



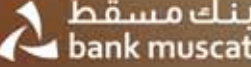
SOHAR PORT AND FREEZONE DRIVES SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

The operational performance of Sohar Port and Freezone demonstrated resilience and growth, with over 3,000 vessel calls recorded in 2024. General cargo throughput increased by 77% compared to the previous year and container volumes grew by 15%. Ship-to-ship operations rose by 19%. Sohar Freezone saw significant achievements as well, with land occupancy reaching 85%. **>B1**



Founded 1975 · Volume 49 No. 225 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

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FINANCIAL SERVICES

Mashreq Bank launches its services in Oman

MUSCAT: Mashreq, one of the leading financial institutions in the MENA region, has announced its entry into the Sultanate of Oman.

The bank will offer in Oman a range of personalised financial services tailored for the country's evolving corporate and public sectors. This strategic move underscores Mashreq's intent to contribute to Oman's Vision 2040, with ambitions to fuel economic diversification and elevate Oman's position in the global financial landscape.

Mashreq's entry into Oman comes amid growing demand for financial solutions aligned with regional and global market trends.

Ahmed Abdelaal, Group CEO of Mashreq said: "Oman's strategic location and its dynamic economic landscape make it essential to Mashreq's international growth ambitions."



Al Salt Mohammed Al Kharoussi, Mashreq's Country Head for Oman, remarked, "With over five decades of global innovation, Mashreq's expansion into Oman reinforces our dedication to being a strategic partner in the nation's economic development. Our focus is on fostering a resilient generation of entrepreneurial talent and supporting the growth of a dynamic, knowledge-driven economy." — **OWA**



A6

SAYYID BILARAB OPENS OMAN'S LARGEST SOLAR POWER PLANTS

Manah 1 and Manah 2 solar power plants have a production capacity of 1,000 megawatts

MUSCAT: HH Sayyid Bilarab bin Haitham Al Said on Monday inaugurated Manah 1 and Manah 2 solar power plants in the Wilayat of Manah in the Governorate of Al Dakhiliyah. The plants, which occupy an area of 14.5 million square metres, have a production capacity of 1,000 megawatts.

The two plants, which are the largest solar power plants in the Sultanate of Oman, use more than two million bifacial photovoltaic solar panels to achieve maximum productivity, and nearly 1,800 automated dry-cleaning robots. This will enhance the generation of clean electricity and avoid the use of water for sustainability purposes.

The two projects serve environmental objectives by raising the percentage of renewable energy production in Oman from 6.6 percent to 11 percent, besides cutting down the volume of carbon dioxide emissions by 1.4 million tons per annum.



Through this accomplishment, Oman takes a major step towards achieving net zero neutrality by 2050. It also contributes to the reduction of high demand for electricity by generating sufficient electricity to serve about 120,000 homes.

Eng. Salim Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals, said that the operation of the Manah 1 and Manah 2 solar energy projects constitutes a milestone in realizing the desired transition in the electricity sector. The step symbolizes a practical application of the Sultanate of Oman's ambi-

tious vision for clean and sustainable energy, he added.

The minister pointed out that the two projects are testimony to Oman's ability to combine ambition and action in the fields of innovation and sustainability.

Al Aufi affirmed that the Sultanate of Oman is confidently making headways towards achieving its ambitious goals and raising the percentage of renewable energy to 30 percent by 2030, then to 60-70 percent by 2040 and eventually reaching 100 percent by 2050 through an ambitious plan for a future that relies on clean and

sustainable energy.

The minister reiterated that this approach consolidates the position of the Sultanate of Oman as a regional and global hub in the transition to renewable energy.

Al Aufi underscored the ministry's commitment to pursue steps to enhance national energy security and open up new vistas for investment in the Sultanate of Oman.

For his part, Dr. Mansoor Talib Al Hinaï, Chairman of the Authority for Public Services Regulation (APSR), stressed that the two projects are in line with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040. **>A5**

CEASEFIRE DEAL

Joy, sadness and hope: Mixed emotions for Palestinians in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: For the first time in 15 months, Palestinians in Gaza woke up without the ominous sounds of airstrikes or the urgent need to seek shelter.

The fragile peace ushered in by a ceasefire deal on Sunday has brought both relief and heartbreak to many, including Palestinians in Oman who remain deeply connected to their families and homeland.

In an exclusive interview with *Times of Oman* on Monday, Seema Basher, a mother of three and an Omani woman married to a Palestinian, shared her harrowing experiences during the Gaza conflict.

Having lived in Gaza for 13 years, Seema offered a poignant perspective on the war's toll on lives and livelihoods.

"The feeling is mixed," she said. "Joy that the crisis is over, and sadness for what we lost - family, friends, and homes. But this is the



price of freedom. We consider them martyrs in the sight of God."

Seema's family faced immense challenges during the war. "We lived in the Al Rimal neighbourhood in Gaza, and our house was destroyed on the very third day of the war. We were forced to move from one house to another before coming to Oman," she recalled.

The destruction left deep scars, not only on the land but also on the hearts of those displaced.

"The destruction and devasta-

tion has affected all our family homes, some of which remain under occupation in the Netzarim area. All the family members are now in southern Gaza, feeling relief and happiness that the aggression has ended, but they cannot reach their homes in the northern sector," added Seema.

She described the constant fear and trauma endured by the people of Gaza.

"The situation in Gaza affects everyone, whether they are inside



Seema Basher

or outside. Imagine our people who lived for months under fear and destruction, the sound of drones and fighter jets never leaving them. The feeling after the bombing stops is like taking a breath after a long drowning, but the pain remains great and the memories are very difficult."

Seema reflected on the resilience of Gazans amidst the devastation. "The people there don't just talk about the calm; they talk about what they lost - their homes

that are gone, their neighbours who became part of the soil. Despite all this, we have the stubborn ability to hold on to hope," she said.

Seema's story is one of many that exemplify the enduring strength of the Palestinian people.

Another Palestinian expat living in Oman, said that he was overwhelmed with emotion after watching videos of celebrations in the streets. "My family is on the streets celebrating their newfound freedom and the release of prisoners as part of the ceasefire deal," he said.

Manal Awad, a Palestinian living in Oman said: "I am from Gaza, but my roots trace back to Al Majdal, a city that has been under occupation since the Nakba of 1948."

"My grandparents were forced to leave their homeland and migrate to northern Gaza, abandoning their lands and homes. To this day, we still hold the deeds to those properties." **>A5**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Foreign minister receives UAE official

1 Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi received United Arab Emirates official. **>A2**

OMAN Oman, Singapore to boost relations

2 Oman and Singapore continue to boost bilateral relations. **>A3**

WORLD Israel releases 90 Palestinians

3 Israel has released 90 Palestinians as part of a ceasefire deal. **>A7**



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PRAYER
TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....	12:23pm
Asr.....	3:29pm
Maghrib.....	5:51pm
Isha.....	7:04pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5:32am

FOR 2025-2027

Information ministry launches plan for Government Communication System

MUSCAT: Represented by the Government Communication Centre, the Ministry of Information on Monday launched a plan for the Government Communication System to cover the period 2025-2027.

Designed in line with best international practices in the fields of communication and media, the plan seeks to enhance transparency and interaction with members of the public.

During a meeting it held yesterday, the Ministry outlined the new plan, which comprises a number of initiatives and projects that aim to organise communication between government institutions and society.

Zamzam Hamad Al Hana'i, Director of the Media and Integration Department at the Center, gave a visual presentation about the government communication system's plan based on three main pillars: empowerment, integration and proactive communication.

The pillar of empowerment deals with enhancing resources



by raising the efficiency of communication and media departments in government institutions, to help them carry out their role effectively.

The pillar of integration and coordination focuses on fostering harmony between the parties of the system to achieve a unified discourse,

The pillar of proactive communication pertains to ways of instilling confidence in mainstream media by making the government's priorities and achievements

in area of contact between members of the public and the media. The aim is to consolidate transparency.

The Ministry's plan seeks to upgrade the efficiency of media messages and ensure their harmony and consistency in highlighting activities of government institutions.

It also establishes a uniform approach for media activities in a way that serves the government's priorities and reflects its goals, besides raising Omani society's



awareness about government action, generating positive interaction with government institutions and enabling the government to convey its visions and aspirations.

The plan is expected to contribute to achieving organized and comprehensive government communication, develop consistent messages within a unified approach and continuous media engagement in a manner that keeps pace with society's cognitive needs. -ONA

HISTORIC RELATIONS

Oman, UAE review bilateral relations



MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister received on Monday Saqr Ghobash, Speaker of the Federal National Council of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Sayyid Badr underscored the depth of the fraternal and historic relations between Oman and the UAE. These relations, he added are based on close cooperation and joint coordination across various fields.

The two sides reviewed ways to enhance the partnership between the two countries, underlining the

importance of exchanging legislative expertise to promote integration and advance bilateral cooperation. They also exchanged views on several regional and international issues of common interest.

The guest lauded the role of Oman in promoting regional and international peace efforts. He also reaffirmed the UAE's keenness to strengthening cooperation between the two countries in line with the shared aspirations.

The meeting was attended by several officials from both sides. -ONA

2019-2023

Shura Council releases report of ninth term

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Secretariat General of the Shura Council has published the statistical report detailing the Council's activities and achievements during its ninth term (2019-2023).

The report serves as a comprehensive record of the Council's performance over four legislative sessions, covering legislative, oversight, and diplomatic efforts.

The publication highlights the Council's accomplishments, including government-referred draft laws, Council-endorsed legislative proposals, development plans, state budgets, economic and social agreements, and annual ministerial reports.

The report further details the Council's legislative and oversight functions, such as urgent statements, information requests, expressed wishes, parliamentary questions, discussion requests, ministerial statement debates, and interpellations.

It also features comprehensive statistics and data related to Council sessions, Office meetings, the activities of standing committees, and parliamentary diplomacy initiatives during the four regular sessions of the term.

Additionally, the report includes statistical insights into general Council sessions and joint meetings with the State Council, offering a clear view of collaborative efforts between the



two chambers.

The Shura Council's statistical report stands as an essential knowledge tool, presenting the community with accurate indicators and data reflecting the Council's performance in alignment with its legally defined roles and responsibilities.

Issued at the conclusion of each term, the report not only documents the Council's work but also promotes community engagement, enhances public awareness, and supports transparency through precise and reliable data directly sourced from the Council.

CAA launches logo for Oman's entry into WMO

The step reflects CAA's keenness to enhance international cooperation in the fields of meteorology and climate



MUSCAT: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) on Monday launched a logo marking the anniversary of the Sultanate of Oman joining the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

The step reflects CAA's keenness to enhance international cooperation in the fields of meteorology and climate. The logo was launched during the Virtual Laboratory Manage-

ment Group's meeting, hosted in Muscat by the CAA from 20 to 23 January 2025. The meeting saw the participation of more than 35 representatives of the WMO, satellite agencies, and centres of excellence for satellite applications.

