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# SQU launches new student admission programme ‘Afaq’

The programme sets specific terms and fees for the admission of international and Omani students who do not have access to their desired specialisations due to the centre’s sorting process



Times News Service

**MUSCAT:** As part of its plans to enhance its international rating and, in line with Oman Vision 2040, the Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) has announced a new Bachelor’s programme codenamed “Afaq” for the conditional admission of international students and Omani students who did not get a chance through acceptance via the

Unified Admission Centre. The programme, scheduled to be implemented with effect from the forthcoming academic year, sets specific terms and fees for the admission of international and

Omani students who do not have access to their desired specialisations due to the Centre’s sorting process.

His Highness Sayyid Dr Fahad Al Julanda Al Said, Vice Chancellor of Sultan Qaboos University (SQU), said that this step comes as part of the university’s efforts to enhance its international ranking, as the acceptance of international students is one of the indicators of international rankings.

His Highness added that the programme will contribute to increasing student diversity on campus, enhancing students’ academic and cultural experience. The university VC indicated that the programme aims to accept a maximum of 300 international and Omani students, without affecting the number of allocated seats that Omani students compete for through the Unified Admissions Center each year.

The new seats will be distributed across various colleges and specialisations, with the exception of the College of Medicine and Health Sciences. International students applying for the programme will be able to register through the university’s official website, while Omani students will be able to register through the Unified Admissions Centre, subject to clear and specific conditions. All accepted students will be subject to the same academic rules and regulations. His Highness stated: “This programme represents a new vision to enhance the University’s position as a world-class academic destination and expand the scope of university education.” -With ONA inputs

## WINTER SEASON

### Dhofar’s diverse attractions draw global tourists

Times News Service

**MUSCAT:** The winter season has established Dhofar Governorate as a premier tourist attraction, showcasing the region’s unique and diverse offerings. The season attracts visitors from across the globe, with a particular influx from European countries. Organised tourist groups arrive annually from nations including Germany, France, Italy, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, and Switzerland, all eager to explore the historical and natural wonders of Dhofar. These groups enjoy visits to archaeological sites such as Al Baleed, Sumhuram, and Al Shisr; the Museum of the Land of Frankincense, and the historic forts of Taqah and Mirbat. Traditional markets, such as the gold and silver Souq, and the natural beauty of the Jabal Samhan Reserve also prove to be significant draws. For those seeking adventure, Dhofar offers a range of activities including free walking, mountain biking, and sandboarding, alongside marine pursuits like diving and kayaking.

Winter desert tourism, a favourite among foreign visitors, extends from Wadi Dokah in Thumrait, home to the frankincense tree reserve, to the Al Shisr area, renowned for its captivating sand dunes and stunning sunsets. Tourists can immerse themselves in Bedouin life, enjoying camel rides and fresh camel milk. The expansive sand dunes, stretching through the desert areas of Dhofar, including Hashman Sands and Ramlat Jadhila in the Niyabat of Mitin, Wilayat of Al Mazyouna, provide a truly unique experience. Marwan bin Abdul Hakeem Al Ghassani, Director of the Promotion Department at the Directorate General of Heritage and Tourism in Dhofar Governorate, emphasised the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism’s commitment to positioning Dhofar as a leading regional and international tourist destination. Promotional efforts intensify during the winter season, targeting global markets through familiarisation trips, media delegations, participation in international tourism exhibitions, and extensive advertising campaigns. The success of these efforts is evident in the attraction of new



markets, with direct flights now operating from Uzbekistan and Belarus to Salalah Airport. The number of charter flight tourists exceeded 70,000 last year, and preliminary data indicates a further increase this season. Saeed bin Ahmed Rir Omar, CEO and owner of Al Fawaz Tourism Office, highlighted the year-on-year growth of foreign tourism in Oman, attributing it to agreements with international tourism offices. The company regularly receives groups from European countries, and has established partnerships with tourism com-

panies in Dubai, Poland, Austria, Germany, Sweden, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Uzbekistan, and other countries, to organise direct flights to Salalah. Alawi bin Mohammed Ba’alawi, a tour guide, attributed the significant annual growth in European and other international tourism to Oman’s security, stability, and renowned archaeological sites. He also emphasised the valuable job creation that tourism provides. Petra Nawrocka, a tour guide at Slovakian travel agency Sator Travel, shared her positive experiences, highlighting the natural beauty, the generosity of the Omani people, and the high quality of hotels. She particularly praised the Rub’ al Khali desert, the beaches, and the historical sites. The safety and stability of Oman were also key factors in its appeal. The unique experience of camel-related activities, and the Omani’s relationship with their camels, left a lasting impression on her groups. She concluded that the positive feelings visitors take home are the reason for their repeated visits.

## PRESERVING ENDANGERED SPECIES

### Barka Biodiversity Centre helps in preserving endangered species

Times News Service

**BARKA:** The Biodiversity Centre in the Wilayat of Barka is one of the main environment projects in the Sultanate of Oman that contributes to preserving the endangered species. The centre was established within the framework of the efforts of the Sultanate aimed to achieve sustainable development and protection of environment heritage. Salim Said Al Maskari, Director of Environment Department in South Al Batinah Governorate said that the centre represents an integrated platform for rescue and protection of biodiversity.



The centre offers healthcare in the field of wildlife with the focus on protection of endangered species, he said, adding that the centre contributes to the support of knowledge and expertise related to management of wildlife. He said that the total area of the centre is 33, 000 sq. metres and offers an integrated environment ac-

commodating areas designated for protection of animals and plants besides areas for the facilities including a well-equipped veterinary clinic, equipment for treatment of animals and cages for isolation of animals whenever necessary. Since its establishment, the centre has succeeded in breeding a group of wild animals such as the Arabian gazelle, the oryx, and the sand gazelle, in addition to rehabilitating various types of birds of prey, including the Egyptian vulture, the bald eagle, and falcons. He pointed out that the centre also includes a nursery for Omani wild plants, as it produces approximately 8,000 seedlings annually of local plants.

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EVOLUTION OF ISLAMIC ART

# National Museum showcases ‘Masterpieces of Art from the Sharjah Museum of Islamic Civilization’



**MUSCAT:** The National Museum, in collaboration with the Sharjah Museums Authority, inaugurated on Monday, an exhibition titled “Masterpieces of Art from the Sharjah Museum of Islamic Civilization.”

The event is held with the aim of highlighting the beauty and evolution of Islamic art, alongside the scientific contributions of Muslim scholars throughout the ages.

The exhibition will remain open to the public until 3 May 2025.

The exhibition features 82 unique artefacts from the treasures of Islamic civilisation and the achievements of Muslim scholars, reflecting the richness and diver-

sity of Islamic culture.

Several pieces are being displayed outside the United Arab Emirates for the first time, most notably the first Qur’an printed using the lithographic technique, and a silver cup adorned with vegetal motifs, engraved with the tughra of Ottoman Sultan Abdul Hamid II.

The exhibition is divided into three sections: Calligraphic Arts, Sciences and Innovations, and Harmony and Diversity.

Jamal Hassan Al Moosawi, Secretary-General of the National Museum, stated:

“As part of the cultural diplomacy pursued by the National Museum, we are proud to host the exhibition ‘Masterpieces of Art from the Sharjah Museum of Islamic Civilization’. This exhibition continues the path initiated by the National Museum with the opening of ‘Omani Civilisation: Origins and Development’ in 2023 at the Sharjah Archaeology Museum. That milestone paved the way for further collaboration between the National Museum and the Sharjah Museums Authority.”



He added, “The exhibition presents artefacts that serve as intellectual treasures from various Islamic eras, attesting to the scientific, cultural, and intellectual advancements of those times. They reflect how Islam laid the foundations of a robust civilisation based on knowledge, the advancement of understanding, and the elevation of human intellect in the service of the Earth and humanity.”

Aisha Rashid Deemas, Director-General of the Sharjah Museums Authority, commended the significance of the exhibition and expressed pride in the collaboration with the National Museum. She affirmed the pivotal role of the exhibition in celebrating the deep-rooted cultural and fraternal ties between the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates, firmly rooted in shared heritage and values.

She stated, “Such partnerships not only strengthen the longstanding relations between the two countries but also embody the broader mission of cultural diplomacy by fostering understanding



and unity through shared artistic heritage.”

The Calligraphic Arts section in the exhibition highlights the beauty of Arabic calligraphy across historical and artistic periods through a collection of Islamic manuscripts, textiles, and coins.

This includes Qur’anic manuscripts and folios, curtains from the Prophet’s Mosque, an embroidered frame from the Kaaba’s Kiswa (Qandil), writing tools, and a range of Islamic coins from the Umayyad and Abbasid periods. The miraculous style of the Holy Qur’an inspired Muslim scholars and captivated the hearts of calligraphers and artists across generations, fuelling their creativity and enriching the evolution of Arabic



calligraphy and ornamentation.

The Sciences and Innovations section sheds light on the accomplishments and inventions of Muslim scholars from across the Islamic world in disciplines such as astronomy and medicine. Exhibits include astrolabes, celestial globes, a medical manuscript translated into Arabic, as well as dental and cauterisation tools.

The Harmony and Diversity section showcases the aesthetic richness of Islamic art through geometric, floral, and figurative designs, and its development be-

tween the 2nd-14th centuries AH (8th-20th centuries CE). It features a distinctive collection reflecting social life and the influence of artistic and commercial exchange across the Islamic world. Highlights include a hexagonal dining table bearing the name of Al-Nasir Muhammad ibn Qalawun (one of the most prominent Mamluk sultans), along with various dining ware including glazed ceramic and metal pitchers, bowls and jars, glass and metal flasks, incense burners, lamps, and candlesticks. -ONA



>> IFTAR RECIPE

Oneza Tabish

## COTTAGE CHEESE QUESADILLAS

INGREDIENTS

- 2 bell peppers, thinly sliced
- 1/2 onion, thinly sliced
- salt and black pepper as per taste
- 400 gms crumbled cottage cheese
- 1/2 tsp. chilli powder
- 1/2 tsp. cumin powder
- 4 medium flour tortillas
- 1 cup mozzarella cheese
- 1 tbsp. oil
- 1tbsp olive oil
- 2 spring onion green, thinly sliced
- Sour cream, for serving

METHOD

- In a large pan over medium flame, heat oil. Add the onion and saute till pink. Add the bell peppers and cook until soft. Transfer to a plate.
- Heat olive oil on low medium flame. Add the cottage cheese with spices, salt, and pepper and cook, stirring occasionally, until golden and cooked through. Transfer to a plate.
- Add 1 flour tortilla to the pan and top half of the tortilla with cheese, cooked cottage mixture, pepper-onion mixture and spring onion greens. Fold the other half of the tortilla over and cook, flipping once, until golden. Repeat to make 4 quesadillas.
- Serve with sour cream.



>> COMMUNITY EVENT

### GREATER NOAKHALI WING OF BANGLADESH SOCIAL CLUB HOSTS IFTAR IN SOHAR



**SOHAR:** In a gesture of community unity and tradition, the Greater Noakhali Wing of the Bangladesh Social Club organised a special Iftar and Dua gathering in Sohar, extending the reach of Ramadan celebrations beyond Muscat. The event, held on Friday, March 14, 2025, took place at the poolside deck of the Mercure Hotel, bringing together distinguished guests and community members.

The gathering was graced by Vice Chairman of the Bangladesh Social Club, Azimul Haque Babul, as the chief guest, while the Founder and Chief Advisor of the Greater Noakhali Wing, Iftekhar Ul Hasan Chowdhury, attended as the guest of honour.

