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Times OF OMAN

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50 YEARS OF LEGACY
مجموعة مسقط للإعلام
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AT AL BARAKAH PALACE

HM receives credentials of several envoys

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik received, separately credentials of ambassadors of several countries appointed to the Sultanate of Oman at Al Barakah Palace yesterday.

His Majesty the Sultan received credentials of the following ambassadors:

- Ahmed Mahmoud Ahmed Al Rowaidhi, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador by President Mahmoud Abbas of the State of Palestine and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.

- Majdi Ramadan, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador by President General Joseph Aoun of the Lebanese Republic, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.

- Wijesinghe Arachchige De Alwis, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador by President Anura Kumara Dissanayake of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.

- Noralyn Jubaira Baja, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador by President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr. of the Republic of the Philippines, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.

- Adam Bagoudou Zakari, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador by President Patrice Talon of the Republic of Benin, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.

- Ricardo Silva-Santisteban Benza, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador by President José Jerí of the Republic of Peru, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.

- Saimir Bala, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador by President Bajram Begaj of the Republic of Albania, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman. >A2

APPOINTMENT

His Majesty the Sultan issues three Royal decrees

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik yesterday issued three Royal decrees reading as follows:

Royal Decree No. (27/2026) on applying the Uniform GCC Law of Industrial Regulation, after the same was presented before the Council of Oman.

Article (1) enforces the provisions of the Uniform GCC Law of Industrial Regulation attached to this decree.

Article (2) cancels the Uniform GCC Law of Industrial Regulation promulgated by Royal Decree No. 61/2008, as well as all that contradicts the law attached to this decree or contravenes its provisions.

Article (3) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced after 30 days from its date of publishing.

Royal Decree No. (28/2026) on amending some provisions of the Common Customs Law of the GCC States, after the same was presented before the Council of Oman.

Article (1) states that the amendments attached to this decree shall be applied to the Common Customs Law of the GCC States, promulgated by Royal decree No. 67/2003.

> Royal Decree on applying the Uniform GCC Law of Industrial Regulation

Article (2) cancels all that contradicts the amendments attached to this decree or contravenes their provisions.

Article (3) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from the day following its date of publishing.

Royal Decree No. (29/2026) on appointing non-resident ambassador.

Article (1) appoints Thamer bin Fayez bin Khalfan Al Alawi, ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Kingdom of Spain, as Oman's non-resident ambassador to the Principality of Andorra.

Article (2) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from its date of issue. — ONA

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Survey of Oman's fish resources to start

1 The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources will begin conducting the Fisheries Resources Survey Project in the Arabian Sea and Sea of Oman this Friday, under a cooperation agreement signed with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). >A5

WORLD

Muhammad Yunus meets poll observers

2 Chief Adviser of the Interim Government of Bangladesh, Muhammad Yunus, met with multiple election observation delegations as the country gears for the 13th national elections, scheduled for February 12. >A7

SPORTS

South Africa beat Afghanistan

3 South Africa defeated Afghanistan in the second Super Over thriller during match 13 of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 held at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Wednesday. >A8

Italian team Astana clinches Tour of Oman 2026 title **A4**

RAMADAN IN OMAN TO BEGIN ON FEBRUARY 19

> The Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs has extended its sincerest greetings to His Majesty

MUSCAT: The Main Committee for Moon Sighting said that based on confirmed astronomical evidence indicating that the moon will set on Tuesday, the 29th of Sha'ban 1447 AH, corresponding to 17 February 2026, before or at sunset in all governorates of the Sultanate of Oman, the sighting of the crescent moon on this day is astronomically impossible.

The Committee added that in accordance with the established principle of not accepting reports that contradict observable reality and scientific certainty when astronomical facts confirm the impossibility of sighting, it announced the following:

Wednesday; 18 February 2026, will complete the month of Sha'ban 1447 AH, and Thursday; 19 February 2026 will be the first day of the holy month of Ramadan 1447 AH.

On this gracious and blessed occasion, the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs is honoured to extend its sincerest congratulations and most reverent blessings to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, humbly beseeching the Almighty Allah to grant His Majesty the return of this auspicious occasion while he enjoys an enduring health and well-being, and to shower upon him His divine grace and boundless blessings.

May Allah likewise bestow upon the beloved Sultanate of Oman and its loyal citizens ever greater elevation, dignity, and honour, and upon all Muslims across the lands of the East and West, prosperity and sacred blessing, imploring Allah the Almighty to accept from us all our fasting, our vigils in prayer, and our righteous deeds.

The Ministry of Labour has announced the official working hours for Ramadan 1447 AH for both government and private sector employees.

Civil units of the State's Administrative Apparatus will work five consecutive hours daily from 9am to 2pm, with flexibility for unit heads to adjust timings between 7am and 3pm based on operational needs. Remote work may also be allowed, provided at least 50 per cent of staff remain present at the workplace. In the private sector, Muslim employees will work a maximum of six hours per day, not exceeding 30 hours per week.

The Ministry also encouraged organisations to adopt flexible and remote working arrangements where possible, in line with the spirit of the holy month.

Muslims across the Sultanate of Oman have welcomed the announcement of Ramadan, saying they were expecting similar dates and had prepared their plans accordingly.

Following the announcement of dates, a huge rush is expected in hypermarkets, with people likely to buy dry fruits, including dates, which are traditionally used to break the evening fast.

Many customers were also seen purchasing edible oils, rice, pulses, and spices which are used to prepare meals for the Iftar and Suhoor. Cloth merchants have also stocked up heavily, as the demand for new clothes typically rises ahead of Eid Al-Fitr.

OMAN

WELCOMED THE AMBASSADORS

< FROM A1

HM Sultan receives credentials of several ambassadors

- José Agüero Avila, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador by President Santiago Peñaof the Republic of Paraguay, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.

- Mohamed S. Barrie, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador by President Julius Maada Bio of the Republic of Sierra Leone, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.

- Prof. Muktar Kedir Abdu, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador by President Taye Atske-Selassie of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.

- Raymond Sarsero, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador by President Myriam Spiteri Debono of the Republic of Malta, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.

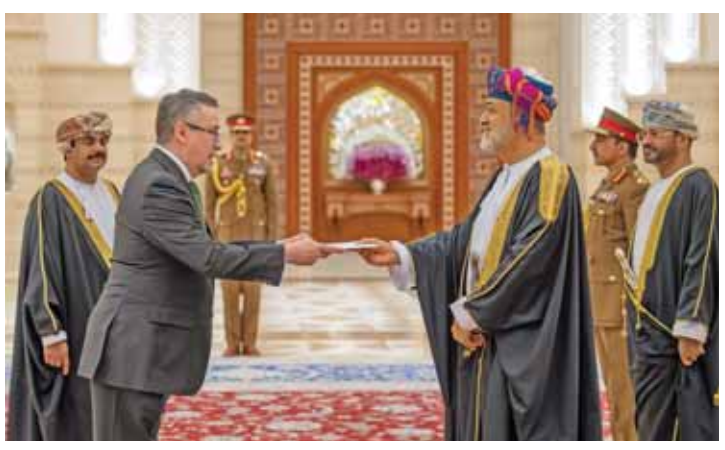
- Isaac Biruma Sebulime, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador by President Yoweri Museveni of the Republic of Uganda, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman. During their meetings with His Majesty the Sultan, the ambassadors conveyed greetings and best wishes of their countries' leaders to His Majesty.

They emphasised their dedication to strengthening the relations of partnership and cooperation between their respective countries and the Sultanate of Oman across various fields, in a manner that meets the joint aspirations and serve mutual interests.

On his part, His Majesty the Sultan welcomed the ambassadors, expressing his thanks and appreciation to the leaders of their countries for their greetings and kind wishes.

He assured them that they would receive all the support and assistance from His Majesty, the Government, and the Omani people, thereby enabling them to carry out their tasks.

The credentials presentation ceremony was attended by the Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, the Foreign Minister, the Commander of the Royal Guard of Oman, the Head of Royal Protocols and the Military Aides to His Majesty the Sultan. – ONA



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Italian Team Astana clinches Tour of Oman 2026 title in a thrilling finale

The prestigious race was organised by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth in partnership with the Oman Cycling Association

NIZWA: Team Astana of Italy has been crowned champion of the 2026 Tour of Oman, following the dramatic conclusion of the fifth and final stage in the Wilayat of Birkat Al Mawz, Al Dakhiliyah Governorate. The prestigious race was organised by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth in partnership with the Oman Cycling Association.

The official closing ceremony was held under the patronage of HH Sayyid Faris bin Fatik Al Said.

Italian rider Christian Scaroni of Team Astana secured the overall General Classification victory, delivering a commanding performance to win the decisive final stage.

In the fourth stage, Norwegian rider Erlend Blikra of Uno-X Mobility emerged victorious. Swiss rider Mauro Schmid of Team Jayco AlUla claimed the red jersey, while Polish rider Patryk Goszczurny of Team VISMA | LEASE A BIKE captured the gold jersey. French rider Baptiste Veistroffer of Team Lotto–Intermarché took the green jersey, and Norwegian Martin Tjøtta of Team Uno-X Mobility earned the white jersey for best young rider under 23.

Stage three saw Swiss rider Mauro Schmid of Team Jayco AlUla triumph, securing both the stage win and the red jersey. Patryk Goszczurny retained the gold jersey, while Baptiste Veistroffer added the green jersey to his tally. Martin Tjøtta again claimed the white jersey.

Stage two belonged to French rider Baptiste Veistroffer of Team Lotto–Intermarché. Eritrean rider Henok Mulubrhan of Team XDS Astana finished second, followed by Frenchman Thibaud Gruel of Team GROUPAMA-FDJ UNITED in third. Veistroffer claimed both the red and green jerseys, while Patryk Goszczurny secured the gold jersey. Thibaud Gruel was awarded the white jersey.

The opening stage was captured by Colombian rider Sebastián Molano of UAE Team Emirates, who also took the red and green jerseys. Colombian rider Fernando Gaviria of Team Caja Rural-Seguros RGA finished second, with Patryk Goszczurny of Team VISMA | LEASE A BIKE rounding out the podium in third and claiming both the gold jersey and the white jersey for under-23 riders.

MIDDLE EAST CHAMPIONSHIP

Muscat braces for 'Experience Oman Ironman 70.3'

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism on Wednesday held a press conference during which it unveiled details of the Sultanate of Oman's hosting the first edition of the Middle East Championship "Experience Oman Ironman 70.3 – Muscat", which will be held in the Governorate of Muscat from 13 to 14 February 2026.

The championship will be held at Qurum Beach, where participants will take up the challenge of the championship, which consists of three main stages: a 1.9-km open water swim, a 90-km cycling race and a 21.1-km run (half marathon).

The event will also feature events aimed at entertaining families and children in an interactive public arena.

The championship will see the participation of 1,049 people representing 82 countries, including the UK, Russia, India, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

Haitham Mohammed Al Ghassani, Director General of Tourism Promotion at the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, said, "Hosting this major championship reflects global confidence in the Sultanate of Oman's ability to adhere to the highest approved standards."

Al Ghassani pointed out that the championship plays a basic role in making use of Oman's tourism assets, including sports tourism the ministry is working hard to develop.

He added that Oman boasts diverse nature—including extensive coasts, towering mountains, open roads and moderate climate—that make it an ideal destination for the greatest international tourism and sports events.

Al Ghassani explained that "The implementation of this global championship is in pursuance of cooperation with the Middle East International Events Foundation. The event is efficiently being handled by a 100 percent Omani staff boasting an organisational expertise that keeps pace with the best global standards."

The hosting of championship in the Sultanate of Oman achieves a tangible economic impact, evidenced by an influx of a large number of participants from different countries of the world.

The accompanying international media coverage also contributes to highlighting Oman's tourism assets and enhancing its global presence, said Al Ghassani, noting that the integration of efforts between the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism and other public and private sector establishments leads to the diversification of tourism products and the consolidation of sustainability, much in line with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

For his part, Mohammed Al Obaidani, the race director, affirmed the readiness of all regulatory and logistical structure for the championship.

Al Obaidani explained that the race routes were carefully designed to provide an integrated sporting experience, with a1.9-km swimming stage starting in the open waters of Qurum Beach, followed by a 90-km cycling race through open roads along diverse routes that combine smoothness and natural scenery, and concluding in a 21.1 km half marathon amid a picturesque nature and public acclaim.

Speaking about accompanying events, Al Obaidani said that they include an integrated fan zone, fun races dedicated to children and recreational activities for families. These will turn the event into an integrated sports festival, he observed, noting that the organization of such tournaments contributes to fostering a culture of sports and promoting a healthy lifestyle in society.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism launched a digital platform dedicated to booking tourist packages. The digital platform is placed on the promotional website of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism "Experience Oman".

-ONA

COMMENTARY

Failure and resilience: Helping our children rise stronger

DAMODAR KATTI

Examination season often brings a mix of hope, anxiety, effort, and expectation into every household. For students, it is a period filled with preparation and pressure. For parents and teachers, it is a time of encouragement and concern. Amidst this environment, one important truth sometimes gets overlooked — failure is not the end of a journey; it is often the beginning of growth.

In today's competitive world, marks and ranks tend to receive enormous attention. While academic performance is important, it should never become the sole measure of a child's worth or potential. Every child learns differently, grows at a different pace, and discovers strengths in unique ways. A single examination cannot define a lifetime of capability.

Understanding Failure Differently

Failure is not a label; it is an experience.

It is a moment that teaches reflection, adaptation, and perseverance. Many successful individuals across fields — science, arts, business, and sports — have faced setbacks before achieving excellence. What distinguished them was not the absence of failure, but their ability to learn from it.

When children face academic disappointment, they do not merely need correction — they need reassurance, understanding, and direction. A calm conversation often has a far greater impact than criticism or comparison.

The Role of Parents and Teachers

During challenging times, the reactions of adults shape a child's emotional response. Words spoken in disappointment can remain in memory for years, while words of encouragement can build confidence that lasts a lifetime.

Parents and educators can support resilience by:

- Focusing on effort rather than only results
- Avoiding comparisons with peers
- Encouraging reflection instead of blame
- Recognizing improvement, however small
- Reinforcing that mistakes are part of learning

Allowing Children to Dream Their Own Dreams

An equally important aspect of resilience is freedom of aspiration. Children flourish when they are encouraged to explore their own interests and talents rather than being confined to predefined expectations. While parents naturally wish the best for their children, it is essential to remember that success is deeply personal.

Imposing unfulfilled dreams or rigid career paths can sometimes create pressure instead of motivation. Guiding children, exposing them to opportunities, and supporting their passions often leads to stronger confidence and genuine commitment. When a child feels ownership over their goals, resilience becomes natural — because they are striving for something they truly believe in.

Building Resilience as a Life Skill

Resilience is not an inborn trait; it is a skill developed through experience and support. Children who learn to accept setbacks constructively become adults who face challenges with courage and composure.

Practical ways to nurture resilience include:

- Allowing children to set realistic goals
- Teaching time management and study planning
- Encouraging hobbies and physical activity
- Promoting open conversations about feelings
- Seeking guidance or counseling when needed

Looking Beyond Marks

Education is not only about examinations; it is about shaping character, values, and the ability to adapt. Some students may excel academically, while others may shine in creativity, leadership, sports, or innovation. Recognizing diverse talents prevents children from equating self-worth solely with marks.

A Shared Responsibility

Exams will come and go, but the emotional imprint they leave can last longer than the results themselves. As families and educational institutions, our collective responsibility is to ensure that children emerge from this phase not only knowledgeable, but also confident and emotionally strong.