The meeting seeks to discuss ways to enhance international cooperation about using satellite

applications, review the progress made in training programmes and explore ways of cooperation with other training centres, in addition to exploring opportunities for interaction, exchanging expertise and supporting the transition towards modern satellite technologies in WMO member states.

The meeting includes panel dis-

cussions about means of developing strategies for training and improving the use of satellite products in protecting lives and properties.

The meeting was attended by the President of the Meteorological Organization, the President of the European Satellite Organization and officials from authorities concerned. -ONA

FOUR PEOPLE OF ASIAN NATIONALITY CRITICALLY INJURED IN SEEB FIRE

Four people of Asian nationality were critically injured in a fire incident at a residential building housing labourers in the Wilayat of Seeb. The firefighting and rescue teams from the Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority (CDAA) in Muscat Governorate swiftly responded to the incident and promptly evacuated the critically injured and transported them to the hospital.



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3-DAY EVENT

Oman-Turkiye Knowledge Dialogue to boost research

MUSCAT: The Oman-Turkiye knowledge Dialogue kicked off on Monday in Muscat.

The 3-day event is organised by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation in cooperation with the Embassy of Türkiye in Muscat and the Atatürk Higher Institution of Culture, Language, and History of Türkiye.

The event is aimed at enhancing academic and research cooperation between Oman and Türkiye, as well as exploring opportunities to exchange expertise in the fields of innovation and higher education.

Further, the event was held under the auspices of Dr. Rahma Ibrahim Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation.

Al Mahrouqi pointed out that the Oman-Turkiye Knowledge Dialogue reflects the importance of historic relations between the two countries. Seventeen Turkish universities are participating in the event, in addition to several Turkish research and culture centres and several educational institutions from Oman. -ONA





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Oman, Singapore to boost bilateral ties

The two countries have shared objectives and future visions, and keen to achieve zero net emissions by 2050

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Singapore continue pressing ahead in boosting bilateral relations through numerous strategic initiatives that reflect the two countries' commitment for partnership and cooperation.



Dr. Mohamed Maliki Osman, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Second Minister for Education of the Republic of Singapore underscored the depth of historic relations between Oman and Singapore. He told Oman News Agency (ONA) that the two countries have shared objectives and future visions, notably the keenness to achieve zero net emissions by 2050.

The Singaporean Minister added that the 2nd strategic dialogue between Oman and Singapore, held in Muscat, underscores the commitment of the two countries' leaderships to continue boosting joint cooperation and exploring available investment opportunities in both countries.

40th anniversary
He expressed his satisfaction for the development of bilateral relations during the ceremony held to mark the 40th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations. Oman, he confirmed, is considered the 7th largest trade partner of Singapore in the MENA region. Both countries, he added, agreed to upgrade diplomatic representation in 2023 by upgrading the general consulates in the two countries to embassies. -ONA

TRAFFIC RULES

Road safety panel holds meeting to reduce accidents



MUSCAT: The National Road Safety Committee on Monday held a meeting chaired by Lt. Gen. Hassan Mohsin Al Shraiqi, Inspector General of Police and Customs. During the meeting, which took place at the General Directorate of Traffic, the panel members reviewed traffic statistics, public awareness programmes and the role of authorities concerned in taking measures to cut down the number of road accidents. The committee lauded the co-operation of citizens and residents through adherence to traffic rules. Such cooperation contributed to achieving high levels of road safety, evidenced by a tangible decline in road accidents, as indicated by statistics, the committee observed. -ONA

FOLK MUSIC FESTIVAL

ROHM hosts a glorious mix of heritage, cultural traditions

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Affirming the enduring power of folk music, Royal Opera House Muscat (ROHM) hosted Folk Music Festival on January 16 and 17, 2025, a vibrant two-night celebration of global musical heritage.

The festival brought together extraordinary bands from Bulgaria, South Korea, and India, alongside a leading Omani folk group, to share their unique traditions with audiences in a magnificent display of culture, music, and choreography.

The Folk Music Festival highlighted ROHM's ongoing commitment to bridging cultures through music and the arts.

As an institution, ROHM continues to serve as a platform for artistic collaboration, promoting cultural understanding, and celebrating the richness of traditional musical expressions.

As such, the Folk Music Festival has become an annual event and a beloved tradition, reinforcing ROHM's role as a significant cultural beacon in the region and globally.

The audience experienced the technical mastery, creativity, and beauty of folk music in harmony at the outdoor maidsan of Royal Opera House of Musical Arts.

The South Korean ensemble presented traditional Korean percussion, played on distinct instruments, alongside the celebrated Korean fan dance.

With bright pink fans and dresses, the dancers' graceful movements brought to life a piece inspired by Asian traditions, enchanting the audience.

The Bulgarian ensemble offered dances from all ethnographical regions of Bulgaria, showcasing the country's diverse rhythms



and colourful traditions. The Indian performing group recognised for their performances at India's prestigious cultural venues and international folk festivals, gave a dynamic and colourful exploration of India's vast folk music heritage. Finally, the Omani group played a vital role in connecting the deep roots of tradition with the distinctive present of the Sultanate, offering a powerful reflection of Oman's own musical heritage.

Designed to be a celebration of cultural expression, the Folk Music Festival was an event where all ages came together, to immerse themselves in the enchanting

world of folk music. Each performance is a testament to the deep connection between music and cultural identity, and a reminder of the power of music to unite and inspire. Royal Opera House Muscat's annual Folk Music Festival continues to deepen cultural understanding and harmony through the universal language of music, carrying messages of unity, pride, and celebration through its diverse array of performances. For more information, visit ROHM's website www.rohmuscat.org.om and follow @ROH_Muscat on Instagram.



South Al Batinah tops the list of green inn registrations, Al Dhahirah comes second

The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism is working to improve the approval process for establishing green inns



There is significant interest in investing in green inns, which are considered a suitable option for accommodation and relaxation.

Green inns provide a source of income for citizens interested in investing in this sector.

Green inns represent an integrated approach to sustainable tourism development and are one of the key pillars of rural eco-tourism.

Green inn projects in natural and rural areas contribute to the development of local communities and support related economic activities.

The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism (MHT) has stated that the number of licenced green inns in the Sultanate of Oman reached 153 by the end of 2024. These inns are distributed across various governorates, with South Al Batinah ranking first in terms of the highest number, followed by Al Dhahirah.

The Ministry affirmed that its upcoming plans aim to align with the goals for the heritage and tourism sector under Oman Vision 2040. It is conducting a comprehensive evaluation of the strategies and programmes related to the vision's objectives, comparing them with achieved statistical indicators to ensure the successful implementation of tourism initiatives. By addressing the needs of the next phase and keeping pace with global developments across all fields, one of the Ministry's key plans for green inns focuses on improving the quality of approval procedures for establishing these inns. This involves collaboration with relevant authorities and emphasising the quality, diversity, and sustainability of the project components.

Ahmed bin Khamis Al Saadi, Director of the Investor Services Department at the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, stated, "Green inns are increasingly popular with both tourists and investors. They are a suitable option for accommodation and relaxation for individuals and families, given the unique tourism experiences they offer. Additionally, they serve



as a source of income for citizens wishing to invest in this sector."

Special standards for green inns

Al-Saadi explained that a set of specific standards for green inns is currently being developed in collaboration with relevant authorities. These standards are designed to match the scale and momentum of the tourism movement in the Sultanate of Oman, ensuring the necessary regulations and requirements are met. This will guarantee a high-quality experience for visitors. He added that in the future, these inns could be classified based on their available facilities, the activities they provide, sustainability practices, and adherence to quality standards. This initiative is part of the Ministry's ongoing efforts to modernise and enhance the green inn sector.

Easier licencing procedures

Al Saadi further noted that the Ministry has ensured the licencing fees for green inns are lower

compared to other hospitality activities, with a fee of OMR250 for a five-year licence. The Ministry also coordinates with financial institutions to support project owners when required. Additionally, it collaborates with relevant authorities to simplify the licencing procedures, encouraging potential investors to engage in this activity.

Integrated approach to tourism development

Al Saadi highlighted that, since the launch of eco-lodges, heritage inns, and guesthouses in the first quarter of 2015, the MHT has conducted a series of awareness workshops in various governorates of the Sultanate of Oman. These workshops were held in collaboration with relevant entities to promote these tourism products and encourage citizens to invest in them. Additionally, the Ministry has provided activity requirements on its website to make it easier for stakeholders to access the regulations and licencing conditions.

Eco-lodges, he stressed, are a

unique type of hospitality activity that represents an integrated approach to sustainable tourism development. They stand out due to their exceptional components, making them one of the key pillars of rural eco-tourism and an additional attraction for visitors.

Supporting local communities

Al Saadi emphasised that eco-lodge projects in natural and rural areas play a significant role in developing local communities. They provide employment opportunities for citizens and activate other supporting economic activities. The involvement of local communities extends to offering accompanying services such as preparing traditional Omani cuisine, selling handicrafts and local products, and encouraging small and medium enterprises to invest in the tourism sector. Moreover, these projects introduce new attractions and interactive tourist experiences, fostering a connection between visitors and the local environment while boosting the local economy.



Unique and diverse experience

He noted that eco-lodges should provide a distinctive and diverse experience that combines observing crops, animals, and birds with engaging in interactive activities. These activities may include farming processes, cooking, rural games, and crafting agricultural or artisanal products. Eco-lodges often feature locally produced goods and crops, further enhancing the visitor experience.

These lodges, he explained, form an essential part of rural and agricultural tourism, a sector that enjoys significant governmental attention. The approach aligns with Oman Vision 2040, which emphasises developing the tourism industry as a vital component of the hospitality sector. One key aspect of this development is encouraging farmers to invest in transforming their farms into tourism projects offering exceptional services and unique visitor experiences. Initiatives include showcasing best practices in environmental sustainability and fostering innovation in this sector.

Adopting more sustainable practices

Al Saadi added that sustainability is a vital concept in the modern business world. Many are moving towards adopting more sustainable practices to protect the environment while balancing economic, social, and environmental dimensions. This includes using renewable and eco-friendly re-

sources, promoting social responsibility, raising awareness about sustainability issues, and implementing mandatory regulations and laws to achieve sustainability in eco-lodges.

The Ministry is also working on increasing greenery, introducing projects that support sustainability, and maximising financial returns. Examples include bee-keeping, nurseries, culinary arts, ornamental birds, recreational activities, eco-friendly farming methods, and introducing small-scale animal farming within these lodges.