The event was presided over by Solim Uddin Salim, President of the Greater Noakhali Wing,

with General Secretary Abu Yusuf serving as the programme anchor. The Iftar was organised in honour of Noakhali residents living in Al Batinah Governorate.

Addressing the attendees, the chief guest encouraged the community to uphold Omani laws and regulations while contributing positively to society. The event saw participation from representatives and leaders of various wings of the Bangladesh Social Club, prominent community figures from Al Batinah, as well as professionals including businessmen, doctors, engineers, and bankers.

The initiative was met with appreciation, with attendees commending the Greater Noakhali Wing for its efforts in strengthening community ties and cultural heritage.



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## 28th Photography Week begins at Sultan Qaboos University

*Times News Service*

**MUSCAT:** The 28th Photography Week, titled Bawn, commenced at the Sultan Qaboos University under the patronage of Dr Abdulmunim bin Mansour Al-Hasani, former Minister of Information.

Organised annually by the Photo Society at the Deanship of Student Affairs, the event fosters an atmosphere of artistic expression and creativity.

The opening ceremony featured a speech by the society's president, Ali Al-Ruqaishi, who expressed gratitude to the beloved Oman for the blessings it has bestowed upon people.

He emphasised the role of the Photo Society in nurturing students' talents since its establishment in 1991 and its commitment to developing their skills.

He further noted that this week is the culmination of continuous hard work and dedication by the society's members and affiliates.

Following the speech, a series of video clips and presentations were showcased, including a montage depicting the society's journey leading up to the launch of the week, excerpts from its annual trip, a visual display of the exhibited photographs, and the announcement of this year's winning images in the open category.

The first-place prize was awarded to the photograph Asjadi by Al Hasan Al-Yaarubi. Doctoral student Manal Al-Kindi secured second place for her photograph Fudhul, while the third-place award went to Sadeem Al-Jibal by Al Khalil Al-Sagri.



our differences ultimately connect us, forming a singular yet diverse entity.

In its 28th edition, the Photo Society celebrates contrast as an idea, a universal principle, and a visual philosophy that encourages an appreciation of true beauty—the harmony between opposing elements that blend and diverge to create a striking sensory and visual experience.

Photography Week aims to expand this dialogue through a variety of artistic works. The accompanying exhibition includes 15 portrait photographs, five nature-themed images, 15 photographs capturing everyday life, as well as images showcasing architectural beauty, wildlife, and abstract photography.

The 28th Photography Week continues until 20 March and features various activities, including artistic workshops, exhibitions, and other accompanying events.

It is worth noting that this event is organised annually by the Photography Society under the Deanship of Student Affairs at the university.

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## TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

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

| Tender Number | Tender Name                                                                                                                                   | Last Date for Collection of Documents | Time & Last Date for Proposal Submission | Tender Fee (OMR) Including VAT (5%) |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| DISC/2025/034 | Rehabilitation, Repair, and Modification Works for Salalah Wastewater Collection and Conveyance System                                        | 01-Apr-2025                           | 13-Apr-2025                              | 525.000                             |
| DISC/2025/035 | Expansion of Water Distribution Network in Blocks A,E,G,K,L,M& N in Taqah Wilayat in Dhofar Governorate                                       | 01-Apr-2025                           | 13-Apr-2025                              | 52.500                              |
| DISC/2025/036 | Construction of New TSE Pipeline from Raysut WRP to Salalah Free Zone & design and construction of new TSE Pipeline to sultan Qaboos hospital | 01-Apr-2025                           | 13-Apr-2025                              | 2625.000                            |
| DISC/2025/037 | Construction Of Elevated Tank and Water Distribution network At Kabout                                                                        | 01-Apr-2025                           | 13-Apr-2025                              | 105.000                             |

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- Every company wishing to participate in this tender must attach with its bid a bid bond in the form of a bank guarantee from one of the banks operating in the Sultanate of Oman. Any bid that does not contain the bid bond will be disqualified.
- The original bid bond must be submitted in an envelope sealed with red wax and addressed to the chairperson of the minor tender committee and written on outside the Tender name and the Tender number and it should be placed in the tender box in Nama Dhofar Services in Salalah before 03:00 pm of the last day for submitting Bids.
- Bids shall be submitted online through using "supplier portal". No hard copies are accepted.
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# إعلان مناقصة Tender Notice

The Internal Tenders Committee at the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology invites for the following Tenders:

| Tender Number     | Tender Name                                                                                                                                                                                         | Date of Publishing | Last date to Purchase Tender Document | Submission Date | Companies who should participate in this Tender                                                               | Document Price                                                                                                         |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 47/2025/<br>MTCIT | Oracle ERP<br>Managed<br>Operation                                                                                                                                                                  | 16-3-2025          | 27-3-2025                             | 24-4-2025       | EXPERIENCED COMPANIES AND REGISTERED WITH THE SECRETAR- IAT GENERAL OF TENDER BOARD (EXCELLENT & FIRST CLASS) | (25/-)<br>TWENTY-FIVE OMANI RIAL (LOCAL, REGIONAL)<br>(10/-)<br>TEN OMANI RIAL (FOR SME)<br>NON-REFUNDABLE             |
| 48/2025/<br>MTCIT | CONSULTANCY SERVICES AND SUPERVISION OF CONSTRUCTION AND UPGRADING OF REMAINING WORKS OF 'DUALIZATION OF ALSHARQIYAH EXPRESSWAY SECTION ONE PART 1A + PART 1B & SECTION TWO PART 2A TURKEY BIN Said | 16-3-2025          | 6-04-2025                             | 4-05-2025       | EXPERIENCED COMPANIES AND REGISTERED WITH THE SECRETAR- IAT GENERAL OF TENDER BOARD (EXCELLENT & FIRST CLASS) | (150/-)<br>ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY OMANI RIALS (LOCAL, REGIONAL)<br>(10/-)<br>TEN OMANI RIAL (FOR SME)<br>NON-REFUNDABLE |

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## CORRESPONDANCE:

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Internal Tenders Committee

## Ramadan Iftar Program



The Prophet (ﷺ) said "Whoever breaks the fast for a fasting person, will have a reward similar to his reward, however, nothing is detracted from the reward of a fasting person".

The Oman Charitable Organization is pleased to announce that it will receive donations for Ramadan Iftar Program in Sultanate of Oman for the year 1446 AH AD 2025

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INTEGRATED MEDICAL SERVICES

# New initiative announced to achieve sustainable health objectives in Muttrah

Times News Service

**MUSCAT:** Within the framework of strengthening cooperation and partnership between the Muttrah Health Committee and health sector institutions in Muscat Governorate, Dr Hamad bin Saeed Al Mamari, Wali of Muttrah, held a meeting with representatives of several private health institutions.

It aimed to discuss enhancing cooperation between the public and private sectors to face emergency and exceptional situations and improve the health services to the community.

During the meeting, a health initiative entitled 'Together in Muttrah for Sustainable Health' was announced to promote collaboration between government and private entities to achieve sustainable health objectives in Muttrah.

This initiative includes awareness programmes to support health campaigns conducted by the Ministry of Health, such as pre-marriage screening, anti-smoking and reducing the narcotics and psychotropic substances.

The Wali highlighted the impor-



tant complementary role of private health institutions to support the government health system. Thus, contributing to offer efficient and integrated medical services to society.



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

# 25 healthcare facilities equipped with retinal imaging devices

**<FROM A1** He added that 25 healthcare facilities have been equipped with retinal imaging devices, to facilitate patients' access to this innovative service. The project will contribute economically to reducing healthcare costs associated with treating advanced cases.

The project's importance lies in its ability to address the major challenges facing diabetic patients in the Sultanate of Oman. Retinopathy is a serious complication that can lead to blindness.

Statistics indicate that 15 percent of the adult population in the

Sultanate of Oman suffers from diabetes, meaning a significant proportion of them are at risk of developing retinopathy.

The project aims to establish a national framework for early detection and management of diabetic retinopathy, reduce vision loss and blindness caused by it, and improve access to high-quality eye care for diabetic patients.

The project targets all individuals diagnosed with type 1 or type 2 diabetes, and the frequency of screening is determined based on the severity of diabetic retinopathy. The project facili-

tates early detection by providing retinal imaging devices in 25 healthcare facilities in the first phase. It relies on developing artificial intelligence systems and analysing medical images using machine learning and computer vision. Artificial intelligence is trained on hundreds of thousands of retinal images, learning the difference between a healthy retina and one that exhibits diabetic impairment.

Special retinal imaging devices, such as retinal cameras, will be used. The technology examines the captured image in high resolution to analyse every

minute detail, detecting any changes in blood vessels or the appearance of small spots (indicators of retinal disease). The system immediately alerts the doctor.

In the future, the project's organisers aim to expand to include additional health complexes and centers, add new screening programs such as glaucoma and keratoconus screening, enhance virtual medicine projects and connect other devices to reduce the burden on specialist clinics, establish observation clinics run by trained opticians supported by modern

technologies and artificial intelligence tools, and develop a local artificial intelligence engine trained on images from the Sultanate of Oman, thus strengthening its global position in health innovation.

The project to employ artificial intelligence for early detection of diabetic retinopathy represents a qualitative leap in the field of ophthalmology and healthcare in general. This approach reflects the Sultanate of Oman's ambitious vision for healthcare, thanks to the Ministry of Health's ongoing efforts and its adoption of the latest technologies, ensuring a healthier

life for citizens.

It's worth noting that the Sultanate of Oman is the third country worldwide to implement this project, confirming its commitment to advancing technical and digital advancements, adopting the latest technologies, and employing artificial intelligence to enhance and improve diagnostic accuracy, saving time and costs, and detecting diabetic retinopathy in patients. This contributes to building a society where a culture of health is firmly rooted, and everyone is responsible, protected from health risks and threats.



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DIGITAL CURRENCY FRAUD

# Two men arrested

**MUSCAT:** The Royal Oman Police (ROP) has apprehended two individuals of Arab nationality for their involvement in a sophisticated electronic fraud scheme.

The General Directorate of Inquiries and Criminal Investigations conducted the arrests following an investigation into a fake website that closely mimicked an official platform.

The perpetrators used this deceptive site to lure unsuspecting victims, gaining access to their bank accounts.

Once funds were illicitly ob-

tained, they were rapidly transferred through exchange offices and digital currency trading platforms, making tracing the money more difficult.

Legal procedures are now underway to prosecute the individuals involved.

The Royal Oman Police strongly advises the public to exercise extreme caution when interacting with websites. It is crucial to verify the authenticity and reliability of any online platform before providing personal or financial information.



# Ramadan Super Sale

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# Israeli forces continue destruction of West Bank’s Jenin and Tulkarm

Occupation tanks and armoured vehicles are positioned around the camp, while bulldozers continue to level streets and widen others to allow the entry of military vehicles

**JENIN:** The Israeli occupation continues its aggression on the city of Jenin and its camp for the 56th consecutive day, amidst razing, burning homes, and converting others into military barracks.

Wafa correspondent reported that the occupation forces continued to send military reinforcements to the Jenin camp and nearby neighbourhoods in the city since the morning hours, accompanied by water tanks, amidst the circling of warplanes over the city.

Occupation tanks and armoured vehicles are positioned around the camp, while bulldozers continue to level streets and widen others to allow the entry of military vehicles.

Tank gunfire was heard around the Return Roundabout as the movement of occupation vehicles was monitored in the Jabriyat area.



Jenin Mayor Mohammad Jarrar said in a press statement that the number of displaced people from the camp has risen to 21,000, with 25% of Jenin's population currently displaced.

The extent of the damage caused by the aggression on the city of Jenin is enormous, particularly economically, and there has also been an increase in the poverty rate, he added.

