bangladesh has purchased approximately 660,000 MT of US wheat from a major international commodity trader AgroCorp in three sales, with over 350,000 metric tonnes



already delivered.

This agreement supports American prosperity by creating new opportunities for US farmers and businesses while ensuring a supply of nutritious wheat for the people of Bangladesh.

Earlier on November 5, a consortium of Bangladesh’s top three soy crushing companies, Meghna Group, City Group, and Delta Agro, committed to the purchase of \$1 billion of US soybeans over the following twelve months, a spokesperson to the US Embassy in Dhaka said.

“The landmark agreement with the US Soyabean Export Council (USSEC), a trade association representing the interests of US soyabean farmers abroad, signals a growing export market for high-quality US agricultural products in Bangladesh”, said Poornima Rai, spokesperson to the US Mission in Bangladesh.

— ANI

IN COLLABORATION WITH ITA

Italian high-end gastronomy event showcased

Times News Service

Muscat: The Embassy of Italy in Muscat, in collaboration with the Italian Trade Agency (ITA) Office in Muscat, organised a landmark event dedicated to Italian gastronomy and premium food & beverage products on 22 January 2026, at Brezza Rooftop Restaurant, located within the Jumeirah Muscat Bay Hotel.

This initiative marks the first time that the Italian Embassy and ITA Muscat jointly organise an event of this nature in Oman—an initiative conceived with an extremely professional and technical focus, specifically tailored to the hospitality and high-end food service sector.

The event welcomed a delegation of more than 20 Italian companies, travelling directly from Italy, each presenting selected products designed for professional kitchens, luxury hotels, and fine-dining restaurants. The format was intentionally structured as a showcase for industry experts, offering a direct and practical presentation of Italian products to executive chefs and professional distributors operating in Muscat and across Oman.

The initiative also takes place in the context of the recent recognition of Italian cuisine as UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage, reinforcing Italy’s global leadership in gastronomy and underscoring the cultural, technical, and qualitative value of Italian food products. The showcase aimed to highlight not only excellence in taste, but also production standards, traceability, innovation, and culinary expertise.

All leading Omani food distributors have been invited, alongside Executive Chefs, F&B Directors, and culinary decision-makers from Oman’s most prominent ho-



tels and restaurants. Invitations have been extended nationwide, including top chefs from Muscat, Salalah, and other regions of the Sultanate, emphasising the national relevance of the event.

Conceived as an exclusive, invitation-only professional showcase, the event was designed to facilitate meaningful interaction between Italian producers and Omani industry professionals, encouraging dialogue, knowledge exchange, and the exploration of concrete commercial opportunities.

Through this initiative, the Italian Embassy and ITA Muscat reaffirm their commitment to supporting Italian companies in accessing the Omani market, strengthening bilateral economic relations, and promoting long-term partnerships within Oman’s rapidly growing hospitality and food distribution sectors.

The Italian High-End Gastronomy showcased at Brezza Rooftop, Jumeirah Muscat Bay, represented a significant step forward in positioning Muscat as a strategic platform for Italian excellence



TECHOMAN

New national technology community platform launched

Times News Service

MUSCAT; TechOman, a new community-driven national technology platform, has officially launched with the objective of connecting technology solution providers directly with society while empowering Omani youth through practical digital skills, career pathways, and innovation-focused initiatives.

Aligned with Oman Vision 2040, TechOman supports the Sultanate’s transition toward a knowledge-based, innovation-led economy by bringing together students, academia, technology providers, startups, and industry under a single collaborative platform.

New initiative

The initiative aims to bridge long-standing gaps between education, innovation, and real-world market needs.

Founded by technology visionary and community leader Tariq Hilal Al-Barwani, TechOman places strong emphasis on youth empowerment and academic engagement.

The platform will work closely with colleges and universities to deliver hands-on learning experiences, including hackathons, innovation challenges, competitions, and applied technology programs designed to equip students with market-relevant skills.

In parallel, TechOman will support technology startups by providing mentorship, guidance, and access to funding opportunities to help launch and scale innovative projects.

India’s Republic Day celebrations conclude with air show flypast

Indian President Droupadi Murmu, along with Republic Day Parade Chief Guests, the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen and President of the European Council Antonio Luis Santos da Costa, were escorted by the President’s



NEW DELHI: India’s 77th Republic Day parade concluded on Monday after a spectacular showcase of the country’s military might and diverse culture at Kartavya Path. After the parade and after seeing off the President and the visiting foreign dignitaries, Prime Minister Modi kept with his custom of walking along the Kartavya Path. He was seen waving to the spectators who had gathered to witness the Republic Day parades. At the end of the ceremony, President Droupadi Murmu, along with Republic Day Parade Chief Guests, the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen and President of the European Council Antonio Luis Santos da Costa, were escorted by the President’s Bodyguard, also known as ‘Rashtrapati Ke Angrakshak,’

as they departed for Rashtrapati Bhavan. The President’s Bodyguard regiment is the senior-most in the Indian Army and the only one authorised to carry two standards, presented by the President on November 16, 2023. The motto and war cry of the regiment is ‘BHARAT MATA KI JAI’. The President’s Bodyguard is an Airborne Cavalry Regiment with a history of operational service. The people watching the parade were thrilled at the stunning show of courage in the Indian motorcycle display and air show. The Indian Air Force presented a stupendous fly-past as celebrations on Kartavya Path came to a close. Precision at tremendous speeds was on display as the Air Force Pilots showcased the incredible symbiosis of man and machine. A total of 29 aircraft, including 16 fighter aircraft, four transport aircraft and nine helicopters, participated in this year’s Republic Day flypast. These aircraft are operating from five different bases. At the beginning of the 90-minute parade a 21 Gun Salute, was presented by the 1,721 Ceremonial Battery of the 172 Field Regiment. The ceremonial salute was commanded by Major Pawan

Singh Shekhawat, with Naib Subedar (AIG) Anutosh Sarkar performing the duties of the Gun Position Officer. The 21 Gun Salute is a time-honoured tradition, observed on Republic Day and Independence Day, and during State visits of foreign Heads of State. On this solemn occasion, it stands as a powerful tribute to the National Flag, symbolising the sovereignty, unity and strength of the Republic of India. Executed with flawless precision, the salute is fired using 105 mm Light Field Guns, an indigenously developed artillery weapon system, deployed along the iconic Kartavya Path. **Indian Air Force’s Rafale, Sukhoi light up sky** The Indian Air Force presented a stupendous fly-past as the 77th Republic Day celebrations on Kartavya Path in the national capital came to a close on Monday. Precision at tremendous speeds was on display as the Air Force Pilots showcased the incredible symbiosis of man and machine. A total of 29 aircraft, including 16 fighter aircraft, four transport aircraft and nine helicopters, participated in this year’s Republic Day flypast. These aircraft are operating from five different bases.



The formation comprising one C-130 ac in lead with two C-295 ac in echelon would fly in ‘Vic’ Formation. In the Vic Formation, the aircraft create a single V-shape. In Vic, all planes that belong to one V-shape fly at the same altitude. Those ‘on the wings’ use their leaders’ horizontal stabilizer as a reference point, keeping their own wings on about the same line as the stabilizer they are looking at. The formation consisting of Six Rafale aircraft flew in ‘Vajraang’ Formation. The ‘Vajraang’ Formation is a specialised, high-precision aerial display that demonstrates air power and strategic capability. It is characterised by its dynamic, tight formation,

representing strength and operational readiness. The formation comprising one P-8i aircraft and Two Su-30 in echelon flew in ‘Vic’ Formation. One Rafale flying in at 900 kmph behind Trishul formation, maintaining 300m above ground level, over the water channel North of Rajpath. Approaching the Dais, the aircraft pulled up for Vertical Charlie leaving spectators spellbound. During the “Vertical Charlie” the aircraft flew low and fast, pulled up into a vertical climb and performed multiple rolls showcasing incredible thrust, power, and pilot skill. The Indian Air Force remains

fully committed to enhancing India’s aerospace power while demonstrating exceptional operational capability during Operation Sindoor. The operation highlighted the IAF’s ability to decisively shape military outcomes with speed, precision and seamless jointness. Guided by the principle of ‘Train Like We Fight’, the Air Force strengthened inter-service cooperation, ensured rapid integration of new systems and weapons, and sustained high operational readiness through robust logistics, maintenance and indigenisation initiatives. — ANI

IN MINNEAPOLIS



Obama condemns killing of US citizen

WASHINGTON: Former US President Barack Obama and former First Lady Michelle Obama on Sunday strongly condemned the killing of a US citizen in Minneapolis by federal agents, calling it a “heartbreaking tragedy” and warning that core American values are “increasingly under assault.” In a joint statement posted on X, the Obamas said the killing should serve as a “wake-up call for Americans” across political lines, stressing the need for lawful and accountable law enforcement practices. “The killing of Alex Pretti is a heartbreaking tragedy. It should also be a wake-up call to every American, regardless of party, that many of our core values as a nation are increasingly under assault,” Obama said. The remarks came after the 37-year-old man was shot and killed by federal immigration agents early Saturday morning (local time) in south Minneapolis. Obama highlighted widespread outrage over the conduct of masked federal agents, accusing them of acting without accountability and using tactics that intimidate and endanger city residents. “Federal law enforcement and immigration agents have a tough job. But Americans expect them to carry out their duties in a lawful, accountable way, and to work

with, rather than against, state and local officials to ensure public safety. That’s not what we’re seeing in Minnesota,” he said. He criticised the current approach, saying the federal response has escalated tensions rather than imposed accountability. “In fact, we’re seeing the opposite. For weeks now, people across the country have been rightly outraged by the spectacle of masked ICE recruits and other federal agents acting with impunity and engaging in tactics that seem designed to intimidate, harass, provoke and endanger the residents of a major American city. These unprecedented tactics, which even the former top lawyer of the Department of Homeland Security in the first Trump administration has characterized as embarrassing, lawless and cruel, have now resulted in the fatal shootings of two U.S. citizens. And yet rather than trying to impose some semblance of discipline and accountability over the agents they’ve deployed, the President and current administration officials seem eager to escalate the situation, while offering public explanations for the shootings of Mr Pretti and Renee Good that aren’t informed by any serious investigation and that appear to be directly contradicted by video evidence,” Obama said. — ANI

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

US winter storm causes 850,000 power outages, forces 10,000 flight cancellations

WASHINGTON: Nearly a million people across the United States are without power and more than 10,000 flights have been cancelled as a severe winter storm sweeps across the eastern two-thirds of the country, bringing heavy snowfall, freezing rain and dangerously low temperatures, according to media report. On Sunday, the National Weather Service (NWS) warned that sub-freezing temperatures and hazardous conditions could persist for several days, causing “dangerous travel and infrastructure impacts.” More than 850,000 customers were without electricity, according to PowerOutage.us, with at least 290,000 in Tennessee and over 100,000 each in Mississippi, Texas and Louisiana. Other affected states include Kentucky, Georgia, Virginia, and Alabama. The National Weather Service (NWS) warned of heavy snow from the Ohio Valley to the Northeast, while areas from the Lower Mississippi Valley to the Southeast faced “catastrophic ice accumulation.” NWS meteorologist Allison Santorelli described it as “a unique storm in the sense that it is so widespread,” affecting nearly 213 million people under winter weather warnings across a 2,000-



mile stretch from New Mexico through Texas and up to New England. “It was affecting areas all the way from New Mexico, Texas, all the way into New England, so we are talking like a 2,000-mile [3,220km] spread,” reported Al Jazeera. Calling the storm “historic”, US President Donald Trump approved federal emergency disaster declarations as nearly 20 states and the District of Columbia declared weather emergencies. “We

will continue to monitor and stay in touch with all States in the path of this storm. Stay Safe, and Stay Warm,” Trump wrote in a post on Truth Social on Saturday. Al Jazeera reported that more than 10,000 flights were cancelled on Sunday, with thousands more delayed, prompting major airlines to warn passengers to prepare for sudden schedule changes. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) pre-positioned supplies and search-and-rescue teams in multiple states,

while Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem advised residents to take precautions, saying, “It’s going to be very, very cold. So we would encourage everybody to stock up on fuel, stock up on food, and we will get through this together.” The NWS warned that heavy ice could lead to “long-duration power outages, extensive tree damage, and extremely dangerous or impassable travel conditions”, even in states unaccustomed to harsh winter weather. — ANI

