



ROUSING
RECEPTION
ACCORDED
TO KING OF
BAHRAIN ON
HIS ARRIVAL
IN OMAN
>A4



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HM THE SULTAN, KING OF BAHRAIN DISCUSS REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MATTERS



Oman and Bahrain review the deep-rooted fraternal relations between the two countries

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and King Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain held an official session of talks at Al Alam Palace on Tuesday.

At the outset of the session, His Majesty the Sultan reiterated his welcome to King Hamad, being an eminent guest of the Sultanate of Oman, wishing him and his accompanying delegation a pleas-

ant stay. In his turn, King Hamad expressed his utmost thanks and appreciation to His Majesty the Sultan for the warm welcome and hospitality.

The session reviewed the deep-rooted fraternal relations between the two countries and means of promoting them in various spheres in a manner that serves interests of the two peoples and meets their aspirations.

The two leaders also exchanged views on situations in the region, as well as the regional and international developments. They also exchanged talks on matter of mutual interest.

The official session of talks was attended from the Omani side by HH Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers, HH Sayyid Asa'ad bin Tarik Al

Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Co-operation Affairs and Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan, HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, Gen. Sul-

tan bin Mohammed Al Nu'mani, Minister of the Royal Office, Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Sultan bin Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance, Dr. Hamad bin Said Al Oufi, Head of the Private Office and Sayyid Faisal bin Harib Al Busaidi, Ambassador of Oman to Bahrain.

>A5

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN National survey on NCDs kicks off

1 The Ministry of Health launched a National Survey of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in Muscat, Al Wusta and Al Dakhiliyah governorates. The survey includes field visits to residential neighbourhoods. **>A2**



OMAN Indian rupee dips further against OMR

2 Indian rupee witnessed the steepest fall in the last two years to hit a record low of 86.59 against US dollar. The money exchange houses offered 224.05 for one Omani rial on Tuesday. **>A3**

WORLD Gaza truce talks in 'final stages': Qatar

3 Qatar says truce talks between Israel and Hamas are at their "closest point" to a deal for Gaza after the resolution of "major issues" in recent weeks. Qatar is one of the leading mediators in the talk. **>A7**

PRELIMINARY STATISTICS

Oman records trade surplus of OMR6.56bn

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman's trade balance recorded a surplus of OMR6.56 billion at the end of October 2024, compared to a surplus of OMR6.34 billion during the same period in 2023, according to preliminary statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information.

As per the statistics, the value of oil and gas exports of Oman by the end of October 2024 increased by 21.1% compared to the end of October 2023.

The total value of merchandise exports by the end of October 2024 reached OMR20.31 billion, an increase of 8.7% over the same period of the previous year, when it was OMR18.69 billion.

The total value of merchandise imports to the Sultanate of Oman amounted to OMR13.75 billion, an increase of 11.4% by the end of October 2024 compared to the same period last year, which amounted



to OMR12.34 billion.

The rise in the value of exports is mainly attributed to the increase in value of the Sultanate of Oman's oil and gas exports to OMR13.76 billion, up by 21.1% compared to the end of October 2023, which amounted to OMR11.36 billion.

Among oil and gas exports by the end of October 2024, the value of the Sultanate of Oman's crude

oil exports amounted to OMR8.42 billion, recording an increase of 6.1% over the same period of the previous year.

The value of refined oil exports increased by 154.8% to OMR3.27 billion, and the value of the Sultanate of Oman's liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports decreased by 3.4% to OMR2.06 billion compared to the end of October 2023.

Statistics revealed a decrease in the value of non-oil merchandise exports by 16.2% at the end of October 2024, to reach OMR5.10 billion, compared to the end of October 2023, when it reached OMR6.09 billion.

Mineral products had the highest value of non-oil merchandise exports, amounting to OMR1.49 billion, a decrease of 32.2% over the same period in 2023, followed by base metals and their products at OMR1.09 billion, a decrease of 0.1%, followed by products of chemicals with an export value of OMR649 million, a decrease of 23.7%.