Challenges in the sector

Al Saadi acknowledged that investing in eco-lodges faces several challenges, such as urban sprawl reducing green spaces, discouraging potential investors. Other issues include the scarcity of natural resources due to the drying up of some traditional water channels (afaj) and soil salinity.

To address these challenges, the Ministry is raising awareness among consumers and investors about the environmental impact of the products and services they use. This approach aims to increase demand for projects that follow sustainability policies. Furthermore, the Ministry has observed a repetition in the designs of eco-lodges and a lack of modern models that ensure sustainability. To overcome this, it is working on unifying governmental efforts to establish specifications and regulations that enhance investment in eco-lodges.



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EXPLORE COOPERATION

Commerce Minister meets Singaporean delegation

MUSCAT: Qais Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion received yesterday Dr. Mohamed Maliki Osman, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Second Minister for Education of the Republic of Singapore and his accompanying delegation.

The meeting comes within the framework of marking the 40th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between Oman and Singapore.

During the meeting, the two sides explored cooperation opportunities in various fields.

Moreover, the Singaporean delegation highlighted their coun-



try's prominent experience in developing the business environment and the importance of that in attracting foreign investments.

The Omani side showcased the economic national programmes that are related to Oman Vision 2040 and prominent sector which

Oman seeks to boost.

Both sides underscored the importance of pressing ahead in promoting bilateral relations.

The meeting was attended by the Chargé d'Affaires of Singapore's embassy in Oman and several officials from both sides. -ONA

WEF

Oman pavilion at Davos opened

DAVOS: The Sultanate of Oman's pavilion at the World Economic Forum (WEF), currently being held in Davos, Switzerland, was opened yesterday in the presence of representatives of countries, institutions, international figures and Oman's delegation to the WEF.

Dr. Said Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy (Head of the Sultanate of Oman's delegation to the WEF), said in a speech during the opening ceremony that Oman's participation in the WEF reflects its active role in strengthening the bonds of international cooperation and commitment to



find sustainable solutions to address global challenges and to lead sustainable growth.

Al Saqri explained that the opening of the pavilion underlines the growing relationship

between the Government of the Sultanate of Oman and the World Economic Forum.

This relationship, he added, contributes to enhancing innovative visions to achieve sustainable development and to provide an arena for showcasing the economic vision of the Sultanate of Oman and the country's developmental accomplishments.

The first day of the WEF saw a significant turnout of investors who thronged Oman's pavilion, leading to a series of meetings among an elite group of investors and leading global companies. -ONA

MANAH 1 AND MANAH 2

Solar power plants to boost use of renewable energy

< FROM A1 He added that the projects consolidate action for the implementation of Oman's strategic objectives for sustainable development and ensuring energy security.

Al Hinai pointed out that the Authority for Public Services Regulation plays a significant role in ensuring that renewable energy projects meet the economic and technical regulatory requirements.

This is made by strengthening corporate governance and ensuring a comprehensive and accurate evaluation of companies that compete to undertake these

projects—to ensure their readiness and technical aptitude, he explained.

Meanwhile, Ahmed Salim Al Abri, CEO of Nama Power and Water Procurement Company, said that the company is committed to promoting the use of renewable energy and ensuring energy security and long-term sustainability for Oman.

It is worth noting that Manah 1 and Manah 2 solar power plants stem from a partnership between the public and private sectors.

Oman Power and Water Procurement Company (a subsidiary of Nama Group) is the tenderer

and exclusive buyer of the two projects. Manah 1 plant was implemented in cooperation with Wadi Noor Solar Power Company, the French company EDF Renewables and Korea Western Power Co. (KOWEPO).

The Manah 2 plant was implemented in cooperation with Sembcorp Jinko Shine, Singapore's Sembcorp Industries and Chinese company Jinko Power.

The start-up ceremony for the two projects, held on Monday in Muscat, was attended by Royal Family members, ministers, undersecretaries and representatives of the developing companies. -ONA

GAZA

‘Relieved with the ceasefire’

< FROM A1 When the recent war broke out, her family was forced to flee once again.

“We had to move to southern Gaza, fearing for our lives, especially the safety of our children. We left behind everything once more, hoping to escape the horrors you’ve heard about.”

She added: “Sadly, like many others, we lost some of our relatives. May God have mercy on their souls, forgive them, and grant them martyrdom. We also lost our homes, which were reduced to rubble and debris. My house, where I had planned to live with my husband after completing my studies in Oman, is

gone - along with the dreams of returning to my country. But we take solace in the fact that we did not lose our family members.”

Despite the immense sorrow we have experienced, there is a sense of bittersweet relief following the ceasefire.

“We were relieved when the ceasefire was finally declared, knowing that our loved ones were safe after over a year of fear and uncertainty. But personally, I don't consider this a victory. No one truly wins in a genocide. Still, we thank God it's over, and now aid can reach our people in abundance.”

Looking ahead on the future of

Gaza, there is a sense of determination in her voice. Manal said: “We will rebuild it, God willing, and restore life to this country as it once was.”

She also expressed gratitude for the support of the Omani people. “All love to the supportive people of Oman.”

Rebuilding their lives

Despite the overwhelming losses, their unity and resilience continue to fuel hope as they rebuild their lives.

For Palestinians in Oman, staying connected with their families in Gaza serves as both a source of comfort and a reminder of the struggles yet to be overcome.



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Interested Companies registered with the Secretariat General of Tender Board may obtain Tender documents from the E-Tendering website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> against non-refundable payment as mentioned above for each set of documents. Tenders should be submitted online on given website.

CORRESPONDANCE:

- Tender Inquiry: All correspondence pertaining to the TENDER Inquiry must be online at e-Tendering System. (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>)
- E-Tendering System Inquiry: All correspondence pertaining to the e-Tendering System technical support must be directed to the following helpdesk email address and phone number:
Tel: +968 24402200 e-mail: etenderhd@mtcit.gov.om

INTERNAL TENDERS COMMITTEE

 @mtcitoman www.mtcit.gov.om



Ministry of Health

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Health announces to all citizens and residents wishing to perform the Hajj pilgrimage for the year 1446 AH / 2025 AD, who have been selected based on the electronic sorting announced by the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs, the necessity of heading to the designated healthcare institutions in each governorate to receive the following required vaccinations:

Vaccine Type	Target Group	Method and Timeline for Receiving the Vaccine
Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (ACYW135)	All individuals wishing to perform Hajj, including adults and children from two months of age and older.	Receiving a single dose of the meningococcal conjugate vaccine protects against the complications of meningitis. This vaccine provides five-year protection. Individuals who have received the vaccine previously and can provide proof of it do not need to take it again unless five years have passed since their last dose.
Seasonal Influenza Vaccine	All individuals wishing to perform Hajj, including adults and children six months of age and older.	Receiving a single dose of the seasonal flu vaccine protects against its complications and provides seasonal immunity.
COMIRNATYTM Monovalent [Omicron JN.1]	Individuals over the age of 65 Pregnant women Chronic respiratory diseases Diabetes patients / Heart diseases Chronic metabolic disorders Chronic kidney failure Genetic blood disorders / Immunodeficiency (including cancer, HIV infection, and immunosuppressive medications) Chronic neurological diseases.	Receiving a single booster dose of the COVID-19 monovalent vaccine (JN.1) from the Omicron variant protects the individual from complications caused by the mutated strains of the Omicron variant.

Please ensure that you receive the vaccination at least ten days before traveling to avoid the spread of infection and to protect public health.

OXFAM STUDY

Billionaires growing richer faster than ever

DAVOS: There is increasing disparity in the world today as an “aristocratic oligarchy” is amassing wealth at unforeseen levels, a report published by development organisation Oxfam said.

Published ahead of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, the report titled “Takers Not Makers” said billionaire wealth soared by \$2 trillion (€1.94 trillion) in

2024, growing three times faster than the previous year.

While the richest 1% now own 45% of global wealth, 44% of humanity lives on less than \$6.85 per day, and global poverty rates have barely changed since 1990, the report said.

“We present this report as a stark wake-up call that ordinary people the world over are being

crushed by the enormous wealth of a tiny few,” Oxfam executive director Amitabh Behar said.

The rich are getting richer

The report also predicted that the world’s first trillionaires would emerge within the next decade, as the wealth of the richest 10 billionaires grew by \$100 million per day on average, over the last 10 years.

Last year saw the emergence of 204 new billionaires, with total billionaire wealth increasing by \$2 trillion in 2024.

Behar warned that an economic system has been created where “billionaires are now pretty much being able to shape economic policies, social policies, which eventually gives them more and more profit.” — **nw**



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



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UNITED STATES

President Biden preemptively pardons Fauci and Milley

WASHINGTON, DC: In his final hours in office, President Joe Biden has pardoned Dr. Anthony Fauci, retired General Mark Milley and members of the House committee that investigated the January 6 attack on the Capitol.

He said they “do not deserve to be the targets of unjustified and politically motivated prosecutions.” “These are exceptional circumstances, and I cannot in good conscience do nothing,” Biden said in a statement. “Baseless and politically motivated investigations wreak havoc on the lives, safety, and financial security of targeted individuals and their families.”

Biden’s decision comes after incoming President Donald Trump warned of an enemies list filled with those who have crossed him politically or sought to hold him accountable for his attempt to overturn his 2020 election loss.

Mark Milley, the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, called Trump a fascist and detailed Trump’s behavior around the January 6 uprising. Meanwhile, Fauci was director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health for nearly 40 years and was Biden’s chief medical adviser until his retirement in 2022. — **nw**

Donald Trump sworn-in as 47th President of United States

Prior to Trump’s swearing-in, JD Vance was sworn-in as US Vice-President

WASHINGTON, DC: Donald Trump was sworn in as the 47th president of the United States as during the 60th Presidential Inauguration at the US Capitol in Washington, DC. US Chief Justice John Roberts administered the oath to Trump.

Prior to Trump’s swearing-in, JD Vance was sworn-in as US Vice-President. Earlier, Trump alongside outgoing US President Joe Biden arrived at US Capitol from White House for the swearing-in ceremony. Earlier Vice President Kamala Harris accompanied VP elect JD Vance to the Capitol.

Donald Trump’s wife, Melania Trump, arrived at Rotunda along with Vance’s wife, Usha Vance. Biden’s wife, Jill Biden and Kamala Harris’ husband, Doug Emhoff, arrived ahead of them.



Trump’s cabinet nominees took seats ahead of his inauguration. Former presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy and tech billionaire Elon Musk, the co-chairs of the newly-created Department of Government Efficiency, also attended the ceremony.

Former US Presidents and First ladies, including Bill Clinton and former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, George Bush and Laura Bush attended Trump’s in-

auguration. Former US President Barack Obama was also present during the ceremony.