MEXICO

Gunmen kill 11 at soccer field in Salamanca

SALAMANCA: A group of men opened fire at a soccer field in the central Mexican state of Guanajuato, killing at least 11 people and wounding 12 more, authorities said. A woman and a child were among the people killed in the attack, according to Salamanca Mayor Cesar Prieto. “This incident adds to a wave of violence that we are sadly experiencing in the state, and particularly in Salamanca,” he added. “Unfortunately, criminal groups

are trying to subjugate the authorities, which they will not achieve.” He also appealed to President Claudia Sheinbaum for help to control the violence. According to Prieto, the gunmen arrived at the end of the soccer match. Prieto said that the motive of the attack was not immediately clear. An investigation has been launched into the attack, said the office of the attorney general in the state of Guanajuato, where Sala-

manca is located. The office was coordinating authorities to improve security in the area, protect its people and find the likely perpetrators, it added in a statement. “Those responsible will be found,” Prieto added in his Facebook remarks. Guanajuato is a popular tourist destination and an industrial hub but it is also Mexico’s deadliest state due to gang turf wars, according to official homicide statistics. — ANI



SPORTS

Qatar’s Sheikh Joaan elected as OCA President in Tashkent

The senior ANOC office bearer became the 22nd chief of the Olympic Council of Asia; Oman Olympic Committee also participated in the OCA General Assembly on Monday

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al Thani of Qatar was on Monday elected President of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) during the OCA General Assembly in the Uzbekistan city of Tashkent. Sheikh Joaan became the 22nd President to serve the Olympic Movement in Asia since the first ever multisport Games were held in 1913. The election was held at the 46th OCA General Assembly in Tashkent, with the 45 Asian National Olympic Committees (NOCs) in attendance as well as President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev. Oman participated in the general assembly with the Oman Olympic Committee (OOC) secretary



general Abdullah bin Mohammed Bamkhalif along with board member Marwan bin Juma Al Juma in attendance. Sheikh Joaan, who also serves as ANOC Senior Vice President

and Qatar Olympic Committee President, outlined his vision – Together for Asia – to the NOCs committing to strengthening solidarity and development throughout Asia, support athletic excellence, pro-

mote good governance, embrace innovation responsibly ensure OCA events and programmes are sustainable, inclusive, and credible, grow international representation to promote Asia’s interests

and position sport as a universal language of peace, mutual respect, and cultural understanding. Sheikh Joaan said: “Asia is the largest and most diverse continent within the Olympic family. This

diversity is our greatest strength. But it also requires us to work in unity, guided by mutual respect and our shared commitment to the Olympic values. Through unity, we transform diversity into opportunity. We empower our National Olympic Committees and we provide a platform for our youth to excel on the world’s sporting stage. “Together, let’s work towards a more united, stronger, and successful OCA. Together for Asia.” Sheikh Joaan will serve as President for the remaining term after former OCA President Randhir Singh of India stood down due to his health reasons.

Tireless efforts Sheikh Joaan commended the role Singh played for the OCA, stating: “I wish to express my sincere appreciation to my dear friend His Excellency Mr. Raja Randhir Singh for his leadership, vision, and tireless efforts during challenging times.”

During the assembly, it was also approved that Qatar will host the 47th General Assembly of the Olympic Council of Asia next year, with the date to be announced later. The assembly witnessed the signing of hosting agreements for the Asian Youth Games in 2029 in Tashkent and in 2031 in Cambodia, in addition to reviewing the preparatory reports for upcoming events, including the Asian Beach Games in Sanya, China 2026, the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Saudi Arabia, and the 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

PCB CHIEF NAQVI

Pakistan to take final T20 World Cup call by Feb 2

LAHORE: Pakistan have deferred their decision on participation in the T20 World Cup 2026 till “Friday (January 30) or next Monday (February 2)”, according to Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Mohsin Naqvi. Naqvi met with Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday to discuss the matter, two days after he said Pakistan’s participation in the tournament would be left up to the government. “Had a productive meeting with the Prime Minister ... Shehbaz Sharif,” Naqvi tweeted. “Briefed him on the ICC matter, and he directed that we resolve it while keeping all options on the table. It was agreed that the final decision [on participation] will be taken either on Friday or next Monday.” It is understood that an outright boycott of the T20 World Cup is not the only option the PCB is considering. There has been speculation about the possibility of specifically refusing to play their game against India on February 15 in Colombo as a more targeted protest. Should Pakistan hold off on a decision till next week, they would be leaving it exceedingly late. Pakistan’s first game at the tournament is the T20 World Cup



opener, against Netherlands in Colombo on February 7, just four days out from the PCB’s potential decision day. Pakistan’s participation in the T20 World Cup was thrown into uncertainty when Naqvi came out sharply critical of the ICC’s decision to remove Bangladesh from the tournament after they refused to travel to India, and demanded an alternate venue. After a protracted standoff, the ICC officially announced Bangladesh would be replaced at the tournament by Scotland.

Naqvi responded to that by accusing the ICC of “double standards” favouring India, terming what happened to Bangladesh “an injustice”, and casting doubt on Pakistan’s own participation in the tournament. Pakistan backed Bangladesh’s stance in Wednesday’s ICC Board virtual meeting, saying there was a precedent of relocating India’s matches on security fears from Pakistan in last year’s Champions Trophy. Then India, who have not toured Pakistan since 2008, played all their matches in Dubai.

RECOVERING FROM SURGERY

Tilak Varma to miss NZ T20Is

MUMBAI: Tilak Varma will go into the T20 World Cup having played no T20 cricket this year. The 23-year-old India batter is on his way back from testicular surgery and has been given extra time to regain match fitness. Tilak is expected to join the India squad in Mumbai on February 3 and will miss the ongoing T20Is against New Zealand, having initially only been ruled out for the first three matches. Shreyas Iyer, who is not part of the World Cup contingent, will remain with the team till the end of the bilateral series. A BCCI statement on Monday said Tilak has “resumed physical training and is making steady progress with his rehabilitation at the Centre of Excellence [in Bengaluru]. However, he will require additional time to regain full match fitness.” Recently, Tilak had established himself in a fluid batting line-up, providing the star turn as India won the Asia Cup final. He was also the highest run-getter from either side in the T20Is against South Africa in December. His absence since then created an opening for Ishan Kishan, also part of World Cup squad, and he took it in style. Suryakumar Yadav, the India captain, praised Kishan’s aggression after he came in with the score at 6 for 2 against New Zealand and made 76 off 32.



Among India’s other top-order batting options, Abhishek Sharma has been in rare form, hitting India’s second-fastest T20I fifty on Sunday but Sanju Samson has fallen into a little rut with 16 runs off his last three innings. India are scheduled to play a T20 World Cup warm-up match on February 4, against South Africa in Navi Mumbai, where Tilak is likely to return to action. There has been no update on Washington Sundar’s status since he suffered a rib injury during the first ODI against New Zealand on January 11. The all-rounder is one of four frontline spin-bowling options that India have picked for the World Cup. All teams taking part in the tournament can make any changes they like to their squads until January 30. After that, they’ll

need the ICC event technical committee’s approval to bring in new players. India A will help provide game time for some of the teams participating in the T20 World Cup. They will be playing USA in Navi Mumbai on February 2 and Namibia in Bengaluru on February 6. Riyan Parag, who has been struggling with a right shoulder issue, has received fitness clearance from the BCCI’s Centre of Excellence, and may be part of those games. **India’s updated squad for NZ T20Is:** Suryakumar Yadav (capt), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (wk), Shreyas Iyer, Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel (vice-capt), Rinku Singh, Jasprit Bumrah, Harshit Rana, Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav, Varun Chakravathy, Ishan Kishan (wk), Ravi Bishnoi. - Agencies

INDIA VS NEW ZEALAND T20IS

‘There’s thought behind the power’: NZ’s Chapman lauds Abhishek

GUWAHATI: New Zealand batter Mark Chapman believes Abhishek Sharma’s stunning six-hitting prowess is not mere mindless aggression but a product of sharp game awareness and planning, saying the visitors will look to pick up a few cues from the dynamic Indian opener ahead of next month’s T20 World Cup. The world No. 1 T20I batter continued his blazing form with a 20-ball 68 not out, including a 14-ball fifty with five sixes, as India chased down a 154-run target in just 10 overs to take an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five-match series in Guwahati on Sunday. Throughout the series, the Kiwis have found themselves at the receiving end of Abhishek’s relentless assault. In the opener, he had smashed eight sixes in a 35-ball 84 as India piled up 238/7 before sealing a comfortable win. “To be honest, their batting has been dynamic and explosive,” Chapman said in the post-match



media interaction on Sunday. “I haven’t seen much of him play in person. But his six-hitting ability is second to none. Just the way he goes about it, he seems like he’s really putting some thought into

his batting. “Obviously he’s playing some really good cricket at the moment. That’s just the nature of T20 cricket. When someone’s playing really well, they can be hard to stop at times.



“There’s a lot for us to look at and review. In all three facets, we can definitely improve,” Chapman said. Despite losing the series, Chapman felt facing India was an ideal preparation ahead of the

global showpiece, with New Zealand keen to fine-tune their game before opening their World Cup campaign against Afghanistan in Chennai on February 8. “We’re going to have to look at

getting some bigger scores. The surfaces have been really good, but we’re well aware that not every surface in India is an absolute belter. There will be times when the ball turns, so we’ve got to be ready for everything. “From our point of view, there’s no better preparation for a World Cup than facing one of the best T20 teams in the world. It’s great to see the way they’re going about their business, so hopefully we can learn one or two things off them.” “Obviously it’s disappointing to be out of the series already. India have played some really, really good cricket. There are some things that we can tidy up on our end and, from our point of view, it’s about reviewing. “Obviously we’ve got one eye on the World Cup as well. We’ve got two more games here. For us, it’s about fine-tuning things and getting better each game to put us in good stead for that first game against Afghanistan,” he said. - Agencies

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES
The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by March 2026 reaching \$63.55, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by \$1.11 from the price of Friday, which was which was \$62.44.

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER
The MSX index closed at 6,195.49 points, up by 0.07% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -0.04% at 580.51 points. Financial Services, up 8.25%, was the top gainer while, Shell Oman Marketing, down 4.57%, was the top loser.

Agreements inked for wind turbine manufacturing plant

The first phase of the project in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad) is valued at approximately OMR70 million and includes the manufacturing of several wind turbine components and blades

MUSCAT: The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) signed a usufruct agreement with Mawarid Turbine to establish a wind turbine manufacturing and assembly plant in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad), alongside two additional agreements to install six wind turbines to generate power required to operate the plant.

The agreements were signed on behalf of OPAZ by Qais Mohammed Al Yousef, Chairman of OPAZ, and on behalf of Mawarid Turbine by Mustafa Mohammed Al Hinal, CEO of the company.

Under the agreements, Mawarid Turbine was granted usufruct rights over three plots of land: the first for the construction of the wind turbine manufacturing and assembly plant, the second for the installation of a single wind turbine, and the third for the installation of five wind turbines. The



company also plans to reserve additional land to support future expansions of the project.

The project aims to localise the wind turbine industry in the Sultanate of Oman in line with Oman Vision 2040 targets for green energy. The plant's expected production capacity ranges between 800 and 1,000 megawatts. The company is also currently developing an initial concept for a battery production project to support energy storage systems.