Let us remind our children:

- You are valued beyond your scores.
- Effort matters more than perfection.
- Every setback carries a lesson.
- Your dreams are valid.
- You are capable of rising again.

When children learn that failure is a stepping stone rather than a stumbling block — and that their aspirations are respected — they develop the courage to try again. And that courage often becomes the foundation of lifelong success.

(The writer is Managing Director at Design Group Engineering Consultants)

'Israel behind stoking tensions in the region'

The Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that his meeting in Muscat with His Majesty the Sultan underscores a shared, clear vision for elevating bilateral relations

MUSCAT: Dr. Ali Larijani, Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran, emphasised the profound depth of bilateral relations between the Sultanate of Oman and Iran.

He noted these ties are founded on a shared history and close bonds, and are advancing effectively to serve mutual interests.

In an exclusive interview with Oman TV, he stated that his meeting in Muscat on Tuesday with His Majesty the Sultan underscores a shared, clear vision for elevating bilateral relations.

Friendly relations

The discussion also covered the state of friendly relations at regional and international levels. Dr. Larijani highlighted his meetings with several Omani officials to review common issues, shared dossiers, and mutual interests from both perspectives, aligning with the broader interests of the region.

He affirmed the vital role of the Sultanate of Oman in fostering suitable conditions for dialogue between Iran and the United States, describing it as "highly positive."

He attributed this to Oman's precise understanding of regional interests, its knowledge of previous negotiation tracks and its forward-looking vision, which enables it to play a constructive and effective mediating role.

Regarding the Iranian-US negotiation round hosted by Muscat and monitored internationally, he explained that the negotiation process in the previous phase had seen gradual progress.

He affirmed Iran's readiness to engage in talks whenever they are realistic, noting that Iran's stance in the first round was positive. He suggested the next phase could offer opportunities for strategic de-escalation or, at a minimum, a political repositioning, depending on the dialogue's outcomes.

On whether these talks signify a genuine shift in managing the Tehran-Washington dispute or merely constitute crisis management, he pointed to numerous claims raised by the American side.

He indicated that success in the nuclear negotiations could pave the way for expanding discussions to other areas, though he cautioned it is premature to assume other disputes will be addressed at this stage.

Dr. Larijani stressed that Iran has consistently viewed war as no solution to bilateral disagreements and that regional disputes should be settled through dialogue.

He stated that reliance on force by some parties has been a mistake, complicating negotiations and creating obstacles.

Concerning the potential for these talks to define the future Iran-US relationship, he deemed it too early to tell, explaining that developments are still in an early phase and that the coming stage will set the overall direction.

He noted the success of negotiations hinges on genuine political will from both sides. Adherence to a reasonable, realistic framework would lead to success, whereas introducing additional demands would result in failure.

If the US aim is to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons, he asserted this goal is achievable, but linking it to other issues would complicate the process.

On the timeframe, he clarified there is no fixed schedule. Iran seeks clear solutions without delay, and the issues at hand are resolvable without protracted talks, provided there is seriousness.

Political variables

Regarding prospects for success, Dr. Larijani avoided speculating on political variables but affirmed that if both sides honour their stated positions, a solution remains possible. He simultaneously highlighted the pivotal and essential role of Oman in facilitating these negotiations.

On whether the talks can be separated from regional political and military developments, he affirmed that existing regional disputes are a primary source of tension.

Addressing them would help restore regional stability and peace, whereas military interventions and heightened tensions only complicate the landscape and hinder development.

In assessing current US policy toward Iran, he observed that Washington's traditional approach has grown more realistic. Previously, the US linked the nuclear file to military and missile issues, whereas the focus is now predominantly on the nuclear file—a rational approach, in his view. He reiterated that military matters are separate from the nuclear issue, and resolving the nuclear file is a crucial foundational step.

Dr. Larijani noted that while some states still struggle to comprehend current tensions, many differences can be resolved through dialogue.

He added, "In this context, I believe Israel plays a prominent role in inflaming tensions and creating crises in the region," citing Netanyahu's recent statements in the US about Iran's nuclear program and imposed deadlines as potentially creating further complications.

On the main obstacles to building sustainable trust, he identified US allegations about Iran's nuclear ambitions as the fundamental hurdle. Iran, he stressed, clearly declares it does not seek nuclear weapons, and the US could take reciprocal steps to address outstanding concerns.

He noted that regional states have reached an advanced level in addressing their issues peacefully, preventing escalation—a development he described as critically important.

On the role regional and international actors can play in reducing tensions, he affirmed that most regional countries genuinely seek calm and stability. However, some show little real desire to end existing tensions.

He called on regional states to recognise this dynamic to pave the way for reconciliation and the desired tranquility.

The Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, concluded his remarks by affirming that the Sultanate of Oman and the nations of the region possess formidable foundations for progress. They are endowed with abundant resources and diverse capabilities, and are home to peoples with great potential for integration.

The prudent harnessing of these energies and the strengthening of regional cooperation are vital to steering the region toward genuine development and expansive advancement in the period ahead. -ONA

FROM FRIDAY

Fisheries survey project to begin

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources will begin conducting the Fisheries Resources Survey Project in the Arabian Sea and Sea of Oman this Friday, under a cooperation agreement signed with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). This initiative forms part of the Sultanate of Oman's efforts to enhance the sustainability of its marine resources and support the food security system in line with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

The project aims to support sustainable fisheries management by providing accurate and up-to-date scientific data on fish biomass, estimating stock sizes of target species, and determining their distribution and abundance in Omani waters.

This will enable the development of evidence-based policies and plans that ensure optimal utilization of marine resources and their protection from depletion.

The project includes the implementation of integrated field survey programmes covering biological studies, fish stock assessment, marine environmental studies and oceanography, in addition to the evaluation of marine fishing techniques and equipment.

It will also involve the collection and analysis of multiple environmental data points, including temperature, dissolved oxygen, salinity, chlorophyll, and other biological indicators affecting marine ecosystems.

The project is expected to contribute to the establishment of an integrated national database for fish stock assessment, support the formulation of strategic fisheries management policies and plans, in addition to protecting marine biodiversity and opening new investment horizons in the fisheries sector.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources calls upon fishermen and seafarers to cooperate with the work teams and the research vessel tasked with carrying out the survey operations, and to refrain from approaching or hindering their missions. -ONA

Reduction of Share Capital

In accordance with Article 257 of the Commercial Companies Law (Royal Decree 18/2019), the shareholders of **Hitachi Energy LLC** registered under the laws of the Sultanate of Oman and having commercial registration number 1355387 (the "**Company**") pursuant to the shareholder resolution passed at a shareholder meeting on 26/01/2026 have unanimously resolved to reduce the share capital of the Company from OMR 1,434,000 to OMR 250,000.

In case any creditor of the Company has any objection on the share capital reduction of the Company, such creditor shall serve an objection notice setting out the grounds of the objection to the Commercial Registrar Secretariat of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion within 30 days from the date of this publication.

OMAN

CHRONIC INJURY

Sohar Hospital conducts first wrist ligament reconstruction surgery

SOHAR: A specialised medical team at Sohar Hospital recently conducted the hospital's first anterior and posterior anatomical repair of wrist ligaments for a patient who had suffered chronic injury for more than one year.

The operation, performed after thorough clinical and radiological evaluation and application of modern anatomical techniques, met with success in restoring functional stability to the patient's joint and diminishing chronic pain.

The surgery figures among rare, advanced medical procedures in the field of hand and wrist treatments. It was an accomplishment that reflected Sohar Hospital medical teams' commitment to apply the latest advanced surgical techniques and provide specialised medical care to the local community. -ONA

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بركاء Barka

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPORT 31 DECEMBER 2025

Dear Shareholders,
On behalf of the Board of Directors of Barka Water and Power Company SAOG ('The Company'), I have the pleasure to present the Annual Report of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Highlights of the year

Our proudest achievement remains our safety record of 23 years without a Lost Time Incident achieved on 2 May 2025. A safe working environment is our topmost priority in line with government directives, The Company and its Operator (NOMAC Oman) established special HSE and operational procedures ensuring safe operation. The credit of this remarkable milestone goes to the entire Barka team who all played a critical role in building such a safe environment.

The Company had entered into Power and Water Purchase Agreement (PWPA) with Nama Power and Water Procurement Company (PWP) which includes Power plant for 8 years and 9 months and multi-stage flash evaporator (MSFE) water plant for 3 years term with extension option at PWP's discretion for a further term of 3 years and another term of 2 years & 9 months (total 8 years and 9 months term).

The Water Purchase Agreements (WPAs) for both RO plants (Phase I and Phase II) expired on 29 September 2024 and the plants have since ceased their operations. APSR has confirmed the removal of RO Plants capacities from the Company's Generation and Desalination License. The Company will initial the disposal process for the RO plants upon obtaining the necessary approvals. As the RO Plants have been already impaired in the Company's financial statements in 2024, no material loss is expected from their disposal.

The Company has met its obligations to the lenders by timely debt service of ﷼ 6.8m during 2025.

The Company held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) for 2024 on 11 March 2025. All agenda items were approved by the shareholders.

Strategic positioning

NPWP is the sole procurer of the power and water in Omani market and the primary fuel supplier is Ministry of Energy & Minerals. The operations and maintenance of the plants is performed by NOMAC Oman which is wholly owned by ACWA Power.

Operational performance

The operational performance will always remain the key contributor towards the Company's performance and is the backbone of any company in this sector.

The Power & MSFE plants achieved reliability factor of 99.1% & 98.2% respectively for 2025. Further the load factor for Power & MSFE plants remains at 28.7% & 5.4% respectively.

The Company successfully achieved the annual performance test for Power plant and the MSFE on 27 March 2025 as per the requirements of PWPA.

Occupational Health, Safety, and environment

The landmark achievement during the year was the achievement of 23 years without a Lost Time Accident on 2 May 2025. This safety record is not merely a statistic but represents a lot of effort by all the individuals working at the plant. The Barka team strives to improve its work practice based on both internal and external reviews on its safety culture.

Safety remains your Company's topmost priority. The Operator has completed all maintenance activities including the repair work without any accident, which is a remarkable achievement considering the hazards involved with such activities. Preserving the environment is also one of the key considerations of your Company. We are pleased to inform you that there were no environmental exceedances during the year.

Financial performance

The Company strongly believes in an open, transparent environment where integrity and sound ethics are imperative to success. The Company maintains the highest level of financial controls and reporting standards. Your Company continues to achieve these standards, and this is periodically confirmed by timely, accurate reporting as well as rigorous internal and external auditing processes and procedures. Your Company remains in compliance with the Code of Corporate Governance of the Financial Services Authority.

The Company recorded a gross profit of ﷼ 5.1m (2024: ﷼ 4.5m) for the year 2025. The increase mainly attributable to Power plant and MSFE full-year operations, slighted netted off with expiry of WPAs for RO plants in September 2024. The Company is reporting a net profit after tax of ﷼ 1.3m (2024: ﷼ 2.7m) which corresponds to earning per share of ﷼ 0.008 (2024: ﷼ 0.017).

The Company had distributed interim cash dividends of Bzs 32.63 and Bzs 4.30 per share to the shareholders during the year 2025.

People

The success of any business is driven by its people, the real assets, and their motivation.

The directors of your Company are a set of diversified individuals with vast financial, operational, technical, and market-oriented experience. They have successfully guided the business during challenging times. The Management of the Company, under the guidance of the Board, have worked diligently and creatively to implement the vision of the Board and to bring excellence to the business. The directors and Management of your Company have demonstrated their business acumen and strategy of looking after all shareholders' interests and generating value for everyone.

I, along with the Board, would like to extend my gratitude to the team, which includes the operations and maintenance people of the Operator, who have given their fullest contribution to survive in challenging time. We reaffirm our commitment to develop and garner Omani talent.

The board recognizes the importance of nurturing local talent in line with the national vision and is fully committed to developing the local skill set.

Social Responsibility

The Company firmly believes in the importance of being a good corporate citizen in the conduct of its business activities as well as in fulfilling its corporate and social responsibilities.

#	Beneficiary	Amount (﷼)	Description
1	Oman Charity Organization	5,000	Contribution to Oman Charitable Organization
2	Trainees fee under Eiddad program	14,025	Sponsored for internship for Omani student trainees under the Eiddad program during the year.
3	Social Development Authority	3,000	Back to School initiative- Support orphans and families in South Al Batinah
5	Porta cabin facility	3,000	Port cabin facility for contractors and third-party workers.
	Total	**25,025**	

Outlook for 2026

The Company will initial the disposal process for the RO plants upon obtaining the necessary approvals.

The Company will continue its proactive activities to assure uninterrupted operations and availability of Power plant and MSFE.

Acknowledgements

The Company would like to take this opportunity to express its respect and gratitude to all our stakeholders especially NPWP, Ministry of Energy & Minerals, the Authority for Public Services Regulation, and the Financial Services Authority.

Finally, on behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to take the opportunity to express our gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and His Government for their vision, guidance, wisdom, and continued support. We would also like to acknowledge the progressive and enlightened vision of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said which continues to be a model for others to emulate and without it, the success being achieved by many would not have been possible.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025 (EXPRESSED IN OMANI RIAL)

	2025	2024
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	**56,126,755**	60,132,145
Intangible Assets	**178,012**	-
Right-of-use assets	**38,064**	234,675
Total non-current assets	**56,342,831**	60,366,820
Current assets		
Inventories	**5,362,550**	4,495,535
Trade and other receivables	**4,881,394**	11,801,106
Cash and cash equivalents	**7,331,637**	363,454
Total current assets	**17,575,581**	16,660,095
Total assets	**73,918,412**	77,026,915
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Equity		
Share capital	**16,000,000**	16,000,000
Legal reserve	**5,333,333**	5,333,333
Special reserve	**85,555**	85,555
Retained earnings	**6,154,379**	10,807,704
Total capital and reserves	**27,573,267**	32,226,592
Non-current liabilities		
Long-term loan	**23,404,638**	20,574,524
Deferred tax liability	**5,056,475**	5,495,627
Provision for site restoration	**4,879,943**	4,602,678
Employee benefit liabilities	**17,424**	13,580
Lease liabilities	**609,160**	815,431
	33,967,640	31,501,840
Current liabilities		
Long-term loan	**5,245,727**	5,059,927
Trade and other payables	**3,428,437**	6,544,809
Short term borrowing	**2,700,000**	-
Lease liabilities	**68,848**	11,267
Taxation	**934,493**	1,682,480
Total current liabilities	**12,377,505**	13,298,483
Total liabilities	**46,345,145**	44,800,323
Total equity and liabilities	**73,918,412**	77,026,915
Net assets per share	**0.172**	0.201

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR 31st DECEMBER 2025 (EXPRESSED IN OMANI RIAL)

	2025	2024		
Revenue	**30,805,662**	25,665,825		
Direct costs	**(25,699,833)**	(21,209,505)	(7,381,421)	(8,261,567)
Gross profit	**5,105,829**	4,456,320	3,224,445	3,923,410
Other income	**167,961**	47,987	46,142	39,143
Expected credit loss on trade receivable	**(480,301)**	(5,853)	(480,301)	(5,853)
General and administrative expenses	**(1,050,791)**	(970,425)	(248,344)	(253,585)
Impairment reversal on non-financial assets	**-**	729,890		729,890
Profit from operations	**3,742,698**	4,257,919	2,273,165	4,196,925
Finance costs	**(2,181,170)**	(1,372,281)	(589,269)	(443,641)
Profit before tax	**1,561,528**	2,885,638	1,124,440	3,435,359
Income tax	**(306,053)**	(181,473)	3,839	(219,896)
Net Profit after tax and total comprehensive income for the year	**1,255,475**	2,704,165	(21,406)	667,863
Basic and diluted earnings per share	**0.008**	0.017	-	0.004

TELEPHONE CALL

Foreign Minister, Cypriot counterpart discuss Iran issue

MUSCAT: A telephone conversation was held between Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister and Constantinos Kombos, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus.