Jenin Municipality Director Mamdouh Assaf said that the occupation forces have razed 100% of Jenin camp, 85% of the city's streets, and nearly 8,000 commercial establishments have been completely closed. The residents of entire neighborhoods in the camp have been forcibly displaced.

According to Ministry of Education spokesman Sadiq al-Khudour, since the beginning of the second semester in early February, in-person education has been suspended in 72 schools in the cities of Jenin and Tulkarm due to the aggression. This means that 26,000 stu-

dents have been deprived of their education.

At dawn on Monday, occupation forces stormed the town of Ya'bad, south of Jenin, and patrolled its streets, without making any arrests.

The ongoing occupation forces' aggression on Jenin since January 21 has resulted in the killing of 34 Palestinians and the injury of dozens more, in addition to unprecedented destruction of infrastructure and public and private property.

**Israeli aggression on Tulkarm enters its 50th day amid escalation**

Meanwhile, the Israeli occupation forces continue their aggression against the city of Tulkarm and its camp for the 50th consecutive day, and for the 37th day against the Nur Shams camp.

This includes forced displacement, intensive raids on homes, and the forced expulsion of residents, as the siege and incur-

sions continue amidst military reinforcements.

Wafa correspondent said that the occupation forces escalated their violations against the residents of Tulkarm camp last night.

They informed the remaining families in the Qaqun neighbourhood of the need to leave the camp and assaulted residents in the Abu al-Foul neighbourhood as they attempted to enter their homes to collect essential supplies.

Meanwhile, occupation soldiers fired sound bombs and live bullets at women and children who attempted to return to the camp, in a dangerous escalation that exacerbates the suffering of residents who have been forced to flee their homes due to the ongoing aggression.

On Sunday, the occupation troops forced the remaining residents of the Maraba'a Hanoun neighborhood in the camp to forcibly evacuate their homes, amid threats and warnings of arresting anyone found there afterward.



They also forced five families in the Dhnaba suburb, near Tulkarm camp, to leave their homes at gunpoint, while the occupation forces turned the homes into military outposts.

Local sources reported that 200 families have been displaced from their homes in several neighborhoods in Tulkarm camp, particularly those on the outskirts, over the past two days due to the escalation of the occupation's aggression and threats to residents to leave their homes and not return.

In another violation, the occupation forces detained Red Crescent medical crews who attempted to enter the camp and assaulted volunteer paramedic Fathi Nasrallah, impeding their work in providing support to the residents inside, especially the sick and elderly.

The occupation forces also continued to raid homes and shops inside the camp, searching them, vandalizing and stealing their belongings, and converting several of them into military barracks.

Later on, infantry troops were deployed along the road between Nur Shams Camp and the Employees' Housing District in the Aktaba suburb east of the city, searching and combing citizens' homes and interrogating them.

At the same time, the occupation forces dispatched military reinforcements toward the city and its two camps, passing through its main streets.

They obstructed the movement of citizens and vehicles, particularly on Nablus Street, seizing several residential buildings and converting them into military barracks.

These attacks come within the ongoing escalation by the occupation forces in the city of Tulkarm and its two camps, which has resulted in the killing of 13 citizens, including a child and two women, one of whom was eight months pregnant.

Dozens have also been injured and detained, and more than 12,000 people have been forcibly displaced from Tulkarm Camp and another 12,000 from Nur Shams Camp.

The aggression also caused widespread destruction to the infrastructure, including water, electricity, sewage, and communications networks, as well as homes, shops, and vehicles, which were completely and partially demolished, burned, vandalized, looted, and stolen. The entrances and alleys of the camps were also closed off with earth mounds. — Wafa

## INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

### Philippine Senate to probe Duterte arrest, handover to the ICC

**MANILA:** The Philippine Senate said that it will carry out a formal probe after ex-President Rodrigo Duterte was arrested and handed over last week to the International Criminal Court (ICC), where he faces charges of having committed crimes against humanity.

Duterte, 79, has been accused of being responsible for many murders during his yearslong campaign against drugs, in which thousands of people were killed, according to rights groups.



**Who initiated the Senate probe?**

The probe, which will include a public hearing on Thursday where top police and other government officials will testify, was initiated by Senator Imee Marcos.

Imee Marcos is a sister of President Ferdinand Marcos and also a close friend of Vice President Sara Duterte, the former president's daughter, who has been impeached on charges that include an alleged assassination plot against the president.

"As chairperson of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, I am calling for an urgent investigation into the arrest of former President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, an issue that has deeply divided the nation," Imee Marcos said in

a statement on Monday.

"It is imperative to establish whether due process was followed and to ensure that his legal rights were not just upheld but protected," she said, adding: "Our sovereignty and legal processes must remain paramount."

Shortly after Duterte's arrest at Manila airport on March 11, Imee Marcos warned at a news conference that the detention of "poor President Duterte" could "only lead to trouble." Later on Friday, she said, "I cannot accept what they did to [Duterte]."

Duterte's lawyer Salvador Medialdea has told the court that the actions against his client were "pure and simple kidnapping."

However, the arrest has been hailed by rights groups and families of victims in Duterte's anti-drugs campaign. — dw

## ON TUESDAY EVENING

### NASA announces Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore’s return date to Earth

**WASHINGTON, DC:** NASA astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore, stranded at the International Space Station for over nine months, will return to Earth on Tuesday evening, NASA announced in a statement.

Williams and Wilmore are scheduled to travel back to Earth alongside Nick Hague and Roscosmos cosmonaut Aleksandr Gorbunov aboard a SpaceX Crew Dragon spacecraft.

NASA will provide live coverage of the agency's SpaceX Crew-9 return to Earth from the International Space Station, beginning with Dragon spacecraft hatch closure preparations at 10:45 pm EDT on Monday. NASA and SpaceX met on Sunday to assess weather and splashdown conditions off Florida's coast for the return of the agency's Crew-9 mission from the International Space Station.

In a statement, NASA stated, "NASA will provide live coverage of the agency's SpaceX Crew-9 return to Earth from the International Space Station, beginning with Dragon spacecraft hatch closure preparations at 10:45 p.m. EDT Monday, March 17."

"NASA and SpaceX met on Sunday to assess weather and splashdown conditions off Florida's coast for the return of the agency's Crew-9 mission from the International Space Station. Mission managers are targeting an earlier Crew-9 return opportunity based on favorable conditions forecasted



for the evening of Tuesday, March 18," it added.

According to a NASA statement, the updated return target continues to allow the space station crew members time to complete handover duties while providing operational flexibility before less-favourable weather conditions are expected later in the week.

Mission managers will continue monitoring weather conditions in the area, as Dragon's undocking relies on several factors, including spacecraft readiness, recovery team readiness, weather, sea states, and other factors. NASA and SpaceX will confirm the specific splashdown location closer to the Crew-9 return, according to the statement.

SpaceX Dragon spacecraft carrying NASA astronauts Anne McClain and Nichole Ayers, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) astronaut Takuya Onishi, and Roscosmos cosmonaut Kirill Peskov docked with International Space Station, Space X CEO Elon Musk announced on Sunday.

On Friday, SpaceX and NASA launched a mission to bring back US astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore from the ISS, where they have been stranded for nine months. The lift-off took place at 7:03 ET on Friday, with a Falcon 9 rocket carrying a Dragon spacecraft on the Crew-10 mission.

The launch came after US President Donald Trump urged Elon Musk to rescue the stranded

astronauts sooner than NASA had planned. He has repeatedly accused former US President Joe Biden of abandoning them in space.

Wilmore and Williams have been stranded on the ISS for nine months after reaching there in June last year. They were supposed to stay there for about a week. The astronauts were transported from Earth to the ISS aboard Boeing's Starliner spacecraft.

However, the spacecraft came back to Earth unmanned in September. This came after NASA and Boeing identified "helium leaks and experienced issues with the spacecraft reaction control thrusters" on June 6 as Starliner approached the space station. — dw

## BILATERAL MEETINGS

### Ajit Doval and Tulsi Gabbard discuss India-US relations



**NEW DELHI:** India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval held a meeting with Tulsi Gabbard, who is America's Director of National Intelligence here in New Delhi on Sunday.

According to sources, Tulsi Gabbard met NSA Doval earlier this evening in New Delhi and they had a detailed discussion on several facets of the Indo-US relationship.

Tulsi Gabbard is visiting India as a part of her multi-nation visit.

Calling herself a 'child of the Pacific', Gabbard said she will be going to Japan, Thailand, and India, with a brief stop in France.

This is Gabbard's second inter-

national trip as a top Trump administration official.

Immediately after she was confirmed a month ago, she travelled to Germany to attend the Munich Security Conference, as per the New York Times.

The Asia leg of Gabbard's trip will culminate in an address on March 18 at the Raisina Dialogue, a multinational gathering of security officials in Delhi, to which she was invited by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. There, Gabbard will hold bilateral meetings with Indian officials and officials from other countries, a senior Trump administration official said.

The Raisina Dialogue is India's premier conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics committed to addressing the most challenging issues facing the global community. It is scheduled to be held in Delhi from March 17-19.

As per the official website of Raisina Dialogue, Gabbard will participate in a keynote conversation with Samir Saran, President, ORF.

The conference is hosted by the Observer Research Foundation in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs. This effort is supported by a number of institutions, organisations and individuals,

who are committed to the mission of the conference.

In a statement, ORF stated, "Every year, leaders in politics, business, media, and civil society converge in New Delhi to discuss the state of the world and explore opportunities for cooperation on a wide range of contemporary matters."

"The Dialogue is structured as a multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral discussion, involving heads of state, cabinet ministers and local government officials, who are joined by thought leaders from the private sector, media and academia," it added. — ANI



OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by May 2025 reaching \$72.28, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 74 cents from the price of Friday, which was \$71.54. - ONA

MARKET  
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,379.47 points, down by 0.06% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.23% at 394.54 points. Sembcorp Salalah, up 4.60%, was the top gainer while Al Anwar Ceramics, down 10.00%, was the top loser.

# Treasury bills worth OMR53.05mn issued

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

**MUSCAT:** CBO issues treasury bills worth OMR53.05 million. The value of the allotted treasury bills amounted to OMR0.15 million, for a maturity period of 28 days.

The average accepted price reached RO 99,700 for every RO 100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at RO 99,700 per RO 100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 3.91071% and 3.92248%, respectively.

The value of the allotted Treasury bills amounted to RO 36.4 million, for a maturity period of 91 days. The average accepted price reached RO 98,975 for every RO 100, and the minimum accepted



price arrived at RO 98,970 per RO 100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 4.11314% and 4.15575%, respectively.

The value of the allotted Treasury bills amounted to RO 16.5 million, for a maturity period of 182 days. The average accepted price reached RO 97,845 for every RO 100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at RO 97,840 per RO 100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 4.32214%

and 4.41735%, respectively.

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

rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 5.00% while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 5.50%.

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

COLLABORATION



## Sohar International and Ooredoo Business to empower SMEs

**MUSCAT:** Sohar International, Oman's best bank, recently partnered with Ooredoo Business to introduce innovative solutions for local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). This strategic alliance underscores the bank's dedication to innovation and customer-centricity, reinforcing its role as a key enabler of financial empowerment for businesses. Through this collaboration, Sohar International is set to provide an exclusive suite of offerings—including complimentary fixed services, flexible device financing, a compelling mobile offer, customizable Information and Communication Technology (ICT) solutions, an attractive Riyada card benefit, and enhanced communication tools – all aimed at streamlining operations, reducing costs, and fostering sustainable growth.