This agreement represents a strategic step that reflects the Au-

thority's commitment to supporting renewable energy projects and strengthening the localization of clean industries in the areas under its supervision.

It contributes to attracting high-quality international investments, transferring advanced technologies, creating sustainable employment opportunities, and reinforcing Duqm's position as a leading regional hub for green industries and a low-carbon economy.

The first phase of the project is valued at approximately OMR70 million and includes the manufac-

turing of several wind turbine components and blades. The second phase will involve the establishment of a specialized factory for the production of wind turbine towers and other components within the renewable energy value chain, in integration with local enterprises.

Eng. Ahmed Ali Akaak, CEO of Sezad, said that the zone holds competitive advantages that make it an ideal environment for renewable energy projects, citing the availability of wind and solar resources, robust infrastructure, and ample industrial land. He noted that the zone's 2025-2030 strategy focuses on positioning Duqm as a preferred hub for renewable energy and future industries, welcoming the wind turbine factory as a project with sustainable economic and industrial impact.

He added that the Special Economic Zone at Duqm welcomes Mawarid Turbine and the wind turbine plant, which will benefit from the zone's significant capabilities to support and market its products locally and internationally through exports via Duqm Port, which has previously handled oversized cargo shipments.



qualification programmes, contributing to sustainable value creation and strengthening Oman's position as a regional hub for renewable energy industries.

On his turn, Ashraf Hamad Al Ma'amari, CEO of OQ Group, said the Group's contribution to the project falls within its commitment to its national role as a key partner in Oman's energy transition ecosystem and its support for initiatives that promote the localization of renewable energy-related industries. He explained that OQ's investments in localizing industries related to renewable energy, including wind turbines, are aligned with the group's strategy aimed at achieving a well-considered balance between energy security, sustainability, and maximizing economic value.

He added that these strategic partnerships enhance the Sultanate of Oman's readiness for the next phase of energy transformation and contribute to building a national ecosystem capable of competing regionally and globally, in line with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

Additionally, Mawarid Turbine is implementing an integrated programme to train and qualify Omani talent, in cooperation with Shanghai Electric Wind Power Group as the technology provider. The programme includes training courses to be conducted in China starting from the first quarter of this year, in addition to the development of educational and training programmes in collaboration with Omani universities and colleges to strengthen national skills in the green energy sector.

It is worth noting that Mawarid Turbine signed a number of agreements and memoranda of cooperation last year related to technology licensing, the establishment of a research centre, knowledge transfer, preliminary design, and Omanisation and training programmes. -ONA

CREATING CONNECTED ECOSYSTEMS



BankDhofar emerges as a key driver of Oman's digital economy

MUSCAT: BankDhofar is stepping forward as a leading enabler of Oman's digital economy, supporting the nation's shift toward a more connected, platform driven future under Vision 2040. The bank is expanding its role beyond traditional banking by building digital platforms and partnerships that help businesses, government entities, and communities grow.

BankDhofar is embedding financial services into customers' everyday digital journeys. Through advanced platforms and API based integrations, the Bank allows corporates, SMEs, fintechs, and public sector organisations to connect and transact seamlessly. This approach enables faster decisions, improved efficiency, and a smoother digital experience.

For large corporates and government clients, BankDhofar's digital solutions simplify complex activities such as payments, trade finance, and cash management.

These platforms also integrate directly with clients' internal systems, allowing real time visibility and greater control over financial operations.

SMEs and entrepreneurs also benefit from the Bank's digital-first approach. Beyond providing financing, BankDhofar offers tools, advisory support, and access to wider markets—helping smaller businesses participate more effectively in Oman's growing digital economy.

Underpinning this transformation is the Bank's continued investment in cybersecurity, data analytics, and cloud-ready infrastructure. These investments strengthen trust and ensure that customers enjoy secure and reliable digital services.

"Banking today is not just about products — it's about creating connected ecosystems that help our clients operate and innovate," said Dr. Tariq Saleh Mohamed Taha,

Chief Information Officer at BankDhofar. "Through open banking platform, API-led integrations, and strong partnerships, we are supporting Oman's transition to a platform-driven economy in line with Vision 2040."

BankDhofar is also working closely with fintechs, technology providers, regulators, and industry partners to advance national priorities such as financial inclusion, digital skills development, and economic diversification. This collaborative approach ensures that innovative solutions address real needs and drive value across sectors.

As digital adoption accelerates, BankDhofar continues to shape a future where banking is seamlessly integrated into broader digital ecosystems. With a focus on innovation and partnership, the Bank aims to remain a trusted enabler of Oman's digital transformation and long-term growth.

IN DUBAI

Oman participates in Gulfood 2026



DUBAI: The Sultanate of Oman is currently participating in the 31st edition of the Gulfood exhibition "Gulfood 2026," which commenced today at the Dubai World Trade Centre and the Dubai Exhibition Centre at Expo City Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. The event features participation from 195 countries and over 8,500 exhibitors and brands.

Khalid Sulaiman Al Salhi, Director General of Marketing and Commercial Affairs at the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn), stated that the new location at Expo City Dubai has contributed to doubling the area of the Omani pavilion, which now exceeds 330 square meters. The number of participating institutions has surpassed 25, making this participation the largest for the Sultanate of Oman's pavilion compared to previous editions, he added.

He pointed out that during its participation in the 31st edition, Madayn sought to provide a qualitative addition within the frame-

work of efforts to attract and localize foreign investments in the Sultanate of Oman. This, he said, is being achieved through organizing the event "From Factory to Table: Investment Insights for the Future of the Food Industry."

The event will focus on investing in the food industries by discussing opportunities for growth and expansion in regional and global markets, as well as supply chains and industrial integration by enhancing efficiency from production to the end consumer.

It will also address innovation and sustainability in the food sector through the use of modern technology, emphasizing quality and reducing waste. Additionally, it aims to empower small and medium enterprises and showcase successful Omani stories and promising models in food manufacturing, while also opening doors for strategic partnerships, building trade relations, and exploring prospects for cooperation between investors and supporting entities. -ONA

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

India's forex reserves rise over \$14bn to \$701bn

NEW DELHI: India's foreign exchange reserves rose sharply, by \$14.167 billion in the week that ended January 16, to \$701.360 billion, driven by a jump in both gold reserves and foreign currency assets, the Reserve Bank of India's latest 'Weekly Statistical Supplement' data showed. This followed a marginal rise in the previous week.

Over the past few weeks, the forex kitty has been largely in an uptrend. The country's foreign exchange (forex) kitty has been hovering near its all-time high of \$704.89 billion, set in September 2024. For the reported week (that ended January 16), India's foreign currency assets (FCA), the largest component of foreign exchange reserves, stood at \$560.518 billion, up \$9.652 billion.

The RBI data showed that gold reserves currently stand at \$117.454 billion, up \$4.623 billion from the previous week.

The price of the safe-haven asset gold has been on a sharp uptrend over recent months, perhaps amid heightened global uncertainties and robust investment demand.

After the latest monetary policy review meeting in early December, the RBI had said that the country's foreign exchange reserves were sufficient to cover more than 11 months of merchandise imports. Overall, India's external sector remains resilient, and the RBI is confident it can comfortably meet external financing requirements.

In 2024, reserves rose by just over \$20 billion. In 2023, India added around \$58 billion to its foreign exchange reserves, contrasting with a cumulative decline of \$71 billion in 2022. -ANI

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Financial Services, up 8.25%, was the top gainer while, Shell Oman Marketing, down 4.57%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 6,195.49 points, up by 0.07% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -0.04% at 580.51 points. Financial Services, up 8.25%, was the top gainer while, Shell Oman Marketing, down 4.57%, was the top loser.

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

A total number of 3472 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 34.8 million, with more than 138.66 million shares changing hands. Out of 73 traded securities, 26 advanced, 26 declined, and 21 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net sellers for RO 1418K while domestic investors were net buyers for RO 1057K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 361K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 10,726.56 points, up 0.25%. Prices of Financial Services, Muscat Finance, United Finance, Bank

Nizwa, Al Anwar Investment were up by 8.25%, 3.08%, 2.38%, 1.64%, 1.56% respectively. Prices of Takaful Oman, Oman & Emirates Investment, Al Sharqia Investment, Sohar International Bank, Bank Dhofar were down by 2.44%, 1.91%, 0.88%, 0.63%, 0.56% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 8,629.57 points, down -0.98%. Prices of Oman Fisheries, Oman Refreshment, Gulf Mushroom Products were up by 3.45%, 2.86%, 0.78% respectively. Prices of Muscat Thread Mill, Galfar Engineering, Dhofar Cattle Feed, Voltamp Energy, Al Maha Ceramics were down by 4.25%, 3.23%, 3.13%, 3.05%, 2.41% respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.10% before closing at 2,520.33 points. Prices of Abraj Energy, Muscat Desalination, Barka Desalination, Phoenix Power, OQ Gas Networks were up by 1.40%, 1.11%, 0.66%, 0.59%, 0.50% respectively. Prices of Salalah Port Services, Al Suwadi Power, Al Batinah Power, National Gas, Muscat Gases were down by 4.02%, 1.20%, 1.20%, 1.08%, 0.83% respectively.— **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	6,204.29	6,177.03	6,195.49	6,191.05	4.44	0.07
FINANCIAL INDEX	10,739.13	10,686.43	10,726.56	10,699.82	26.74	0.25
Industry Index	8,714.69	8,628.75	8,629.57	8,714.69	-85.12	-0.98
Services Index	2,520.33	2,510.60	2,520.33	2,517.83	2.49	0.10
MSX Shariah Index	581.31	578.30	580.51	580.73	-0.22	-0.04
MSX TR INDEX	9,325.39	9,284.42	9,312.16	9,305.49	6.67	0.07
FINANCIAL TR IDX	12,758.47	12,695.85	12,743.52	12,711.75	31.77	0.25
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	10,744.46	10,638.50	10,639.51	10,744.46	-104.94	-0.98
SERVICES TR IDX	3,286.69	3,274.01	3,286.69	3,283.44	3.25	0.10
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
138,666,439	34,800,528	3,472	33,179,574,360	26	26	21	73

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 26

RIN

SECURITY NAME

VOLUME

TURNOVER

TRADES

OPEN PRICE

HIGH

LOW

CLOSE PR.