The call reflected the strong ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and formed part of ongoing consultations on regional and international developments. Discussions focused primarily on mediation efforts related to the Iranian nuclear file, alongside European interest in supporting initiatives aimed at achieving security, stability, and de-escalation—particularly in view of Cyprus's presidency of the current session of the Council of the European Union. -ONA

KUWAIT

Oman takes part in tourism conference

KUWAIT: The Sultanate of Oman took part in the fifty-second meeting of the Regional Commission for the Middle East of the United Nations World Tourism Organization, convened in the State of Kuwait.

The engagement reflects Oman's ongoing commitment to strengthening regional coordination and shaping future strategic directions for the tourism sector across the region. The meeting is attended by Ministers of Tourism, senior officials, and delegates representing member states.

The Sultanate of Oman was represented at the meeting by Dr. Saleh bin Amer Al Kharousi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the State of Kuwait.

The meeting deliberated a comprehensive array of strategic agenda items, prominently featuring the address of the Commission Chair and the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations World Tourism Organization. The Secretary-General's report presented global tourism indicators, regional policy approaches, and a forward-looking vision for the sector. -ONA

'Oman positions itself as a gateway for India'

Rooted in geography, history and centuries-old cultural exchanges, India-Oman relations have evolved into a robust strategic partnership since their formal upgrade in 2008, said Counsellor, Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman, Yahya Al Dughaishin

NEW DELHI: Counsellor, Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman, Yahya Al Dughaishi says his country is positioned as a good investment opportunity and offers a great plaform for Indian businesses.

Speaking exclusively to ANI, he said, "Oman positions itself as a gateway for India through the geographic location, also the world-class ports and connectivity to the neighbouring regions like Africa, Europe, and other countries in the Middle East. Also in Oman, we have friendly investor regulations which help to have a great business platform for Indian businesses. I believe that manufacturing in the metal sector is growing steadily. There's strong global demand for steel and green steel. And also the good investment environment we have in Oman."

The Sultanate of Oman continues to consolidate its position as one of India's closest partners in West Asia, with expanding political engagement and growing economic collaboration underscoring the strength of bilateral ties. Rooted in geography, history and centuries-old cultural exchanges, India-Oman relations have evolved into a robust strategic partnership since their formal upgrade in 2008.

Diplomatic relations between the two nations were established in 1955, although people-to-people contacts date back nearly 5,000 years, reflecting vibrant maritime trade across the Arabian Sea. Today, Oman is regarded as a crucial pillar of India's West Asia policy and its oldest strategic partner in the region.

High-level exchanges in recent years have reinforced the momentum in ties.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Oman in February 2018, marking a significant milestone in bilateral engagement. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has maintained active diplomatic outreach, including visits in December 2019 and again on 16 February 2025 to participate in the 8th Indian Ocean Conference.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal travelled to Oman in January 2025 to co-chair the 11th India-Oman Joint Commission Meeting and attend the Joint Business Council meeting, signalling a strong push on trade and investment cooperation.

Strategic dialogue mechanisms have also remained active. Deputy National Security Advisor Vikram Misri visited Oman in February 2024 for the ninth round of the Strategic Dialogue, while senior officials from both sides have continued consultations through platforms such as the India-Oman Strategic Consultative Group.

Oman's role as an interlocutor at multilateral platforms including the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Arab League and Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) adds further depth to the partnership. The two countries share converging interests in maritime security, regional stability and economic integration across the Indian Ocean region.

Trade and investment ties are increasingly central to the relationship. Oman's emphasis on investor-friendly regulations and world-class port infrastructure positions it as a gateway for Indian companies seeking access to markets in Africa, Europe and the wider Middle East. The focus on metals and green steel manufacturing aligns with global demand trends and India's growing industrial footprint abroad.

With steady political engagement and expanding commercial cooperation, India and Oman appear poised to further strengthen a partnership that blends historic trust with modern strategic priorities.

— ANI

AHEAD OF NATIONAL ELECTIONS

Bangladesh's Chief Adviser meets election observation delegations

DHAKA: Chief Adviser of the Interim Government of Bangladesh, Muhammad Yunus, met with multiple election observation delegations as the country gears for the 13th national elections, scheduled for February 12, nearly two years after the 2024 July Uprising.

The election observation delegation included the International Republican Institute (IRI), the Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL) and the Voice for Justice Observers.

In a series of posts on X, Yunus stated that the five-member delegation from the IRI, led by former US Congressman David Dreirer met with the Chief Adviser on Tuesday at the State Guest House Jamuna.

On Wednesday, a seven-member ANFREL delegation, led by Chairperson Rohana Hettiarachchi, met with Yunus at the same venue.

Later the same day, a four-member team from the Voice for Justice Observers, led by Convenor of the Voice for Justice World Forum and Consultant to the UK Ministry of Education, Hasanat M Husain, also called on the Chief Adviser.

Bangladesh's Principal Coordinator for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Lamiya Morshed, along with other senior officials from the country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was also present at the meetings.

The election is a pivotal moment in the country's history, with the Awami League banned from participating and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Jamaat, which is leading an alliance with the National Citizen Party (NCP), along with other parties on a seat-sharing basis, as the main players.

The electoral landscape has also shifted significantly, making it challenging to predict the outcome.

The February 12 National Polls come almost two years after the July Uprising in 2024, which led to the ousting of former Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The Constitutional Referendum, the July National Charter, is also scheduled for the same day.

According to the Chief Adviser's Press Wing, a total of 394 international election observers and 197 foreign journalists have arrived in the country to observe the 13th general election.

A total of 240 observers are from bilateral countries, including independent European observers. Another 51 are individuals affiliated with different global institutions.

— ANI

BANGLADESH

1,400 polling stations in Dhaka marked as high risk ahead of polls

DHAKA: Around 1,400 polling stations in 13 constituencies of Dhaka have been designated as high risk for the upcoming 13th National Parliamentary Election and referendum, Dhaka Tribune reported.

Dhaka Divisional Commissioner and Returning Officer Sharf Uddin Ahmed Choudhury shared the information on Wednesday during a media briefing on election preparedness.

According to the report, additional law enforcement personnel will be deployed at the identified centres to ensure security. The Election Commission has implemented special measures for these polling stations, including enhanced security.

Sharf Uddin said all necessary preparations for the election and referendum have been completed by the Dhaka Divisional Commissioner's Office. "All voting materials will reach polling stations through presiding officers by this evening," he said.

He added that authorities have not detected any specific security threat so far. "We are not under any pressure. A total of 52 complaints regarding violations of the code of conduct were received, and all have been addressed," he said.

Nearly 90 per cent of polling centres in Dhaka are under CCTV surveillance, Sharf Uddin added. Additionally, two Ansar members

BANGLADESH

Oman Across Ages Museum displays students' artworks

MANAH: An art exhibition entitled "A Window on Heritage" was inaugurated at the Oman Across Ages Museum in the Wilayat of Manah, Al Dakhiliyah Governorate on Wednesday.

The exhibition is organized by the University of Technology and Applied Sciences (Nizwa Branch) and features participation from 13 branches of the university spanning the Sultanate of Oman's governorates, in addition to a number of government and private universities and colleges.

The exhibition is designed to identify and cultivate student talent in the visual arts, develop creative capacities, refine artistic sensibilities, and encourage the production of works inspired by Oman's rich cultural heritage. It further seeks to elevate aesthetic awareness and artistic appreciation among students and the broader academic community, strengthen partnerships with cultural and artistic institutions, and establish a dedicated platform to showcase student contributions while enriching the national cultural landscape.

Dr. Abdulaziz bin Mohammed Al Hinai, Lead Supervisor of Visual Arts at the Directorate General of Education in A'Dakhiliyah, stated that the exhibition originated from a comprehensive evaluation of student submissions to an art competition convened by the University of Technology and Applied Sciences across all its branches. The most exceptional works were subsequently selected for this exhibition, underscoring a steadfast commitment to nurturing student creativity and elevating the stature of visual arts within academic circles.

He further elaborated that the exhibition encompasses 45 artworks spanning diverse visual arts disciplines, affording students new avenues to discover and refine their artistic talents within a stimulating competitive environment complemented by specialized training programs. These initiatives serve to spotlight emerging talent while consolidating awareness of the arts' intrinsic value, all within a sustainable framework designed to empower the rising generation to articulate their creativity with confidence and distinction.

The exhibition is designed to identify and cultivate student talent in the visual arts, develop creative capacities, refine artistic sensibilities, and encourage the production of works inspired by Oman's rich cultural heritage

The exhibition featured a juried competition to identify the most distinguished paintings. First place was awarded to student Umayma Said Al Rashidi of the Scientific College of Design. Second place was secured by student Raya Saud Al Harthy of A'Sharqiyah University. Third place was conferred upon student Sheikha Hamad Al Kalbani of Sultan Qaboos University.

The exhibition inauguration and awards ceremony were held under the patronage of Sheikh Dr. Faisal bin Ali Al Zaidi, Wali of Manah. -ONA

SPORTS

GROUP B CLASH

Nothing to lose for Oman against Sri Lanka, says skipper Jatinder

ASHOK PUROHIT

KANDY: Set against the misty hills and rolling greenery of Kandy, the picturesque Pallekele International Stadium provides a postcard-perfect backdrop as Oman face hosts Sri Lanka in the venue's first match of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 on Thursday. The contest begins at 11am local time (9.30am Oman time).

Oman enter their second Group B clash seeking to end a T20 World Cup victory drought that stretches back to October 17, 2021, when they defeated Papua New Guinea at Oman Cricket Academy ground in Al Amerat. Their only triumph over a Test-playing nation dates back even further — the famous upset against Ireland in the 2016 World Cup in Dharamshala.

But skipper Jatinder Singh insists history counts for little.

"We don't have anything to lose against a strong side like Sri Lanka," Jatinder said on the eve of the game. "We gain on all fronts because we don't get many chances to play against Test-playing nations or former world champions. It is all to gain. The boys understand this and are ready to grab the opportunity." Oman were handed a heavy defeat by Zimbabwe in their opening match in Colombo, but Jatinder believes the squad has moved on quickly.

"The boys have regrouped very well after the loss and are ready for the litmus test against Sri Lanka. In T20 cricket, what is key in big games is to do the small things correctly. If we get those right, who knows, we may surprise them."

The captain pointed to experience as the biggest gap between Associates and the elite sides.

"We lack experience and exposure as an Associate nation. One thing that hurts is the lack of franchise cricket in Oman. In today's world, franchise cricket provides a big platform to prepare T20 players."

Still, optimism runs through the camp. "The boys are in a good space and looking forward to playing in what is expected to be a packed stadium. If we do well, I am sure the Sri Lankan fans will cheer us too — they are among the best."

Vice-captain Vinayak Shukla, who top-scored in the defeat to Zimbabwe with 28, echoed that sentiment.

"It is a new game and we will do our best. It is a big occasion against the hosts and we are hopeful of putting up a good show," he said at the pre-match conference on Wednesday.

Coach Duleep Mendis, himself a former Sri Lanka cricketer, believes the shortest format leaves room for upsets.

"T20 can always spring a surprise. We have seen Associate nations trouble Test-playing teams in this tournament. The side that performs on the day goes through, and our players have the confidence that they can challenge the fancied teams."

Mendis also hinted at a couple of changes to the playing XI.

The conditions could add intrigue. With it being a morning start, early movement is expected.

"The wicket looks good, but the first session may offer something for the bowlers. Toss will be key," Jatinder observed.

Sri Lanka, meanwhile, will be without star spinner Wanindu Hasaranga, ruled out of the tournament with a hamstring injury. Dushan Hemantha has been drafted in, while Dasun Shanaka's side will be chasing a second successive win after overcoming Ireland in their opener.

Despite the victory, Sri Lanka's batting showed vulnerabilities, something Oman will hope to exploit. "We can't underestimate Oman," Sri Lanka pacer Dushmantha Chameera warned. He said: "The team is focused and aiming to pick up two more points to bolster their chance to advance to the next round."

On a ground framed by hills and expectation, Oman may be the underdogs, but as their captain insists, they arrive with nothing to lose and everything to gain.

T20 thriller: South Africa overpower Afghanistan after two Super overs

South Africa defeated Afghanistan during match 13 of the T20 World Cup

AHMEDABAD : South Africa defeated Afghanistan in the second Super Over thriller during match 13 of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 held at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Wednesday.

After the match tied with the score of 187 runs from both sides, Azmatullah Omarzai and Rahmatullah Gurbaz came to bat for Afghanistan as they managed to extract 17 runs in the first Super Over against the bowling of Lungi Ngidi.

Fazalhaq Farooqi came to bowl for Afghanistan while defending 17 runs in the Super Over. He bowled well and got the wicket of Dewald Brevis, but Tristan Stubbs hit two boundaries, including a six on the last delivery, to force another Super Over.

Stubbs and Miller batted for South Africa again, and Afghanistan gave the ball to Omarzai. Stubbs welcomed him with a six. Miller hit a couple more sixes to end the over with 23 runs.

Mohammad Nabi came to bat with Omarzai while chasing a challenging target of 24 runs. South Africa introduced spin in the Super Over and gave the ball to Keshav Maharaj. He started with a dot ball, then got the wicket of Nabi. Rahmanullah Gurbaz came to bat after that and hit back to back three sixes. With one more six needed on the final delivery, Gurbaz holed out at the point as Afghanistan lost the well-fought match.

Earlier, Afghanistan chose to bowl after winning the toss, inviting the Proteas to bat first. The South African batters weren't able to accelerate for the first three overs. Fazalhaq Farooqi drew first blood, dismissing South Africa captain Aiden Markram off a slower ball that he mistimed to mid-off.

Regardless of the early setback, Ryan Rickelton and Quinton de Kock picked up the pace, ending the powerplay at 43 for 1. The left-handed batters continued with the same temperament, taking South Africa to a total of 98/1 after ten overs.

De Kock scored 59 runs in 41 balls, becoming South Africa's highest run scorer in T20 World Cups. He now has 737 runs compared to de Villiers' 717 runs, overtaking him during the innings. Ryan Rickelton was even more destructive, scoring 61 in just 28 balls, with the help of five fours and four sixes.

Afghanistan captain Rashid Khan stalled the South African progress as he sent back both De Kock and Rickleton in the space of three balls. Tristan Stubbs failed to score big and could only make one run before Azmatullah Omarzai dismissed him. -ANI

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MARKET
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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026

OMAN OIL PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by April 2026 reaching $68.56, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 56 cents from the price of Tuesday, which was which was $68. -ONA

MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 7,028.16 points, up by 1.97% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 2.28% at 629.65 points. National Aluminium, up 29.63%, was the top gainer while, Al Batinah Development Company, down 23.33%, was the top loser.

Conference aims to strengthen research-driven policymaking

Fifth Conference of the Regional Network of Central Banks aims to strengthen the role of research in supporting decision-making and the formulation and implementation of economic and financial policies

MUSCAT: The Fifth Conference of the Regional Network of Central Banks began in Muscat yesterday. The two-day event is hosted by the Central Bank of Oman (CBO), in cooperation with the Office of the Chief Economist for the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan and Pakistan at the World Bank Group.