Commenting on the initiative, Abdul Qadir Al Sumali, Chief Retail and Premier Banking Officer at Sohar International, stated, "Partnering with industry leaders like Ooredoo reinforces our commitment to delivering world-class services while fostering an ecosystem that drives innovation and operational excellence. This initiative reflects a strategic, forward-thinking approach to financial services, where every element is designed for the customer's success. With this com-

prehensive package, we provide SME clients with essential tools to enhance efficiency and accelerate digital transformation."

Saied Al-Lawati, Director of Business Marketing and ICT Solutions at Ooredoo, said, "Ooredoo recognizes the evolving needs of SMEs and the challenges of staying competitive in a digital-first world. By simplifying connectivity and financial access, we enable smarter operations, seamless growth, and long-term success for businesses in Oman."

Beyond traditional banking, Sohar International forges strategic alliances to enhance customer value. A key highlight of this exclusive package that can be offered to Sohar International customers is the Complimentary Fixed Services, providing two months of free fixed-line rental to ease costs. Additionally, Flexible Device Financing allows businesses, after a three-month qualifying period, to acquire up to five state-of-the-art devices through competitive installment plans—ensuring they stay ahead of technological advancements without heavy upfront costs. Riyada Card Holders receive a 50% discount on Fixed Business Internet and Shahry Business Digital Plans, along with 1,000 free bulk SMS messages to expand business reach and engagement.

FINANCIAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

## FSA cancels licences of two companies



Times News Service

**MUSCAT:** The Financial Services Authority has issued two administrative decisions cancelling the licenses of Sharek Investment and New Sphere, which are carrying out activities in the field of securities and crowdfunding platforms. The decisions cancelled the licenses of the companies and will be deregistered from the register of the companies operating in the field of securities.

The administrative penalties were made because the companies failed to carry out the activity since their establishment pursuant to Article 123/a of the Executive Regulation of the Capital Market Law issued vide decision No. 1/2009 as part of the review of the licenses granted to a number of companies operating in the field of securities to practice the business of crowdfunding during 2022, which was the first year of the crowdfunding market in the Sultanate of Oman after the is-

suance of the regulation for crowdfunding by decision No. 153/2021.

It is noteworthy that the number of the companies licensed to carry out crowdfunding activity is seven companies and only five companies actually commenced providing funding facilities to the emerging companies including small and medium enterprises with a total funding at OMR8.7 million. More than 140 companies benefited from such platforms during the period 2022-2024.

# A DRIVE OF BLESSINGS

**ARRIZO 8**  
(1.6L Comfort)  
Starting From **RO 8,175\***

**ARRIZO 6 PRO**  
(Basic)  
Starting From **RO 5,500\***

**ALL NEW ARRIZO 5**  
(1.5L STD)  
Starting From **RO 4,275\***

**TIGGO 7 PRO MAX**  
(1.5 Comfort)  
Starting From **RO 6,600\***

**TIGGO 8 PRO MAX**  
(2.0 Luxury)  
Starting From **RO 10,300\***

**GRAND RAFFLE\***  
**ARRIZO 5**  
1.5L STD  
ALL NEW  
Raffle Date: 21 April 2025

**ASSURED GIFT\*\*\***  
Fuel Card - 100 LTR

**ENGINE WARRANTY**  
10 Years / 1,000,000 Kms  
Not applicable on Arrizo 5

**SERVICE®** up to 5 Years / 60,000 kms (whichever is earlier)

**INSURANCE\*\*** 1 Year Comprehensive

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\*VAT 5% Extra on Prices

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Campaign Period: 17.02.2025 - 17.04.2025. Benefits applicable for all purchases except Government Organizations & Ministries. If the indicated vehicle prices are starting prices for specified model grades & are Cash price after considering applicable Cash Gift with 5% VAT charged extra on indicated prices. \*\*Grand Raffle: Anyone buying a Chery vehicle during this campaign period will be eligible to participate in Grand Raffle draw to win 1 unit of the all-new Chery Arrizo 5 (1.5L STD). Tentative date of Grand raffle draw: 21st April, 2025. \*\*\*Assured Gift: Anyone buying a Chery vehicle during this campaign period will be eligible for a Fuel Card (100 Ltrs M95). @ Free Service upto 5 Years / 60,000 Kms (whichever is earlier) covering 7 services with the first & second service at 5,000 kms & 10,000 kms and then 5 services at 10,000 Kms service interval based on normal operating conditions on all Chery models. @ Comprehensive 1 Year Insurance (Oman only) on all Chery models. Insurance benefit under the campaign would be given up to the extent applicable for Private vehicles only. Additional premium as per insurance norms will have to be paid by the RAC. Tax & Chery School Company. \*Cash gift in lieu of insurance\* Cash Gift again in lieu of insurance only as applicable for respective models. In case customer chooses Insurance (as applicable), he/she will not be eligible for "Cash gift in lieu of insurance" offer. \$ Free 1st year Registration for all Chery models. Vehicles may include dealer-installed items. For further details & to ascertain availability of stocks, please visit your nearest Chery showroom. Pictures and colors shown above are for illustrative purposes only. Campaign will not be applicable for ministry and government bodies/purchases.

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Sembcorp Salalah, up 4.60%, was the top gainer while Al Anwar Ceramics, down 10.00%, was the top loser



**MUSCAT:** The MSX index closed at 4,379.47 points, down by 0.06% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.23% at 394.54 points. Sembcorp Salalah, up 4.60%, was the top gainer while Al Anwar Ceramics, down 10.00%, 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 1032 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 10.53 million, with more than 71.19 million shares changing hands. Out of 61 traded securities, 20 advanced, 15 declined, and 26 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for RO 629K while foreign investors were net sellers for RO 590K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 38K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,640.61 points, down 0.82%. Prices of National Finance, Oman United Insurance, Global Financial Investments, Bank

Muscat were up by 1.56%, 1.25%, 1.16%, 0.79% respectively. Prices of Financial Corporation, Ahli Bank, Muscat Finance, Al Anwar Investment, National Bank Oman were down by 10.00%, 5.11%, 4.17%, 1.45%, 1.33% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,622.43 points, down 0.02%. Prices of Muscat Thread Mill, Galfar Engineering, Construction Materials, Oman Cement, Voltamp Energy were up by 4.17%, 4.11%, 2.50%, 2.42%, 1.61% respectively. Prices of Al Anwar Ceramics, National Detergent were down by 10.00%, 2.03% respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.76% before closing at 1,611.23 points. Prices of Sembcorp Salalah, Ooredoo, Al Suwadi Power, Oman Telecom, OQ Gas Networks were up by 4.60%, 2.86%, 1.56%, 1.37%, 0.78% respectively. Prices of Sharqiyah Desalination, Phoenix Power, Barka Desalination, Renaissance Services were down by 8.78%, 3.33%, 1.64%, 0.31% respectively. — United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

| Index              | High     | Low      | Value    | Prev. Value | Diff   | Diff % |
|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|--------|--------|
| MSX 30 INDEX       | 4,384.73 | 4,362.74 | 4,379.47 | 4,381.90    | -2.44  | -0.06  |
| FINANCIAL INDEX    | 7,704.19 | 7,629.30 | 7,640.61 | 7,703.79    | -63.19 | -0.82  |
| Industry Index     | 5,654.49 | 5,606.48 | 5,622.43 | 5,623.79    | -1.36  | -0.02  |
| Services Index     | 1,613.05 | 1,598.52 | 1,611.23 | 1,599.15    | 12.08  | 0.76   |
| MSX Shariah Index  | 397.07   | 394.54   | 394.54   | 395.47      | -0.93  | -0.23  |
| MSX TR INDEX       | 6,153.47 | 6,122.61 | 6,146.08 | 6,149.50    | -3.42  | -0.06  |
| FINANCIAL TR IDX   | 8,752.75 | 8,667.67 | 8,680.51 | 8,752.30    | -71.79 | -0.82  |
| INDUSTRIAL TR IDX  | 6,523.94 | 6,468.54 | 6,486.95 | 6,488.52    | -1.57  | -0.02  |
| SERVICES TR IDX    | 1,945.12 | 1,927.59 | 1,942.92 | 1,928.35    | 14.57  | 0.76   |
| FIXED INCOME INDEX | 1,166.89 | 1,166.89 | 1,166.89 | 1,166.89    | 0.00   | 0.00   |

Trading Summary

| Volume     | Turnover   | Trades | Market Cap     | Up | Down | Equal | Sec. Traded |
|------------|------------|--------|----------------|----|------|-------|-------------|
| 71,194,831 | 10,527,069 | 1,032  | 27,662,943,555 | 20 | 15   | 26    | 61          |

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, MARCH 17

ISIN

SECURITY NAME

VOLUME

TURNOVER

TRADES

OPEN PRICE

HIGH

LOW

CLOSE PR.

PREV. CLOSE

DIFF

DIFF %

LAST PR.