PREV. CLOSE

DIFF (RD)

DIFF %

LAST PR

LAST RD

LAST OFFER

P/B VALUE

MARKET CAP

REGULAR MARKET

OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	1,671,901	141,199	66	0.087	0.087	0.084	0.086	0.084	0.002	2.381	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.100	30,626,848
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	2,549,507	315,318	55	0.123	0.127	0.122	0.124	0.122	0.002	1.639	0.124	0.124	0.125	0.100	27,382,176
OM0000003634	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	1,360,229	489,592	228	0.337	0.361	0.336	0.361	0.356	0.005	1.404	0.361	0.361	0.361	0.100	27,942,200
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	900	341	1	0.379	0.379	0.379	0.379	0.375	0.004	1.067	0.379	0.350	0.389	0.100	37,900,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	326,719	129,321	19	0.385	0.397	0.385	0.397	0.395	0.002	0.506	0.397	0.396	0.397	0.100	645,500,703
OM0000000872	OQ GAS NETWORKS	9,607,549	1,941,824	297	0.202	0.203	0.201	0.203	0.202	0.001	0.465	0.203	0.203	0.203	0.100	878,116,656
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	542,171	158,668	29	0.292	0.293	0.291	0.293	0.292	0.001	0.342	0.293	0.293	0.295	0.100	190,728,659
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	95,700	31,198	3	0.326	0.326	0.326	0.326	0.325	0.001	0.308	0.326	0.325	0.326	0.100	77,069,660
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	33,221	11,963	11	0.365	0.365	0.359	0.360	0.360	0.000	0.000	0.360	0.330	0.360	0.100	336,556,175
OM0000000268	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	63,515	12,534	13	0.199	0.200	0.195	0.200	0.200	0.000	0.000	0.200	0.196	0.200	0.100	44,000,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	33,298,211	11,722,458	343	0.352	0.354	0.351	0.352	0.352	0.000	0.000	0.352	0.352	0.352	0.100	2,642,251,766
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	123,610	15,444	36	0.126	0.126	0.124	0.125	0.125	0.000	0.000	0.125	0.123	0.125	0.100	21,875,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	4,252,329	4,601,549	148	1.084	1.086	1.081	1.082	1.085	-0.003	-0.276	1.082	1.083	1.082	0.100	811,500,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	47,465,120	7,551,535	421	0.180	0.181	0.158	0.159	0.160	-0.001	-0.625	0.159	0.159	0.160	0.100	1,052,142,157
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO.	90,504	10,227	8	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.114	-0.001	-0.877	0.113	0.112	0.114	0.100	10,170,000
OM0000004925	ALBATHINAH POWER	228,846	37,782	31	0.187	0.187	0.185	0.185	0.187	-0.002	-1.198	0.185	0.185	0.186	0.100	111,356,428
OM0000004935	AL SUWADI POWER	291,450	41,335	31	0.165	0.167	0.165	0.165	0.167	-0.002	-1.198	0.165	0.165	0.166	0.100	117,877,046
OM0000002804	ASAFA FOODS	12,192	8,412	6	0.690	0.690	0.690	0.690	0.700	-0.010	-1.429	0.690	0.650	0.690	0.100	82,800,000
OM0000001707	OMAN CARLES INDUSTRY	700	1,820	1	2.600	2.600	2.600	2.600	2.640	-0.040	-1.515	2.600	0.000	2.890	0.100	233,220,000
OM0000005661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	15,939	22,517	25	1.400	1.420	1.400	1.400	1.444	-0.044	-3.047	1.400	1.300	1.400	0.100	131,058,427
Total		20	101,998,313	27,245,158	1,772											

Parallel Market

OM0000001384	FINANCIAL SERVICES	127,031	13,233	28	0.101	0.105	0.101	0.105	0.097	0.008	8.247	0.105	0.097	0.105	0.100	2,100,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	3,837,528	253,889	93	0.066	0.067	0.066	0.067	0.065	0.002	3.077	0.067	0.064	0.068	0.100	20,578,804
OM0000001426	OMAN REFRESHMENT	1,350	1,944	3	1.440	1.440	1.440	1.440	1.400	0.040	2.857	1.440	1.440	0.000	0.100	72,000,000
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	10	8	1	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.077	0.002	2.597	0.079	0.078	0.079	0.100	15,800,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	1,053,404	136,390	51	0.128	0.131	0.128	0.130	0.128	0.002	1.563	0.130	0.129	0.130	0.100	38,811,881
OM0000002077	AL OMANYIA FINANCIAL SERVICES	27,000	4,117	5	0.153	0.153	0.151	0.153	0.151	0.002	1.325	0.153	0.151	0.154	0.100	48,258,801
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	110,565	10,039	11	0.090	0.091	0.090	0.091	0.090	0.001	1.111	0.091	0.090	0.091	0.100	14,155,086
OM0000009569	JABAL REIF	1,370,964	158,691	128	0.101	0.102	0.101	0.102	0.101	0.001	0.990	0.102	0.100	0.103	0.100	17,748,000
OM0000003281	TAGEER FINANCE	103,464	13,036	4	0.125	0.127	0.125	0.126	0.125	0.001	0.900	0.126	0.126	0.129	0.100	33,182,125
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	40,859	15,736	9	0.387	0.387	0.384	0.386	0.383	0.003	0.783	0.386	0.386	0.400	0.100	17,665,598
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	5,500	842	3	0.153	0.153	0.153	0.153	0.152	0.001	0.658	0.153	0.151	0.153	0.100	11,554,866
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	115,612	19,597	13	0.170	0.170	0.168	0.170	0.169	0.001	0.592	0.170	0.169	0.175	0.100	248,642,248
OM0000009908	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SFT)	8,680,370	1,618,276	318	0.185	0.187	0.185	0.187	0.186	0.001	0.538	0.187	0.187	0.187	0.100	646,924,789
OM0000001509	DHOFAH INTL.DEV'T & INVESTMENT	344,179	89,567	22	0.261	0.261	0.260	0.261	0.260	0.001	0.385	0.261	0.259	0.261	0.100	129,470,633
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	8,045,539	3,121,208	174	0.387	0.389	0.387	0.389	0.388	0.001	0.258	0.389	0.389	0.389	0.100	1,013,312,000,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGG & INVESTMENT	130,414	19,328	12	0.147	0.150	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.000	0.000	0.147	0.145	0.147	0.100	22,350,000
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL INDUSTRIES	1,000	70	1	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.070	0.070	0.000	0.100	4,375,000
OM0000001982	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	11,000	440	2	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.000	0.000	0.040	0.040	0.043	0.100	3,400,000
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	399	75	3	0.188	0.188	0.188	0.188	0.188	0.000	0.000	0.188	0.181	0.188	0.100	508,876,461
OM0000002341	OMAN CHLORINE	3,100	738	1	0.238	0.238	0.238	0.235	0.235	0.000	0.000	0.238	0.238	0.238	0.100	16,804,578
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	10,500	8,978	3	0.855	0.855	0.855	0.855	0.855	0.000	0.000	0.855	0.855	0.869	0.100	52,390,125
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	22,859	3,983	11	0.179	0.179	0.169	0.179	0.179	0.000	0.000	0.179	0.172	0.178	0.100	108,454,650
OM0000003280	OMAN ARAB BANK	3,000	531	1	0.177	0.177	0.177	0.177	0.177	0.000	0.000	0.177	0.177	0.178	0.100	354,485,577
OM0000007407	DHOFAH GENERATING	351,940	30,140	20	0.085	0.087	0.085	0.086	0.086	0.000	0.000	0.086	0.083	0.086	0.100	19,112,640
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REEF	77,000	14,630	10	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.000	0.000	0.190	0.184	0.198	0.100	112,373,007
OM0000001020	ASYAD SHIPPING	72,773	1,386,462	35	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.000	0.000	0.182	0.182	0.182	0.100	47,870,157
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	790	384	1	0.486	0.486	0.486	0.486	0.488	0.002	-0.410	0.486	0.486	0.488	0.100	87,272,250
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	13,689	2,912	5	0.217	0.217	0.216	0.216	0.217	-0.001	-0.461	0.216	0.216	0.236	0.100	431,21,290
OM0000007435	SEMPROCAP SALAHAL	66,990	14,439	20	0.218	0.218	0.215	0.216	0.217	-0.001	-0.461	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.100	206,387,171
OM0000002546	BANK DHOFAH	2,400,177	424,173	204	0.177	0.178	0.174	0.178	0.179	-0.001	-0.559	0.178	0.178	0.178	0.100	21,384,138
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	2,442	291	2	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.120	0.120	-0.001	-0.833	0.119	0.119	0.132	0.100	3,570,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	74,000	6,822	9	0.093	0.093	0.091	0.092	0.093	-0.001	-1.075	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.100	732,000
OM0000001889	SALAHAL MILLS	3,750	1,594	3	0.425	0.425	0.425	0.425	0.430	-0.005	-1.163	0.425	0.400	0.432	0.100	26,546,802
OM0000002026	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	371,656	28,650	21	0.077	0.077	0.076	0.077	0.077	0.000	1.209	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.100	43,696,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	870	399	3	0.498	0.498	0.490	0.490	0.498	-0.008	-1.606	0.490	0.490	0.498	0.100	182,182,728
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	168,100	17,492	11	0.105	0.110	0.103	0.103	0.105	-0.002	-1.905	0.103	0.103	0.105	0.100	12,553,125
OM0000008447	OMAN RETT FUND	88,170	8,957	28	0.103	0.103	0.101	0.101	0.103	-0.002	-1.942	0.101	0.100	0.104	0.100	65,507,822
OM0000005045	ALMAHA CERAMICS	3,120	140	3	0.283	0.283	0.283	0.283	0.290	-0.007	-2.414	0.283	0.280	0.290	0.100	15,565,000
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	27,290	2,175	14	0.080	0.080	0.079	0.079	0.082	-0.002	-2.439	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.100	20,000,000
OM0000003101	DHOFAH FOODS AND TRADING	16,670	2,554	6	0.155	0.155	0.146	0.155	0.160	-0.005	-3.125	0.155	0.150	0.155	0.100	30,6



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Email: bajifazil@gmail.com

SALES & MARKETING

Seeking a suitable position in Sales & Marketing having 16 yrs of rich experience in Oman and 2 yrs in Africa in the field of Infrastructure, Construction, Building material and Industrial products having good contacts with clients /consultants. BE Mechanical Engineering, PGDM in Management. Holding Valid Omani D/L.

Contact: 94976056

FINANCE

Senior Management Accountant/ Finance Manager

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

Contact: 96987261 (Oman), +917418469385 (India)
Email: nrajan19742003@gmail.com

BUSINESS HEAD

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

Contact No.: 7708 8859

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

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

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Wanted young, male and experienced english-speaking waiter for reputed residence in qurum. Kindly contact or whatsapp resume to 99466062

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

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

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

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

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

Indian Male Accountant / Accounts Manager, B.Com, 12yrs experience in Oman, valid D/L, looking for suitable job. NOC available. Contact: 90302933.

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

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Indian male, 20 yrs experience, seeking a senior position in accounts & finance (Finalisation, Tax Audit, VAT Returns, Credit Control).contact:96761026/ email:mehreenraiz.com

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

Seeking a job opportunity with solid background of finance and accounts for more than 20 yrs of experience in Oman.contact 92824146 / 94953826

Management, accounting operations & MIS reporting. Seeking a suitable managerial or senior accounting position. Contact: 78581435

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

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

Accountant looking for job. Contact: 75024166

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

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

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

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

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

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

ARCHITECT

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

IT

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

ENGINEER

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

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

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)

ENGINEER

Indian male, B.E mechanical with 4+ yrs automotive CFD experience (underhood thermal, ANSA). senior CFD engineer at Alten India. immediate joiner. Contact: 9080451226 | +96896008574 | maheshbabuv1799@gmail.com

Software Engineer / full-stack developer B. Tech computer science with experience at Google strong in Python, Java, Go, Cloud & AI systems. Contact: +968 91950661 | anaswerimpluse@gmail.com

DRIVER

Looking for driver job. Contact: 72852929.

Looking for driver job experience 4 yrs contact 94981482/ 76303505

Looking for driver job 8 yrs experience.92392272

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.

Senior Logistics Coordinator with 8 yrs of professional experience in import and export clearance, seeking career opportunities in Oman. Contact: 97869393

MANAGER

Finance manager, Indian 26 yrs of experience, looking Job Change, Contact- 98006226

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

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

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

Indian male 15 yrs experience having Oman D/L Looking for suitable placement in sales & marketing- contact - 9169 3829

Indian male BCA. with 9+ yrs of experience in banking, marketing and sales . looking for a suitable job. available for immediate joining. contact: +96874194291.

INDIA

Nation applauds Padma Awardees 2026 as leaders extend warm congratulations

NEW DELHI: Greetings and congratulations poured in from across the country for the recipients of the Padma Awards 2026, the highest civilian honours in India, following the Centre's announcement on the eve of Republic Day.

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor took to X to celebrate Malayali awardees, expressing his joy and best wishes. He highlighted the significant presence of Keralites among the recipients, particularly noting the Padma Vibhushan awardees.

Listing the awardees, Tharoor wrote, "On the eve of Republic Day 2026, the Government of India's list of Padma Award recipients honoured several prominent Malayalis for their exceptional contributions across various fields."

He made a special mention of the three Padma Vibhushan awardees, who hail from Kerala.