The conference aims to strengthen the role of research in supporting decision-making and the formulation and implementation of economic and financial policies, as well as deepening dialogue on the development challenges and opportunities facing the region's economies.

The conference also serves as an annual platform that brings together a distinguished group of researchers and academics to exchange expertise on regional and international economic and political developments, with the objective of enhancing the research and analytical capacities of professionals working in monetary and financial institutions across the region.

A range of important economic research topics will be discussed throughout the conference sessions, in addition to training workshops designed to leverage participants' expertise in building research capacity for specialized researchers in the Sultanate of Oman and the wider region. This is expected to contribute to improving the quality of research output within institutions involved in the formulation and implementation of economic and financial policies.

This research gathering brings together a group of leading economists specializing in economic reform policies, economic transformation and mechanisms for addressing emerging technological developments. Over the two days of the conference, fifteen papers selected through an international competitive research process will be presented. These papers focus primarily on resilience and economic reform in times of uncertainty, the redesign of fiscal and monetary policies and economic transformation in the region.

They also emphasize rapid technological developments, including artificial intelligence, financial technologies and big data analytics, and their role in reshaping macroeconomic strategies, financial systems, and structural reform pathways. In addition, discussions will attempt to explore the most effective ways to build more resilient economies capable of confronting persistent structural challenges such as dependence on oil, high unemployment rates and the limited contribution of the private sector to economic growth.

On the sidelines of the conference, training workshops will be held to build research capacities and skills among researchers from Oman and the region, and to strengthen the research agenda in line with best practices. A number of participating economists will be invited to deliver three workshops focusing on the use of non-traditional data in macroeconomic research, the application of machine learning in economic policy studies and natural language processing in economic texts. -ONA

FINANCIAL ADVISOR

Sohar International advises on $150mn strategic partnership to strengthen Oman's food security and export capacity

MUSCAT: Reaffirming its position as a trusted financial partner, Sohar International served as the financial advisor to Oman Food Capital in finalising its strategic partnership with JBS, the world's largest meat processing company. With an investment reaching $150 million, this partnership aims to develop the operations of Al Bashayer factory and complete the construction of A'Namaa Poultry factory. This collaboration will directly enhance national food security and transform the Sultanate of Oman into a vital regional hub for meat exports.

Commenting on the strategic partnership, Abdulwahid Mohamed Al Murshidi, Chief Executive Officer of Sohar International, said:"This strategic partnership reflects our continued focus on supporting initiatives that deliver long-term value for Oman's economy, including the attraction of high-quality foreign direct investment that supports national priorities.

"Partnerships of this scale play an important role in strengthening food security, advancing industrial development, and reinforcing the Sultanate's position on the global investment map, in line with Oman Vision 2040.

"By advising on projects of national significance, we support sustainable growth, the development of local supply chains, and workforce advancement, contributing to Oman's ambition to build a more resilient, diversified, and future-ready economy."

The partnership is set to play a key role in enhancing food security in the Sultanate of Oman, in alignment with Oman Vision 2040, while positioning the country as a strategic hub for the production of halal food products for export to a wide range of regional and international markets. The initiative is designed to serve the global halal food market.

The investment will primarily support the completion of A'Namaa's integrated poultry production facility in the A' Sunaynah region as well as the development of Al Bashayer's beef and lamb processing facility in Thumrait. Upon completion, the facilities are expected to reach a combined static production capacity of approximately 300,000 tonnes per year, comprising around 80,000 tonnes of beef, 20,000 tonnes of lamb, and 208,000 tonnes of poultry.

Over the next five years, the project is expected to create more than 3,000 direct jobs across the full value chain in Oman, supporting local economic growth, workforce development, and the continued expansion of the Sultanate's agri-food sector.

This advisory mandate underscores Sohar International's role as a strategic partner in Oman's national development.

By guiding a project of such significance, the bank demonstrates its ability to combine financial expertise with initiatives that drive economic diversification, industrial growth, and sustainable value creation. Beyond advisory, Sohar International supports projects that strengthen local supply chains, develop talent, and reinforce Oman's position as a regional hub, contributing directly to the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

Programme launched to enhance efficiency of construction sector

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion launched the National Programme for Enhancing the Efficiency of the Construction Sector, a strategic initiative aimed at developing the capabilities of professionals in the sector, raising execution quality, and strengthening professional practices in accordance with the highest approved standards.

The programme focuses on hands-on, practical training through specialized educational content that addresses real-world challenges, contributing to the development of technical and administrative skills among workers—positively impacting project management and the quality of project outputs.

The programme is being delivered through in-person sessions in several wilayats across the governorates, including Muscat, Nizwa, and Sohar, in addition to offering remote participation options. This approach seeks to broaden access and provide opportunities for various categories of construction sector professionals and stakeholders across different governorates.

Organized under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, in collaboration with the "E-Binaa" platform, the programme sees participation from a number of companies and suppliers specialized in the construction sector. These entities contribute by transferring practical expertise and showcasing best practices in construction materials and execution quality.

The programme aims to empower national competencies, raise the level of professionalism within the construction sector, improve project quality, reduce risks and implementation challenges, as well as support the sector's sustainability and enhance its contribution to economic development. -ONA

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Alizz Islamic Bank, Oman Housing Bank sign MoU for personal financing solutions

MUSCAT: In a strategic move that is the first of its kind in Oman and the banking sector, Alizz Islamic Bank and Oman Housing Bank signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide Sharia-compliant auto financing and personal financing solutions to eligible Oman Housing Bank customers, in a partnership that represents a new model of integration between local banks in the Sultanate of Oman.

This MoU marks a qualitative leap in the course of banking collaboration, enabling Oman Housing Bank customers to access flexible and competitive Islamic financing products with attractive profit rates.

This initiative enhances the diversity of financing options, improves the quality of banking services provided to citizens, and aligns with the Sultanate's financial transformation and economic development aspirations.

The cooperation contributes to expanding the range of services offered by Oman Housing Bank by enabling its customers to access car financing and personal financing solutions through Alizz Islamic Bank. This, in turn, enhances customer experience and meets diverse financing needs, particularly for Omani families seeking Sharia-compliant financing solutions under competitive terms.

Commenting on the signing of the agreement, Ali Al Mani, Chief Executive Officer of Alizz Islamic Bank, said, "This agreement comes as part of Alizz Islamic Bank's commitment to supporting national development priorities and enabling citizens to access flexible and Sharia-compliant financing solutions. We consider this partnership a strategic initiative that contributes to meeting the essential financial needs of Omani families and enhances financial stability for individuals through effective institutional integration with Oman Housing Bank."

Al Mani added that the partnership reflects the bank's vision to expand national partnerships and strengthen the role of Islamic banking in supporting the national economy, while empowering individuals to access innovative and sustainable financing solutions.

Moosa bin Masoud Al Jadidi, Chief Executive Officer of Oman Housing Bank, stated:"This collaboration represents a milestone in Oman Housing Bank's efforts to expand the range of financial solutions available to our customers, in line with our commitment to supporting citizens and enhancing their financial well-being. Our partnership with Alizz Islamic Bank allows us to broaden access to car and personal financing solutions, enhancing customer options, service quality, and long-term financial well-being for Omani families."

The MoU builds on the successful cooperation between the two banks, particularly through their partnership under the "Iskan" program, where Alizz Islamic Bank played a pivotal role in supporting the program and achieving its outcomes. This reflects the mutual trust between the two institutions and lays the foundation for a new phase of long-term strategic collaboration.

This cooperation enables Oman Housing Bank customers to benefit from flexible and competitive financing solutions with a strong focus on customer experience, while ensuring full compliance with Shariah principles, thereby enhancing customer confidence and expanding the reach of Islamic banking within the diverse financial services ecosystem.

Through this agreement, Alizz Islamic Bank reaffirms its ongoing commitment to building strategic partnerships with national institutions, contributing to the development of the financial sector, strengthening the Islamic banking ecosystem in the Sultanate, delivering sustainable added value for all stakeholders, and supporting Oman's Vision for financial innovation and economic sustainability.

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

National Aluminium, up 29.63%, was the top gainer while, Al Batinah Development Company, down 23.33%, was the top loser.

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 7,028.16 points, up by 1.97% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 2.28% at 629.65 points. National Aluminium, up 29.63%, was the top gainer while, Al Batinah Development Company, down 23.33%, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 8065 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 82.17 million, with more than 308.14 million shares changing hands. Out of 84 traded securities, 51 advanced, 11 declined, and 22 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for RO 1666K while foreign investors were net buyers for RO 941K, followed by domestic investors for RO 725K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 12,082.34 points, up 2.77%. Prices of Financial Services, Bank Nizwa, Oman Arab Bank, Al Omaniya Financial Services, Bank Dhofar were up by 9.76%, 7.69%, 6.22%, 6.15%, 5.79% respectively. Prices of Al Batinah Development Company, Al Anwar Investment, Oman & Emirates Investment, Al Madina Takaful were down by 23.33%, 1.41%, 0.86%, 0.78% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 9,366.48 points, up 1.35%. Prices of National Aluminium, A'Saffa Foods, Galfar Engineering, Construction Materials, Salalah Mills were up by 29.63%, 6.12%, 4.67%, 4.29%, 4.24% respectively. Prices of Oman Fisheries, Oman Cables Industry were down by 3.33%, 0.37% respectively.

Services Index was up by 1.25% before closing at 2,724.79 points. Prices of Musandam Power, Al Maha Markting, OQ Gas Networks, Majan College, Abraj Energy were up by 6.48%, 4.59%, 3.49%, 3.13%, 2.23% respectively. Prices of Phoenix Power, Shell Oman Marketing, Oman Telecom were down by 1.18%, 0.24%, 0.17% respectively.— **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev . Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	7,028.16	6,893.07	7,028.16	6,892.43	135.73	1.97
FINANCIAL INDEX	12,099.45	11,763.09	12,082.34	11,757.22	325.12	2.77
Industry Index	9,379.52	9,208.68	9,366.48	9,241.81	124.67	1.35
Services Index	2,726.67	2,692.44	2,724.79	2,691.08	33.71	1.25
MSX Shariah Index	631.10	616.16	629.65	615.61	14.03	2.28
MSX TR INDEX	10,563.72	10,360.67	10,563.72	10,359.71	204.01	1.97
FINANCIAL TR IDX	14,374.57	13,974.96	14,354.24	13,967.99	386.25	2.77
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	11,564.13	11,353.51	11,548.06	11,394.36	153.71	1.35
SERVICES TR IDX	3,555.78	3,511.15	3,553.33	3,509.37	43.96	1.25
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,206.85	1,206.85	1,206.85	1,206.85	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
308,148,319	82,170,445	8,065	35,269,708,472	51	11	22	84

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

REGULAR MARKET

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	6,352,009	865,047	256	0.130	0.140	0.130	0.140	0.130	0.010	7.692	0.140	0.139	0.140	0.100	313,173,424
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	403,288	297,212	37	0.734	0.808	0.734	0.780	0.735	0.045	6.122	0.780	0.740	0.780	0.100	93,600,000
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	6,814,081	2,727,260	61	0.400	0.420	0.398	0.420	0.400	0.020	5.000	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.100	42,000,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	95,063,455	20,329,995	1,390	0.210	0.218	0.209	0.218	0.210	0.008	3.810	0.218	0.218	0.218	0.100	1,442,559,687
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	15,102,661	3,536,636	999	0.231	0.237	0.231	0.237	0.229	0.008	3.493	0.237	0.234	0.237	0.100	1,026,357,869
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	1,549,224	633,310	335	0.405	0.412	0.403	0.412	0.403	0.009	2.233	0.412	0.412	0.412	0.100	317,322,400
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	904,781	298,772	48	0.327	0.335	0.327	0.332	0.326	0.006	1.840	0.332	0.332	0.333	0.100	216,113,484
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	23,608,224	9,589,921	646	0.403	0.410	0.403	0.410	0.403	0.007	1.737	0.410	0.410	0.410	0.100	3,077,622,795
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	708,729	247,673	126	0.345	0.355	0.345	0.347	0.342	0.005	1.462	0.347	0.347	0.347	0.100	82,034,270
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	2,143,874	195,659	75	0.091	0.092	0.091	0.091	0.090	0.001	1.111	0.091	0.091	0.092	0.100	32,407,584
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	846,046	169,099	68	0.195	0.203	0.195	0.200	0.198	0.002	1.010	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.100	44,000,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	136,913	27,501	29	0.200	0.202	0.200	0.202	0.200	0.002	1.000	0.202	0.202	0.203	0.100	8,654,284
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO.	264,318	31,944	26	0.119	0.122	0.119	0.121	0.120	0.001	0.833	0.121	0.121	0.122	0.100	10,890,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	10,869	10,513	7	0.974	0.974	0.947	0.974	0.966	0.008	0.828	0.974	0.974	0.974	0.100	121,650,613
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	338,036	133,764	26	0.395	0.400	0.395	0.398	0.395	0.003	0.759	0.398	0.398	0.399	0.100	372,413,215
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	215,880	379,953	32	1.686	1.761	1.686	1.761	1.760	0.001	0.057	1.761	1.760	1.765	0.100	164,852,778
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	20,301	8,039	4	0.396	0.396	0.396	0.396	0.396	0.000	0.000	0.396	0.396	0.397	0.100	643,874,757
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	72,341	19,941	9	0.274	0.280	0.274	0.280	0.280	0.000	0.000	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.100	56,000,000
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	206,980	34,757	22	0.168	0.168	0.167	0.168	0.168	0.000	0.000	0.168	0.167	0.168	0.100	113,381,088
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	164,400	27,599	26	0.169	0.169	0.167	0.168	0.168	0.000	0.000	0.168	0.167	0.168	0.100	120,020,265
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	5,835,434	6,992,003	108	1.199	1.200	1.197	1.197	1.199	-0.002	-0.167	1.197	1.197	1.198	0.100	897,750,000
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	60,616	162,562	16	2.681	2.690	2.680	2.680	2.690	-0.010	-0.372	2.680	2.680	2.690	0.100	240,396,000
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	610,968	77,598	52	0.127	0.128	0.126	0.127	0.128	-0.001	-0.781	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.100	22,225,000
Total	23	161,433,428	46,796,758	4,398												