LAST BID

LAST OFFER

PREV. VALUE

MARKET CAP

REGULAR MARKET

|              |                                        |            |           |     |       |       |       |       |       |        |         |       |       |       |       |               |
|--------------|----------------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------------|
| OM0000004735 | SEMBORP SALALAH                        | 59,132     | 5,351     | 7   | 0.090 | 0.092 | 0.090 | 0.091 | 0.087 | 0.004  | 4.598   | 0.091 | 0.091 | 0.092 | 0.100 | 86,886,047    |
| OM0000003968 | OOREDOO                                | 406,425    | 73,667    | 17  | 0.179 | 0.180 | 0.179 | 0.180 | 0.175 | 0.005  | 2.857   | 0.180 | 0.175 | 0.180 | 0.100 | 117,169,961   |
| OM0000001749 | OMAN CEMENT                            | 188,274    | 94,375    | 28  | 0.497 | 0.508 | 0.497 | 0.507 | 0.495 | 0.012  | 2.424   | 0.508 | 0.508 | 0.508 | 0.100 | 187,753,464   |
| OM0000004933 | AL SUWADI POWER                        | 543,261    | 34,823    | 13  | 0.064 | 0.065 | 0.064 | 0.065 | 0.064 | 0.001  | 1.563   | 0.065 | 0.064 | 0.065 | 0.100 | 46,436,412    |
| OM0000003026 | OMAN TELECOM                           | 250,280    | 204,897   | 42  | 0.805 | 0.822 | 0.805 | 0.816 | 0.805 | 0.011  | 1.366   | 0.816 | 0.812 | 0.820 | 0.100 | 612,000,000   |
| OM0000001087 | OMAN UNITED INSURANCE                  | 97,278     | 20,947    | 6   | 0.240 | 0.243 | 0.240 | 0.243 | 0.240 | 0.003  | 1.250   | 0.243 | 0.240 | 0.243 | 0.100 | 24,300,000    |
| OM0000003125 | GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.        | 542,502    | 46,887    | 30  | 0.086 | 0.087 | 0.086 | 0.087 | 0.086 | 0.001  | 1.163   | 0.087 | 0.087 | 0.089 | 0.100 | 17,400,000    |
| OM0000002796 | BANK MUSCAT                            | 8,687,555  | 2,216,319 | 36  | 0.255 | 0.256 | 0.254 | 0.256 | 0.254 | 0.002  | 0.787   | 0.256 | 0.255 | 0.256 | 0.100 | 1,921,637,648 |
| OM0000004972 | OQ GAS NETWORKS                        | 1,544,780  | 200,525   | 79  | 0.129 | 0.130 | 0.129 | 0.130 | 0.129 | 0.001  | 0.775   | 0.130 | 0.129 | 0.130 | 0.100 | 562,981,110   |
| OM0000008934 | ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES                  | 1,198,810  | 317,990   | 140 | 0.263 | 0.267 | 0.263 | 0.265 | 0.264 | 0.001  | 0.379   | 0.265 | 0.265 | 0.265 | 0.100 | 204,103,000   |
| OM0000002176 | JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS                 | 66,197     | 26,567    | 9   | 0.402 | 0.402 | 0.400 | 0.402 | 0.401 | 0.001  | 0.249   | 0.402 | 0.400 | 0.402 | 0.100 | 50,208,980    |
| OM0000001152 | OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVESTMENT | 153,751    | 19,459    | 9   | 0.120 | 0.120 | 0.120 | 0.120 | 0.120 | 0.000  | 0.000   | 0.120 | 0.120 | 0.120 | 0.100 | 18,000,000    |
| OM0000002275 | SHELL OMAN MARKETING                   | 42,148     | 21,043    | 8   | 0.493 | 0.500 | 0.493 | 0.500 | 0.500 | 0.000  | 0.000   | 0.500 | 0.501 | 0.545 | 0.100 | 47,500,000    |
| OM0000002374 | UNITED FINANCE                         | 310,534    | 19,253    | 7   | 0.062 | 0.062 | 0.062 | 0.062 | 0.060 | 0.000  | 0.000   | 0.062 | 0.062 | 0.065 | 0.100 | 22,079,892    |
| OM0000002440 | AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO.              | 56,992     | 4,252     | 8   | 0.075 | 0.075 | 0.074 | 0.075 | 0.075 | 0.000  | 0.000   | 0.075 | 0.074 | 0.075 | 0.100 | 6,750,000     |
| OM0000003398 | SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK               | 44,356,506 | 5,359,088 | 76  | 0.123 | 0.123 | 0.120 | 0.123 | 0.123 | 0.000  | 0.000   | 0.123 | 0.122 | 0.123 | 0.100 | 813,921,281   |
| OM0000004925 | ALBATHINAH POWER                       | 523,485    | 34,684    | 14  | 0.067 | 0.067 | 0.066 | 0.067 | 0.067 | 0.000  | 0.000   | 0.067 | 0.061 | 0.067 | 0.100 | 45,217,458    |
| OM0000001533 | OMINVEST                               | 93,342     | 30,613    | 17  | 0.328 | 0.328 | 0.327 | 0.327 | 0.328 | -0.001 | -0.305  | 0.327 | 0.325 | 0.329 | 0.100 | 218,555,494   |
| OM0000003224 | RENAISSANCE SERVICES                   | 96,487     | 31,628    | 14  | 0.328 | 0.328 | 0.327 | 0.327 | 0.328 | -0.001 | -0.305  | 0.327 | 0.328 | 0.325 | 0.100 | 77,306,070    |
| OM0000004768 | MADINA TAKAFUL                         | 20,847     | 1,739     | 2   | 0.083 | 0.084 | 0.083 | 0.083 | 0.084 | -0.001 | -1.190  | 0.084 | 0.082 | 0.084 | 0.100 | 14,523,000    |
| OM0000001483 | NATIONAL BANK OMAN                     | 400,000    | 118,490   | 1   | 0.296 | 0.296 | 0.296 | 0.296 | 0.300 | -0.004 | -1.333  | 0.296 | 0.296 | 0.296 | 0.100 | 481,280,121   |
| OM0000002168 | AL ANWAR CERAMIC                       | 610,406    | 62,220    | 42  | 0.106 | 0.106 | 0.099 | 0.099 | 0.110 | -0.011 | -10.000 | 0.099 | 0.099 | 0.101 | 0.100 | 21,780,000    |
| Total        | 22                                     | 60,241,992 | 8,943,718 | 605 |       |       |       |       |       |        |         |       |       |       |       |               |

Parallel Market

|              |                                     |            |           |     |       |       |       |       |       |        |         |       |       |       |       |                 |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------------|
| OM0000002036 | MUSCAT THREAD MILLS                 | 100        | 13        | 1   | 0.125 | 0.125 | 0.125 | 0.125 | 0.120 | 0.005  | 4.167   | 0.125 | 0.121 | 0.125 | 0.100 | 2,202,958       |
| OM0000003521 | GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING    | 1,596,598  | 115,972   | 20  | 0.072 | 0.077 | 0.072 | 0.076 | 0.073 | 0.003  | 4.110   | 0.076 | 0.070 | 0.080 | 0.100 | 15,428,970      |
| OM0000008447 | OMAN REIT FUND                      | 17,587     | 1,244     | 4   | 0.071 | 0.074 | 0.070 | 0.074 | 0.072 | 0.002  | 2.778   | 0.074 | 0.071 | 0.074 | 0.100 | 37,638,716      |
| OM0000001368 | CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL INDUSTRIES    | 5,000      | 410       | 1   | 0.082 | 0.082 | 0.082 | 0.080 | 0.080 | 0.002  | 2.500   | 0.082 | 0.080 | 0.083 | 0.100 | 5,125,000       |
| OM0000003681 | VOLTAMP ENERGY                      | 40,070     | 24,902    | 9   | 0.600 | 0.630 | 0.600 | 0.630 | 0.620 | 0.010  | 1.613   | 0.630 | 0.630 | 0.630 | 0.100 | 51,282,733      |
| OM0000002648 | NATIONAL FINANCE                    | 16,007     | 2,081     | 3   | 0.130 | 0.130 | 0.130 | 0.130 | 0.128 | 0.002  | 1.563   | 0.130 | 0.130 | 0.130 | 0.100 | 74,581,557      |
| OM0000009759 | OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION       | 1,407,451  | 449,133   | 101 | 0.317 | 0.320 | 0.317 | 0.320 | 0.317 | 0.003  | 0.946   | 0.320 | 0.320 | 0.321 | 0.100 | 602,560,000,000 |
| OM0000004248 | SMN POWER HOLDING                   | 4,200      | 6         | 6   | 0.335 | 0.335 | 0.332 | 0.332 | 0.330 | 0.002  | 0.906   | 0.332 | 0.330 | 0.332 | 0.100 | 24,270,019      |
| OM0000001400 | OMAN FLOUR MILLS                    | 24,300     | 9,675     | 4   | 0.399 | 0.400 | 0.399 | 0.400 | 0.399 | 0.001  | 0.251   | 0.400 | 0.375 | 0.400 | 0.100 | 63,000,000      |
| OM0000001160 | NATIONAL GAS                        | 160,000    | 12,000    | 5   | 0.075 | 0.075 | 0.075 | 0.075 | 0.075 | 0.000  | 0.000   | 0.075 | 0.075 | 0.076 | 0.100 | 6,375,000       |
| OM0000001608 | OMAN PACKAGING                      | 1,196      | 196       | 1   | 0.165 | 0.165 | 0.165 | 0.165 | 0.165 | 0.000  | 0.000   | 0.165 | 0.000 | 0.170 | 0.100 | 5,351,917       |
| OM0000001962 | AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING        | 1,277      | 56        | 1   | 0.044 | 0.044 | 0.044 | 0.044 | 0.044 | 0.000  | 0.000   | 0.044 | 0.044 | 0.048 | 0.100 | 3,740,000       |
| OM0000002287 | GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS              | 10,855     | 2,605     | 3   | 0.240 | 0.240 | 0.240 | 0.240 | 0.240 | 0.000  | 0.000   | 0.240 | 0.218 | 0.240 | 0.100 | 10,983,792      |
| OM0000003000 | ALMAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING | 7,686      | 2         | 2   | 1.040 | 1.040 | 1.040 | 1.040 | 1.040 | 0.000  | 0.000   | 1.040 | 1.040 | 1.090 | 0.100 | 14,760,000      |
| OM0000003281 | TAGEER FINANCE                      | 2,000      | 216       | 1   | 0.108 | 0.108 | 0.108 | 0.108 | 0.108 | 0.000  | 0.000   | 0.108 | 0.103 | 0.108 | 0.100 | 29,277,774      |
| OM0000004420 | BANK NIZWA                          | 20,085     | 1,988     | 1   | 0.099 | 0.099 | 0.099 | 0.099 | 0.099 | 0.000  | 0.000   | 0.099 | 0.099 | 0.100 | 0.100 | 221,458,350     |
| OM0000004776 | TAKAFUL OMAN                        | 5,229      | 240       | 2   | 0.046 | 0.046 | 0.045 | 0.045 | 0.045 | 0.000  | 0.000   | 0.045 | 0.045 | 0.049 | 0.100 | 11,250,000      |
| OM0000005006 | ALMAHA CERAMICS                     | 14,443     | 1,779     | 9   | 0.123 | 0.123 | 0.123 | 0.123 | 0.123 | 0.000  | 0.000   | 0.123 | 0.123 | 0.124 | 0.000 | 6,765,000       |
| OM0000005280 | OMAN ARAB BANK                      | 11,947     | 1,637     | 2   | 0.137 | 0.137 | 0.137 | 0.137 | 0.137 | 0.000  | 0.000   | 0.137 | 0.137 | 0.147 | 0.100 | 228,709,170     |
| OM0000009908 | OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SF2)            | 3,457,444  | 353,638   | 84  | 0.103 | 0.104 | 0.102 | 0.103 | 0.103 | 0.000  | 0.000   | 0.103 | 0.103 | 0.104 | 0.040 | 326,327,558     |
| OM0000001020 | ASTAD SHIPPING                      | 3,657,692  | 447,835   | 123 | 0.123 | 0.124 | 0.123 | 0.123 | 0.123 | 0.000  | 0.000   | 0.123 | 0.123 | 0.124 | 0.000 | 640,675,546     |
| OM0000001772 | ALANWAR INVESTMENT                  | 213,437    | 14,735    | 13  | 0.070 | 0.070 | 0.068 | 0.068 | 0.069 | -0.001 | -1.449  | 0.068 | 0.068 | 0.075 | 0.100 | 19,520,769      |
| OM0000000710 | BARKA DESALINATION                  | 12,800     | 1,536     | 2   | 0.120 | 0.120 | 0.120 | 0.120 | 0.122 | -0.002 | -1.639  | 0.120 | 0.120 | 0.120 | 0.100 | 9,962,640       |
| OM0000000381 | NATIONAL DETERGENT                  | 1,610      | 2,221     | 1   | 0.725 | 0.746 | 0.725 | 0.746 | 0.746 | -0.021 | -2.923  | 0.725 | 0.725 | 0.740 | 0.100 | 14,138,000      |
| OM0000000868 | THE PEARL REEF                      | 10,150     | 1,219     | 3   | 0.124 | 0.124 | 0.120 | 0.120 | 0.124 | -0.004 | -3.236  | 0.120 | 0.118 | 0.125 | 0.100 | 70,972,426      |
| OM0000005963 | PHOENIX POWER                       | 90,687     | 5,440     | 3   | 0.060 | 0.060 | 0.058 | 0.058 | 0.060 | -0.002 | -3.333  | 0.058 | 0.055 | 0.062 | 0.100 | 84,830,885      |
| OM0000000192 | MUSCAT FINANCE                      | 18         | 490       | 1   | 0.046 | 0.046 | 0.046 | 0.046 | 0.046 | 0.000  | 0.000   | 0.046 | 0.046 | 0.046 | 0.100 | 3,740,000       |
| OM0000000200 | AHLI BANK                           | 58,981     | 9,850     | 6   | 0.167 | 0.167 | 0.167 | 0.167 | 0.176 | -0.009 | -5.114  | 0.167 | 0.165 | 0.167 | 0.100 | 392,392,790     |
| OM0000004429 | SHARQIAH DESALINATION               | 15,556     | 2,073     | 2   | 0.135 | 0.135 | 0.135 | 0.135 | 0.148 | -0.013 | -8.784  | 0.135 | 0.000 | 0.140 | 0.100 | 13,203,292      |
| OM0000002911 | FINANCIAL CORPORATION               | 6,220      | 224       | 1   | 0.036 | 0.036 | 0.036 | 0.036 | 0.040 | -0.004 | -10.000 | 0.036 | 0.036 | 0.000 | 0.100 | 2,521,079       |
| Total        | 30                                  | 10,809,501 | 1,473,908 | 411 |       |       |       |       |       |        |         |       |       |       |       |                 |



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LIFESTYLE

# CHINESE SCIENTISTS REVEAL KEY MECHANISM BEHIND HEAVY-ION CANCER THERAPY

Heavy-ion therapy, which is a cutting-edge radiotherapy technique, uses heavy-ion beams to destroy cancer cells

A recent study, led by researchers from the Institute of Modern Physics (IMP) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and their collaborators, has made significant progress in uncovering the microscopic mechanism behind heavy-ion cancer therapy, which is expected to optimise cancer treatment strategies and promote the development of new radiotherapy technologies.