"Notably, three out of the five Padma Vibhushan (India's second-highest civilian award) recipients this year are from Kerala!" he wrote, sharing the "Kerala Honours list."

He underscored the role of the Padma Vibhushan awardees from Kerala, namely, V.S. Achuthanandan (Posthumous), Justice K.T. Thomas and P. Narayanan. He further named the Padma Bhushan recipients -- Mammooty and Vellappally Natesan-- recognising their contributions. Further in the list, Tharoor recognised the Padma Shri awardees from the state, i.e., A.E. Muthunayagam, I.M. Vijayan, Kalamandalam Vimala Menon and Kollakkal Devaki Amma.

He concluded the post by extending greetings to the awardees from Kerala.

Meanwhile, Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha, in a post on Facebook, wished Padma Shri awardee Naresh Chandra Dev Varma for "his exemplary contribution to Kokborok literature and education."

He wrote, "Heartiest congratulations to Shri Naresh Chandra Dev Varma Ji, on being conferred with the prestigious Padma Shri for his exemplary contributions to Kokborok literature and education." — ANI

Ukraine says US security guarantees deal ‘100% ready’

For us, security guarantees are first and foremost guarantees of security from the United States. The document is 100% ready, and we are waiting for our partners to confirm the date and place when we will sign it,’ the Ukrainian leader told reporters

KYIV: Following talks between representatives from Ukraine, the US and Russia aimed at ending the years-long war in Ukraine, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy described the US agreement on providing security guarantees to Kyiv as "100% ready."

"For us, security guarantees are first and foremost guarantees of security from the United States. The document is 100% ready, and we are waiting for our partners to confirm the date and place when we will sign it," the Ukrainian leader told reporters during a visit to Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital.

"The document will then be sent for ratification to the US Congress and the Ukrainian parliament," he said.

Zelenskyy also called for Ukraine to be granted membership of the European Union by 2027. He described it as an "economic security guarantee."

Zelenskyy says Abu Dhabi talks ‘productive’

On Friday and Saturday, negotiators from Ukraine, Russia and the US held their first trilateral meet-



ing in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates, to discuss Washington's framework for ending Russia's nearly four-year full-scale invasion.

The meeting included not only diplomats but also military representatives from all three sides.

No peace deal emerged from the talks but Zelenskyy said they were "productive."

Negotiators will return to Abu Dhabi on February 1 for the next round of talks, according to

a US official.

Zelenskyy stressed there were still fundamental differences between Ukrainian and Russian positions, particularly over territorial issues.

"Our position regarding our territory — Ukraine's territorial integrity — must be respected," he said.

He pointed to the Kremlin's insistence on Kyiv withdrawing its troops from some areas in eastern Ukraine that Russia claims to

have annexed but its forces have still not been able to capture.

"These two fundamentally different positions — Ukraine's and Russia's. The Americans are trying to find a compromise," Zelenskyy said, adding that "all sides must be ready for compromise."

Russian strikes leave Ukrainians facing bitter cold

Despite the talks, Russia continues to launch missile and drone strikes against Ukraine, particularly targeting its energy infrastructure.

To counter them, Zelenskyy appealed for more air defense support from allies.

"This week alone, the Russians have launched more than 1,700 attack drones, over 1,380 guided aerial bombs, and 69 missiles of various types," Zelenskyy said on Sunday.

"That is why missiles for air defense systems are needed every day, and we continue working with the United States and Europe to ensure stronger protection of our skies," he added.

Kyiv says this winter has been

the toughest since the full-scale war started due to especially severe cold.

Sub-zero temperatures and repeated strikes have also made it difficult repair and restore damaged heating and electricity systems.

On Sunday, Pope Leo also urged "everyone to intensify their efforts" to end the war.

"The protracted hostilities ... have increasingly serious implications for civilians," Pope said after his weekly Angelus prayer.

Russia rules out talks with EU officials

Meanwhile, Russia said it will not hold any discussions with EU officials on ending the war in Ukraine, with Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov describing the bloc's leadership as "incompetent."

Peskov was particularly critical of Kaja Kallas, the EU's foreign policy chief and a former Estonian prime minister. "With her we will never discuss anything at all, and the Americans will also not do so," he said. "What can we do? We just have to wait until she leaves."

— DW

SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES



At least 15 dead, 28 still missing after ferry sinks

ZAMBOANGA: A ferry carrying about 350 people sank in the southern Philippines Monday morning, leaving at least 15 dead and 28 still missing, according to the coast guard.

The accident occurred at 1.50 a.m. local time (1750 UTC) on Monday when the passenger vessel, MV Trisha Kerstin 3, departed from Zamboanga for Jolo in Sulu province.

The ferry sank during good weather about a nautical mile (nearly 2 kilometres) from the island village of Baluk-baluk in Basilan province, Romel Dua, a coast guard commander told news agency The Associated Press.

According to the Philippines Coast Guard, the ferry was passengers within its authorised limit of 352 passengers. There were 332 passengers and 27 crew members on board when the ferry sank.

"There was a coast guard safety officer on board and he was the first to call and alert us to deploy rescue vessels," Dua said, adding that the safety officer survived.

Rescue operations and investigation underway

So far, the rescue team has managed to save at least 316 people and are still searching for the 28 still missing, Romel Dua, a coast guard commander, told news agency Agence France Press. He said that 15 people have been confirmed dead.

"A coast guard aircraft is also on the way to help the operation. The Navy and Air Force also sent their assets," Dua, who is based in southern Mindanao, told AFP.

Basilan emergency responder Ronalyn Perez told AFP that the rescuers were struggling to handle the surge of survivors.

"The challenge really is the number of patients that are coming in. We are short-staffed at the moment," Perez said, adding at least 18 had been brought to one local hospital.

Meanwhile, Dua said an investigation was underway to determine the cause of the accident.

"We cannot say for now the reason of the sinking, but we were instructed to conduct a marine casualty investigation to determine the cause," Dua said.

"As of now, we are focused on the rescue." — DW

GREENLAND

US-NATO deal met with relief, mistrust

NUUK: It's business as usual now in front of the United States consulate in Greenland's capital, Nuuk. But just a few days ago, angry Greenlanders were waving flags here to protest US President Donald Trump's plans to annex the Arctic island.

Since the announcement of a "deal" on the the country's future on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos this week, there has been a sense of relief, human rights activist and Nuuk resident Najanguaq Christensen told DW. But uncertainty remains.

"I'm not quite sure that it's a deal... from our perspective, it's just Donald Trump being Donald Trump," he said, adding that while there have been big announcements, little tangible action has followed. Meanwhile, Greenland hasn't really been involved in the conversation.

On Friday afternoon, Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen travelled to Greenland "to show our strong support for Greenland's people at a difficult time." Frederiksen wants to discuss next steps with the government of the semi-autonomous Danish territory.

Greenland's prime minister, Jens-Frederik Nielsen, is glad that the threats of US military intervention are off the table for now, having repeatedly stated that no one has the mandate to negotiate agreements about the country without the involvement of its government. Frederiksen takes a similar view, but after a meeting with NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte on Friday, she emphasised that defense and security in the Arctic are a matter for NATO as a whole. Copenhagen announced that talks with the US would start soon.

Activist Christensen said people in Greenland are now waiting for details on what to expect. No clear, publicly available document has been released so far, only different



interpretations of the framework agreement announced in Davos.

According to the US, the parties agreed on a permanent safeguard for American interests in the Arctic. This involves military, strategic and economic issues. NATO chief Rutte, on the other hand, has spoken primarily about a security cooperation, making no mention of Denmark or Greenland renouncing their rights.

The current agreement on stationing US forces in Greenland, which dates back to 1951, could be amended. This deal allows the US to use Greenland for military purposes and to operate military facilities within the framework of joint defense. Unlike during the Cold War, when the US was active at over 20 locations in the country at times, today it operates only the Pituffik Space Base on the northwest coast.

Greenland key to Trump's 'Golden Dome' plans

Greenland could become even more important for US early warning and interception systems in the future. Trump has repeatedly described the country as crucial to his planned "Golden Dome" missile defense system, though it remains unclear how the island would actually be involved.

Greenland is also important to the US because of its location at the so-called GIUK gap. Whoever

controls the bottleneck between Greenland, Iceland and the United Kingdom can influence access from the North Sea to the Atlantic Ocean. At a time of growing tensions with Russia, this geopolitical location is becoming important once again.

In addition to security issues, Trump is also thinking in economic terms. Greenland has minerals that are important for the defense and high-tech industries, where the US wants to prevent China from gaining influence.

This is a sensitive issue in Nuuk. Since the beginning of extended self-government in 2009, Greenland has controlled its own mineral resources. Exclusive access or special rights for the US would be seen as an infringement on its sovereignty.

The conflict over Greenland is not only representative of Trump's political style, but also reflects a larger shift. Climate change is opening up routes and making resources in the Arctic more accessible, forcing the major powers to review their strategies.

Uncertainty remains after deescalation

Christensen said Greenland is ready to cooperate with the US on security, defense and investment — but not on a takeover. Following the Davos announcement, many Greenlanders are relieved

that military escalation has been averted, for now.

Even though Trump spoke of a permanent agreement, recent months have shown that the tone in Washington can change at any time. As a result, Christensen said that he senses a great deal of uncertainty on the island.

The political situation in Greenland, which has a population of 56,000, is complicated. Both the ruling and opposition parties are pursuing the long-term goal of independence. But the crisis sparked by Trump's demands to make it a US territory has put the urgency of this demand into perspective.

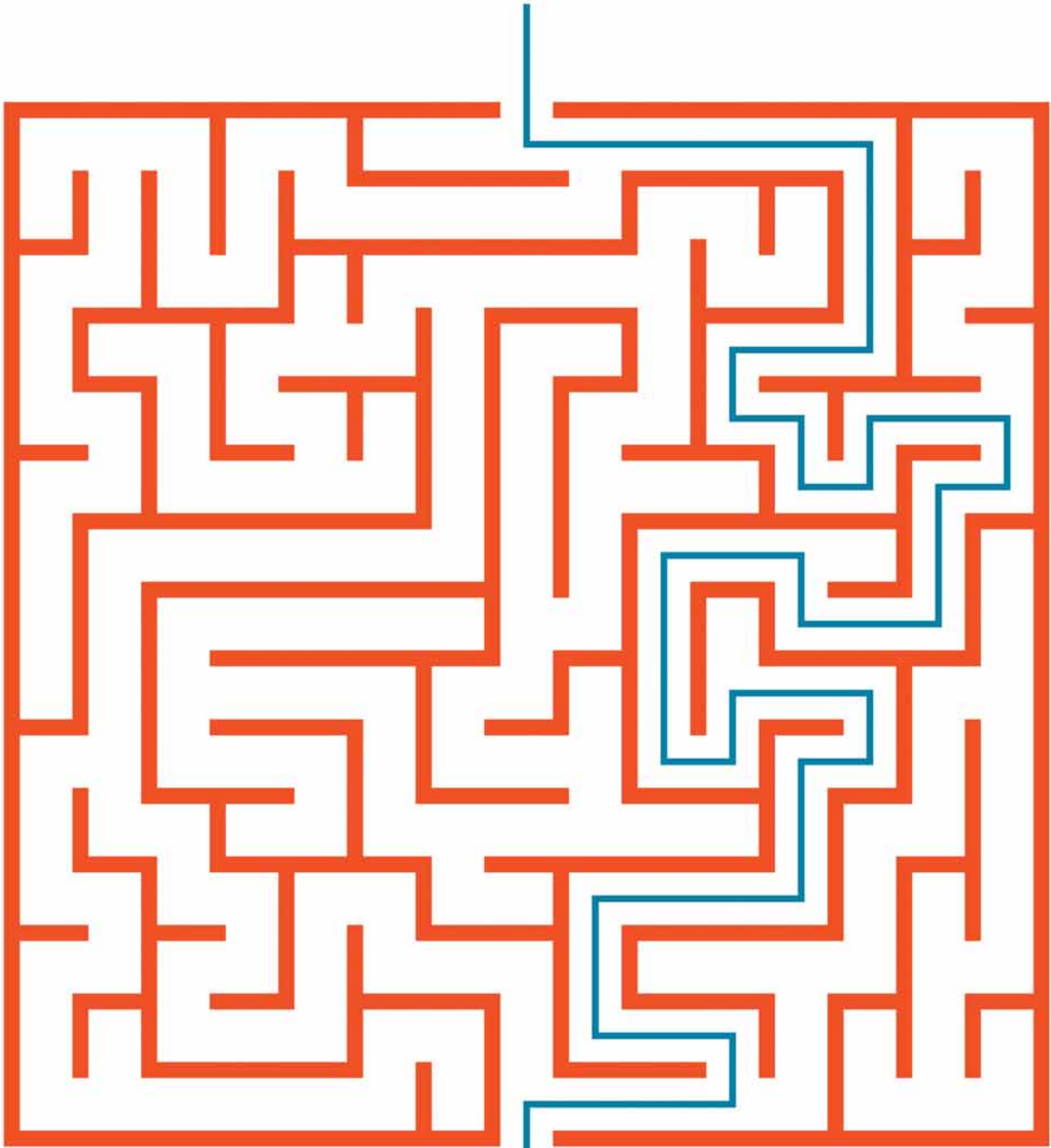
According to Christensen, before the escalation, Greenland was in a "decolonial period" in which issues such as justice, reappraisal and greater self-determination had come to the fore. This has changed. Independence is now seen as an even longer-term project, given that the current global situation has increased the need for protection.