Parallel Market

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000001384	FINANCIAL SERVICES	236,119	21,084	44	0.083	0.090	0.083	0.090	0.082	0.008	9.756	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.100	1,800,000
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	6,081	2,104	7	0.346	0.350	0.345	0.345	0.324	0.021	6.481	0.345	0.345	0.345	0.100	24,284,550
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	410,552	75,717	27	0.178	0.189	0.178	0.188	0.177	0.011	6.215	0.188	0.188	0.188	0.100	376,515,747
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FINANCIAL SERVICES	223,088	41,391	31	0.189	0.190	0.179	0.190	0.179	0.011	6.145	0.190	0.188	0.195	0.100	59,929,231
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	6,392,990	1,265,488	453	0.193	0.205	0.193	0.201	0.190	0.011	5.789	0.201	0.201	0.203	0.100	610,999,505
OM0000003000	Al MAHA PETROLEUM PRODS MARKTG	323	370	3	1.140	1.149	1.140	1.140	1.090	0.050	4.587	1.140	1.090	1.140	0.100	78,660,000
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL INDUSTRIES	11,500	835	5	0.072	0.073	0.072	0.073	0.070	0.003	4.286	0.073	0.068	0.075	0.100	4,562,500
OM0000001889	SALALAH MILLS	1,600	794	2	0.495	0.516	0.495	0.516	0.495	0.021	4.242	0.516	0.460	0.510	0.100	32,230,941
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	3,825,867	321,141	125	0.083	0.085	0.083	0.084	0.081	0.003	3.704	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.100	25,800,291
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	142,875	32,079	16	0.221	0.226	0.220	0.226	0.219	0.007	3.196	0.226	0.226	0.240	0.100	137,436,598
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	56,000	7,266	9	0.128	0.132	0.128	0.132	0.128	0.004	3.125	0.132	0.126	0.132	0.100	13,068,000
OM0000009908	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	81,075,913	17,156,765	1,312	0.209	0.215	0.208	0.213	0.207	0.006	2.899	0.213	0.210	0.213	0.040	736,871,551
OM0000010120	ASYAD SHIPPING	18,437,082	3,950,051	520	0.210	0.216	0.210	0.215	0.209	0.006	2.871	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.000	1,119,880,020
OM0000003265	NATIONAL DETERGENT	1,000	720	1	0.720	0.720	0.720	0.720	0.700	0.020	2.857	0.720	0.000	0.720	0.100	14,400,000
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	1,612	339	2	0.210	0.210	0.210	0.210	0.205	0.005	2.439	0.210	0.201	0.210	0.100	124,201,745
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	84,270	3,626	11	0.043	0.044	0.042	0.044	0.043	0.001	2.326	0.044	0.041	0.043	0.100	3,740,000
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	1,176,841	225,968	61	0.192	0.195	0.192	0.195	0.192	0.003	1.563	0.195	0.190	0.195	0.100	527,826,063
OM0000001301	DHOFAR FOODS AND INVESTMENT	200,000	30,000	5	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.148	0.002	1.351	0.150	0.148	0.150	0.100	29,651,538
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	149,760	11,914	19	0.081	0.081	0.079	0.081	0.080	0.001	1.250	0.081	0.080	0.081	0.100	20,250,000
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	858,120	74,927	57	0.087	0.088	0.087	0.087	0.086	0.001	1.163	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.100	1,827,000
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	197,653	17,981	24	0.091	0.091	0.090	0.091	0.090	0.001	1.111	0.091	0.091	0.092	0.100	20,223,840
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	28,343	8,046	7	0.280	0.288	0.280	0.288	0.285	0.003	1.053	0.288	0.288	0.313	0.100	15,840,000
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	97,380	20,953	28	0.215	0.217	0.215	0.215	0.213	0.002	0.939	0.215	0.214	0.215	0.100	205,232,969
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	36,627	8,069	13	0.220	0.222	0.220	0.222	0.220	0.002	0.909	0.222	0.220	0.222	0.100	44,319,103
OM0000003281	TAAGEER FINANCE	510,800	66,390	34	0.130	0.130	0.129	0.129	0.128	0.001	0.781	0.129	0.129	0.130	0.100	36,019,794
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	26,780,348	11,211,052	456	0.416	0.420	0.416	0.419	0.416	0.003	0.721	0.419	0.419	0.418	0.010	3,352,000,000
OM0000001509	DHOFAR INTL DEVNT & INVESTMENT	787,774	236,116	32	0.301	0.301	0.298	0.300	0.298	0.002	0.671	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.100	148,816,842
OM0000001152	OMAN NATL ENGNG & INVESTMENT	98,350	16,003	21	0.162	0.164	0.161	0.161	0.160	0.001	0.625	0.161	0.161	0.162	0.100	24,150,000
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	1,000	487	1	0.487	0.487	0.487	0.487	0.484	0.003	0.620	0.487	0.487	0.495	0.100	80,537,625
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	26,462	4,584	9	0.178	0.178	0.173	0.174	0.173	0.001	0.578	0.174	0.170	0.174	0.100	27,840,000
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	78,258	32,229	30	0.411	0.414	0.411	0.411	0.409	0.002	0.489	0.411	0.406	0.412	0.100	18,809,743
OM0000001095	DHOFAR INSURANCE	7,500	1,890	1	0.252	0.252	0.252	0.252	0.251	0.001	0.398	0.252	0.226	0.255	0.100	29,320,449
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	550	487	1	0.885	0.885	0.885	0.885	0.884	0.001	0.113	0.885	0.885	0.000	0.100	54,228,375
OM0000001020	OMAN CHROMITE	223	803	2	3.600	3.600	3.600	3.600	3.600	0.000	0.000	3.600	3.600	0.000	1.000	11,880,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	303,500	28,875	28	0.095	0.096	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.100	8,075,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	305,346	149,010	7	0.488	0.489	0.488	0.488	0.488	0.000	0.000	0.489	0.489	0.489	0.100	161,465,882
OM0000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	24,527	5,291	15	0.216	0.217	0.214	0.217	0.217	0.000	0.000	0.217	0.212	0.217	0.100	3,824,335
OM0000004669	SHARQIYAH DESALINATION	313,815	46,758	18	0.149	0.149	0.149	0.149	0.149	0.000	0.000	0.149	0.149	0.149	0.100	14,572,522
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	183,465	17,196	23	0.093	0.094	0.092	0.093	0.093	0.000	0.000	0.093	0.093	0.094	0.100	14,466,187
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	25,000	1,975	1	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.000	0.000	0.079	0.077	0.081	0.100	15,800,000
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	109,613	11,187	17	0.103	0.103	0.102	0.103	0.103	0.000	0.000	0.103	0.102	0.103	0.100	67,191,254
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	132,600	21,481	10	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.000	0.000	0.162	0.162	0.161	0.100	12,234,564
OM0000009569	JABAL REIF	26,550	2,722	9	0.103	0.103	0.102	0.103	0.103	0.000	0.000	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.100	17,922,000
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	400	329	1	0.822	0.822	0.822	0.822	0.824	-0.002	-0.243	0.822	0.820	0.822	0.100	78,090,000
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	54,643	6,397	12	0.114	0.118	0.114	0.116	0.117	-0.001	-0.855	0.116	0.116	0.118	0.100	14,137,500
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	18,034	3,034	9	0.170	0.170	0.165	0.168	0.170	-0.002	-1.176	0.168	0.167	0.169	0.100	245,717,045
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	243,400	34,486	32	0.143	0.145	0.140	0.140	0.142	-0.002	-1.408	0.140	0.142	0.145	0.100	41,797,410
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	14,013	1,850	3	0.132	0.132	0.132	0.132	0.135	-0.003	-2.222	0.132	0.127	0.135	0.100	3,960,000
Total	48	143,697,767	35,178,260	3,554												

AL WATHBA ACADEMY

Entrepreneurs benefit from specialised training programme

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, continues executing its CSR flagship initiative of Al Wathba Academy, showcasing the Bank's leading and effective community-driven roles.

The programme aims to empower entrepreneurs and small and medium enterprise (SME) owners by enhancing their capabilities in managing and developing their businesses, thereby supporting the sustainable growth of this vital sector. The programme, being implemented in collaboration with the Fund for the Development of Youth Projects "Sharakah",is run into two phases, each lasting for six months. It targets a total of 30 entrepreneurs and SME owners who are trained by a distinguished group of experts and specialists in entrepreneurship. The first phase targets 15 established SME owners, while the second phase focuses on 15 startups (early-stage businesses), as part of an integrated approach designed to transfer practical knowledge and enable participants to make informed strategic decisions that support business sustainability and expansion.

Since its launch in November 2025, the programme has witnessed strong engagement and positive interaction from participating entrepreneurs. It comprises a series of specialized training and advisory sessions focused on business development, strategic planning, marketing, leadership skills, and digital transformation, in line with the evolving requirements of the local and regional markets.

The implementation of the programme forms part of Bank Muscat's broader efforts to support SMEs and entrepreneurship Al Wathba Academy, which was launched in 2014 with the objective of qualifying and training Omani entrepreneurs in business and financial management, while equipping them with the practical and professional skills required to successfully manage their ventures. Through high-quality training programmes and specialized workshops, the Academy aims to help entrepreneurs overcome professional challenges and stimulate sustainable business growth. To date, 239 Omani entrepreneurs have benefited from the programmes launched within the Academy. These efforts reflect Bank Muscat's commitment to strengthening the entrepreneurship ecosystem in Oman and empowering youth as a key driver of the national economy, in line with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040, which seeks to diversify income sources, promote innovation, and achieve sustainable development.

A number of participants from the first phase highlighted the significant value of the programme, noting that it provided an integrated platform to share experiences, benefit from expert insights, gain a deeper understanding of the challenges facing SMEs and how to transform those challenges into opportunities for growth and expansion.

Saif Hamed Al Mamari, owner of Masar Logistics Services, said: "I would like to express my appreciation to Bank Muscat for delivering this specialized programme, which emphasizes the Bank's commitment to supporting entrepreneurs and SME owners. My participation represents a rich and rewarding experience in my entrepreneurial journey, as the programme goes beyond theoretical concepts to focus on practical applications reflecting real-world business challenges. The marketing sessions, in particular, enablesme to better understand how to communicate with target audiences, from crafting effective marketing messages to selecting appropriate communication channels."

Mohammed Abdullah Al Saqri, owner of a hospitality brand management business, stated: "Participating in the programme marks a genuine turning point in how I manage my business, particularly in terms of clarity of vision, goal setting, and developing more realistic and sustainable plans. The training and advisory sessions have provided me with practical tools to reassess and refine my business model in line with market demands, which has positively impacted resource management efficiency and improved cash flow. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Bank Muscat for this high-quality initiative that reflects its genuine commitment to empowering entrepreneurs and supporting business growth."

Amira Amur Al Sharji, owner of Jawharat Al Qaryatain Supermarket, described the opportunity to join the programme as enriching and highly beneficial for business owners. She said: "The programme has enhanced participants' awareness of the importance of leveraging digital services to streamline operations, improve customer experience, and increase operational efficiency. These factors directly contribute to business growth and expansion. I thank Bank Muscat for providing such valuable opportunities and for its ongoing support through banking solutions and services tailored to meet the diverse needs and aspirations of entrepreneurs."

From her side, Etab Mohammed Al Zadjali, an Omani entrepreneur, stated: "The programme provides a distinctive and supportive environment for strengthening the entrepreneurship sector. It has enabled us, as business owners, to build on our capabilities not only through skills development, but also by expanding our professional networks. The programme offers valuable opportunities to connect with experts, specialists, and fellow entrepreneurs, facilitating knowledge exchange and opening new avenues for collaboration and partnerships. I would like to express my appreciation to Bank Muscat for this comprehensive initiative, which combines training, mentorship, and community-building to foster an entrepreneurial ecosystem capable of contributing effectively to the national economy."

CAPACITY-BUILDING

Nama Water concludes first batch of international training programme in China

MUSCAT: Nama Water Services has concluded the first phase of its specialised international training programme in China, marking a significant step in its long-term strategy to invest in human capital and strengthen institutional capabilities across the organisation.

The programme, implemented under a recently signed cooperation agreement with China's HCIG, forms part of Nama Water Services' broader vision to enhance operational excellence and accelerate digital transformation within the water and wastewater sector in line with Oman Vision 2040.

The initiative targets the training of 100 employees across various functional levels. The first batch included 23 participants, with three additional batches scheduled in the coming period to complete the programme.

The training covered advanced technical and managerial tracks designed to deliver sustainable impact on performance quality. These included project development, engineering design, planning, budget management and customer service, in addition to the application of digital technologies and artificial intelligence in modern operating models. The programme also featured specialised field visits to leading water and wastewater facilities in China, enabling participants to explore global best practices in smart water management and advanced operational systems.

Commenting on the initiative, Qais bin Saud Al Zakwani, Chief Executive Officer of Nama Water Services, said:"This international training programme reflects Nama Water Services' institutional approach to aligning human capital development with our strategic priorities. Investing in people remains a fundamental pillar for achieving operational readiness and long-term sustainability."

He added: "Implementing the programme in China — a global leader in smart infrastructure and digital integration within water operations — provides our employees with direct exposure to advanced operational models. These experiences will support the localisation of knowledge and the adaptation of international best practices to Oman's operational context and future sector transformation."

Al Zakwani further noted that the phased structure of the programme and the engagement of international expertise contribute to embedding innovation-driven practices, smart analytics and data-based decision-making within the company's culture, ultimately strengthening institutional performance and supporting the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

For his part, Taqi bin Mohammed Al Lawati, Chief Human Resources and Culture Officer, said:"The programme was designed using an applied training methodology that focuses on transferring practical knowledge and linking it directly to operational requirements. This ensures that learning outcomes are translated into actionable practices at worksites."

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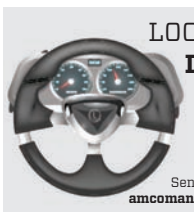

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Contact: 77336141
Email: confession.mercy@gmail.com

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Mobile : 92652137 - Mail:sibylboi@gmail.com

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What's app: 0096895392251
Gmail: regi.lukose@gmail.com

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

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

Accountant with 5+ yrs of experience in bookkeeping and VAT, seeking a suitable position in Muscat. Open to accountant, Inventory management, or office administration roles. Holds valid Oman D/L and is immediately available.Mob:+968 95459156, Email:ajiththomas454@gmail.com

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

Indian male, M.com (finance) 12 years accounting and office adminstration experience in Oman, looking for suitable position. NOC & D/L available Contact: 99859141,

Finance Manager, Indian, 26Yrs of experience, looking Job Change, Contact: 98006226

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

M.com with 4 yrs of experience in the Accounting, admin executive. Seeks suitable job. Presently in Oman & can join immediately. Available Omani D/L. Contact: +96878585714 Email: sifath774@gmail.com

Bachelor's of Business management (B.B.M) cashier,sales, marketing, business developer. Contact: 79720951

Accountant, Indian male, having M.Com (Finance) total 10 yrs of GCC experience, ready to join immediately , Contact: 99447957 Email ID tanveer ahmedgd@gmail. com

Looking for an accounts job with hands-on knowledge of tally and excel. dedicated and detail-oriented. Contact: +96896246456

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

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ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

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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

ENGINEER

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

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

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

Indian male, 28 years, BBA graduate with 6 yrs experience in digital marketing and brand promotion. Skilled in social media management, Email marketing, SEO, website optimization, and poster designing. Seeking a suitable position in a reputed organization. Contact: 95352036

WORLD

At least 10 dead in school shooting in Canada: Police

Canadian media have described the shooter as a woman, which would be unusual, as mass shootings in North America are almost always carried out by men

BRITISH COLUMBIA: A shooting at a high school in the Canadian province of British Columbia left eight dead, including the suspect, authorities said on Tuesday.

Two more people were found dead at a nearby home in what is believed to be a connected incident, authorities added.

"As part of the initial response to the active shooting, police entered the school to locate the threat. During the search, officers located multiple victims. An individual believed to be the shooter was also found deceased with what appears to be a self-inflicted injury," the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said in a statement.

Canadian media have described the shooter as a woman, which would be unusual, as mass shootings in North America are almost always carried out by men.

At a press conference, the RCMP declined to provide any details on the suspect's identity or the type of weapons used.

Six fatally shot at high school, two more dead at home

Six people, not including the suspect, were found at the school, the RCMP said. A seventh victim died while being transported to a hospital.

More than 25 people were injured in the shooting at Tumbler Ridge Secondary School. This included two people with serious or life-threatening injuries, who have been airlifted to a hospital.

Police said all remaining students and staff were safely evacuated and they did not believe there were any more suspects or ongoing threats to the public.

They received the report of the active shooting around 1:20 p.m. (20:20 UTC/GMT) local time on Tuesday, February 10.