Donald Trump’s children -- Ivanka Trump, Donald Trump Jr, Tiffany Trump, Eric Trump and Baron Trump were present in US Capitol to attend his inauguration. Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos and Google CEO Sundar Pichai attended the ceremony.

After the swearing-in, Presi-

dent Trump will take part in the signing ceremony in the President’s Room, a tradition that began in 1981 with President Ronald Reagan. This event marks one of the first official actions of the newly sworn president, where he signs nominations and various memorandums or proclamations.

Following the signing, a luncheon will be held, and Trump will take part in the review of the

troops before heading to Capitol Hill to join the inaugural parade. Later, Trump and his wife will participate in a signing ceremony at the White House and deliver remarks at the Convention Centre.

The evening will conclude with the first dance at the Liberty Ball, followed by participation in the Commander-in-Chief Ball and the United Station Ball. The day will end with Trump’s return to the White House. A day before Trump’s inauguration, Pope Francis criticized his plans for large-scale deportations of undocumented migrants.

In an interview with Italian television aired on Sunday, the pope said the plan would “make the migrants, who have nothing, pay the unpaid bill.”

European Commissioner Ursula von der Leyen welcomed Trump’s second term in office, sending him her best wishes.

“The EU looks forward to working closely with you to tackle global challenges,” von der Leyen said on X. She added that together US and European societies “can achieve greater prosperity and strengthen their common security.”

“This is the enduring strength of the transatlantic partnership,” she said. — **Agencies**

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Israel releases 90 Palestinians as part of ceasefire deal with Hamas

The majority of the released Palestinians were from the Israeli-occupied West Bank, while others were from East Jerusalem

GAZA: Israel has released 90 Palestinian detainees as part of a ceasefire deal with Hamas. The majority of the released Palestinians were from the Israeli-occupied West Bank, while others were from East Jerusalem, Israeli media reported, citing the country's prison authority. According to the reports, most of those released were women and minors. Israel has agreed to release 2,000 imprisoned Palestinians under the terms of the ceasefire deal. Fireworks were launched in celebration as buses carrying former detainees arrived in the West Bank de facto capital of Ramallah, with thousands waiting to welcome them.



The release comes after Hamas handed over three Israeli hostages, kicking off the implementation of the group's ceasefire agreement with Israel. UN says more than 630 trucks entered Gaza after truce deal. More than 630 trucks carrying humanitarian aid entered the Gaza Strip on Sunday, according to the UN. "As the ceasefire entered into force ... humanitarian aid moved into Gaza as part of a prepared

surge to increase our support to survivors," UN under-secretary for relief Tom Fletcher said in a social media post. He said more than 630 trucks had entered the territory, with at least 300 of them going north. "We recognise the logistical challenges facing those delivering this aid, including mountains of rubble and unexploded remnants of war," Fletcher said. "Thousands of Palestinians carrying tents and their personal belongings were seen returning to their homes on Sunday, after the ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas began. The vast majority of Gaza's population of 2.4 million

people has been displaced by 15 months of war between the two sides. **Gaza facing 'immense' health challenges: WHO** The World Health Organization (WHO) has called for aid organizations to be given full access to the Gaza Strip after a ceasefire agreement between Hamas and Israel came into effect. "Addressing the massive needs and restoring the health system will be an extremely complex and challenging task," the UN health agency said in a press release, adding that the "health challenges ahead are immense."

The WHO said that it was "ready to scale up the response" along with other UN agencies and aid organisations. It called for the removal of "security obstacles hindering operations" and the establishment of "conditions on the ground that allow systematic access to the population across Gaza." The agency said that most of Gaza's hospitals had been damaged or partly destroyed and only 38% of primary health care centers were functional. It also warned of the spread of diseases and the continued risk of famine. **Released hostages in 'relatively good health'** DW correspondent Tania Krämer was at the hospital near Tel Aviv where three Israeli hostages were reunited with their families and said they appeared to be "in relatively good health," considering the ordeal they had endured. "The medical team at the hospital said last night that they want the hostages now to focus on being with their families, being with their friends, taking back control of their lives because their medical condition allows it," Krämer said. On Sunday, the Hamas militant group handed over three female hostages — Romi Gonen, Emily Damari and Doron Steinbrecher

— as part of a ceasefire agreement with Israel. Krämer said there had been a "sigh of relief" when the first pictures of the hostages emerged. "They were standing on their own feet, they were able walk," she said, pointing out that the families of the hostages did not know in what condition their loved ones were in. There had been concerns about their physical condition because two of the hostages were injured during the Hamas-led terror attack on October 7, 2023. Krämer said the released hostages were expected to stay in the hospital for some time to undergo further medical tests. **Houthis say they will only target Israel-linked vessels in Red Sea** Yemen's Houthi rebels say they will limit their attacks in the Red Sea to only Israeli-linked ships, as the Gaza ceasefire enters its second day. The Associated Press and Reuters reported that the Houthi announcement was emailed to shipping companies and others on Sunday. Attacks on the vital shipping corridor have halved maritime traffic in the region and severely impacted shipments between Asia and Europe. — Agencies

INDIA

Maha Kumbh witnesses massive turnout, more than 4.4mn devotees take holy dip

PRAYAGRAJ: Faith and devotion took centre stage at Maha Kumbh, as more than 4.4 million devotees took a holy dip on the eighth day of the Kumbh Mela till 2 pm on Monday. As of January 20, more than 80 million pilgrims have taken a dip at the Sangam Triveni during the Maha Kumbh 2025. Furthermore, more than one million Kalpvasis have embraced the spiritual retreat during the Maha Kumbh. Earlier in the day, more than 2.2 million pilgrims visited the Mela on Monday morning as of 8 am, according to official data released. Meanwhile, Director General (DG) of Fire, Avinash Chandra addressed the ongoing investigation into the Maha Kumbh fire incident that occurred on Sunday. He further stated that the police have the authority to investigate, and local authorities are handling the case and also noted that while rumours are circulating, the exact cause would be determined after a thorough investigation. "The police have the right to investigate this incident. Local police authorities are at it. There are many rumours but the exact reason will be revealed after the investigation," he said. Regarding fire safety arrangements, Chandra highlighted the extensive preparations in place at the Kumbh. "In the entire Kumbh area, fire safety has been taken with great



sincerity. 53 fire stations and 20 fire posts have been built and more than 1300 firemen have been deployed. More than 300 vehicles have been deployed. We will strengthen it even further. The magnitude is so big that there are nine fire stations in the entire Prayagraj district, and there are 53 fire stations and 20+ fire posts in Mahakumbh alone. The manpower in Prayagraj is 175 and 1300+ manpower in Mahakumbh. In a big district like Lucknow, there are 11 fire stations and around 200 personnel. Here, there is a manpower of 1400. The area of one fire station is around 800 square meters, which means that it will take less than three to four minutes for the fire vehicle of one fire station to reach the spot,"

he added. Chandra reassured that the response time for fire emergencies is three minutes, with vehicles reaching the spot in under three to four minutes. "Our response time is around three minutes. All the devotees who want to come here should come without any worry; we will provide them with infallible fire and police arrangements," he added. On Sunday, a fire broke out in Mahakumbh due to an explosion of three cooking gas cylinders. There have been no casualties in the mishap. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath visited the site of the fire and spoke to officials and firefighting teams on the spot.

UNITED STATES

Melania Trump launches her cryptocurrency \$MELANIA

WASHINGTON, DC: US President-elect Donald Trump's wife, Melania Trump, has launched her cryptocurrency ahead of Trump's inauguration, according to media report. In a social media post on Sunday, Melania Trump launched her cryptocurrency \$MELANIA, tanking her husband's cryptocurrency \$TRUMP, which was launched two days ago. In a post on X, Melania Trump wrote, "The Official Melania Meme is live! You can buy \$MELANIA now. https://melaniameme.com." Meme coins are a type of highly volatile cryptocurrency inspired by popular internet and carry no intrinsic value, however, its price can rise or reduce. In a post shared on X on Friday, Trump wrote, "My NEW Official Trump Meme is HERE! It's time to celebrate everything we stand for:



WINNING! Join my very special Trump Community. GET YOUR \$TRUMP NOW. Go to http://gettrumpmemes.com -- Have Fun!" The two coins are trading on the Solana blockchain. Trump's meme coin witnessed a rise over the weekend and was trading at over USD 70 by Sunday afternoon, according to CoinGecko, CNN reported. However, the coin's price reduced to USD 40 after Melania Trump launched her own coin. Since then, it has recovered some of those losses and was trad-

ing around USD 60 early Monday while \$MELANIA was trading just over USD 12 early Monday, according to CoinGecko. \$TRUMP is the first cryptocurrency which has been supported by Trump, who once said that bitcoin was "based on thin air." In July 2024, Trump delivered remarks at crypto's largest convention and has also appointed Howard Lutnick, who supports the cryptocurrency company Tether, to run the US Commerce Department. Lutnick is among other crypto enthusiasts appointed in Trump's administration. According to CoinMarketCap, the Trump's coin market capitalization, which is based on the 200 million coins circulating, is capped at USD 13 billion. There will be 1 billion Trump coins over the next three years, according to the information on meme coin's website, CNN reported. — ANI

26TH US AMBASSADOR

US envoy bids farewell to India

NEW DELHI: Reflecting on his time in the country, the outgoing US Ambassador to India, Eric Garcetti, in his farewell bid, spoke about the strong bonds forged between the two nations during his tenure as the 26th US envoy. In a heartfelt video message posted on his social media, Garcetti expressed his deep connection with India, a country he first visited as a child and later as a student, acknowledging the warmth and hospitality extended to him by the people of India, highlighting the diverse experiences he had during his time in the country. "My dear India: you're not just incredible—you're unforgettable. With love, Eric," he posted. — ANI



PAKISTAN SCHOOL MUSCAT
ANNOUNCEMENT OF TENDER

Pakistan School Muscat (PSM) invites qualified contractors to submit tenders for the Supply of Computers. Contractors with relevant experience are encouraged to participate in the following tender process:

Tender No	Tender's Name	Tender Collection Date & Time	Final Submission Date & Time
2025/003	Supply of Computers	January 21, 2025, to January 27, 2025 09:00 AM to 01:00 PM (Working Days/Hours)	Before and Until 11:00 AM, January 28, 2025

Eligibility Criteria:

- Contractors must have a minimum of 3 years of relevant experience in similar projects, preferably in Oman.
- Interested bidders may collect the tender documents from the Administration Office after payment of a non-refundable fee of **RO 20,000** per tender.

Tender Document Collection:

- Location:** Administration Office, Pakistan School Muscat, P.O. Box 987, P.C. 112, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman
- Contact Numbers:** +968 2470 2489, +968 9369 0691,
- Email:** tulaib@pakistanschool.edu.om, bodschairman@gmail.com

Tender Submission Guidelines:

- Bidders must submit the completed tender documents along with all relevant supporting documents.