Greenland does not have its own armed forces and the concern among many residents is that they will ultimately be excluded from conversation as equal partners, and once again become the object of strategic interests.

"We have already already been colonised once," Christensen said. "We do not want to be colonized twice." — DW



SCIENTISTS SOLVE A MAJOR ROADBLOCK IN CANCER CELL THERAPY: STUDY



LONDON: Researchers have found a reliable way to grow helper T cells from stem cells, solving a major challenge in immune-based cancer therapy. Helper T cells act as the immune system's coordinators, helping other immune cells fight longer and harder.

The team discovered how to precisely control a key signal that determines which type of T cell forms. This advance could lead to ready-made cell therapies that are cheaper, faster, and easier to access.

For the first time, researchers at the University of British Columbia have shown how to consistently produce a crucial type of human immune cell, known as helper T cells, from stem cells in a controlled lab setting.

The research, published on January 7 in Cell Stem Cell, removes a major barrier that has slowed the development, affordability, and large-scale production of cell therapies.

By solving this problem, the work could help make off-the-shelf treatments more accessible and effective for conditions such as cancer, infectious diseases, autoimmune disorders, and more.

"Engineered cell therapies are transforming modern medicine," said co-senior author Dr. Peter Zandstra, professor and director of the UBC School of Biomedical Engineering. "This study addresses one of the biggest challenges in making these lifesaving treatments accessible

to more people, showing for the first time a reliable and scalable way to grow multiple immune cell types."

The Promise and Limits of Living Drugs

Over the past several years, engineered cell therapies such as CAR-T treatments have produced dramatic, sometimes life-saving results for people with cancers that were once considered untreatable.

These therapies work by reprogramming a patient's immune cells to recognise and destroy disease, effectively turning those cells into 'living drugs'.

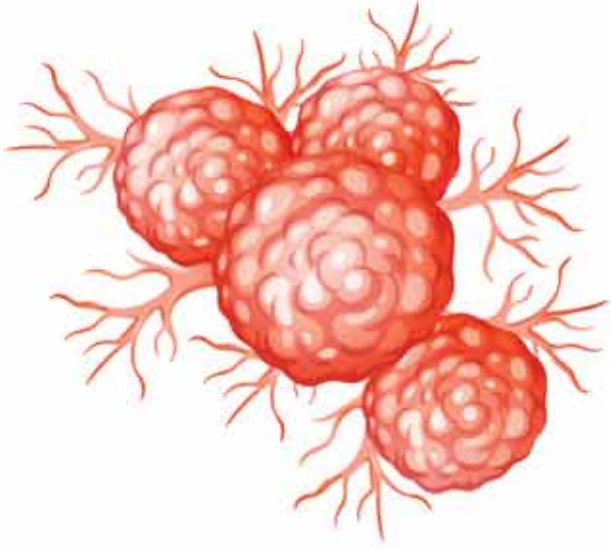
Even with their success, cell therapies remain costly, complex to manufacture, and out of reach for many patients around the world.

One key reason is that most existing treatments rely on a patient's own immune cells, which must be collected and specially prepared over several weeks for each individual.

"The long-term goal is to have off-the-shelf cell therapies that are manufactured ahead of time and on a larger scale from a renewable source like stem cells," said co-senior author Dr. Megan Levings, a professor of surgery and biomedical engineering at UBC.

"This would make treatments much more cost-effective and ready when patients need them," added Dr Megan.

Cancer cell therapies are most



The scientists found that a developmental signal known as Notch plays an important but time-sensitive role in immune cell formation. Notch is necessary early in development, but if the signal stays active for too long, it blocks the formation of helper T cells.

effective when two types of immune cells work together. Killer T cells directly attack infected or cancerous cells.

Helper T cells, which act as the immune system's conductors, detecting health threats, activating other immune cells and sustaining the immune responses over time, play a central coordinating role.

While scientists have made progress using stem cells to create killer T cells in the lab, they have not been able to reliably generate helper T cells until now.

"Helper T cells are essential for a strong and lasting immune response," said Dr. Levings. "It's critical that we have both to maximise the efficacy and flexibility of off-the-shelf therapies."

In the new study, the UBC research team addressed this longstanding challenge by carefully adjusting biological signals that guide how stem cells develop. This approach allowed them to precisely control whether stem cells became helper T cells or killer T cells.

The scientists found that a developmental signal known as Notch plays an important but time-sensitive role in immune cell formation. Notch is necessary early in development, but if the signal stays active for too long, it blocks the formation of helper T cells.

"By precisely tuning when and how much this signal is reduced, we were able to direct stem cells to become either helper or killer T cells," said co-first author Dr.

Ross Jones, a research associate in the Zandstra Lab.

"We were able to do this in controlled laboratory conditions that are directly applicable in real-world biomanufacturing, which is an essential step toward turning this discovery into a viable therapy," said Dr Ross Jones.

The team also confirmed that the lab-grown helper T cells functioned like real immune cells, not just in appearance but in behaviour.

The cells showed signs of full maturity, carried a wide variety of immune receptors, and were able to develop into specialised subtypes with distinct immune roles.

"These cells look and act like genuine human helper T cells," said co-first author Kevin Salim, a UBC PhD student in the Levings Lab. "That's critical for future therapeutic potential."

Researchers say the ability to generate both helper and killer T cells, and to carefully control their balance, could greatly improve the effectiveness of stem cell-derived immune therapies.

"This is a major step forward in our ability to develop scalable and affordable immune cell therapies," said Dr. Zandstra.

"This technology now forms the foundation for testing the role of helper T cells in supporting the elimination of cancer cells and generating new types of helper T cell-derived cells, such as regulatory T cells, for clinical applications," added Dr Zandstra. **-ANI**

Champion Keys dumped out; Sinner advances to last eight



Pegula upset holder and her friend to reach the Australian Open quarter-finals on Monday

MELBOURNE: Jessica Pegula sent reigning champion and pod-cast co-host Madison Keys spinning out of the Australian Open on Monday while defending men's singles champion Jannik Sinner avoid the same fate to reach the quarter-finals in 33C heat. Sinner defeated fellow Italian Luciano Darderi 6-1, 6-3, 7-6 (7-2) but had a couple of wobbles in the third set. Sinner, who is chasing a third

Australian Open crown in a row breezed past the first two sets before Darderi, the 22nd seed, fought back but the experience of Sinner saw him advance to set up a last-eight clash with Ben Shelton. The eighth seed American defeated Norway's 12th seed Casper Ruud 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 in the late game on Monday. Fifth seed Lorenzo Musetti battled the stifling conditions to set up

a last-eight showdown with Novak Djokovic. Musetti beat American ninth seed Taylor Fritz 6-2, 7-5, 6-4. Djokovic has won nine of their 10 previous meetings, but Musetti said: "I feel ready to try to push him to his maximum." Keys and Pegula launched day nine in a clash at Rod Laver Arena between two Americans who know each other well. They are good friends and also host a tennis podcast together, "The Player's Box", and had even been planning to record an episode on the eve of their match. All that was put aside as a clinical Pegula dominated 6-3, 6-4 to set up a last-eight encounter with another American in fourth seed Amanda Anisimova.

Anisimova, beaten finalist at last year's US Open and Wimbledon, cooled herself off with bags of ice before taming China's Wang Xinyu 7-6 (7/4), 6-4. Pegula, the sixth seed, is chasing an elusive Grand Slam title aged 31, her best performance to date reaching the US Open final in 2024. An erratic Keys made 27 unforced errors to Pegula's 17 and fired down six double faults as her title defence ended in the last 16. The forfeit, as a part of a joke bet with Pegula, will be a slice of apple pie with melted cheddar cheese on top. "A bet is a bet, so I'll do it. I hope it's less gross than I think it's going to be, but we will find out," said

Keys, who described herself as proud despite defeat. Pegula reached the US Open final in 2024 but lost to Aryna Sabalenka. It will be her fourth appearance in the quarterfinals in Australia. Fifth seed Elena Rybakina dismantled 21st seed Elise Mertens of Belgium 6-1, 6-3. She will play second seed Iga Swiatek who beat Australian qualifier Maddison Inglis 6-0 6-3. **Melbourne sizzles** After brutal weather caused the suspension of matches on Saturday, temperatures rose sharply again. Longer matches on Monday had 10-minute breaks in certain circumstances as part of measures to protect player health.

Temperatures are forecast to hit a blistering 45C on Tuesday, meaning matches are likely to be played under roofs on the three courts that have them. **Women's quarter-final line-up [seeding in brackets]:** [1] Aryna Sabalenka vs Iva Jovic [29], [3] Coco Gauff vs Elina Svitolina [12], [6] Jessica Pegula vs Amanda Anisimova [4], [5] Elena Rybakina vs Iga Swiatek [2]. **Men's quarter-final line-up** [1] Carlos Alcaraz vs Alex de Minaur [6], [3] Alexander Zverev vs Learner Tien [25], [5] Lorenzo Musetti vs Novak Djokovic [4], [8] Ben Shelton vs Jannik Sinner [2]. - Agencies

AMERICAN EXPRESS GOLF

Scheffler wins 20th PGA Tour title to begin season in style

CALIFORNIA: World No.1 Scottie Scheffler has begun his season in ominous form by winning a landmark 20th PGA Tour event on Sunday to further strengthen comparisons with Tiger Woods and Jack Nicklaus. Scheffler is the second-fastest player to that number in terms of days taken, third fastest in events played and third youngest to reach the milestone. While Woods and Nicklaus remain the benchmark, Scheffler, who won the American Express in California by four shots on Sunday, is continuing to post impressive stats in this era of the game. Scheffler won the £1.236m (\$1.656m) first prize 1,442 days after his first victory at the WM Phoenix Open in 2022. Woods took 1,351 days. It was his 151st appearance on the PGA Tour. Woods took 95 events to reach 20 wins, Nicklaus 127. Scheffler is the first player since Rory McIlroy in 2021 to reach the mark, and with it he earns a lifetime exemption on the American circuit. The 29-year-old also joins Woods and Nicklaus in being the only players to win 20 PGA Tour events and four majors under the age of 30. Woods has won a joint-record 82 PGA Tour titles and 15 majors and still harbours hopes of improving those numbers. Nicklaus holds the majors record with 18, alongside his 73 PGA