British Columbia Premier David Eby told reporters that police reached the school within two minutes of receiving notification.

Prime Minister Mark Carney condemns shooting

Prime Minister Mark Carney issued a statement of support for the affected families, saying he was "devastated by today's horrific shootings in Tumbler Ridge."

His office said he was suspending a planned trip to Halifax, Nova Scotia, where he was to announce a new defense industrial strategy, and to Munich, Germany, where he was to attend the Munich Security Conference.

Larry Neufeld, the member of the legislature for Peace River South, told reporters at the legislature that an "excess" of resources, including RCMP and ambulance support, had been sent to the community.

He said he didn't want to release any more information over concerns that it might jeopardize the safety of the ongoing operation.

Tumbler Ridge 'a big family'

Tumbler Ridge Mayor Darryl Krakowka said the whole community was grieving, calling it a "big family."

He said he had lived there for 18 years and probably knew every one of the victims.

DW also spoke with Trent Ernst, a journalist with the Tumbler RidgeLines newspaper, who said the number of 10 dead was "a pretty large number" in view of the just 150-160 children at the school.

According to Ernst, incidents like school shootings were "not even considered a possibility in a place like Tumbler Ridge."

"If there's a kid in the classroom, you know, flipping his knife back and forth, he gets sent to the principal's office. It feels so 1960s, 70s compared to when you look at what happens, you know, in larger communities down in the States," he said.

Ernst said, however, that now, the general feeling that Tumbler Ridge was a "very safe place" had been destroyed.

"That sense has been broken," he said.

Tumbler Ridge is a remote municipality with a population of around 2,400 people. It is located in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains more than 1,000 kilometres (600 miles) north of Vancouver, near the border with Alberta.

School shootings are rare in Canada. — DW

NCS STATEMENT

Earthquake of magnitude 4.0 strikes Bangladesh

DHAKA: An earthquake of magnitude 4.0 struck Bangladesh on Tuesday, a statement by the National Centre for Seismology (NCS) said.

The earthquake occurred at a shallow depth of 10km, making it susceptible to aftershocks.

In a post on X, the NCS said, "EQ of M: 4.0, On: 10/02/2026 17:02:32 IST, Lat: 25.08 N, Long: 91.94 E, Depth: 10 Km, Location: Bangladesh."

Shallow earthquakes are generally more dangerous than deep earthquakes. This is because the seismic waves from shallow earthquakes have a shorter distance to travel to the surface, resulting in stronger ground shaking and potentially more damage to structures and greater casualties.

It is estimated that an earthquake occurs every 30 seconds somewhere on Earth. But the bulk of those are too weak to be identified. A magnitude of 4.0 earthquake is only equivalent to about 6 tonnes of TNT explosives, but because the Richter scale is a base-10 logarithmic scale, the amount of energy released increases exponentially: A magnitude 5.0 earthquake is about 200 tonnes of TNT, 7.0 is 199,000 tonnes, and 9.0 is 99,000,000 tonnes of TNT, The Daily Star reported.

About 99 million tonnes of TNT is enough to wipe out just about anything, and is the equivalent of about 25,000 nuclear bombs, according to USGS.

Bangladesh sits where the three tectonic plates - Indian-Eurasia-Burma - meet. — ANI

BILATERAL RELATIONS

Seychelles President Herminie departs after 'fruitful' India visit

NEW DELHI: Seychelles President Patrick Herminie departed for home after concluding a successful visit in India.

During his visit, he was seen off at the airport by Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare and for Chemicals and Fertilisers, Anupriya S. Patel. The visit marked the 50th anniversary of the India-Seychelles partnership.

Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, Randhir Jaiswal, in a post on X said, "A fruitful and productive visit concludes. After a successful visit, President Dr. Patrick Herminie has left for Seychelles.

He was seen off at the airport by Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare & for Chemicals and Fertilizers Anupriya S Patel. The visit came in the 50th anniversary of India-Seychelles partnership and witnessed several high quality outcomes in the fields of fintech, healthcare, defence and innovation among others."

Earlier on Tuesday, Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh called on Seychelles' Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora, Barry Faure and Chief of Defence Forces of the Seychelles

Defence Forces, Major General Michael Anselme Marc Rosette, in the national capital, with both sides agreeing to further strengthen defence and security cooperation.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the growing defence and security collaboration between India and Seychelles and reaffirmed their shared commitment to contributing towards peace, stability, and security in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

According to a press release, both sides welcomed the upcoming joint military exercise LAMITYE-2026 between the Indian Defence Forces and the Seychelles Defence Forces, as well as ongoing capacity-building initiatives.

They agreed to further enhance the scope and depth of these engagements. — ANI

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Nepal continues HPV vaccination drive amid preparations for parliamentary elections

KATHMANDU: With less than a month left before the parliamentary elections scheduled for March 5 in the country, Nepal has continued its nationwide Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination campaign.

Nepal's Ministry of Health and Population has instructed all relevant authorities to complete the inoculation drive within three weeks, starting this week, ensuring that the campaign is not disrupted by the parliamentary polls.

According to Nepal's Child Health and Vaccination Branch of the Department of Health Services, vaccination has begun for girls studying in grade 6 as well as out-of-school girls aged 10 years and above.

During the campaign, girls in grades 7 to 10 and out-of-school girls aged 11 to 14 who missed last year's HPV vaccination will also receive the vaccine. Vaccinations for girls in grade 6 are being administered at schools, while out-of-school girls can receive them at health centres.

"The immunisation campaign has been rolled out. The HPV vaccine is being administered to girls aged 10 to 19 years. This time, female students in grade 6 are being targeted," Bhawana Ojha Joshi, a health official, told ANI.

HPV spreads through skin-to-skin contact and is a leading cause of cervical cancer, the second-most common cancer in the developing world. Cervical cancer remains a major cause of death among Nepali women, with hundreds diagnosed every year.

Officials said that 345,000 girls studying in grade 6 are the primary target for vaccination, with an additional 55,000 out-of-school girls also eligible. Health workers are administering vaccines at schools, while health facilities cater to out-of-school girls aged 10 and above.

Although the exact number of cervical cancer patients in Nepal is unknown, it is estimated that at least four women die daily from the disease. BP Koirala Memorial Cancer Hospital in Bharatpur treats over 700 women annually suffering from cervical cancer.

Doctors noted that HPV has over 100 types, ranging from low-risk to high-risk infections. Types 16 and 18 are most frequently associated with invasive cervical cancer and are considered more carcinogenic than other types. Most cervical cancer cases are linked to HPV, and widespread immunisation could significantly reduce the disease burden. Early treatment can prevent up to 80 per cent of cervical cancer cases, experts said.

Nepal launched a nationwide HPV campaign in February-March last year, inoculating around 1.5 million girls aged 11 to 14 with a single dose of the vaccine. Experts note that the vaccine is most effective before a girl becomes sexually active, while its effectiveness decreases for sexually active women.

The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) supplied vaccines for last year's campaign and this year's programme, with a commitment to continue supporting the routine immunisation programme.

The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends HPV vaccination as part of a coordinated strategy to prevent cervical cancer and other HPV-related diseases. Globally, cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer among women, claiming over 350,000 lives annually. — ANI

NAVAL COOPERATION

India and Bahrain discuss strengthening bilateral ties

RIFFA [Bahrain]: Deputy Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti on Tuesday called on the Crown Prince, Prime Minister and the Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of Bahrain, Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa at Riffa Palace for discussions focused on strengthening bilateral ties and naval cooperation of India and Bahrain.

The discussions focused on cooperation in fields including information sharing, joint training, capacity building and future warfare.

In a post on X, the Indian Navy said, " VAdm Tarun Sobti, Deputy Chief of Naval Staff #IndianNavy, called on HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces & Prime Minister of #Bahrain, at Riffa Palace on #10Feb 26. Discussions focused on strengthening bilateral ties & naval cooperation in areas including Information Sharing, Joint Training, Capacity Building, and Future Warfare."

Earlier on 16 December, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar extended warm greetings to Bahrain's Foreign Minister Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, the government and the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the country's National Day.

In a post on X, Jaishankar said India remains committed to strengthening its long-standing partnership with Bahrain.

"Warm greetings to FM Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, the Government & people of the Kingdom of Bahrain on their National Day. Reaffirm commitment to strengthening our long-standing partnership."

The message arrived a month after Jaishankar spoke by phone with Al Zayani on November 16, during which the two leaders discussed ways to deepen the multifaceted relationship between India and Bahrain. They also exchanged views on key regional and global developments.

"Good to speak with FM Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani of Bahrain over phone. Discussed ways to further deepen our long-standing multifaceted partnership. Also exchanged views on current regional and global developments," Jaishankar had said in his post at the time.

India and Bahrain share close and friendly ties, supported by regular high-level engagements, growing trade and investment, and cooperation in areas such as energy, defence and people-to-people contacts.

Earlier in November, the Bahraini Foreign Minister visited India and co-chaired the Fifth India-Bahrain High Joint Commission with Jaishankar. During the meeting, both sides reviewed progress toward establishing a Joint Working Group on Trade and Investment and discussed initiating negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

The two countries also strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and reaffirmed their commitment to combat terrorism, including cross-border terrorism, reflecting shared security concerns and cooperation. — ANI

WHERE HERITAGE LIVES ON AL AIN MUSEUM

Pankaj Kumar Sharma

Al Ain Museum is the first museum established in the United Arab Emirates. Founded in 1969 by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the Founding Father of the UAE, it reflects his early vision to preserve and celebrate the nation's heritage.

Beyond its galleries, the museum functions as a vital centre for research, education and conservation. It houses a dedicated research facility that supports ongoing archaeological excavations and interdisciplinary studies, providing scholars and students access to primary material culture and specialised resources. Educational spaces host interactive workshops and hands-on learning experiences for visitors of all ages. Additional facilities include a reading room, temporary exhibition galleries, a museum café and a retail space.

Through preservation, research and public engagement, Al Ain Museum continues to honour Sheikh Zayed's legacy — serving not only as a guardian of the past but as a dynamic institution that deepens understanding of the Al Ain Region's enduring contribution to human history.

The museum's collections trace continuous human habitation in Al Ain from the Palaeolithic period to the present day. Through archaeological artefacts and interpretive exhibitions, it highlights key developments that shaped this desert oasis — from early settlement patterns and traditional lifeways to technological innovations that enabled survival in an arid environment.

The museum also serves as an important interpretive hub for the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Al Ain, providing essential context to understand their outstanding universal value.

H.E. Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak, Chairman of the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi, said:

"Al Ain Museum holds a unique place in our collective memory and stands as a tribute to the vision of the late Sheikh Zayed, who understood the importance of safeguarding our past to inspire future generations. The reopening of the nation's first museum marks a significant milestone in preserving and sharing the cultural heritage of the United Arab Emirates, connecting visitors to the deep roots of Al Ain Region's history and its role in shaping our national identity."

Spanning more than 8,000 years of history, the museum presents archaeological discoveries, objects reflecting daily life and traditions, and exhibitions that chart the region's cultural development into the modern era. Newly uncovered archaeological remains discovered during redevelopment have been carefully excavated and integrated into the visitor experience, reinforcing the museum's role as a living site of discovery.

The Aflaj: Engineering Ingenuity in the Desert

A central theme of the museum is the ancient aflaj irrigation system — one of the region's most significant technological achievements. Designed to channel groundwater stored within surrounding mountains, the aflaj enabled sustainable agriculture and long-term settlement despite minimal rainfall.

Constructed through a network of vertical shafts and underground tunnels, the system demonstrates remarkable engineering skill and collective labour.

Peter David Sheehan, Historic Buildings and Landscape Manager at the Historic Endowment Department, explained that shallow shafts, typically four to five metres deep, were dug at regular intervals along the intended water channel.

"This method allowed builders to identify and navigate difficult terrain as construction progressed, reflecting a remarkably high level of planning and engineering skill. Once the route was established, the underground tunnels connecting the shafts were excavated," he said.

He noted that the greatest challenge was not digging the tunnels, but removing the excavated material. Workers transported soil by hand, passing it from person to person up through the shafts — a process that required immense labour and coordination.

Contrary to common belief, aflaj systems did not rely on continuous rainfall. Instead, they tapped groundwater stored deep within surrounding mountain ranges.

During earlier climatic periods, higher rainfall allowed water to accumulate underground. The aflaj captured this stored water and channelled it across long distances, enabling sustained agriculture from the Iron Age through to today.

Sultan Fort

Sultan Fort, also known as the Eastern Fort, stands at the eastern edge of Al Ain Oasis. Built in 1910 by Sheikh Sultan bin Zayed bin Khalifa Al Nahyan, it once formed the heart of the historic village of Al Ain, known as Haret Al Hosn. Today, it remains one of the city's defining architectural landmarks.

Al Ain Oasis

A central element of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Al Ain, the oasis lies in the heart of the city and continues to be nourished by the traditional falaj irrigation system.

The oasis preserves a way of life that has endured for thousands of years. Its lush palm groves, irrigated by the falaj channels, offer a glimpse into the livelihoods and agricultural traditions of ancient communities.

Visitors can explore Al Ain's cultural heritage through the Eco-Centre, the Falaj Exhibition and the Oasis Garden — each highlighting the delicate balance between people, water and land.

Walking beneath the shade of palm trees, one experiences a meaningful connection to the living world.

The voice of water seems to echo through the channels, sharing light and reciting ancient stories.

It is a journey back to a time when humanity and nature moved in harmony — where the falaj, an irrigation innovation dating back thousands of years, guided communities through survival, renewal and celebration.

Qasr Al Muwaiji

Qasr Al Muwaiji is the birthplace of the late Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the second President of the United Arab Emirates. The fort forms a key component of the Al Ain UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The Al Nahyan, the ruling family of Abu Dhabi, share a deep-rooted connection with Al Ain. Amid fertile oases, they built forts and watchtowers to protect water sources, date plantations and trade routes. Strategically positioned on the road linking Al Ain with Abu Dhabi, Muwaiji has long held great importance.

For generations, Qasr Al Muwaiji served as both a seat of authority and a family residence. After moving here in the 1940s, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan oversaw a transformative period for both the fort and Al Ain.

In 1948, Sheikh Zayed's first son, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, was born at Qasr Al Muwaiji. He spent much of his childhood here, learning from his father — experiences that shaped his leadership.

Since 2008, extensive conservation and archaeological work has preserved the fort's architectural fabric while uncovering valuable historical evidence. Today, its exhibition spaces and courtyard invite visitors to explore the story of its transformation and the life of the young boy who would become a national leader.

The history of Qasr Al Muwaiji is closely linked to Sheikh Zayed bin Khalifa Al Nahyan (Zayed the Great), whose long rule brought stability and prosperity. Through diplomacy and leadership, he consolidated authority in Al Ain and oversaw the development of aflaj systems and forts, laying foundations for sustained settlement and growth.

According to local tradition, the fort was built by his eldest son, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Though nominated as successor in 1909, he declined the position, choosing instead to remain in Al Ain as a trusted advisor, strengthening the community through agricultural initiatives.

Today, Qasr Al Muwaiji stands as a powerful symbol of leadership, heritage and continuity.

Jungle Safari Experience

The media tour organised by the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi concluded with an unforgettable jungle safari experience.

Visitors had the opportunity to observe endangered species during an open jeep tour. Feeding giraffes, Arabian oryx and Arabian gazelles by hand created memorable moments, while sightings of pelicans, lions and cheetahs roaming expansive open habitats added excitement to the journey.

The safari offered a thrilling yet educational conclusion to a well-planned exploration of Al Ain's cultural and natural treasures.