Tenders must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the following:

- Tender Number and Title
- Company Name
- Point of Contact (POC) Name and Phone Number

The sealed envelope must be dropped in the **Tender Box** located at the Administration Office before the final submission deadline.

Important Notes:

- PSM reserves the right to reject any or all tenders, and is not bound to accept the lowest tender.
- Tenders not meeting the required specifications and conditions will not be considered.

For further information or inquiries, please contact the Administration Office at the provided phone numbers or via email.



Ministry of Health

ANNOUNCEMENT

In accordance with the requirements issued by the relevant authorities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Ministry of Health in the Sultanate of Oman announces that all citizens and residents wishing to perform Umrah must receive the Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (ACYW135). The following is mandatory:

- Obtaining a vaccination certificate issued by the Ministry of Health (via the Tarrasud system), valid for five years.
- Receiving the vaccination at least ten days prior to traveling to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Where to get the vaccine:

- Primary healthcare institutions across all governorates
- The vaccine is available for expatriates and residents at specified private healthcare institutions designated by the Ministry of Health in each governorate.

The Ministry of Health also recommends receiving a single dose of the seasonal flu vaccine before traveling for Umrah.

Therefore, please ensure compliance with the aforementioned requirements to avoid the spread of infection and to safeguard public health.

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS
The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by March 2025 reaching \$83.60, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by \$1 from the price of Friday, which was \$84.60. - **ONA**

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER
The MSX index closed at 4,616.88 points, up by 0.03% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.13% at 42777 points. Construction Materials, up 9.80%, was the top gainer while Dhofar Beverages, down 7.41%, was the top loser.

Total investments at Sohar Port and Freezone touch \$30 billion



The port and freezone also saw over 3,000 vessel calls recorded in 2024. The general cargo throughput increased by 77% compared to the previous year and container volumes grew by 15% while ship-to-ship operations rose by 19%

MUSCAT: Total investments at Sohar Port and Freezone reached \$30 billion, with 2024 alone contributing over \$4 billion in new projects. Among the major agreements signed last year were a \$1.35 billion polysilicon production facility—the largest of its kind in the Middle East—a \$1.6 billion LNG bunkering project utilising solar energy, and a \$600 million agreement to establish Oman's first iron ore concentration plant.

These projects highlight Sohar

port's leadership in advancing innovation, renewable energy, and industrial development. Sohar Port and Freezone also has demonstrated resilience and growth, with over 3,000 vessel calls recorded in 2024. Besides, the general cargo throughput increased by 77% compared to the previous year and container volumes grew by 15% while ship-to-ship operations rose by 19% highlighting and exceptional operational performance last year.



Sohar Freezone also saw significant achievements as well, with land occupancy reaching 85%, reflecting robust demand from both existing and prospective tenants. These figures were announced during the annual Business Reception

under the theme "Connecting Commerce, Creating Opportunities." The event highlighted the port's role as a cornerstone of Oman's economic development, directly contributing to the country's diversification goals under

Oman Vision 2040. Commenting on these accomplishments, Sohar Port's CEO Emile Hoogsteden said: "Sohar Port and Freezone has become a catalyst for Oman's economic transformation and a model of in-

novation and sustainability. As we celebrate two decades of growth, we take pride in how the port has built an integrated industrial and logistics ecosystem that attracts forward-thinking investments and drives global competitiveness." The Freezone's strategic growth was further emphasised by Acting CEO Mohammed Al Shizawi, who stated: "Sohar Freezone has established itself as a critical enabler for businesses seeking to thrive in a dynamic and interconnected environment. In 2024, we signed nine agreements covering 130 hectares of land and attracting \$1.8 billion in investments, reflecting strong demand and trust in our ecosystem." "Our investments in infrastructure, technology, and incentives ensure that all tenants, whether new or established, can unlock their full potential while contributing to Oman's economic development. The strong demand for land and facilities is a testament to the confidence businesses place in Sohar Freezone as a hub for innovation and growth," he further added. - **ONA**

TAILORED FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS

CBO issues treasury bills worth OMR27.80 million



MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) raised OMR27.80 million by a way of allotting treasury bills on Monday. The value of the allotted treasury bills amounted to OMR0.3 million, for a maturity period of 28 days. The average accepted price reached OMR 99.700 for every OMR 100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR 99.700 per OMR 100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 3.91071 per cent and 3.92248%, respectively. Whereas, the value of the allotted treasury bills amounted to

OMR 27.50 million, for a maturity period of 91 days. The average accepted price reached OMR 98.950 for every OMR 100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR 98.950 per OMR 100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 4.21154 per cent and 4.25623 per cent, respectively. Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds. The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) acts as the Issue Manager and provides

the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo). It may be noted that the interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 5.00 per cent while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 5.50 per cent. Furthermore, treasury bills promote the local money market by creating a benchmark yield curve for short-term interest rates. Additionally, the government may also resort to this instrument whenever felt necessary for financing its recurrent expenditures. - **ONA**



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Campaign period Up to 23rd January 2025. The above benefits are applicable for all purchases except RAC, Government Organizations & Ministries. *5 Years/50,000kms (whichever is earlier) covering 5 services at 1 year/10,000kms service interval (whichever is earlier) on 23 & 24 Model Years. **Free first year registration where applicable. Vehicles specifications are subject to change without notice. Pictures & colours are indicative. For further details, please visit your nearest Saud Bahwan Automotive showroom.

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MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Construction Materials, up 9.80%, was the top gainer while Dhofar Beverages, down 7.41%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,616.88 points, up by 0.03% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.13% at 427.77 points. Construction Materials, up 9.80%, was the top gainer while Dhofar Beverages, down 7.41%, was the top loser. Shares of Galfar Engineering were the most active in terms of number of shares traded while OQBI were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 1094 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 2.38 million, with more than 18.92 million shares changing hands. Out of 52 traded securities, 16 advanced, 20 declined, and 16 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for RO 267K while GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for RO 146K, followed by foreign investors for RO 120K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,913.94 points, up 0.13%. Prices of Takaful Oman, Al Madina Investments, Oman & Emirates Investment, United Finance, Sohar

International Bank were up by 6.52%, 6.38%, 3.13%, 1.67%, 1.43% respectively. Prices of Al Anwar Investment, Oman United Insurance, Global Financial Investments, Ominvest were down by 2.86%, 1.22%, 1.12%, 0.31% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,396.98 points, up 0.24%. Prices of Construction Materials, Galfar Engineering, Gulf Mushroom Products were up by 9.80%, 3.95%, 2.50% respectively. Prices of Dhofar Beverages, Oman Chlorine, Muscat Thread Mill, Raysut Cement, Voltamp Energy were down by 7.41%, 7.32%, 3.95%, 3.85%, 3.00% respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.3% before closing at 1,723.59 points. Prices of Oman Oil Marketing, Renaissance Services, National Gas, Muscat Desalination, Al Maha Marketing were up by 8.70%, 3.36%, 2.50%, 1.45%, 0.48% respectively. Prices of Ooredoo, Al Suwadi Power, Al Jazeera Services, Phoenix Power, Al Batinah Power were down by 2.93%, 2.86%, 2.56%, 1.59%, 1.45% respectively. — United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,626.29	4,615.32	4,616.88	4,615.37	1.52	0.03
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,923.03	7,901.77	7,913.94	7,903.34	10.60	0.13
Industry Index	5,420.70	5,382.88	5,396.98	5,384.04	12.94	0.24
Services Index	1,730.97	1,722.09	1,723.59	1,728.84	-5.25	-0.30
MSX Shariah Index	427.77	420.89	427.77	427.23	0.54	0.13
MSX TR INDEX	6,479.11	6,463.74	6,465.94	6,463.82	2.13	0.03
FINANCIAL TR IDX	9,001.38	8,977.22	8,991.05	8,979.01	12.04	0.13
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,254.20	6,210.56	6,226.83	6,211.90	14.93	0.24
SERVICES TR IDX	2,071.35	2,060.72	2,062.51	2,068.80	-6.29	-0.30
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
18,927,844	2,376,585	1,094	28,083,060,127	16	20	16	52