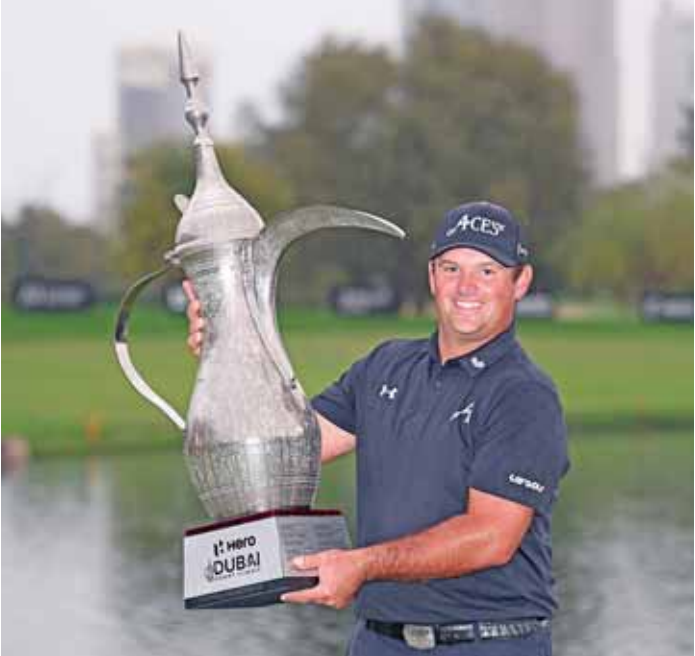


Tour victories between 1962-86. Four-time major winner Scheffler also becomes the third player - after Woods and McIlroy - to win \$100m on the PGA Tour. Naturally, given the increased prize money on offer, he has done so in far fewer events. McIlroy, who has claimed 29 PGA Tour victories, has won \$107,981,766 in 273 starts on the PGA Tour, while Woods' total career earnings of \$120,999,166 has come from 378 events. Scheffler needs to win the US Open to join Gene Sarazen, Ben Hogan, Gary Player, Nicklaus, Woods, and McIlroy as the only players to complete the career Grand Slam of winning all four majors. "It's pretty wild," said Scheffler who closed with a six-under 66 to move ahead of overnight leader Si-Woo Kim of South Korea and win his first tour event of the season on 27 under. "It has been a great start to my career and I've had some nice wins out there. It has been special and I try not to think about that stuff too much. He finished ahead of compatriots Ryan Gerard (65), Matt McCarty (68), Andrew Putnam (68) and Australia's Jason Day (64), who all finished on 23 under. Blades Brown, 18, who was bidding to become the second-youngest golfer to win a PGA Tour event, faded to finish joint-18th on 19 under. - Agencies

DUBAI DESERT CLASSIC

Reed reigns supreme in Dubai

DUBAI: American Patrick Reed shot a level-par 72 in his final round to ease to a four-shot victory in the Dubai Desert Classic on Sunday. The 35-year-old LIV golfer finished the tournament at 14 under par to claim what was his first Rolex Series victory on the DP World Tour. Reed, the Masters champion in 2018, started the final round with a four-shot lead over Spaniard and fellow LIV player David Puig, an advantage he maintained in the early going despite not making a birdie across the front nine. Puig birdied the eighth and ninth to briefly cut into his playing partner's lead, before both birdied the 10th and bogeyed the 11th. When the Spaniard bogeyed the 13th, and Reed made his second birdie of the day on the same hole, it was a straightforward finish to the tournament for the former world No.6. "I couldn't really get anything going on the front nine, it was a bit of a grind today," Reed told Sky Sports. "Instead of putting the foot on the gas early, I was just trying to protect that four-shot lead. I didn't think I hit it that badly, I just couldn't get anything close. "When you're trying to protect, sometimes instead of looking at flags, you're looking away and then you misjudge the wind and all of a sudden you're 50 feet away. That's kind of what happened."



Reed's final round featured two birdies and two bogeys. Having spent much of the day as Reed's nearest challenger, Puig was given a two-stroke penalty on the 18th for grounding his club in the bunker. That dropped him into a tie for seventh with Englishman Andy Sullivan, who finished with a pair of birdies, in solo second on 10 under. After his impressive 65 on Saturday, Norwegian world No.14 Viktor Hovland endured a frustrating final round with a four-over 76 that featured a trio of

double bogeys. That dropped the 28-year-old from third into a tie for 14th, which was still the best finish among his 2025 Ryder Cup team-mates. Republic of Ireland's Shane Lowry shot a final-round 70 to finish on three under and in a tie for 26th, with world No.2 Rory McIlroy and England's Tyrrell Hatton one shot and seven places further back. World No.3 Tommy Fleetwood shot a 69 on Sunday which was good enough to jump 20 places on the leaderboard and finish in a tie for 41st on one under overall. - Agencies

CYCLING

Vine pedals to Tour Down Under glory despite kangaroo crash



MELBOURNE: Australian Jay Vine won the Tour Down Under - despite being knocked off his bike in a crash caused by a kangaroo on Monday. Britain's Matthew Brennan took the fifth and final stage of the race in Australia, on a day dominated by drama in the peloton. The kangaroo ran across the road with under 100km of the race to go and launched itself into the peloton, knocking several riders to the ground before tumbling into more who were trying to avoid it. Vine, having been knocked down, used a team-mate's bike to claim the overall winner's ochre jersey by one minute three seconds for UAE Team Emirates-XRG. Visma-Lease A Bike rider Brennan beat New Zealand's Finn

Fisher-Black of Red Bull-Bora Hansgrohe to the line for the stage victory after a powerful acceleration on the uphill sprint finish. Brennan's team-mate Menno Huising of the Netherlands was one of the riders forced to abandon the race, having been injured in the kangaroo incident. Tobias Lund Andresen of De-cathlon-CMA CGM took third on the 169.8km stage around Stirling near Adelaide. Switzerland's Mauro Schmid of Jayco-AlUla was second overall and Australia's Harry Sweeney third for EF Education-EasyPost. Lund Andresen took the blue points jersey, with Norway's Martin Urianstad Bugge winning the mint-green king of the mountains jersey for Uno X Mobility.

Brennan ranks highly among several young talented British riders competing on the UCI World Tour this year. He won 12 races in his debut elite-level season in 2025. The win caps a good week for British riders at the first World Tour race of the year following Ethan Vernon's sprint victory on Saturday's stage four for NSN - the new team co-owned by World Cup winner Andres Iniesta. That stage had been shortened to account for temperatures of up to 43C. UK road champion Sam Watson won the opening prologue of the race for Ineos Grenadiers. Many of the riders will now take on the one-day Cadel Evans Great Ocean Road Race in Melbourne. - Agencies

SPANISH LA LIGA



Barcelona reclaim top spot with a 3-0 win over Oviedo

BARCELONA: Barcelona capitalised on two defensive mistakes by bottom-of-the-table Real Oviedo to seal a 3-0 victory at a rain-drenched Camp Nou on Sunday, regaining top spot in La Liga.

Goals from Dani Olmo, Raphinha, and an acrobatic Lamine Yamal strike powered the Catalans to 52 points, one ahead of Real Madrid, while Atletico Madrid trails in third on 44. Barca struggled to break the deadlock against a spirited Oviedo until it finally found the breakthrough in the 52nd minute, with Olmo striking home following a defensive lapse.

Five minutes later, Oviedo's struggles deepened, with defender David Costas under-hitting a back pass, which Raphinha intercepted before calmly chipping the onrushing keeper Aaron Escandell to double Barcelona's lead. Yamal wrapped up Barca's win by scoring in the 73rd minute with a brilliant acrobatic volley from an Olmo cross.

In relentless rain that later turned to hail, Barcelona started sluggishly as Oviedo, with just two wins all season, threatened to shock their hosts.

Missing the injured Pedri, who is set to miss a month with a muscle problem sustained during their recent Champions League win over Slavia Prague, Barcelona lacked its usual midfield creativity.

Robert Lewandowski went close to breaking the deadlock in the 33rd minute, narrowly missing the target with a header from Yamal's inviting cross, as the Catalans began to find their feet.



Barcelona finally broke through after the interval, thanks to a costly error. Oviedo defender David Carmo hesitated while attempting to clear, allowing Yamal to press and deflect the ball into Olmo's path. The midfielder calmly slotted into the bottom corner in the 52nd minute to give the home side the lead, with Raphinha extending Barca's advantage five minutes later thanks to another self-inflicted wound by Oviedo.

"That's our idea, to press high up the pitch and try to win the ball back as quickly as possible. It's a shame what happened to their defenders, but that's what I have to do," Raphinha told DAZN.

Yamal put the result beyond doubt in the 73rd minute with a moment of brilliance. Olmo's cross found the Spanish teenager at the far post, where he leapt to score with an exquisite scissor kick volley that nestled just inside the right post. - Agencies

Resurgent Man Utd dent Arsenal's title chances



Matheus Cunha's late stunner proved to be the difference, with the goal ensuring United's first Premier League win at Arsenal's home since 2017



en-point lead, Arsenal's first home defeat of the season in all competitions left them four points ahead of Manchester City and Aston Villa. Arsenal, who are now three league games without a win, have 50 points while Manchester City and Aston Villa are level at 46. A rejuvenated United are fourth with 38 points.

City had got back to winning ways by beating Wolverhampton Wanderers on Saturday while Villa won 2-0 at Newcastle United on Sunday. A stunning first-half strike by Emiliano Buendia and a late goal by Ollie Watkins sealed the points for Villa, who bounced back impressively from last week's home defeat by Ever-

ton. Chelsea are fifth with 37 after a 3-1 victory at Crystal Palace sealed with goals by Estevao, Joao Pedro and Enzo Fernandez. Chris Richards grabbed a consolation goal for the host, which had Adam Wharton sent off.

Nottingham Forest moved five points above the relegation zone with a 2-0 win at Brentford.

Arsenal are chasing a first title since 2004 and could well have built a commanding lead with City and Villa stumbling of late. But Sunday's loss, following consecutive 0-0 draws, has raised the anxiety levels.

"You have to give credit to Manchester United. We gave them a goal which is unusual and painful,

then two brilliant moments with incredible goals. We were not at our best and paid the price," Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta said.

The Gunners looked in control when Lisandro Martinez's own goal put them ahead after 29 minutes. But a terrible mistake by Martin Zubimendi in the 37th minute gifted United an equaliser by Bryan Mbeumo.

Dorgu then rifled in a volley in the 50th minute and United's confidence was soaring until substitute Mikel Merino prodded the host level from a corner late on.

United was not finished though and substitute Cunha advanced before curling a right-foot shot past David Raya from 25 metres to spark wild celebrations in the visiting fans.

Forest was under pressure after third-from-bottom West Ham United moved two points behind them with a win against Sunderland on Saturday.

But they responded with a victory at Brentford, which lost at home for only the second time this season in the league. Goals from Igor Jesus and Taiwo Awoniyi proved decisive for Forest, which moved level on points with 16th-placed Leeds United. - Agencies

AGAINST MOROCCO

Senegal's Gueye admits AFCON final walk-off was 'a mistake'

PARIS: Senegal's Africa Cup of Nations hero Pape Gueye admitted that his team's walk-off in the final against host Morocco was a "mistake", in an interview with French television on Sunday.

Morocco was awarded a late penalty in normal time just moments after Senegal had a goal disallowed for a push.

The Senegalese players were furious and walked off the pitch, triggering a delay of more than 15 minutes as their fans clashed with security.

When Senegal eventually returned, Brahim Diaz fluffed his penalty, an attempted Panenka, before Gueye struck the winner in extra time. "We are only human. We realised our mistake and came back out," said the 26-year-old midfielder. "Anyone can make a mistake," he added.

Gueye praised former Liverpool star Sadio Mane, who remained on the pitch and urged his team-mates to return for the penalty.