SPORTS

This time we'll play with a different mindset: Pakistan batter Sahibzada

Pakistan will face India in their next group-stage fixture on 15 February

COLOMBO: Sahibzada Farhan's explosive batting helped Pakistan maintain their winning momentum in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, as they defeated the USA by 32 runs at Colombo's Sinhalese Sports Club on Tuesday.

Now, Pakistan will face India in their next group-stage fixture on 15 February, and Farhan stressed that his team is ready to bring a 'different mindset' this time.

Speaking during the post-match press conference, Farhan remains focused on the team's next challenge against India in the group-stage fixture.

He said, "When you win two matches and are at the top of the table, you feel confident. The upcoming match is not such a big deal; we're not playing against them for the first time. We've played before, and this time we'll play with a different mindset," according to the ICC.

Farhan's 73 off 41 balls, featuring six fours and five sixes, laid the foundation for Pakistan's competitive total of 190/9, while Shadab Khan's all-round performance ensured a comprehensive victory against the USA.

Farhan highlighted the significance of the target, saying, "The pitch was amazing, but making 190 on such a pitch was also a big deal. As you have seen over the last 5-6 months, we have been comfortably making 190-200 runs. We have put a lot of effort into it."

He added that teamwork played a crucial role in maximising opportunities on the field and said, "After the first over, I told Saim that you have to utilise the circle, just like I did. So 190, definitely in terms of this pitch, was very good."

Put into bat, Pakistan started aggressively with openers Saim Ayub and Farhan taking the score past the 50-mark in the fifth over. The USA fought back through Shadley van Schalkwyk, who provided early breakthroughs by dismissing Ayub and captain Salman Agha, leaving Pakistan at 56/2 at the end of the powerplay.

Farhan then rebuilt the innings alongside Babar Azam, forging an 81-run partnership through smart batting and sharp running between the wickets. While Azam fell for 46, Farhan's blistering fifty marked his first half-century in the T20 World Cups. Shadab Khan's cameo of 30 off 12 balls helped Pakistan accelerate towards a challenging total, even as the tail lost five wickets in the final overs to finish at 190/9.

Chasing 191, the USA began positively, with their openers adding 42 runs during the powerplay. However, Mohammad Nawaz broke the partnership early, and Shadab Khan's double strike, including a crucial catch of skipper Monank Patel off his own bowling, tilted the game in Pakistan's favour.

Usman Tariq's three-wicket haul, including two wickets in consecutive deliveries, ensured the USA could not recover. Despite a resilient 51 from Shubham Ranjane and 49 from Shayan Jahangir, Pakistan's bowlers held firm to seal a 32-run win.

Reacting to the question if the much-anticipated India-Pakistan clash is going to be one-sided, Farhan said, "We didn't play a one-sided match till the end, and hopefully this time again we'll play a wonderful game."

Reflecting on his personal form and confidence against India, Farhan said, "I think when you make runs, you are confident. I am also very confident, and the way the last two innings have gone, I'm very confident. It's a normal match. We'll play like a normal match. We won't put it in our head that this is an India-Pakistan match; it is a normal match, and we will play it like a normal match."

With this victory, Pakistan are at the top of Group A with four points from two wins. Now, they face a challenging fixture against India on Sunday.

Brief score: Pakistan 190/9 in 20 overs (Sahibzada Farhan 73, Babar Azam 46; Shadley van Schalkwyk 4/25) Vs USA 158/8 in 20 overs (Shubham Ranjane 51, Shayan Jahangir 49; Usman Tariq 3/27). -ANI

VITAL HOME WIN

United rescue point at West Ham, Chelsea held at home by Leeds

LONDON: Tomas Soucek's 50th goal for West Ham was not enough to secure a vital home win as a 96th-minute strike from Benjamin Sesko earned Manchester United a 1-1 draw on Sunday.

West Ham limited United's attacking threat for much of the match and was seconds from a victory that would have pulled the London club level with Nottingham Forest. But Bryan Mbeumo whipped a late ball into the area and Sesko squeezed his effort through a narrow gap and into the net. The draw ended United's four-game winning run.

Chelsea was held to a 2-2 draw at home by Leeds United despite racing into a two-goal lead. Joao Pedro opened the scoring and Cole Palmer doubled the advantage from the penalty spot after a handball in the Leeds area.

Leeds fought back when Lukas Nmecha converted a penalty following a foul on Jayden Bogle. Noah Okafor then tapped in the equalizer during a chaotic move that saw Chelsea appeal unsuccessfully for handball against Bogle as he chased a through ball. Chelsea pushed for a late winner, but Palmer missed a clear chance, firing over from close range.

Jacob Ramsey's 68th-minute strike gave Newcastle United a 2-1 win away to Tottenham. Malick Thiaw had put Newcastle ahead in first-half stoppage time before Tottenham responded after the break, with Archie Gray scoring from close range following a corner. Ramsey's goal proved decisive and leaves Tottenham mired in the relegation battle.

Bournemouth came from behind to beat Everton 2-1 away. Everton led through Iliman Ndiaye's penalty after a foul on Jarrad Branthwaite, but headers from Rayan and Amine Adli in the 61st and 64th minutes turned the match. Everton's task became harder when Jake O'Brien was sent off five minutes later for denying a clear scoring chance.

On Wednesday, Manchester City hosts Fulham, Aston Villa welcomes Brighton, and Liverpool travels to Sunderland.

-Xinhua

STAND-OFF

Our only aim was to get Bangladesh some respect: PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi

PESHAWAR : The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman and the country's interior minister, Mohsin Naqvi, on Tuesday said Pakistan's sole aim in their boycott stand-off with the ICC was to gain Bangladesh some "respect".

Pakistan had announced an earlier boycott of the much-anticipated match against India; however, on Monday, the Government of Pakistan reversed its decision and directed its national cricket team to take the field on February 15 for their scheduled fixture in Colombo.

"We didn't keep any condition [in our negotiations] other than Bangladesh. Our only aim was to get Bangladesh some respect, to right the injustice that had been done to them," Naqvi told reporters in Peshawar on Tuesday, as per ESPNcricinfo.

"You've seen whatever Bangladesh wanted, it's been accepted, and that's it," Naqvi said. "We had no personal aim in this. They can say whatever they want, but purely, our work was only related to Bangladesh. That is what the government took a decision on. And when their demands were accepted, and it was acknowledged that they suffered an injustice, then we have decided to play again."

Pakistan had previously decided to boycott their group-stage World Cup match against arch-rivals India in support of Bangladesh, which was expelled from the tournament after the ICC rejected its request to shift match venues outside India due to "security concerns".

Bangladesh were replaced by Scotland in the 2026 T20 World Cup, after their request to have all their matches played outside India could not be agreed upon by the ICC, which they put in place after Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) pacer Mustafizur Rahman was removed from the squad following instructions from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) amid concerns related to atrocities against minorities in Bangladesh.

After the International Cricket Council (ICC) held a meeting with the PCB and the BCB at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium on Sunday to discuss Pakistan's decision to boycott the T20 World Cup 2026 match with India in Colombo, BCB president Aminul Islam Bulbul on Monday also urged Pakistan to play their February 15 ICC Men's T20 World Cup clash against India.

BCB President Md Aminul Islam said, "We are deeply moved by Pakistan's efforts to go above and beyond in supporting Bangladesh during this period. Long may our brotherhood flourish."

"Following my short visit to Pakistan yesterday and given the forthcoming outcomes of our discussions, I request Pakistan to play the ICC T20 World Cup game on 15 February against India for the benefit of the entire cricket ecosystem," the BCB statement said.

Following the meeting, ICC released a statement saying the BCB would not be sanctioned for Bangladesh's refusal to play their T20 World Cup matches in India and have also been awarded hosting rights for an ICC event between 2028 and 2031. -ANI

UNWELL

Abhishek Sharma hospitalised due to stomach infection, likely to miss Namibia fixture

NEW DELHI : India's destructive opener batter Abhishek Sharma is not well and is currently hospitalised due to a stomach infection, according to a BCCI source.

Sharma was not looking well during the team dinner at the head coach Gautam Gambhir's residence on Sunday and was the first to leave the dinner.

According to the source, the Suryakumar Yadav-led side may give a green signal to Sanju Samson to open the innings with Ishan Kishan tomorrow if the ICC World no. 1 T20I batsman does not recover in time.

Samson struggled with the form and scored 10, 6, 0, 24, and 6 during the recently concluded T20I bilateral series against New Zealand.

Earlier on Tuesday, during a press conference in Delhi, the Indian team assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate provided updates on key players, including Jasprit Bumrah's fitness and Abhishek Sharma's health. -ANI

STUCK ON THE CHEEK

England Test captain Ben Stokes undergoes successful facial surgery

NEW DELHI: England Test captain Ben Stokes underwent a successful surgery for the facial injury, which left him significantly bruised after being stuck on the cheek by a cricket ball.

Sharing the news of the surgery via his Instagram story on Tuesday, the 34-year-old jokingly wrote, "May not look like it... but the surgery was a success."

Last week, he shared the news of his injury in an Instagram story, saying, "You should see the state of the ball."

According to ESPNcricinfo, it was understood that Stokes was not batting or bowling when he sustained the injury, and was instead standing at the side of a nets session. The flamboyant all-rounder has been out of cricketing action since leaving the field due to an adductor injury during the fifth and final Ashes Test against Australia in Sydney last month.

Stokes hasn't played any white-ball cricket for England since the 2023 World Cup, and he was not included in the squad for the T20 World Cup, currently underway in India and Sri Lanka.

The England Test captain's next international appearance is likely to come in the first Test of England's home series against New Zealand in June, though he may play for Durham in the County Championship before then.

Stokes and the former England player Moeen Ali were set to join another former cricketer, Andrew Flintoff, on the England Lions coaching setup for a white-ball series against Pakistan Shaheens in Abu Dhabi in February-March.

The selectors have named a 17-player squad for the three-match T20 series, with a 16-player squad announced for the five 50-over matches. -ANI

DISCIPLINED BOWLING

Australia crush Ireland by 67 runs in T20 World Cup clash

COLOMBO: Australia registered a commanding victory over Ireland in their ICC Men's T20 World Cup clash, winning by 67 runs after restricting the visitors to just 115 runs.

Backed by a disciplined bowling performance and crucial contributions with the bat, the Aussies dominated the contest from start to finish, marking a strong start to their campaign.

Chasing 183, Ireland captain Paul Stirling retired out for just one run after he potentially pulled a hamstring. During the last ball of the second over, Harry Tector departed for a three-ball duck.

Opener Ross Adair departed after scoring 12 runs after speedster Nathan Ellis dismissed him during the third over. Australia were off to a fantastic start as Ireland slumped to 13/2.

Ireland lost three quick wickets after Curtis Campher (4), Benjamin Calitz (2) and Gareth Delany (11) as Ireland crumbled to 43/5 after the end of the seventh over.

Lorcan Tucker and George Dockrell stitched a crucial 46-run stand before Adam Zampa removed Tucker for 24 runs during the 14th over.

Australia cleaned up the tail as they won the contest by 67 runs, marking their first win in the T20 World Cup.

For Australia, Nathan Ellis (4/12) and Adam Zampa (4/23) scalped four wickets each. Matthew Kuhnemann (1/29) were also among the wicket-takers.

Earlier, Marcus Stoinis's resilient innings, with vital contributions from Josh Inglis and Matt Renshaw, powered Australia to 182/6. Stoinis was the top scorer for his side with 45 off 29 balls, while Inglis and Renshaw made a decent 37 each.

Aussies won the toss and opted to bat. Head and Josh Inglis opened the innings for Australia. Head got run out in the second over at the score of six runs after hitting a boundary in the first over, where he was also dropped at point by Calitz on the fifth ball.

Inglis and Cameron Green picked up the pace, with both hammering the Irish bowlers all over the park.

Green got a quick start of 21 runs in 11 balls, but couldn't convert it into a big score as he was dismissed on the last ball of the fifth over by Mark Adair at mid-wicket.

Inglis continued to play aggressively, with Australia ending the powerplay at the score of 64 runs for the loss of two wickets. -ANI

IN PICTURES

Camera traps reveal rare wildlife species in one of Cambodia's largest nature reserves
A camera-trap captures Douc langurs at the Virachey National Park in northeastern Cambodia. A camera-trap biodiversity survey has revealed the remarkable diversity of wildlife species inhabiting the vast, untouched, and biodiverse Virachey National Park in northeastern Cambodia, said a joint press release. Xinhua

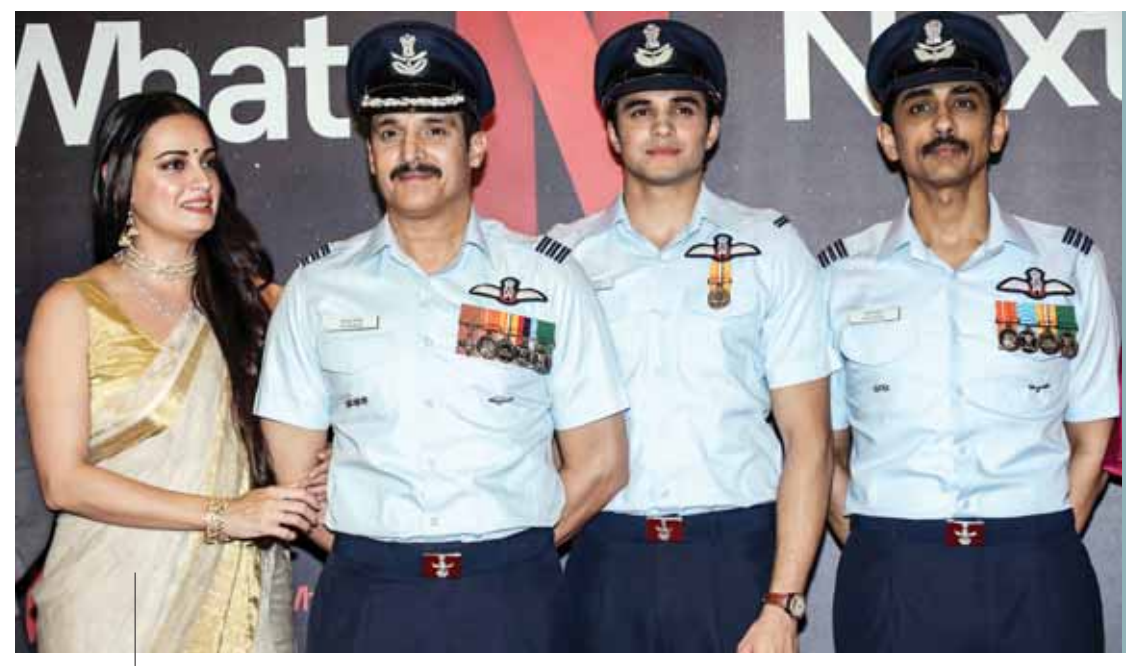
Wildlife in Dambulla, Sri Lanka
A toque macaque is pictured in Dambulla, Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka is one of the most biodiverse countries in Asia, where humans and nature coexist harmoniously. Xinhua

Malinin leads men's figure skating at Milan-Cortina
Goalkeeper Sandra Abstreiter (top) of Germany competes during the ice hockey women's preliminary round group B match between Germany and Italy of the Milan-Cortina 2026 Olympic Winter Games in Milan, Italy. Xinhua

Chinese New Year banquet in New York celebrates culinary heritage, cross-cultural connections
A young girl greets a dancing lion before a Chinese New Year banquet held in Lower Manhattan, New York City, the United States. Xinhua

Paper-cutting featuring Year of the Horse increases festive atmosphere in Malaysia
A woman displays a paper-cutting artwork of the Year of the Horse for the upcoming Chinese New Year in Selangor state, Malaysia. As the Spring Festival approaches, traditional Chinese art of paper-cutting featuring the Year of the Horse increased the festive atmosphere in Malaysia. Xinhua

Norway's Olympic debutant Botn shoots clean to win men's 20km biathlon individual
Sturla Holm Laegreid of Norway celebrates after the biathlon men's 20km individual at the Milan-Cortina 2026 Olympic Winter Games in Anterselva, Italy. Xinhua



'Operation Safed Sagar' announced at Netflix's "What's Next" event
Bollywood actors Jimmy Shergill, Dia Mirza, Siddharth, and Abhay Verma pose for a photograph during the announcement of the film 'Operation Safed Sagar' at Netflix's 'What's Next' event in Mumbai. ANI Photo

ROUND-UP

Lulu expands its presence in Oman; opens new hypermarket in Al Qurum

This new hypermarket enhances the shopping experience for customers while supporting local economic growth and creating more employment opportunities in the region

MUSCAT: Strengthening its retail footprint in Oman, Lulu has opened a new hypermarket at Al Qurum Complex, Muscat, marking its 33rd store in Oman and underscoring the Group's sustained growth and expansion strategy in the country.