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 20

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PRE VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	423,054	151,558	19	0.358	0.369	0.358	0.369	0.357	0.012	3.361	0.369	0.364	0.392	0.100	87,235,290
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO	1,500	99	1	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.064	0.002	3.125	0.066	0.065	0.065	0.100	8,043,750
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	563,336	34,303	13	0.060	0.061	0.060	0.061	0.060	0.001	1.667	0.061	0.061	0.061	0.100	1,723,765
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	431,338	60,929	11	0.141	0.142	0.141	0.142	0.140	0.002	1.429	0.142	0.134	0.142	0.100	939,648,970
OM0000004789	MADINA TAKAFUL	37,894	3,191	12	0.085	0.085	0.084	0.085	0.084	0.001	1.190	0.085	0.084	0.085	0.100	14,875,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	5,500	1,553	1	0.293	0.293	0.293	0.293	0.293	0.000	0.000	0.293	0.284	0.293	0.100	476,402,282
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	7,000	693	1	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.000	0.000	0.099	0.098	0.108	0.100	21,780,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	17,300	5,376	5	0.312	0.312	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.000	0.000	0.310	0.309	0.310	0.100	38,718,368
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO	291,354	22,028	25	0.076	0.077	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.000	0.000	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.100	4,750,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	758,904	197,606	25	0.261	0.261	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.000	0.000	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.100	1,561,663,236
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	7,847	7,172	6	0.916	0.916	0.912	0.912	0.912	0.000	0.000	0.914	0.911	0.914	0.100	684,000,000
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	589,883	150,812	142	0.256	0.257	0.255	0.256	0.256	0.000	0.000	0.256	0.255	0.281	0.100	197,171,200
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	2,207,523	300,290	112	0.135	0.137	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.000	0.000	0.136	0.129	0.136	0.100	584,634,229
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	13,000	4,254	2	0.328	0.328	0.327	0.327	0.328	-0.001	-0.305	0.327	0.328	0.329	0.100	218,553,494
OM0000004735	SEMBOORP SALALAH	31,400	3,109	4	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.100	-0.001	-1.000	0.089	0.097	0.101	0.100	94,502,623
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	325,150	28,630	18	0.089	0.089	0.088	0.088	0.089	-0.001	-1.124	0.088	0.088	0.089	0.100	17,600,000
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	2,500	608	1	0.243	0.243	0.243	0.243	0.246	-0.003	-1.220	0.243	0.230	0.243	0.100	24,300,000
OM0000004825	ALBATINAH POWER	167,900	11,410	17	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.069	-0.001	-1.449	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.100	45,892,345
OM0000004833	AL SUWADI POWER	96,769	6,828	12	0.069	0.069	0.068	0.068	0.070	-0.002	-2.857	0.068	0.067	0.068	0.100	46,579,631
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	43,925	10,319	10	0.235	0.236	0.232	0.232	0.239	-0.007	-2.929	0.235	0.232	0.235	0.100	15,019,061
Total	20	6,025,567	1,000,771	437												
Parallel Market																
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL INDUSTRIES	1,147,384	63,228	63	0.052	0.056	0.052	0.056	0.051	0.005	9.884	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.100	3,500,000
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	585	463	2	0.770	0.800	0.770	0.800	0.736	0.064	8.696	0.800	0.000	0.800	0.100	49,020,000
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	8,015	338	2	0.042	0.049	0.042	0.049	0.046	0.003	6.522	0.049	0.042	0.049	0.100	12,250,000
OM0000001982	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	263,862	12,695	21	0.047	0.050	0.047	0.050	0.047	0.003	6.383	0.048	0.048	0.051	0.100	4,250,000
OM0000003531	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	4,845,584	380,265	130	0.077	0.082	0.077	0.079	0.076	0.003	3.947	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.100	16,035,928
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	856,428	54,171	65	0.081	0.085	0.081	0.082	0.080	0.002	2.500	0.082	0.082	0.084	0.100	9,970,000
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	410	101	1	0.246	0.246	0.246	0.246	0.240	0.006	2.500	0.246	0.234	0.246	0.100	11,258,386
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	784	55	1	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.069	0.001	1.449	0.070	0.067	0.072	0.100	10,888,528
OM0000003000	ALMAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	2,000	2,090	2	1.045	1.045	1.045	1.045	1.040	0.005	0.481	1.045	1.040	1.045	0.100	72,105,000
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	405	29	1	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.000	0.000	0.072	0.072	0.073	0.100	1,512,000
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	31,208	4,057	4	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.000	0.000	0.130	0.120	0.130	0.100	74,581,557
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	27,900	9,232	11	0.332	0.332	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.000	0.000	0.330	0.330	0.331	0.100	65,879,748
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	94,147	9,321	8	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
OM0000003260	OMAN ARAB BANK	40,000	6,000	3	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.000	0.000	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.100	230,411,500
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	753,394	256,161	149	0.340	0.341	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.000	0.000	0.341	0.340	0.341	0.010	272,000,000
OM0000009608	QABASE INDUSTRIES (SF2)	4,523,657	508,103	110	0.113	0.113	0.112	0.112	0.113	-0.001	-0.885	0.112	0.112	0.113	0.000	387,462,975
OM0000005983	PHOENIX POWER	88,420	5,482	12	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.063	-0.001	-1.587	0.062	0.061	0.062	0.100	90,681,291
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	4,684	426	1	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.093	-0.002	-2.151	0.091	0.091	0.090	0.100	18,200,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	4,907	932	2	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.195	-0.005	-2.564	0.190	0.190	0.000	0.100	8,140,168
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	25,700	1,753	5	0.069	0.069	0.068	0.068	0.070	-0.002	-2.857	0.068	0.067	0.069	0.100	14,428,240
OM0000003681	VOLTAMP ENERGY	34,309	16,837	7	0.489	0.489	0.484	0.485	0.500	-0.015	-3.000	0.485	0.478	0.485	0.100	39,840,334
OM0000003026	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	6,940	1,052	2	0.151	0.151	0.146	0.146	0.152	-0.006	-3.947	0.146	0.138	0.151	0.100	2,363,530
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	182,982	13,674	16	0.076	0.076	0.073	0.073	0.076	-0.003	-3.947	0.073	0.069	0.073	0.100	37,130,085
OM0000004401	OMAN CHLORINE	3,395	1,312	2	0.389	0.389	0.380	0.380	0.410	-0.030	-7.317	0.380	0.370	0.388	0.100	217,733,360
OM0000001251	DHOAFR BEVERAGES	4,648	930	1	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.216	-0.016	-7.407	0.200	0.195	0.200	0.100	4,000,000
Total	25	12,751,718	1,346,677	621												



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Contact: 98260708 meena.v24@gmail.com

SALES/MARKETING

Marketing and Finance MBA with one year of experience, driven to deliver strategic solutions and foster business growth. 25/male/Indian, currently in Oman.

Contact: +968 97794350 hemanthkumars9270@gmail.com

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JOB WANTED

FINANCE

CA, CPA, CIA with 20 years' experience in Strategic finance, Financial reporting, Budget, VAT. Looking for Senior management position in finance. Available to join immediately.

Contact: +968 92148608 +91 7510366356

FINANCE

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

Contact: 78611653
Email: jobcpacma@gmail.com

OMANI HSE ENGINEER

Approved Omani HSE Engineer 7+ yrs (Approved, PTW holder, OPAL valid license, IOSH, NEBOSH IGC & other required courses).

Contact: +968 79975864

NOTICE

I, **SONY SINGH BHOGAL** (holder of Indian passport No. S 5496526 S/o Mohinder Singh having permanent residence in House No. 297, Gurunanak Nagar, Hoshiarpur, Punjab (complete permanent address in India) and presently residing at Mawalih, Muscat Postal Code 121, Sultanate of Oman (complete postal address in Sultanate of Oman), intend to marry **Ms. MARIBEL LAMBIT LIBIT** (holder of Philippines passport No. P 7786522A) / D/o Carlito Libit having permanent residence in Brgy. Dagatan, Dolores, Quezon, Philippines (complete permanent address) at Embassy of India, Muscat. I swear that I am marrying her at my own free will and not under any duress and intimidation. Any objection towards this marriage may please be communicated to Embassy of India, Muscat, Diplomatic Quarters, Al Khuwair, P.O. Box No. 1727, Postal Code No. 112, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman within 30 (thirty) days of publication of this newspaper advertisement

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Contact: +968 96609047
Email: salihputhussery@gmail.com

SALES/QUALITY/CREDIT CTRL

Indian Male, 16 yrs in Oman, Sr. Mngt. experience in Business Dev-Rev Growth, Client Relations, Operations, Credit Control-Debt Coll & Certified Lead Auditor (ISO-QMS). Proven Track Record, seeking leadership opportunities. D/L available.

Contact +968 99232691

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

Contact: 79977043

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Experienced CHEF/COOK (Arabic & Indian Dishes) for a reputed family in Muscat.

Contact: 99735820

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Senior Project Manager cum Project Director with 20 years experience for an reputed construction company. Locally experienced candidates with valid driving license are highly preferable. Interested candidates can send cv's to:

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CONNECT

JOB VACANCY

ADMINISTRATION

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

ENGINEER

Required MEP, Eng. 5-7 yrs experience with Tech & Marketing skills, knowledge of Oman Market with valid D/L. Send CV to: TQ.BITC@gmail.com

Looking for an HSE officer, Engineer (preferably Omani) and an Engineer (must have experience in water pipeline projects). Please send your resume to: hrmgmt@gmail.com

MISCELLANEOUS

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

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

22yrs Indian graduate completed ACCA with B.Com with valid Omani D/L having residential Oman visa for 2 yrs seeking suitable placement.
Contact: 78680725

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

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

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

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

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

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

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

Experienced Accounting professional, B.Com, MBA seeks Senior or managerial level opportunity.
Contact: 78581435

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

Indian MBA graduate having 2 yrs experience in accounting department.
Contact: 79819938 Email: mohammedasim955@gmail.com

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

Accounts, finance, A well experienced Indian male [MBA Fin] having more than 19 yrs of experience in Oman,looking for suitable placement, NOC available and can join immediately.
Contact: 92076716

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

Indian male with 4+ yrs exp. in Oman, worked as Accounts & admin executive Bachelor Degree in Management (BBA) with valid D/L, ready to join immediately.
Contact: 93536020, Email: naseemt24@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATION

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

Male with Masters degree in HR,12 yrs of Oman experience in core HR recruitment, succession planning,manpower, bugeting, HR metrics.Overall 16 yrs of experience working in & industry domain.
Contact: 78683491, Email: amirfurqan.m@gmail.com

ARCHITECT

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

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

DESIGNER/ AUTOCAD DRAUGHTMAN

Young, Indian lady specialised in fashion designing, but ready to take up any suitable vacancy like, front desk manage in five star hotels or official work etc. looking for job. Contact: 92781260, Email: ashneliekka@gmail.com

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

Autocad draftsman 10 yrs experience. Ready to immediate join. Oman D/L. Contact: 92752215

DRIVER

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

Looking for driving job, 12 yrs experience in Muscat Oman.
Contact: 93211430

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

Looking for driving job with experience. Contact: 78137708

Looking for driving job.
Contact: 77319484

Looking for driving job have car.
Contact: 98586920

Looking for driving job.
Contact: +968 99532361

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

EDUCATION/TRAINING

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

EDUCATION/TRAINING

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

ENGINEER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BSc in Civil engineer and OSE membership with over 11.5 yrs experience of construction, industrial project and planning. Seeking a suitable position in Oman.
WhatsApp: +968 94086556, Email: ccceng.bd@gmail.com

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

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

ENGINEER

Indian male, civil engineer telecom. Total 11 yrs experience 7 yrs GCC experience job seeking.
Contact: 95971311

IT

IT Manager with 23 yrs of expertise in ERP implementation, IT infrastructure development, and administration. Seeking a suitable position.
Mob: 93362311, Email: ragesh.vr@gmail.com.

BTech (Computer Science) graduate with 4 yrs experience in software and network implementation, as well as crypto mining farm setup and operations.,holds a valid Oman D/L. Contact: 94187460, Email: edasseryashim98@gmail.com

15+ yrs Oman experienced IT support professional, looking for suitable opportunities with valid visa & NOC available.
Contact: 79063180. Email: dd.mcp@hotmail.com

Software developer lead, 22+ yrs experience, Indian male, dotNET, C#, PowerBI, PowerApp, SQL Server, SSIS, SSRS, Nintex, Power-automate. Contact: 92056372

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

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

MANAGER

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

Indian male MBA graduate with 4 yrs of experience in India as Assistant manager . Looking for suitable job.
Contact: 78633502

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

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

LOGISTIC

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

PROCUREMENT/ PURCHASE

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

SALES/MARKETING

10+ yrs GCC experience as Sales executive in outdoor and indoor , Indian (have valid Oman D/L and completed M.B.A) looking for suitable position.
Contact: 96206013, Email: sayooj.vu@gmail.com

Indian male with 7+ yrs GCC,Africa exp, sales, merchandising, promoting goods. Driving business growth, seeking opportunities.
Contact: +968 78081539.