"He found the right thing to say



at the right moment and it shows just how important he is to us," he said. "We owe him a big thank you."

It was Senegal's second AFCON title, leaving Morocco still waiting to add to its only crown from 50 years ago.

Gueye also expressed surprise that Diaz had attempted a

chipped Panenka penalty.

"It was daring and I would not have risked that myself," he said.

The Moroccan Football Federation has formally referred the walk-off and the behaviour of Senegalese supporters to the Confederation of African Football (CAF), which organises AFCON, and FIFA. - Agencies

ITALIAN SERIE A

Juventus trounce Napoli 3-0

TURIN: Juventus claimed a statement 3-0 home win over an injury-hit Napoli on Sunday to boost their top-four hopes in Serie A, with goals from Jonathan David, Kenan Yildiz and a late strike from Filip Kostic. The win moved Juventus to fifth with 42 points, one behind Napoli and AS Roma, and 10 adrift of leaders Inter Milan.

Juventus showed their ambition when Khepren Thuram sent a curling effort from the edge of the box against the woodwork, with the rebound bouncing clear.

After dominating the early stages, the host was rewarded in the 22nd minute when Manuel Locatelli floated a clever pass into the area, which David controlled with his chest before finishing from a tight angle.

Yildiz nearly doubled the lead three minutes later when he broke through and fired a low shot past Napoli 'keeper Alex Meret, but Alessandro Buongiorno produced a crucial goal-line clearance to deny him.

Yildiz got his goal in the 77th minute when he timed his run to meet a through ball from Fabio



Miretti inside the box before calmly sending the ball past Meret to double Juventus' lead and seal the match.

Napoli's night got worse in the 86th minute when Kostic's long shot seemingly took Meret by surprise, with the ball going into the bottom corner.

Roma hit Milan's title-ambitions

In the later game, AC Milan's title hopes suffered a blow as they were held to a 1-1 draw by Roma in a rain-soaked clash in the capi-

tal that left Inter Milan five points clear at the top.

After a difficult first half, Milan made the breakthrough in the 62nd minute when Koni De Winter rose to glance home a header from a cross, sparking wild celebrations on the visiting side's bench.

However, the home fans were seen roaring 12 minutes later when Davide Bertesaghi was penalised for handball and the referee pointed to the spot, with Lorenzo Pellegrini making no mistake to level for Roma. - Agencies

JANUARY 30-31

400 karatekas to take part in Muscat Nights Shotokan Karate Open

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A total of 400 karatekas, including 160 women participants from 30 clubs, centres and academies, will participate in the upcoming two-day Muscat Nights 11th Shotokan Karate Centre Open Championship from January 30.

The organisers revealed details of the upcoming edition, which will be hosted at the Ahli-Sidab Sports Hall in Darsait as part of the Muscat Nights festival.

International referee Yousuf Al Siyabi, chairman of the technical committee, said, "This year's edi-

tion marks the 11th in the tournament's history and the second to be held under the Muscat Nights umbrella."

Al Siyabi highlighted the championship's strong international character, emphasising the organising committee's commitment to attracting wide regional and overseas participation. Teams and clubs from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, and Kuwait will compete, alongside participants from Algeria, Libya, Iran, and Sudan.

This year's championship will feature participants competing in both kata and kumite events



across 54 teams, with 20 teams in kata and 34 in kumite. The matches will be overseen by 37 certified referees.

Al Siyabi also confirmed the continued inclusion of inclusive sports categories, with participation from Al Tadamun Wheel-

chair Team of Sohar Club and the Oman Down Syndrome Association team. He stressed that karate is not merely a physical competition but a discipline that builds confidence, respect, discipline, and positive values among participants.

Beyond competition, the championship aims to promote karate, discover young talent, and strengthen the spirit of fair play, while also introducing Oman to international visitors through sport. Hosting delegations from different countries, Al Siyabi said, "helps showcase the Sultanate's culture

and hospitality and supports tourism, particularly as the event is linked to Muscat Nights, which has become a major attraction."

Hussein Al Ramhi, Supervisor of Sports and Beach Events at Muscat Nights, said the karate championship carries economic, cultural, and tourism dimensions in addition to its sporting value by attracting clubs, teams, and fans, from neighbouring countries.

A technical lecture for coaches will be held on January 29 at Ahli Sidab Club's lecture hall to discuss regulations and the latest competition updates.

ROUND-UP

Empowering the next generation: Sohar International celebrates Lahunna’s Sidrah graduates

The Sidrah programme forms part of the broader portfolio of initiatives led by Lahunna, an independent platform dedicated to advancing the role and contribution of Omani women within society

MUSCAT: In line with its enduring commitment to social responsibility, inclusive growth, and the advancement of national human capital, Sohar International recently hosted the graduation ceremony of Lahunna’s Sidrah program, an initiative it supported as the Strategic Sponsor.

Held under the patronage of HH Sayyida Hujaija Al Said, whose presence underscored the importance and national relevance of the initiative, the ceremony marked the successful graduation of 90 young Omani women.

Commenting on the occasion, Abdulwahid Mohamed Al Murshidi, Chief Executive Officer of Sohar International, said, “Supporting young Omani women at critical stages of their personal and professional development is not merely an investment in individuals, but in the resilience and dynamism of our society as a whole. When women are equipped



with confidence, clarity of purpose, and the capacity to lead with integrity, the impact extends well beyond careers to communities and the national economy.

“We believe that the private sector has a responsibility to actively champion structured development platforms that prepare the youth to navigate an increasingly complex and competitive landscape.”

Shatha Salim Al Maskiry, Founder of Lahunna Oman, added:

“I am very grateful and happy with this genuine engagement. It confirmed to me that the true success of the Sidrah program lies in the lasting impact the young female graduates will have on society, both today and in the future, in line with the goals of Oman Vision 2040.”

The Sidrah program forms part of the broader portfolio of initiatives led by Lahunna, an independent platform dedicated to advancing the role and contribution of

Omani women within society. As its flagship initiative, Sidrah brings together women between the ages of 20 and 35 from across the Sultanate through a structured development journey focused on leadership readiness, purpose-driven growth, and meaningful participation.

Sohar International’s strategic sponsorship of the program reflects its approach to corporate social responsibility, centered on supporting initiatives with last-

ing societal relevance and clear alignment to national priorities. Through its engagement with platforms that cultivate leadership capability, strengthen employability, and encourage ethical, forward-looking mindsets, the bank contributes to building a resilient talent pipeline capable of advancing Oman’s long-term economic ambitions.

In this context, the Sidrah program’s emphasis on applied learning and real-world relevance ena-

bles graduates to translate insights into meaningful personal, professional, and community outcomes, reflecting Sohar International’s values of responsibility, discipline, and future-focused leadership.

Through such initiatives, Sohar International continues to advance partnerships that generate enduring value, strengthen socioeconomic participation, and support the aspirations of future generations in alignment with Oman’s broader development objectives.

RUGGED AND LIFESTYLE SMARTWATCHES



Kospet Smartwatches officially launched in Oman, appointing SARCO as exclusive distributor

MUSCAT: Kospet, a globally recognised innovator in rugged and lifestyle smartwatches, officially announced its entry into the Omani market with the grand launch of Kospet Smartwatches in the Sultanate of Oman. The landmark occasion also marked the formal appointment of Al Seeb Technical Establishment (SARCO) as the exclusive distributor for Kospet in Oman.

The announcement was made during an extravagant launch event held on 25th January 2026 at the Crowne Plaza, Qurum, Muscat, attended by key stakeholders, industry leaders, retail partners, media representatives, and influencers. The evening showcased Kospet’s cutting-edge smartwatch portfolio, featuring models designed for adventure enthusiasts, fitness-focused users, and everyday lifestyle consumers.

Speaking at the event, Young, Global – Sales Director, Kospet highlighted the brand’s commitment to innovation, durability, and smart technology, emphasizing their confidence in the Omani

market and their strategic partnership with SARCO.

“SARCO’s strong retail presence, market expertise, and proven track record in building global brands in Oman make them the ideal partner for Kospet’s growth journey in the Sultanate,” said a Kospet spokesperson.

SARCO, a leading distributor and retailer of consumer electronics, watches, and lifestyle brands in Oman, brings decades of market leadership and an extensive retail and service network across the country. With this exclusive distributorship, Sarco will be responsible for the import, marketing, retail distribution, after-sales service, and brand development of Kospet Smartwatches across Oman.

Commenting on the partnership, Sanjeev Awasthi, CEO, SARCO said, “We are proud to introduce Kospet Smartwatches to Oman and to be appointed as the brand’s exclusive distributor. Kospet’s product range perfectly aligns with the evolving lifestyle and fitness needs of today’s consum-

ers. This partnership reinforces SARCO’s commitment to bringing innovative and high-quality global brands to the Omani market.”

The launch event featured live product demonstrations, experience zones, and an immersive brand presentation, offering guests a firsthand look at Kospet’s advanced features such as rugged durability, long battery life, advanced health monitoring, multi-sport modes, and smart connectivity.

Kospet Smartwatches will be made available across SARCO’s authorized retail outlets and leading electronics retailers nationwide, as well as through select e-commerce platforms. The initial product lineup includes a range of rugged outdoor smartwatches and sleek lifestyle models, catering to diverse consumer preferences and usage needs.

With this strategic partnership, Kospet aims to establish a strong foothold in the Omani market, supported by SARCO’s robust distribution capabilities and customer-centric approach.

RECOGNITION

Sohar International champions best practices in Oman’s energy sector at Opal Awards

MUSCAT: Demonstrating its long-standing commitment to supporting sector-wide platforms that advance operational excellence, responsible practices, and continuous improvement within the energy sector, Sohar International was recognised as ‘Sponsor of the Year’ at the OPAL Best Practices Awards, organized by the Oman Energy Association (OPAL).

Held under the auspices of Eng. Salim bin Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals, the event brought together organizations and stakeholders committed to elevating quality standards and promoting the adoption of best practices across the energy sector—reinforcing its role in supporting national development priorities and long-term economic resilience. Sohar International was represented at the ceremony by its Chief Executive Officer, Abdulwahid Mohamed Al Murshidi, reflecting the Bank’s active engagement in strategic dialogue and its continued contribution to initiatives that strengthen institutional performance and sustainable growth.

Commenting on the occasion, Abdulwahid Mohamed Al Murshidi said, “Platforms that recognize and promote best practices play a critical role in raising performance benchmarks, reinforcing safety, and embedding a culture of continuous improvement across the energy sector. This is particularly important as the energy sector remains one of the Sultanate’s most strategic and value-creating pillars, supporting economic diversification, industrial development, and long-term national resilience. At Sohar International, we remain committed to partnering with national institutions, industry stakeholders, and sector leaders to support responsible growth, accelerate



the energy transition, and create long-term value for the economy, society, and future generations.”

The award ceremony is designed to showcase top-performing members and disseminate their achievements across the wider industry, creating a ripple effect that encourages continuous improvement. By recognizing organizations that have demonstrated best practices in developing, deploying, and sustaining effective solutions, the program supports a culture of learning and capability building. This focus is consistent with Sohar International’s continued engagement with initiatives that promote structured performance across organizations.

Award recipients are selected by a panel of independent judges with relevant sector expertise, ensuring that recognition is anchored in a robust assessment process. Submissions are evalu-

ated against clearly defined criteria, reinforcing the integrity of the program and its role in recognizing meaningful and well-substantiated performance. For Sohar International, engagement with such frameworks reflects a clear respect for objective assessment and credible recognition.

Through its engagement with platforms such as the OPAL Awards, Sohar International reinforces its role as a financial partner that looks beyond transactional engagement, contributing instead to ecosystems that reward excellence, transparency, and forward-thinking practices. As Oman’s energy and industrial sectors continue to evolve, the bank remains focused on supporting initiatives that strengthen institutional capability, raise performance benchmarks, and enable companies to move confidently toward a more resilient and competitive future.

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