The findings were recently published as a highlighted paper in the journal Physical Review X. Heavy-ion therapy, which is a cutting-edge radiotherapy technique, uses heavy-ion beams to destroy cancer cells.

In this context, Xu Shenye, a researcher with the IMP, explained that, "Under the same radiation dose, heavy ions exhibit two to three times greater cancer-cell-killing efficiency than traditional X-ray radiotherapy." "Heavy ions can be more efficiently cause DNA double-strand breaks in tumor cells, resulting in stronger biological effects. But the specific microscopic mechanism underlying these effects had long been unclear," Xu added.

Researchers conducted experiments at the heavy-ion research facilities in Lanzhou, northwest China's Gansu Province, to address this question. For the first time, they observed an inter-molecular energy and proton transfer cascade mechanism triggered by heavy-ion irradiation in biomolecular clusters. - OMA



# Barca stage late comeback to outplay Atletico Madrid

Ferran Torres scored a second-half double in their 4-2 win as the Catalan giants moved top of La Liga

**MADRID:** Lamine Yamal and Ferran Torres struck in stoppage time as Barcelona came back from two goals down to claim a dramatic 4-2 victory over fellow title hopefuls Atletico Madrid at Riyadh Air Metropolitano and move top of La Liga on Sunday.

The visitors started the day knowing a win would put them ahead of Real Madrid on goal difference, while Atletico would leapfrog Barca into second with the three points.

It looked like Atletico would stage the perfect response to their Champions League last-16 exit in midweek on penalties to city rivals Real when they led 2-0 with 20 minutes remaining.

Julian Alvarez, who was penalised for a double-kick spot-kick in that shootout loss on Wednesday, opened the scoring on the stroke of half-time, turning in Giuliano Simeone's cross.



Alexander Sorloth added the second in the 70th minute when he was picked out inside the box by Conor Gallagher.

But Barcelona scored twice in six minutes to level matters, Robert Lewandowski driving in a fine 72nd-minute strike before Torres headed in the equaliser from Raphinha's floated cross.

Sorloth had a chance to win it late on for Atletico when he was put through on goal, but he sent his hot wide with the outside of his boot and may have been just offside.

It sparked a late rally from Barca as Yamal's curling deflected strike in the second minute of added time put them ahead, before Torres added a fourth just before the final whistle with a low finish.

Barcelona are level on 60 points with Real, but crucially have a game in hand. Atletico remain third but are four points behind the top two.

**'Unbelievable win'**

Barcelona coach Hansi Flick said it was time to beat Atlético Madrid after his side won on Sunday.

Barça had failed to beat Atlético in two previous meetings this season.

"It was time to win after three matches [against Atlético]," Flick said in his post-game news conference.



"The quality was good. I think the match today for the supporters, the fans, for everyone in front of a television, was an amazing match."

"I think intensity above all is what was missing [before the comeback]," he added. "We were waiting to see what happened rather than really going for it."

"Until they scored two goals, we didn't really step up and get going. That can't happen. It's something we have to improve."

It also happened in the Copa del Rey. If we can improve these small details we can be closer to being a perfect team."

Barça have now won seven games in a row in La Liga.

"The reaction after the second Atlético goal was unbelievable," Flick added. "To score four goals in 20 minutes here against this team is very good."

"I am proud of this team. The mentality is really good. They never give up. The reaction on the pitch was unbelievable. It was a great day for us today."

"You can feel [the spirit] and see it in training. We want to train how we want to play. [The players] do it really good."

"At the moment, we have huge confidence in the way we want to play. Atlético are a fantastic team. They defend well. But my team today was the better team."

Atleti coach Diego Simeone agreed there was still a long way to go and said his team knows what it will take to make a push for a first La Liga title since the 2020-21 season.

"We will fight until the end. There are 10 games left and we have to play and win every one of them," Simeone said after the game. "It's not down to luck."

"It's down to hard work. I wouldn't put it down to luck. We have to recognize the rival."

**Other results:** Leganés 2 Real Betis 3, Sevilla 0 Athletic Club 1, Osasuna 1 Getafe 2, Rayo Vallecano 2 Real Sociedad 2. - Agencies

## ITALIAN SERIE A

### Inter move three points clear

**MILAN:** Inter Milan moved three points clear at the top of Serie A after beating third-placed Atalanta 2-0 on Sunday.

Napoli, who sit second, were held to a goalless draw by Venezia earlier in the day and Inter seized the opportunity to open up daylight in the race for the title.

Midfielder Carlos Augusto opened the scoring early in the second half by heading home Hakan Calhanoglu's corner.

Atalanta struggled to impose themselves on the game and were reduced to 10 men in the 81st minute when Ederson received two yellow cards in the space of a few seconds for dissent towards the referee.



Inter took advantage of their extra man and doubled their lead six minutes later when Lautaro Martinez powered a shot into the far corner.

Atalanta remain third in the table, six points behind Inter.

Elsewhere, Bologna thrashed Lazio 5-0 to climb above the Rome side and move into the top four.

**Other results:** Roma 1 Cagliari 0, Fiorentina 3 Juventus 0. - Agencies

## FRENCH LIGUE 1

### Dembele scores again as PSG triumph

**PARIS:** Ousmane Dembele scored again as Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) beat Marseille 3-1 on Sunday to edge closer to wrapping up a 13th Ligue 1 title.

Following his crucial midweek goal at Liverpool in the Champions League, in-form Dembele set hosts PSG on their way in Le Classique with a composed 17th-minute finish after Fabian Ruiz's pass.

The France international has scored seven goals in his latest seven appearances. Ruiz grabbed his second assist of the night shortly before half-time when midfielder Nuno Mendes stroked in from close range. Amine Gouiri scored for Marseille to offer hope



of a comeback early in the second half; however, a Pol Lirola own goal put PSG back in control.

Elsewhere, the Ligue 1 match between relegation rivals Montpellier and Saint-Etienne was abandoned after home fans threw flares onto the pitch and part of a stand caught fire.

**Other results:** Lyon 4 Le Havre 2, Brest 0 Reims 0, Strasbourg 2 Toulouse 1. - Agencies

## INDIAN WELLS TENNIS

### Draper breezes past Rune; Andreeva upsets Sabalenka to claim titles

**INDIAN WELLS:** Britain's Jack Draper claimed the biggest title of his career with an assured win over Denmark's Holger Rune in the Indian Wells final on Sunday.

Draper, 23, was dominant from the start as he brushed aside world No.13 Rune 6-2, 6-2.

Lifting his first trophy at an ATP Masters event - the tier below the four Grand Slam tournaments - capped a landmark weekend for the British No.1.

After beating Spain's Carlos Alcaraz in Saturday's semi-finals, 14th-ranked Draper was already guaranteed to climb into the world's top 10 for the first time - whatever happened against 21-year-old Rune.

The straight-set victory means the English left-hander will move

up to seventh in the ATP rankings on Monday.

"I'm incredibly happy, obviously, and incredibly proud of my achievements this week," Draper told BBC Sport.

After sending a forehand long on his first championship point, Draper completed the job at the second attempt when Rune pushed a return wide with the Briton rushing to the net.

The US Open semi-finalist celebrated in composed fashion - smiling towards his support team, before kneeling down on court and contentedly patting the surface.

"I said at the end of last year I wanted to be competing with the likes of Carlos Alcaraz, Jannik Sinner and all the players who are



competing for big titles," added Draper.

"It's one thing saying it but it's another thing doing it. To back up

**Teenager Andreeva stuns Sabalenka**

Also, teenager Mirra Andreeva underlined her growing reputation as the hottest emerging talent on the WTA Tour by shocking world No.1 Aryna Sabalenka to win the Indian Wells title.

Russia's Andreeva, 17, produced a composed and clinical performance to fight back for a 2-6, 6-4, 6-3 victory.

It is her second successive title - and back-to-back victories at WTA 1,000 level - after triumphing in Dubai at the end of February.

Speaking to the Indian Wells crowd during the trophy presentation, a laughing Andreeva said: "I'd like to thank myself - for fighting until the end, for always believing and for never quitting."

"I tried to run like a rabbit because Aryna was sending bullets [across the net] and it was hard."

Andreeva is the youngest champion in WTA history at this level - the highest tier of events below the four Grand Slam tournaments - and extended her winning streak to 12 matches by beating Belarusian three-time major champion Sabalenka.

On Monday, Andreeva will rise to a career high of sixth in the world rankings.

Andreeva has been tipped as a potential superstar ever since bursting on the scene as a 15-year-old at the 2023 Madrid Open. "It was me against me. I made a lot of unforced errors on important points and I just let her play a little bit better," said Sabalenka. - Agencies

# NBO expands Shahr Al Atta campaign

The campaign encompasses a series of initiatives designed to serve those in need and make a positive impact on the nation’s growth

**MUSCAT:** The National Bank of Oman (NBO) has launched its annual Shahr Al Atta campaign for Ramadan, reflecting its commitment to supporting the less



privileged and fostering the spirit of giving while contributing to corporate social responsibility. The campaign encompasses a series of initiatives designed to serve those in need and make a positive impact on the nation's growth. It began with an in-house bake sale, where proceeds were donated to charity, reaffirming

NBO's dedication to giving back. As part of the initiative, food hampers were distributed to low-income families across the country in collaboration with Zakat Committees and charitable organizations. This initiative, a cornerstone of NBO's CSR efforts for several years, aims to provide essential sustenance and support to

those in need during Ramadan. Building on this, the campaign extends its reach through various activities that provide essential support and bring joy to different segments of society. In collaboration with the Cultural Citizenship Salon, NBO is organizing a special event for children from the Child Care Centre to celebrate Islamic Orphans' Day, offering engaging activities that promote happiness and inclusion. Additionally, in partnership with the Oman National Autism Center, NBO is hosting a Qaranqasho celebration for children on the autism spectrum, fostering inclusivity and awareness. Furthering its outreach, NBO has partnered with the Seeh Zakat Committee to support Kaswat Al Eid, providing children from low-income families with new clothes, enabling them to celebrate Eid with joy.

## MAZDA RAMADAN RAFFLE - FIRST WINNER ANNOUNCED

Mazda Oman announced Ruqaiya Ahmed as the first winner of its Ramadan raffle, driving home a brand-new Mazda 6. This exclusive campaign brings added excitement to the holy month, offering customers the opportunity to own a Mazda while also standing a chance to win another. With three more raffle draws remaining, anticipation continues to grow as more customers look forward to experiencing the joy of winning. Beyond the thrill of the raffle, Mazda Oman is committed to enhancing the ownership experience, providing an exclusive 4-year unlimited Jinjaz service package and 3-year AAA roadside assistance for added peace of mind. As the campaign unfolds, now is the perfect time to explore Mazda's exceptional lineup and take advantage of this limited-time opportunity.