The new store was inaugurated by Ghalib Bin Said Al Maamari, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion for Commerce and Industry in the presence of Yusuffali M.A., Chairman of Lulu Group, senior government officials and other dignitaries.

Spanning over 33,000 sq ft, the hypermarket is designed to offer a convenient and modern shopping experience. The store features a wide range of products across key categories, including fresh produce, groceries, frozen and dairy items, and household essentials.

Customers can choose from a wide selection of fresh fruits and vegetables, including produce sourced from local farms, along with dedicated butchery and fishery sections offering quality meat and sustainably sourced seafood. The store is also equipped with self-checkout counters for hassle-free shopping, along with ample parking facilities.

"This new hypermarket enhances the shopping experience for customers while supporting local economic growth and creating more employment opportunities in the region. As our 33rd store in Oman, it reflects LuLu Group's continued commitment to the Sultanate's progress. We are further strengthening our presence with six upcoming projects, including food sourcing and export hubs, to better serve our growing customer base," said Yusuffali M.A., Chairman of Lulu Group.

He also conveyed his sincere gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and the leadership of Oman for their support and visionary guidance and dedicated investor-friendly environment.

Also present on the occasion were Shabeer K.A., Director of Lulu Hypermarkets Oman and Anwar Sadhath M.A, Regional Director of Lulu Hypermarkets Oman, Ananth Ram, Director of Lulu International Holdings along with other senior officials.

PROMOTION

Kia Oman announces grand Ramadan campaign: Win 100 Fifa World Cup tickets and enjoy massive savings

MUSCAT: In celebration of the holy month, Kia Oman is introducing a landmark campaign that blends the spirit of Ramadan with the global excitement of the world's greatest sporting event.

During this season of giving, customers driving home a new Kia vehicle will be entered for an extraordinary opportunity to witness sporting history firsthand. As part of this unique initiative, Kia Oman is offering 100 match tickets to the FIFA World Cup 2026, ensuring that this Ramadan remains a season of truly winning moments for fans and families across the Sultanate.

Highlight

The highlight of this Ramadan with Kia is the Assured Scratch and Win promotion. Every purchase of a new Kia gives customers a chance to win one of the 100 match tickets to the 2026 FIFA World Cup. In addition to the tournament tickets, the promotion also includes assured Service of 50,000 km or 100,000 km, ensuring that your new drive is supported by the highest standards of care and reliability throughout your ownership.

Kia Oman is further enhancing the Ramadan festivities with significant savings and extra rewards. This season, customers can benefit from massive savings between OMR 1,650 and OMR 2,650 on the Sportage L, while the Seltos and Sonet models come with savings of up to OMR 750. To ensure a smooth journey from day one, every new vehicle includes one year of registration and insurance. Existing Kia owners can also enjoy extra rewards, including premium 3M Window Tints and a Trade-in Bonus for those looking to upgrade.

Movement that inspires: The Kia lineup

Kia's latest models are designed to bring modern style and innovation to every drive, offering a range of vehicles that perfectly suit the diverse needs of families in Oman.

The Kia Sportage L provides a spacious interior and a long wheelbase, making it ideal for family comfort and long journeys. It is equipped with a high-tech curved digital display and smart safety systems that help the driver stay in control. With its powerful engine and smooth performance, it delivers a comfortable ride on any road.

Perfectly suited for the urban lifestyle, the Kia Seltos features a bold exterior design and modern LED lighting that stands out. The interior is packed with smart features like a high-quality touchscreen and cooled seats for maximum comfort. It offers the perfect balance of compact size and high-end luxury.

The Kia Sonet is a compact SUV that is big on features, offering a premium sound system and wireless charging to keep you connected. It has a sporty, tough look and is designed to be highly fuel-efficient for daily city commutes. It is a smart and practical choice for those who enjoy a fun, energetic drive.

A modern sedan, the Kia K4 introduces a sleek, futuristic design and a bold presence on the road. It offers a spacious cabin with plenty of legroom and a massive digital screen for a truly connected experience. Advanced safety features are built-in to provide confidence and peace of mind for every passenger.

This versatile family SUV, the Kia Sorento, is built for adventure, offering three rows of comfortable seating and plenty of room for everyone. It features specialized driving modes to handle different terrains across Oman and a 360-degree camera system to make parking simple. It is the perfect companion for large families who value comfort and capability.

The Kia EV9 is a flagship all-electric SUV that brings the future to today with its luxury seating and incredibly quiet performance. It supports ultra-fast charging, allowing you to quickly get back on your journey with minimal downtime. It combines sustainable power with a bold, modern design that redefines the electric driving experience.

Electric crossover,

A high-performance electric crossover, the Kia EV6 offers a long driving range and exciting acceleration for a thrilling ride. The interior is crafted from sustainable materials and features a flat floor for extra space and comfort. It also includes a clever system that lets the car power your own electronic devices when you are on the go.

Experience the joy of Ramadan at your nearest Kia Oman showroom today. With 100 FIFA World Cup tickets to be won and savings as high as OMR 2,650, there has never been a more rewarding and perfect time to find the Kia that inspires you.

Reliable International Automotive (RIA), the official distributor for Kia in Oman, ensures a rewarding ownership experience. Ranked #1 by Kia in 2024 for Sales Customer Satisfaction in the Middle East and Africa, RIA delivers excellent products and unmatched facilities to guarantee customer satisfaction every mile.

ADVANCED COSMETOLOGY CARE

Badr Al Samaa Royal Hospital unveils 'Nooré Aesthetics'

MUSCAT: Badr Al Samaa Royal Hospital has announced the launch of its exclusive cosmetology and aesthetic department, Nooré Aesthetics, marking a major advancement in hospital-based dermatology and aesthetic medicine.

It brings together advanced technologies, expert medical care, and personalized treatment solutions. The name Nooré Aesthetics is derived from the Arabic word "Noor," meaning light, radiance, or glow, reflecting the department's philosophy of enhancing natural beauty while maintaining the highest standards of safety and care.

Nooré Aesthetics was officially inaugurated by Dr. Muhanna bin Nasser bin Rashid al Musalhi, Director General of Private Health Institutions at the Ministry of Health, in the presence of the Managing Directors of Badr Al Samaa Group of Hospitals, Abdul Latheef and Dr. P. A. Mohammed, Executive Director Firasath Hassan, senior management, consultants, doctors, staff members, and the dedicated Nooré Aesthetics team.

Following a detailed walk-through of the department, Dr. Muhanna bin Nasser bin Rashid al Musalhi praised Nooré Aesthetics by describing it as one of the most advanced cosmetology departments he has witnessed. He said, "The integration of advanced technology, skilled professionals, and strict safety protocols places this department among the most advanced aesthetic facilities".

Nooré Aesthetics is designed to provide a complete patient journey, beginning with in-depth consultations conducted in dedicated OPD rooms. Each case starts with accurate diagnosis, detailed understanding of patient needs, and the creation of a personalized

treatment plan—whether medical or aesthetic—with clear explanations and realistic expectations.

Speaking at the launch Managing Director of Badr Al Samaa Group of Hospitals, Abdul Latheef and Dr. P. A. Mohammed , emphasized the group's vision to introduce premium, ethical aesthetic care. "Nooré Aesthetics reflects our commitment to offering advanced cosmetology services within a hospital setting. By combining cutting-edge technology with experienced medical professionals, we ensure safe, effective, and natural-looking results for our patients," he said.

Executive Directors Firasath Hassan and Moiden Bilal noted that innovation and patient safety remain core priorities. "This department is a testament to our continuous investment in advanced technologies and highly trained teams. Noore Aesthetics sets a new benchmark in cosmetology care," he said.

One of the key highlights of Nooré Aestheticsis its advanced laser treatment facility, featuring the Clarity II system, equipped with cryogen cooling for enhanced patient comfort. This state-of-the-art laser platform combines Alexandrite and Nd:YAG lasers and utilizes AI-supported technology to automatically optimize treatment settings for different skin types. The department also houses a fully equipped aesthetic procedures room, offering advanced treatments such as the Scarlet RF fractional microneedling system, known for improving skin tightening, texture, pores, scars, and acne-related depressions with gradual and natural-looking results. In addition, Nooré Aesthetics provides advanced injectable procedures using only original and licensed products, including dermal fillers, botulinum toxin, collagen stimulators, and thread lifting. It has Platelet Rich Plasma Therapy (PRP) treatments for hair and skin. HydraFacial service at the centre offers deep cleansing, hydration, and skin rejuvenation treatments suitable for all skin types.

With the launch of Noore Aesthetics, Badr Al Samaa Royal Hospital further strengthens its reputation as a leader in premium healthcare services, offering patients a trusted destination for advanced dermatology and aesthetic treatments, where science, safety, and radiance come together.

CLASS XII

IS Al Seeb organises graduation ceremony

MUSCAT: Indian School Al Seeb organised its Class XII Graduation Ceremony for the academic year 2025–26 on 5 February at the school's Multipurpose Hall.

The ceremony welcomed the Guest of Honour, Damodar R Katti, Director-in-Charge from the Board of Directors; the Keynote Speaker, inoba M P, Senior Principal and Education Advisor to the Board of Directors; and President, Susanth Sukumaran, School Management Committee, along with Members of the School Management Committee, parents, teachers, and the outgoing Class XII students.

The Procession of Graduands marked the formal entry of the Class XII students in ceremonial gowns, signifying their transition to the next stage of their academic journey. A significant highlight of the programme was the Entrustment Ceremony, signifying leadership and responsibility. The outgoing student council ceremonially handed over their duties to the newly appointed council members through the transfer of the school flag, torch, and house flags. A motivational song titled "Reach for Your Dreams" added an artistic and inspirational touch to the event.

The Graduation Day message was delivered by the Principal, Alex C Joseph, who encouraged students to pursue their goals with integrity and confidence, highlighting through a reflective narrative the enduring value of making sound choices in life. This was followed by the Presidential Address by Susanth Sukumaran, who congratulated the graduates and emphasised the importance of hard work, dedication. The Keynote was delivered by Vinoba M P, Senior Principal and Education Advisor to the Board of Directors of Indian Schools Oman, who motivated students on the significance of disciplined exam preparation and its role in shaping future success. Damodar R Katti addressed the gathering, speaking on the importance of overcoming challenges with resilience and determination as the pathway to success.

Velavaa Ragavesh, Assistant Head Boy, an accomplished international chess medallist and academic achiever, addressed the gathering with a motivational message, encouraging his peers to believe in themselves and uphold the values of their school.

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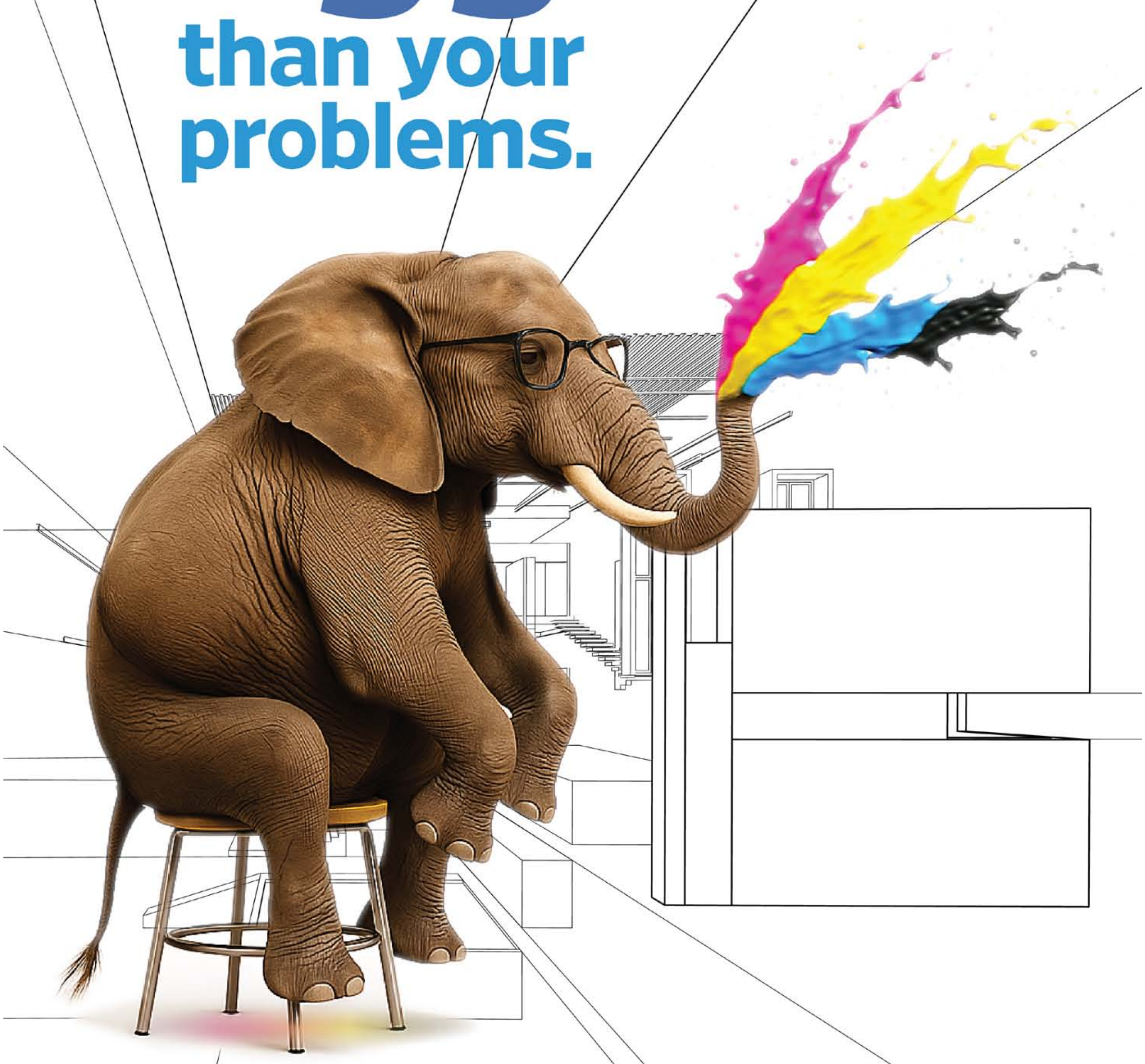

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