The value of Oman's exports of plastics and rubber increased to OMR808 million, an increase of 7.1%, the exports of live animals and animal products fell by 15.2%, reaching OMR286 million, and the value of exports of other products amounted to OMR780 million. **>A3**

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Indian rupee value dips further, crosses 224 against Omani rial

The reasons for the sharp fall of INR are the strenthening of US dollar, sharp rise in crude oil prices, higher forex outflows, increase in the US Treasury yields

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Indian rupee witnessed the steepest fall in the last two years on Monday to hit a record low of 86.59 against US dollar. The money exchange houses offered 224.05 for one Omani rial on Tuesday. Speaking to *Times of Oman*, R. Madhusoodanan, a financial expert based in Muscat, said, “The reasons attributed for the heavy



fall are the strengthening of US dollar, sharp rise in crude oil prices, higher forex outflows, increase in the US Treasury yields etc.” He added: “The Dollar Index (DXY) has moved up to 109.50 levels. The strong US job data, indications of lower rate cuts by US Fed, concerns on the likely changes in the US trade policies made the US dollar stronger, pushing the Emerging Market (EM) currencies weaker.” “The fall of INR on Monday was disproportionate to the fall of other Asian currencies,” he said, adding the “Indian economy being import oriented, has adverse effects on rupee depreciation.” Madhusoodanan said: “India spends heavily on import of crude, electronic goods and gold. Weak INR widens the trade and Current Account Deficit (CAD). “In the past, the RBI has been strongly intervening in the Forex Market to stop the rupee fall and reduce the forex market volatility.” The financial expert said: “INR

has been under pressure for the past few months due to domestic and global reasons. The sluggish Indian growth rates, huge outflows from stock markets are the domestic reasons while strengthening of dollar index, the prevailing geo political issues, Donald Trump’s threat of higher tariffs are other reasons for the continued depreciation of INR. “The flip side of this is that the NRIs and Indian exporters are happy as they get more value for their earnings.”



R. Madhusoodanan, a financial expert based in Muscat.

Madhusoodanan added: “Going forward, RBI may allow the weakness of INR in tune with the demand and supply conditions, making less interventions. No doubt, this shift of RBI may put pressure on INR in the short term horizon.” It is worth mentioning to note that in 2024, INR depreciated by 2.8% while Yen by 10.30%, Euro by 6.2%, AUD by 9.20%. He said: “Therefore, it make sense to leave it to the market conditions rather than frequent interventions by the RBI to hold the INR at certain levels. Let the INR valuations be market driven.”

Political tensions “The positive outlook on USD, the geo political tensions, the lukewarm response for the dollarisation move of BRICS plus blocs etc make the Emerging Market currencies under pressure in 2025. Therefore, the rupee may see further downfall in the short term and it may even cross 88 levels,” said the financial expert. He added: “A higher GDP, review of last year’s cut in BCD on Gold and electronic goods, announcements in the forthcoming Union Budget are important indicators in this regard.”

COMMUNICATION PACKAGES

Ooredoo inks 10 MoCs with SMEs in telecom sector

MUSCAT: The Omani Qatari Telecommunications Company (Ooredoo) yesterday signed 10 Memoranda of Cooperation (MoCs) with 40 Omani small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to furnish a stimulating environment for growth and sustainability. The MoCs, signed in Muscat, were in implementation of an agreement signed by Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) and Ooredoo to support the SMEs sector in Oman. The MoCs included providing dedicated communication packages scheduled to be promoted through SME offices in Oman.



They also include offers of training programmes and telecommunication (services) to improve efficiency and to enable institutions to generate additional income by selling Ooredoo services. The MoUs were signed by Suleiman Mohammed Bait Is’haq, Representative of the Omani Qatari Telecommunications Company (Ooredoo), and by the CEOs of the SMEs concerned. -ONA

TRADE

Value of re-exports from Oman increases by 17.3%

<FROM A1 The value of re-exports from the Sultanate of Oman increased by 17.3% to OMR144 billion at the end of October 2024, compared to the end of October 2023. The value of re-exports in transport equipment products recorded a decrease of 4% at OMR338 million and electrical machinery and equipment dropped by 5.4% to OMR315 million. In foodstuff, beverage and tobacco, the value of re-exports increased by 30.6% to reach OMR151 million, while the re-export of mineral products reached OMR114 million, an increase of 50.4%. The value of re-exports of live animals and animal products decreased by 14.9% to OMR82 million while the value of other products amounted to OMR446 million. In contrast, mineral products had the largest value of merchandise imports to the Sultanate of