### DIGITAL COMMERCE



## HiShopping App to revolutionise online shopping with strategic partnerships

**MUSCAT:** HiShopping app, the latest innovation in digital commerce, officially launched at a prestigious event attended by key stakeholders, industry leaders, and government officials. The event, held in collaboration with China Panda Expo, highlighted the app's cutting-edge features, seamless shopping experience, and commitment to transforming the digital retail landscape. The launch event featured insightful speeches from prominent figures, including Sheikh Hamad Al Ghois Al Suwaidi, Chairman of HiShopping, Sulaiman Saif Al-Shaqsi highlighted the economic impact of such digital platforms, stating, "The launch of HiShopping aligns with our national vision for technological advancement and economic diversification. This platform has the potential to empower businesses and enhance the online shopping experience for consumers." Sam Ding, representing China Panda Expo, shared his enthusiasm for the collaboration: "We at China Panda Expo are proud to be part of this groundbreaking initiative. Our partnership with HiShopping is built on shared values of innovation and market expansion, and we look forward to bringing more global opportunities to consumers."

"Our vision with HiShopping is to provide a user-friendly, efficient, and rewarding shopping experience," said Sheikh Hamad Al Ghois Al Suwaidi. "With our partnership with China Panda Expo, we are opening new doors for businesses and customers, offering a platform that is both innovative and accessible."

The event also included a live demonstration of the HiShopping app, showcasing its intuitive design, secure transactions, and exclusive deals. Attendees participated in interactive sessions,

prize giveaways, and networking opportunities, reinforcing HiShopping's commitment to engaging and rewarding its users. Sulaiman Saif Al-Shaqsi highlighted the economic impact of such digital platforms, stating, "The launch of HiShopping aligns with our national vision for technological advancement and economic diversification. This platform has the potential to empower businesses and enhance the online shopping experience for consumers." Sam Ding, representing China Panda Expo, shared his enthusiasm for the collaboration: "We at China Panda Expo are proud to be part of this groundbreaking initiative. Our partnership with HiShopping is built on shared values of innovation and market expansion, and we look forward to bringing more global opportunities to consumers."

As part of the event's conclusion, HiShopping and China Panda Expo announced their official cooperation strategy, setting the stage for future collaborations and market expansion. The evening wrapped up with a grand prize draw and distribution of exclusive souvenirs to attendees. The HiShopping app is now available for download, offering users an innovative way to shop, save, and connect with a global marketplace.

### DURING RAMADAN

## Lulu’s ‘Convoy of Goodness’ spreads happiness

**MUSCAT:** In the true spirit of Ramadan, Lulu Oman has launched its 'Convoy of Goodness' initiative, reinforcing its commitment to supporting communities and spreading kindness. As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts, Lulu has been distributing Ramadan grocery kits to families in need, ensuring that the essence of sharing and caring is upheld during the Holy Month. This charitable initiative has been made possible through collaboration with the Etruk Bassma volunteer team, bringing together efforts to reach some of the most remote communities across Oman. The Convoy of Goodness has traveled through key governorates, including the most remote locations in Khasab, Sohar, Qurayyat, Al Mudaybi and Salalah,



delivering essential food provisions to over 1,000 families. Each kit has been carefully prepared to provide necessary groceries, helping families observe Ramadan with ease and dignity. Speaking about the initiative,

Shabeer K.A., Director – Oman, highlighted the importance of giving back during this blessed time. "Ramadan is a time of reflection of generosity and community spirit. Through the Convoy of Goodness, we hope to extend a helping hand

to those who need it most, ensuring that no one is left behind during this special month. Partnering with Etruk Bassma has enabled us to reach more families and truly embody the values of compassion and unity." Lulu Oman remains dedicated to initiatives that foster positive change within the community. By launching the Convoy of Goodness, the brand continues to emphasize the importance of charity, solidarity, and the spirit of giving - core values that define the essence of Ramadan. As the campaign reaches its final destinations, Lulu expresses its heartfelt gratitude to volunteers, partners, and everyone who contributed to making this initiative possible, reaffirming its commitment to serving communities and spreading kindness.

### BLESSED MONTH

## Drive home a Geely with exclusive offers

**MUSCAT:** As the blessed month of Ramadan unfolds, Geely Oman invites you to experience the spirit of generosity with exceptional offers on a wide range of innovative cars. From February 9th to April 9th, 2025, seize this limited-time opportunity to drive home perfection with Geely's advanced lineup. Celebrate Ramadan with unbeatable offers (February 9 – April 9) This Ramadan, Geely Oman presents a one-of-a-kind opportunity to enjoy top-tier mobility at unmatched prices. With a diverse selection of cars featuring cutting-edge technology, elegant designs, and impressive performance, Geely ensures there is a perfect model for every driver. Whether you're looking for an elegant sedan, a practical SUV, or a high-performance car, our exclusive Ramadan offers are tailored to elevate your driving experience. Make this Ramadan extraordinary with Geely's exclusive deals! Take a journey where innovation meets elegance, and performance intertwines with comfort. Geely's varied range is carefully designed to meet the individual



dreams of each driver. After all, your car isn't just a mode of transport—it's an extension of your lifestyle, a statement of innovation, and a companion for every road ahead. Find your ideal travel partner from our outstanding range. Emgrand: Priced at OMR 4,899, it offers unmatched value in the sedan market. Preface: Priced at OMR 8,095, the Preface seamlessly blends performance with sophistication.

Coolray: Priced from OMR 6,595, the Coolray provides a blend of style and performance. GX3PRO: At a competitive price of OMR 4,399, the GX3PRO is all set to transform mobility in Oman. Tugella: With a price tag of OMR 9,495, the Tugella is meant for individuals who desire a combination of luxury and performance. Okavango: Priced at OMR 8,615, the Okavango can become the epitome of versatility and comfort for your choice.

**Meet the Geely Starry: The future of mobility** Step into the future with the Geely Starry. This forward-thinking SUV boasts a new Energy Burst design language and a limited Lavender colour variant, so it's guaranteed to turn heads on the roads. Powered by the new Leishen 2.0 TD engine and 7-speed dual-clutch transmission, the Starry offers a thrilling and efficient drive. Contact our showrooms for price and availability to see this mix of luxury and innovation for yourself. Every Geely car is carefully crafted to meet a wide range of lifestyles so your experience can only be one of excellence. Exceptional ownership benefits Geely Oman guarantees that every purchase includes unbeatable value, including: Free first-year insurance and registration on selected models. Manufacturer Warranty: 7 Years / 250,000 km (whichever occurs first) for most models, for long-term reliability and peace of mind. Competitive financing options in association with Bank Muscat make ownership more convenient than ever.

### EXCLUSIVE PRIVILEGES

## Dhofar Islamic elevates your lifestyle with premium credit card benefits

**MUSCAT:** Dhofar Islamic, the Islamic banking window of Bank Dhofar, offers a diverse range of credit cards designed to provide flexibility, exclusive privileges, and seamless financial convenience. Tailored for modern, fast-paced lifestyles, these credit cards transform everyday spending into rewarding experiences. Dhofar Islamic offers a selection of credit cards, including the prestigious World MasterCard, Titanium MasterCard, and Gold MasterCard. Each card comes packed with valuable benefits, enabling customers to enjoy exclusive perks while managing their finances with ease. Cardholders earn reward points on purchases,



which can be redeemed for flight bookings, hotel stays, and shopping vouchers through the bank's user-friendly mobile application, enhancing their overall travel and shopping experiences. The Dhofar Islamic World MasterCard ensures a premium ex-

perience with exclusive benefits available across Oman and worldwide. airport lounges in different countries, a 10% discount on international tickets booked through Cleartrip, two complimentary Costa drinks at Dubai airports, a 15% discount on IHG hotels and resorts across Europe, the Middle East, Maldives, India, and Africa, as well as significant savings of up to 35% on Avis car rentals. With a growing number of customers choosing Dhofar Islamic credit cards, the bank has simplified the application process. Customers can apply at any branch across all 25 governorates and states of Oman or conveniently through the bank's website.

### RAMADAN PROMOTION

## Exclusive benefits on Lincoln Nautilus

**MUSCAT:** Own the luxury Lincoln Nautilus and get exclusive Ramadan benefits, including 5 Years / 100,000 km Service, 5 Years / 100,000 km Warranty, Free Insurance and 1 Year Registration, all designed to enhance your ownership experience. (Conditions apply. Visit the Lincoln showroom in Wattayah for details.) The offer ends on 17 April. The Lincoln Nautilus commands attention with a bold and refined presence. Its striking design is defined by the signature Lincoln grille, a reimagined rear fascia, an elegant light bar and refreshed tail lamps. The redesigned spoiler enhances its aerodynamic appeal, reinforcing the Nautilus' modern, confident stance. Elevating its visual allure, the Reserve trim debuts striking



20" bright machined aluminium wheels with premium-painted pockets, adding a dynamic yet polished touch. Step inside and the Nautilus transforms every drive into an indulgent escape. Subtle ambient lighting inside and out cre-

ates a warm, inviting atmosphere, while acoustic side glass minimises exterior noise, ensuring a peaceful cabin environment. Thoughtfully engineered to eliminate road vibrations, the interior delivers a remarkably smooth and quiet ride.

ROUND-UP

# Moosa Abdul Rahman Hassan & Co unveils new GMC Yukon in Oman

The GMC Yukon gets an extensive interior & technological refresh coupled with an evolved exterior design with bold design cues and the first-ever AT4 Ultimate trim introduced

**MUSCAT:** Moosa Abdul Rahman Hassan & Co., the official dealer of GMC in Oman, announced the launch of the new GMC Yukon at an exclusive event held at Sheraton Hotel, Muscat. The event brought together executives, media representatives, and esteemed dignitaries, highlighting the vehicle's importance in the Omani market.

The new GMC Yukon, the brand's flagship full-size SUV, is now available across all GMC showrooms in Oman. Designed to redefine power, luxury, and innovation, the Yukon boasts a bold exterior redesign, cutting-edge technology, and unmatched performance, making it the perfect choice for discerning SUV enthusiasts in the region.

Speaking at the launch event, Ziad Haddad, Acting CEO of Moosa Abdul Rahman Hassan & Co, highlighted the brand's vision for delivering automotive excellence:

"The launch of the new GMC Yukon in Oman marks a pivotal moment in GMC's journey. With its commanding presence, groundbreaking technology, and outstanding performance, the Yukon remains a benchmark in the full-size



SUV segment. Our goal is to provide customers in Oman with vehicles that offer more than just power—they bring innovation, luxury, and an enhanced driving experience."

Haddad also acknowledged the long-standing partnership with Moosa Abdul Rahman Hassan & Co., reinforcing their role in delivering exceptional service and accessibility to GMC customers in Oman: "Moosa Abdul Rahman Hassan & Co. has played a crucial role in strengthening GMC's presence in Oman, ensuring that our customers receive world-class service and unparalleled access to our premium lineup. This partnership reflects our shared commitment to delivering superior automotive solutions and customer satisfaction."

Redefining Power and Luxury The new GMC Yukon line-up in-

cludes four distinct trims: Elevation, Elevationpremium, AT4, the first-ever AT4 Ultimate, and the Denali—each crafted to suit different driving preferences. Customers can choose between two powerful V8 engine options, in-

cluding the 5.3L V8 delivering 355 horsepower and the 6.2L V8 producing 420 horsepower and 623 Nm of torque, both paired with a 10-speed automatic transmission for seamless performance.