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

Indian male graduate with 14 yrs sales & marketing experience looking for suitable job with valid D/L. Contact: 95136784

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

Indian male MBA graduated specialized with Marketing & HR (fresher). Looking for suitable positions . Currently in Muscat Oman.
Contact: +96871084371, Email: ccrashid9@gmail.com



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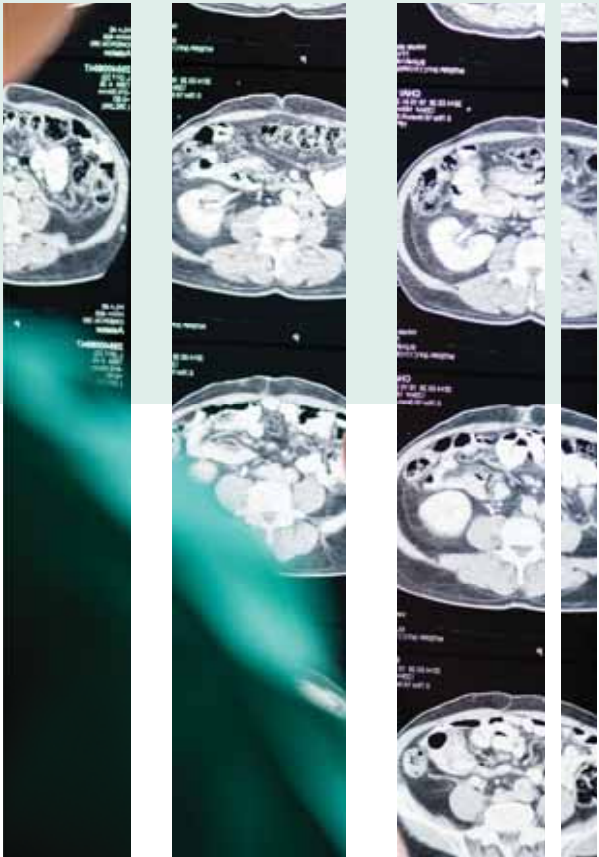


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AUTISM,
EPILEPSY



A COLLABORATIVE research has uncovered new insights into how the neuropilin-2 gene influences autism spectrum disorder and epilepsy.

The research is led by neuroscientist Viji Santhakumar from the University of California.

Published in Nature Molecular Psychiatry, the study explores how disruptions in this gene, which is critical for brain cell communication and circuit development, contribute to these co-occurring conditions. Santhakumar and her team developed a mouse model to examine the effects of deleting the neuropilin-2 gene in inhibitory neurons.

They discovered that the absence of neuropilin-2 impairs neuron migration, disrupting the balance between excitatory and inhibitory signals in the brain.

This imbalance results in autism-like behaviors, social interaction deficits, and an increased risk of seizures.

The study highlights the potential for targeted therapies by focusing on specific phases of brain development. -ANI

SPORTS

Man City hit Ipswich for a six; Forest rally to down Saints

Pep Guardiola's men register their biggest Premier League victory of the season

LONDON: Manchester City looked like their old selves as they recorded the biggest Premier League win of the season by thrashing struggling Ipswich 6-0 at Portman Road to move back into the top four on Sunday.

After letting slip a two-goal lead to draw 2-2 with Brentford in their last league outing, Pep Guardiola's side returned to winning ways in emphatic fashion.

Phil Foden was particularly excellent as he scored twice and assisted another of the six goals, with his double coming in the first half.

The England forward got his first goal of the game when he deftly controlled Kevin de Bruyne's 28th-minute cross inside the box before sweeping the ball in.

City added another just three minutes later through Mateo Kovacic's crisp strike from the edge of the box, with Foden providing the assist, before he grabbed a third two minutes before the break.

De Bruyne was again the provider as he picked out Foden inside the box and his low shot squirmed under Christian Walton and into the net.

Manchester City endured a dreadful run of form towards the end of last year and their players looked determined to remind doubters of their ability with a



high-scoring win.

Jeremy Doku got their fourth goal shortly after the break, darting into the box before his low drive was deflected into the net, and Erling Haaland - fresh from signing a new nine-and-a-half-year deal at the club - made it 5-0 just before the hour mark, driving in from Doku's pass after an Ipswich mistake at the back.

Substitute James McAtee rounded off the resounding victory with a delightful looping header from Kovacic's cross.

The victory means Manchester City are fourth on 38 points, while Ipswich remain in the bottom three with 16 points.

Forest move to second

Nottingham Forest moved level on points with second-placed Arsenal after withstanding an unlikely comeback by bottom club Southampton at the City Ground with a

3-2 win on Sunday.

The hosts looked in total control with a 3-0 lead inside 41 minutes, only for a fortuitous Jan Bednarek goal and Paul Onuachu's thumping header - in the first of 12 added minutes - setting up a tense and thrilling finale.

Saints, who had battled back brilliantly in the second half, then almost snatched an equaliser but Ola Aina spectacularly cleared Bednarek's header off the line.

Such drama looked unlikely for much of the match after Forest took the 11th-minute lead when Elliot Anderson drove from midfield and shot low into the bottom left corner for his first goal for the club.

Callum Hudson-Odoi buried the second from the edge of the box in the 28th minute after another defensive mistake by Southampton and Chris Wood headed in his 14th goal of the season to add a



Everton edge Tottenham

Everton started the road to recovery under returning manager David Moyes and piled more pressure on his struggling Tottenham counterpart Ange Postecoglou with an impressive 3-2 victory at Goodison Park on Sunday.

Everton deservedly led 3-0 at the interval, then survived a late Spurs revival as the scoreline was given an appearance that did not reflect the difference between the sides.

With the stakes high for both teams, Everton brushed Spurs aside in the opening period, building the platform for a win that condemned Postecoglou's men to a seventh defeat in their past 10 league games.

Dominic Calvert-Lewin ended a barren Premier League scoring sequence stretching back to September - and lasting 1,288 minutes - when he turned Archie Gray twice

in the area before leaving Spurs keeper Antonin Kinsky wrong-footed with a smart finish.

Son Heung-min was denied twice by Jordan Pickford but it was Everton, unrecognisable from the goal-shy team seen previously this season, who added a second on the half-hour when Iliman Ndiaye twisted Radu Dragusin inside out before firing high past Kinsky.

Everton compounded Spurs' misery in first-half stoppage time when Gray turned into his own net after James Tarkowski's header took a touch off Calvert-Lewin.

Spurs, as they had to do, improved after the break and pulled a goal back through Dejan Kulusevski's clever lofted finish with 13 minutes left, with former Everton striker Richarlison increasing the nerves by bundling home in injury time. But the hosts held out for a deserved win on a day to savour for the returning Moyes. - Agencies

ITALIAN SERIE A

Inter beat Empoli to cut gap on leaders Napoli



MILAN: Inter Milan produced a fine second-half performance to defeat a dogged Empoli side 3-1 and cut the gap on Serie A leaders Napoli on Sunday.

Lautaro Martinez, who hit the post with a shot on the turn in the first half, finished well with a 25-yard strike in the 55th minute after being set up by Nicolo Barella.

Denzel Dumfries doubled Inter's advantage with a powerful downward header following Kristjan Asllani's corner in the 79th minute to put the hosts two ahead.

But Sebastian Esposito, on loan at Empoli from Inter, scored against his parent club

thanks to a powerful strike in the 83rd minute. However, Marcus Thuram wrapped up the victory and got his 13th league goal of the season in the 89th minute, shooting into the net after Marko Arnautovic's assist.

The result leaves reigning champions Inter second in Serie A and with a game in hand on Napoli, who are three points clear. Inter Milan have 47 points from 20 Serie A games, with leaders Napoli on 50 points from 21 matches

Inter are now unbeaten in 15 league matches, while Empoli are 14th but only one point above 18th-placed Verona in the relegation zone. - Agencies

PREMIER LEAGUE

Onana howler helps Brighton defeat Manchester United at Old Trafford

LONDON: Brighton capitalised on a disastrous mistake from Manchester United goalkeeper Andre Onana to condemn their hosts to a fourth defeat 3-1 in five Premier League home games and leave Ruben Amorim's side rooted in the bottom half of the table on Sunday.

The visitors were already leading at Old Trafford thanks to goals from Yankuba Minteh and Kauro Mitoma scorched away before presenting Minteh with the inviting finish.

It seemed an easy enough take but somehow Onana managed to grab the ball, then release it. Substitute Georginio Rutter could not believe his luck as he turned the ball into an empty net, with Onana left exasperated at his inexplicable failure.

It was hardly the way United's players would have wanted to mark the death of legendary striker Denis Law, but they deserved nothing more.

With world darts champion and lifelong United fan Luke Littler watching on, Brighton struck after just five minutes as Mitoma scorched away before presenting Minteh with the inviting finish.

Then, after Bruno Fernandes had pulled United level with a 23rd-minute penalty, Minteh



turned provider on the hour as he chipped a cross to the far post and Mitoma won a duel with Noussair Mazraoui to turn the ball into the net from less than a yard.

By that point, Brighton had already had a Joao Pedro effort ruled out by VAR because of a foul in the build-up on Diogo Dalot.

It was the Seagulls' sixth win in seven meetings with United, while Manchester City are the only club to have emulated their achievement of winning three games on the trot at Old Trafford in the Premier League era. - Agencies

'Maybe the worst team in Man Utd history'

LONDON: Manchester United head coach Ruben Amorim on Sunday described his team as "maybe the worst" in the 147-year history of the club.

United's 3-1 defeat by Brighton was the fourth loss in their past five home Premier League games. They have collected 11 points in 11 league games since Amorim replaced Erik ten Hag in November. "In [the past] 10



games in the Premier League, we won two," said Amorim. "Imagine what this is for a fan of Manchester United. Imagine

what this is for me. "We are getting a new coach who is losing more than the last coach. I have full knowledge of that.

"We are the worst team, maybe, in the history of Manchester United. I know you [media] want headlines but I am saying that because we have to acknowledge that and to change that. Here you go: your headlines." - Agencies

SPANISH LA LIGA

Mbappe scores a double as Real Madrid trounce Las Palmas

MADRID: Kylian Mbappe stole the spotlight with a stunning performance, netting twice as Real Madrid rallied to a 4-1 victory over Las Palmas on Sunday, propelling them to the top of La Liga.

The match began with a shock as Fabio Silva's close-range effort handed the visitors an early lead, silencing the Santiago Bernabeu crowd. Real, however, quickly responded, with Mbappe equalising from the penalty spot after Sandro Ramirez fouled Rodrygo inside the box.

Brahim Diaz then stepped up, converting Lucas Vazquez's clever pass to put the hosts ahead. Mbappe added to his tally with an exquisite strike, guiding the ball into

the net with precision for his 12th league goal of the season, leaving Carlo Ancelotti's men in firm control by halftime.