Oman, reaching OMR3.88 billion by the end of October 2024, an increase of 13.4%, followed by electrical machinery and equipment with a value of OMR2.36 billion, recording a growth of 26.2% by the end of October 2024, followed by base metal and their products with a value of OMR1.29 billion, a decrease of 2.8%. Imports of products of chemicals recorded a value of OMR1.30 billion, an increase of 4.9%, and transport equipment increased by

11.5% to reach OMR1.21 billion. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) topped trade exchange operations in non-oil exports by the end of October 2024 with a value of OMR839 million, an increase of 10.8% from the end of October 2023. It also topped the trade exchange operations in re-exports from the Sultanate of Oman, where the value of re-exports to the UAE amounted to OMR494 million. -ONA



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Rousing reception accorded to King of Bahrain on his arrival

His Majesty the Sultan met the guest at the foot of the ramp, and wished him and his accompanying delegation a pleasant stay in Oman

MUSCAT: King Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain arrived here on Tuesday on a two-day state visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq led the welcoming party for the King.

When the jet touched ground at the Royal Airport, His Majesty the Sultan met the guest at the foot of the ramp, welcoming him and wishing him and his accompanying delegation a pleasant stay in Oman.

Along with His Majesty the Sultan, King Hamad was received by HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tariq Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'mani, Minister of the Royal Office, Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior (Head of the

Mission of Honour), Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Sayyid Faisal bin Harib Al Busaidi, Ambassador of Oman to Bahrain, Dr. Juma bin Ahmed Al Ka'abi, Ambassador of Bahrain to Oman, members of the mission of honour and some members of the Bahraini Embassy in Muscat.

When the guest's jet entered the Omani airspace, it was escorted by a squadron of military aircraft of the Royal Air Force of Oman till its arrival at the Royal Airport, in a manifestation of warm welcome.

Then, His Majesty the Sultan and King Hamad headed to the hall, flanked by two rows of the guard of honour of the Royal Guard of Oman (RGO).

After a short break, the motorcade of the two leaders left the Royal Airport, heading to Al Alam Palace for the official and popular reception.

As the motorcade of the two leaders passed Muscat Gate, a group of Royal Camel Corps lined both sides of the road, welcoming the guest. Then, a cavalcade from the Royal Cavalry and the RGO Cavalry escorted the official motorcade till the National Museum's building, to the accompaniment of a mounted military music band.

Upon the arrival of the official motorcade at the yard leading to Al Alam Palace, a popular reception was held, with the participation of male and female citizens. A cluster of folklore bands lined the passage, chanting lyrics in a manifestation of warm welcome to the guest.

Upon the arrival of the motorcade at the courtyard of Al Alam Palace, a welcoming tune was played by the RGO band, in an atmosphere of fanfare and ambience.

After that, His Majesty the Sultan accompanied King Hamad to the Dais of Honour where the National Anthem of the Kingdom of Bahrain was played and the artillery fired a twenty-one-gun salute for the guest.

Then, His Majesty the Sultan shook hands with members of the official delegation accompanying the King, wishing them a pleasant stay and a successful visit. On his turn, the King shook hands with some members of the Royal Family, Chairmen of the State Council and Shura Council, min-

isters, commanders of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) and the Royal Oman Police (ROP).

The King of Bahrain is accompanied during the visit by an official delegation comprising Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Personal Representative of the King, Sheikh Nassir bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Personal Representative of the King for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs, Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Chairman of the General Sports Authority and President of Bahrain Olympic Committee, Sheikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of the Royal Court, Sheikh Salman bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Deputy Chairman of the Higher Committee for Urban Planning, Gen. Sheikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Minister of Interior, Nabil bin Yaqob Al Hamar, Advisor to the King for Media Affairs, Sheikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Advisor to the King for Diplomatic Affairs, Dr. Majid bin Ali Al Nuaimi, Minister of the Public Affairs at the Royal Court, Dr. Abdullah bin Rashid Al Zayani, Foreign Minister, Sheikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy, Abdullah bin Adil Fakhr, Minister of Industry and Commerce and Dr. Juma bin Ahmed Al Ka'abi, Ambassador of Bahrain to Oman. **-OMA**



His Majesty hosts dinner in honour of Bahrain King



MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq hosted an official dinner at Al Alam Palace guesthouse yesterday evening in honour of King Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The dinner was attended by some members of the Royal Family, ministers, commanders of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) and the Royal Oman Police, as well as ambassadors of Arab and friendly countries, members of the Council of Oman, undersecretaries, some ambassadors at the Foreign Ministry and CEOs.