Inside, the Yukon elevates the

driving experience with a 16.8-inch diagonal premium infotainment system, an 8-inch rear climate control touchscreen, and an extensive suite of advanced driver assistance and safety features, including the GMC-first Night Vi-

sion system, Front Pedestrian and Bicyclist Braking, and Intersection Automatic Emergency Braking.

The first-ever AT4 Ultimate trim takes rugged luxury to a new level with 20-inch all-terrain tires, a front skid plate, a panoramic sunroof, and full-grain leather seating with massage functionality. Additional highlights include a Bose 14-speaker surround system and Air Ride Adaptive Suspension, ensuring superior comfort and capability on any terrain.

The new GMC Yukon is now available in GMC showrooms across Oman. Customers are invited to visit their nearest showroom to explore the different trims, cutting-edge features, and exclusive launch offers.

DRIVE SAFE THIS RAMADAN

## TYREPLUS highlights essential road safety and tyre care measures

**MUSCAT:** This Ramadan, TYREPLUS, a division of MHD ACERE, urges drivers to adopt safe driving habits and prioritise vehicle maintenance to ensure a smooth and secure journey. With changes in sleep schedules, fasting-related fatigue, and increased road congestion during Iftar hours, TYREPLUS emphasizes the importance of both driver awareness and vehicle preparedness—particularly tyre safety.

### Road safety tips for Ramadan

Ramadan brings about a shift in daily routines, which can impact concentration and reaction times while driving. To help motorists stay safe, TYREPLUS shares essential driving safety tips for the month:

**Avoid Driving During Iftar:** Stop at least 10 minutes before Iftar to break your fast safely and prevent distractions.

**Follow road rules:** Continue to follow all road rules and regulations just like you do during other times. As loss of sleep and poor focus is common during Ramadan, you must ensure to take extra caution while driving on road

**Practice Defensive Driving:** Be mindful of other motorists who may be fasting and maintain a safe



distance.

**Plan Your Journey Wisely:** Start early to avoid peak-hour traffic and reduce stress.

**Ensure Your Vehicle Is Well-Maintained:** Regular servicing, including tyre checks, is crucial to prevent unexpected breakdowns.

**Role of tyre safety in Ramadan road safety**

With rising temperatures in Oman during Ramadan, tyre safety becomes even more critical. Heat can cause tyre pressure fluctuations, increasing the risk of blow-outs. TYREPLUS, a leading car care brand with nine branches across Oman, encourages drivers to have their tyres checked regularly to ensure optimal performance.

"As families travel across Oman to celebrate Ramadan, road safety should be a top priority. Proper vehicle maintenance, particularly tyre safety, is essential in preventing accidents caused by fatigue and poor road conditions. At TYREPLUS, we remain committed to ensuring every driver is equipped with high-quality tyres and reliable car care services," said Mohsin Hani Al Bahrani, CEO of MHD ACERE.

This Ramadan, drive with confidence knowing your vehicle is in top condition. At TYREPLUS, we pride ourselves on being a One-Stop Solution for Car Care and recognize the critical importance of vehicle safety.

EXCLUSIVE OFFER

## Celebrate Ramadan with Bank Muscat credit cards

**MUSCAT:** In celebration of the holy month of Ramadan, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in Oman, is delighted to announce exclusive offers for its cardholders. These offers are designed to enhance the benefits of using Bank Muscat cards during this special time.

The offer rewards Bank Muscat Visa credit cardholders with a 5% cashback for purchases of 30 Omani rials or more when shopping at fashion and beauty stores, barber shops, fabric & tailoring stores and more, with a maximum refund of 10 Omani rials per card. This offer is available from the 20 to 30 of March and is applicable to both in-store and online purchases.

The other offer includes an exclusive 10% discount at Centrepoin with Bank Muscat Shukran Prepaid Cardholders, and is valid till 30 March.

The Bank has also tied up with a variety of luxury hotels including: Mandarin Oriental, Muscat, The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort and Jumeirah Muscat Bay and more for exclusive discounts on iftar dining for its Bank Muscat Private Banking, Asalah and Al Jawhar Debit and Credit Cardholders.

On this occasion, Abdulnasir



Al Raisi, General Manager of Personal Banking, at Bank Muscat expressed the Bank's commitment to delivering exclusive and exceptional offers to its valued customers, enhancing their banking experience during the holy month. He highlighted the Bank's pride in collaborating with various partners to deliver superior offers and services, reaffirming continuation to develop the products provided to valued customers.

The Bank has a variety of credit card products suited to each individual's lifestyle, including the Private Banking Visa Infinite Credit Card which offers a plethora of rewards, including complimentary chauffeur service to and from Muscat and Salalah International Airports, access to over 1,000 airport lounges globally, free multi-trip travel insurance,

and a 24-hour Visa Premium concierge service.

The Asalah Visa Signature Credit Card provides complimentary access to over 1,000 airport lounges worldwide up to 12 times a year, a global 24/7 concierge service, 1% cashback on purchases, and free travel insurance.

Al Jawhar Visa Platinum Credit cardholders benefit from 1% cashback on spends, complimentary travel insurance, and access to premium airport lounges worldwide, including those at Muscat and Salalah airports.

Bank Muscat Visa Gold Credit cardholders can enjoy up to 52-days interest free credit period and access to cash at any time, as the card is accepted at more than 1.9 million ATMs worldwide. Supplementary credit cards can also be obtained for direct family members, in addition to free insurance coverage.

The Bank Muscat Oman Air Visa Platinum Credit Card helps customers make the most of their travels. Frequent travelers will particularly appreciate the exclusive reward of earning 2 Sindbad Miles for every RO 1 spent with the card, as well as welcome bonus of Sindbad miles with the first usage of the card.

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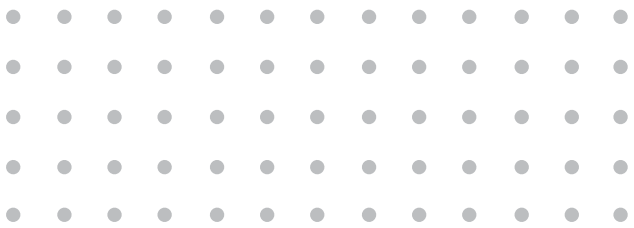


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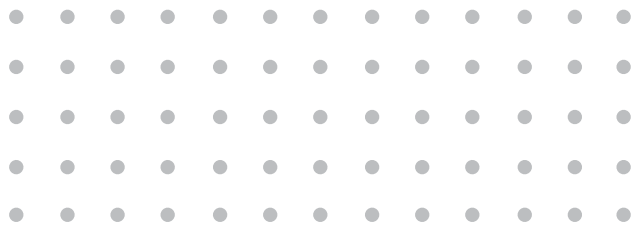
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PREFACE



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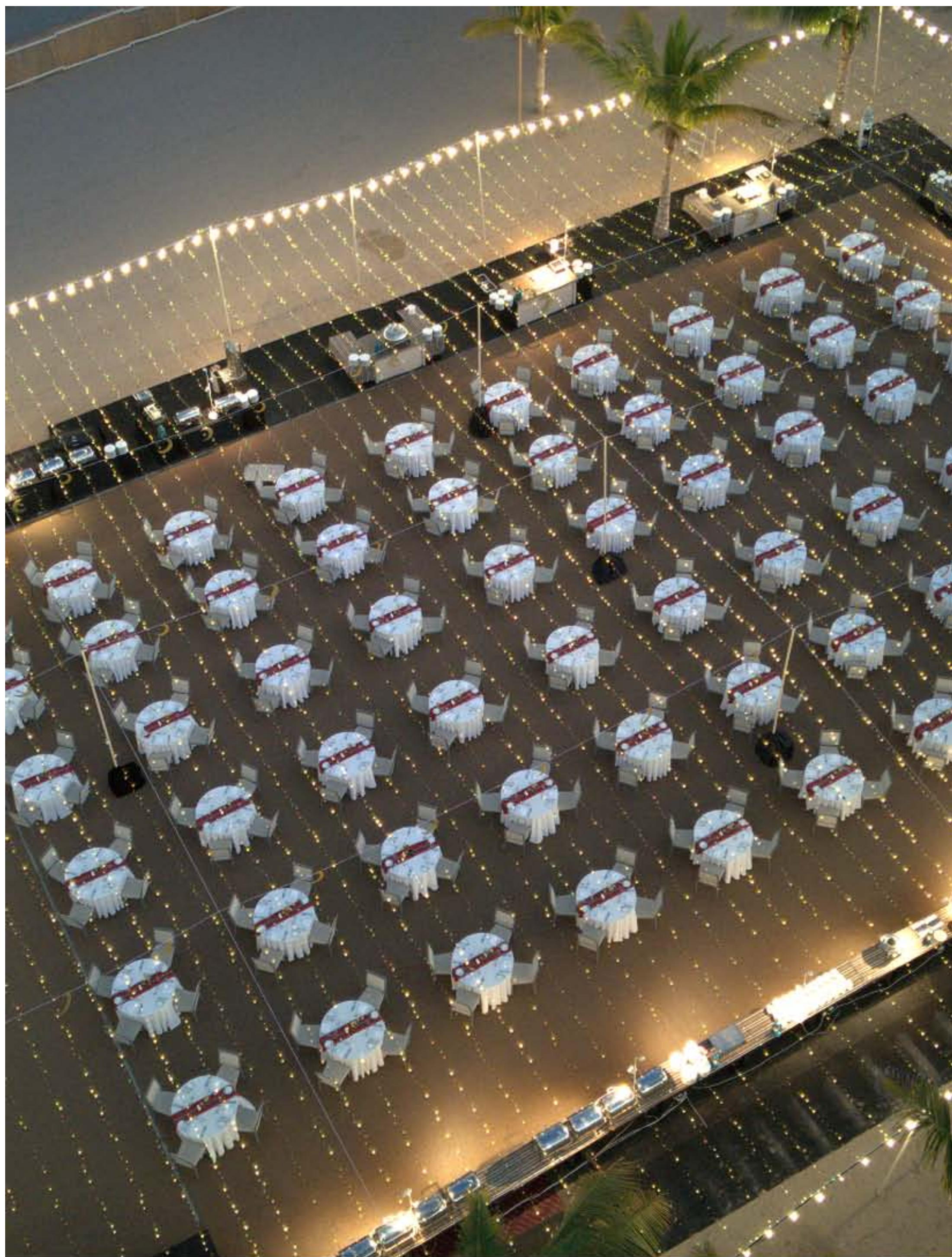


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Offer valid from (09/02/2025) till (09/04/2025). \*The prices mentioned are for the entry level models only. \*\*Free insurance (Oman only) and registration for 1st year are applicable for Coolray, Emgrand, Preface, Tugella and Okavango. \$Manufacturer warranty of 7 Yrs/250,000 km (whichever comes earlier) is applicable for Coolray, Emgrand, Preface Tugella and Okavango. \*Manufacturer warranty of 5 Yrs/150,000 km (whichever comes earlier) is applicable for GX3PRO. \*\*Free service 50,000kms / 30 months (whichever comes earlier on Emgrand only). \*Follow us on Facebook or Instagram and tag 2 friends for a chance to win an iPhone 16 Pro 128 GB! Winners will be chosen through an online raffle. This offer is exclusive to private vehicle purchases and does not apply to Fleet, Ministry, Taxi, Rental, company or any commercial purchases. Vehicles shown are for illustrative purposes. Accessories shown are not a part of the standard equipment. Specifications are subject to change without notice.



## A Moonlit Iftar by the Shore

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For more information please contact our team at [events.muscat@kempinski.com](mailto:events.muscat@kempinski.com)

**\*SPECIAL PRICE FOR GROUPS**