Rodrygo, who had been instrumental throughout, slotted in Fran Garcia's cutback in the 57th minute to extend the lead. Las Palmas' troubles deepened when halftime substitute Benito Ramirez received a straight red card for a dangerous studs-up challenge on Vazquez, following a Video Assistant Referee (VAR) review.

Despite Real Madrid's dominance, the match saw its share of frustrations. The hosts had three goals disallowed for offside, denying Mbappe a hat-trick. England international Jude Bellingham,



who has been in scintillating form this season, missed several key opportunities to add his name to the scoresheet.

The victory places Real Madrid two points clear of Atletico Madrid, who suffered a surprising defeat to Leganes on Saturday. This result further cements Los Blancos' status as favorites in the title race, with their fluid attack and defensive resilience on full display.

Real's attention now shifts to their midweek Champions League clash against Red Bull Salzburg, where they aim to continue their dominant form in Europe.

With Mbappe firing on all cylinders and Ancelotti's squad show-

casing depth and versatility, fans will hope for another dazzling display.

In another match on Sunday, Sevilla defeated Girona 2-1. After Girona took the lead through Arnau Martinez in the 36th minute, Sevilla responded with goals from Saul Niguez in the 59th minute and Dodi Lukebakio in the 88th minute to secure all three points.

Also Alaves delivered a commanding 3-1 performance against Real Betis. Joselu opened the scoring with a penalty in the 11th minute and added two more goals in the 80th and 84th minutes to complete his hat-trick. Mauro Arambarri scored the lone goal for Betis in the 34th minute. - Agencies

IN PICTURES



Budapest's China-town comes alive with colourful Spring Festival celebrations
People watch a lion dance during a temple fair celebrating the upcoming Chinese Lunar New Year in Budapest, Hungary. *Xinhua*



Highlight of Tata Steel Chess Tournament 2025
Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa (left) of India competes against Pentala Harikrishna of India during the Tata Steel Chess Tournament 2025 in Wijk aan Zee, the Netherlands. *Xinhua*



Opera gala held in Canada to celebrate upcoming Chinese Lunar New Year
Performers act onstage during the 2025 Happy Chinese New Year Chinese Opera Gala in Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada. Hosted by the Canada Chinese Opera Arts Centre, this annual event was held here to celebrate the upcoming Chinese Lunar New Year. *Xinhua*



Dhoom Dhaam teaser out: Yami Gautam, Pratik Gandhi take us on adventurous roller-coaster ride
The teaser for the action-comedy 'Dhoom Dhaam', which stars actors Yami Gautam and Pratik Gandhi, was unveiled in Mumbai.



Sanctuary brings hope to stray animals in Myanmar
This picture shows stray dogs at an animals rescue shelter on the outskirts of Yangon, Myanmar. The shelter is home to 850 dogs, 150 cats, 13 cows, and 10 goats rescued from various disturbing situations, including car accidents, knife attacks, and cruel acts involving hot water or acid. *Xinhua*



White-tailed sea eagle spotted in Vladivostok, Russia
This picture shows a white-tailed sea eagle flying above the Golden Horn Bay of Vladivostok, Russia. The white-tailed sea eagle was listed on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species in 2012. *Xinhua*

ROUND-UP

Registration is now open for Bank Muscat’s ‘Green Sports’ 2025 edition

The Green Sports programme continues to thrive each year, bolstered by the successes from previous editions and the positive turnout shown by local sports teams

MUSCAT: Completing a 14-year journey in supporting Omani youth through local sports teams, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, has launched the 2025 edition of its flagship CSR programme, Green Sports, on January



19, and has invited all local sports teams who would like to apply for the programme to do so well before the deadline on 15 February 2025. This year too, 20 sports teams from different governorates will be provided support in one of the four categories available to them. The Green Sports programme continues to thrive each year, bolstered by the successes from previ-

ous editions and the positive turnout shown by local sports teams. The scope of support includes greening of football fields with natural or synthetic turf, floodlights and water desalination equipment in areas facing problems of water salinity. These support areas focus on empowering youth by enhancing sports infrastructure and nurturing their skills, along with

fostering cultural and social development for the community. All teams who are interested to participate in this year's edition can submit their applications digitally. For more information and to submit applications, teams should go to: <https://www.bankmuscat.com/greensports/> and complete the application form electronically using a computer, a tablet or a mo-

bile phone. All applicants should be able to showcase their positive impact and contributions to the local community. In case of any queries or doubts on the submission process, teams may email GreenSports@bankmuscat.com, or call 24801200/24801625 for more details. On this occasion, Talib Saif Al Makhmari, Head, Community & Media Relations, Bank Muscat, said: “Corporate social responsibility programmes form an essential pillar of Bank Muscat's strategy of working continuously for the benefit of society. The launch of the 14th edition of the programme stands as a testament to its significance for local sports teams and serves as clear evidence of the ongoing achievements made by the programme in empowering youth. We would like to encourage all teams who would like to apply for the support to submit their applications through the specified link ahead of the deadline, and we wish them all the best of luck.” The landmark Green Sports Programme is one of Bank Mus-

cat's CSR initiatives, which draws from the values of leadership and partnership so as to create a positive impact on Omani society. The programme aims to develop and provide a sustainable infrastructure for sports fields in Oman. The facilities developed as part of the programme are often used as a venue for other social activities by local communities, leading to stronger social bonding and positive behaviour among young people. It is a matter of great encouragement that Bank Muscat's Green Sports programme has so far benefitted 203 teams with over 70,000 team members across the Sultanate since its launch in 2012. Local sports teams play a vital role in engaging young people of all ages. Recently, several new sports fields have been upgraded with new natural or synthetic turf, floodlights and water desalination equipment. Going forward, the Bank will enhance collaboration with all stakeholders to maximize the programme's long-term benefits and optimize green spaces for community development.

OMAN ARAB BANK

OAB participates in national campaign ‘Oman Celebrates’



MUSCAT: In celebration of the Accession Day of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, Oman Arab Bank (OAB), in collaboration with Visa International, is taking part in the national campaign for discounts and promotional offers, “Oman Celebrates”. This campaign is organized by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion, and will run from January 11 to February 11. The bank's participation in this campaign reflects its commitment to enhancing the partnership between public and private sectors to achieve economic development, support national products, and promote activities of small and medium-sized enterprises, thus contributing to Oman Vision 2040 goals. To encourage its customers to take advantage of the offers, OAB is offering attractive promotional deals, including discounts and exclusive benefits when using OAB Visa cards during the campaign period. The discounts reach up to 50% at major shopping centers and 30% at other establishments. The campaign also includes daily and weekly prizes, totaling about 30 awards. Sulaiman Al Harthi, CEO of OAB, stated: “OAB is pleased to contribute to the promotional campaign ‘Oman Celebrates,’ which coincides with a glorious national occasion, the fifth anniversary of His Majesty Sultan

Haitham bin Tariq's accession to power. Through its participation in this campaign, the bank aims to stimulate economic and commercial activity, and reward its customers with attractive offers and discounts provided to OAB Visa cardholders.” He added: “This national campaign coincides with the launch of Oman's promotional identity under the patronage of His Majesty the Sultan. OAB's participation supports enhancing the position of Oman as a global investment destination by promoting national products, which contributes to reducing imports, increasing non-oil exports, and strengthening the presence of Omani products in local and global markets. Through this participation, OAB continues its efforts and initiatives to achieve the goals of Oman Vision 2040 by advancing its services, digitizing its offerings, and enriching the customer experience, with the aim of ensuring continued development in the Omani banking sector in line with best global standards and expanding its role in sustainable development. OAB also holds a prominent leadership position in launching initiatives and programs that contribute to building national capabilities, preparing future leaders, supporting SMEs, and their role as a driver of innovation, economic growth, and job opportunities.”

CELEBRATING CREATIVITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

Oman Design Week to kick off tomorrow

MUSCAT: Oman Design Week, a landmark event celebrating creativity and sustainability, will officially open tomorrow at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre. Held under the patronage of His Highness Sayyid Marwan bin Turki Al Said, Governor of Dhofar, the event will run until 25 January,

shining a spotlight on Omani talent and innovative design practices. **Empowering local talent** Organised by Omran Group in partnership with the Oman Design Association, Oman Design Week is a key initiative under the “CreaTourism” programme,

which aims to empower local talent and integrate creative expression into Oman's cultural and tourism offerings. The event features an exciting lineup of interactive exhibitions, large-scale art installations crafted from recycled materials, and hands-on workshops that connect participants with designers and artists. By blending Oman's rich cultural heritage with contemporary design and sustainable practices, Oman Design Week underscores the country's ambition to position itself as a hub for creativity and innovation in the region.

EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENTIAL DRIVE

Jetour Tribe Winter Edition: A thrilling day trip to Sifawy Boutique Hotel



MUSCAT: MHD Automobile, a leader in Oman's automotive industry, announced the successful completion of the Winter Edition of the Jetour Tribe, an exclusive experiential drive that brought together an impressive community of around 100 Jetour T2 owners. The day-long adventure to the scenic Sifawy Boutique Hotel provided participants with the perfect opportunity to explore the stunning capabilities of their Jetour T2 vehicles while enjoying the camaraderie of fellow Jetour enthusiasts. Building on the success of the inaugural Dhofar Khareef Edition, this Winter Edition marked another milestone in MHD Automobiles' commitment to creating extraordinary experiences for its valued customers. Starting from the Jetour Showroom in Azaiba, the convoy of Je-

tour T2 vehicles embarked on a picturesque drive that combined breathtaking landscapes with adrenaline-pumping moments. Designed to cater to drivers of all experience levels, the meticulously planned route showcased Oman's diverse terrain, reinforcing the Jetour T2's reputation as a vehicle built for adventure. Commenting on the event, Mohsin Hani Al Bahrani, CEO of MHD Automobiles, said, “The Winter Edition of the Jetour Tribe is a testament to our dedication to fostering a vibrant community of Jetour T2 enthusiasts. We are proud to bring our customers together for such unforgettable experiences that celebrate their passion for exploration and adventure.” The Jetour T2, powered by a 2.0-litre 4-cylinder petrol engine



delivering 254 horsepower and 390 Nm of torque, performed exceptionally throughout the trip. Whether cruising along the scenic coastline or conquering rugged terrain, the vehicle showcased its versatility and reliability, ensuring participants enjoyed a dynamic and comfortable driving experience. MHD Automobile extends its

heartfelt gratitude to all the participants who made this event a resounding success. The Winter Edition of the Jetour Tribe underscores the company's unwavering commitment to delivering unparalleled customer experiences while strengthening the bond between the brand and its community.

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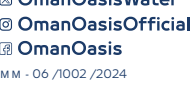
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