Prior to the dinner, the two leaders exchanged commemorative gifts, in a manifestation of fraternal ties binding the two countries and their peoples. **-OMA**



MEETING



His Majesty the Sultan, King of Bahrain hold talks

< FROM A1 Meanwhile, it was attended from the Bahraini side by Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Personal Representative of the King, Sheikh Nassir bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Personal Representative of the King for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs, Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Chairman of the General Sports Authority and Presi-

dent of Bahrain Olympic Committee, Sheikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of the Royal Court, Sheikh Salman bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Deputy Chairman of the Higher Committee for Urban Planning, Gen. Sheikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Minister of Interior, Nabil bin Yaqob Al Hamar, Advisor to the King for Media Affairs, Sheikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Advisor to the

King for Diplomatic Affairs, Dr. Majid bin Ali Al Nuaimi, Minister of the Public Affairs at the Royal Court, Dr. Abdullah bin Rashid Al Zayani, Foreign Minister, Sheikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy, Abdullah bin Adil Fakhr, Minister of Industry and Commerce and Dr. Juma bin Ahmed Al Ka'abi, Ambassador of Bahrain to Oman. **-OMA**

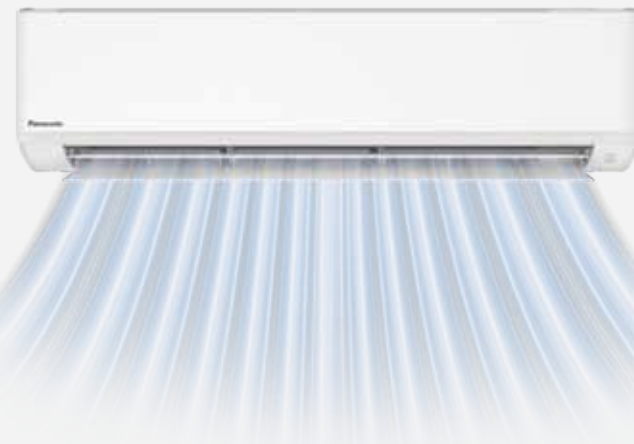
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Los Angeles fires could be the costliest natural disaster in US history

New estimates from Wells Fargo and Goldman Sachs put the potential losses for the insurance industry at \$30 billion. JPMorgan and others last week put a figure of around \$20 billion on the losses

LOS ANGELES: Few places embody wealth and glamour quite like the Hollywood Hills of Los Angeles. The exclusivity of such neighbourhoods in the city is one of the reasons why the wildfires which have struck the wider Los Angeles area could become one of the costliest natural disasters in US history.

The wildfires have left at least 24 people dead, and have already destroyed tens of billions of dollars' worth of property. They've threatened iconic landmarks and have reduced several well-known LA locations and buildings to ash.

Estimates of the damages by insurers have risen as the disaster has worsened. New estimates from Wells Fargo and Goldman Sachs put the potential losses for the insurance industry at \$30 billion (€29.2 billion).

JPMorgan and others last week put a figure of around \$20 billion on the losses.

It now appears that the wildfires will prove the most expensive wildfire disaster in US history in terms of insured losses (see graphic below), eclipsing the costs of other recent disasters in California and Hawaii.

To date, the Camp Fire which struck Northern California's Butte County in November 2018 is the costliest in US history, by insured losses. The insurance firm Aon estimated its losses at just under \$13 billion. Notably, the top four costliest US wildfires have all occurred in the past seven years.

However, the final tallies of insurance losses from natural disasters can vary dramatically from initial estimates, as it's difficult to make accurate predictions when the disaster is ongoing.



'One of the costliest wildfire disasters in modern US history'

There is also the distinction between insured losses — the assessed monetary amount of actual damages and losses covered by insurance — and wider economic damage which includes uninsured losses. Wider economic loss can also include lost wages, lost income for businesses and supply chain disruption.

The private US weather service AccuWeather, which also measures the costs of weather events, now estimates total losses at between \$250 billion and \$275 billion, almost double what it estimated last week. If those figures are borne out, it would make the LA wildfires the costliest natural disaster in US history.

"These fast-moving, wind-driven infernos have created one of the costliest wildfire disasters in modern US history," AccuWeather

Chief Meteorologist Jonathan Porter said on the company's website. "Hurricane-force winds sent flames ripping through neighborhoods filled with multi-million-dollar homes. The devastation left behind is heartbreaking and the economic toll is staggering."

Officials have said 12,000 buildings have already been destroyed, including many businesses. There is also significant damage to infrastructure, adding to the longer-term costs of reconstruction

In terms of the costliest US natural disasters ever, the most expensive to date were all hurricane events. The most expensive by far was Hurricane Katrina, the devastating 2005 tropical cyclone which led to massive loss of life and economic damage, particularly in the southern city of New Orleans.

The estimated insured losses alone for Hurricane Katrina were more than \$100 billion, according to Aon.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (see graphic), the total costs of the disaster were just shy of \$200 billion, ahead of Hurricane

Harvey (2017), Hurricane Ian (2022), Hurricane Maria (2017) and Hurricane Sandy (2012).

The wildfires are expected to put major pressure on California's already embattled home insurance sector.

Firms in the area are bracing for tens of billions of dollars worth of losses, including companies such as Chubb and Travelers, which typically specialize in providing insurance for expensive, exclusive properties.

Some companies, such as Allstate and State Farm, recently stopped selling new home insurance in California. They blamed regulatory caps on home insurance price rises in the state, which they say make it increasingly difficult to operate in a region that has been hit by many severe wildfires in recent years.

That has left many homeowners without private insurance and reliant on California's public insurance system, known as Fair Plan. Fair Plan is estimated to have exposure of around \$6 billion in the exclusive Pacific Palisades area alone, one of the areas worst affected by the fires.

High losses for Fair Plan could force private insurers to step in, as the public plan has provisions for private insurers to pay for the claims it can't meet.

The growing prevalence of wildfires in California could force a rethink of the state's entire home insurance system, some analysts have suggested. Climate change has intensified wildfire season in the state, with major cities and high density areas increasingly threatened. — **DW**

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15TH ARAB THEATRE FESTIVAL

Sayyid Theyazin to patronise Arab Theatre Festival closing function

Times News Service

MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, will patronise the closing ceremony of the 15th Arab Theatre Festival on Wednesday.

The festival has been hosted by the Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, in partnership with the Arab Theatre Authority and the Omani Theatre Society.

The festival saw a number of theatrical performances from

various Arab countries and brought together more than 500 theatrical actors/ actresses from the Sultanate of Oman and Arab countries.

This festival is in line with the aspirations of the Cultural Strategy of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, which aims to enhance the cultural and theatrical movement in the Sultanate of Oman, and provide an opportunity for Omani theatre artists to benefit from theatrical performances, training workshops, and intellectual dialogues that enrich the cultural and artistic scene.

ASSET RETURN AGREEMENT

Rural electrification

ABUJA: On Friday, the government announced that millions in recovered funds linked to former Petroleum Resources Minister Diezani Alison-Madueke will be used to fund rural electrification projects across Nigeria. The announcement followed the signing of an Asset Return Agreement between Nigeria and the United States which enables the US to return nearly \$52.9 million (€51.6 million) seized from the forfeiture of assets belonging to

the former minister and her associates.

The agreement is significant in that it is the first repatriation of assets to Nigeria linked to Alison-Madueke. She was Nigeria's oil minister from 2010 to 2015 and became the first female president of the oil alliance Opec.

Nigerian Justice Minister Lateef Fagbemi said the recovered funds were an example of the countries' unwavering commitment to fighting corruption. — **ANI**

HEALTH AUTHORITIES

Sierra Leone declares health emergency over monkeypox

FREETOWN: Sierra Leone declared a state of emergency on Monday after the country reported its second case of mpox in less than four days, health authorities said.

Neither patients were known to have been in contact with infected animals or other sick individuals, authorities said, adding that both individuals were receiving treatment at a hospital in the capital, Freetown.

WHO declared outbreak a global health emergency

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared mpox, formerly known as monkeypox, a global health emergency in August 2024, because of the rapid spread of the new strain of the virus.

The virus causes fevers, headaches and painful boils on the skin. It can spread from person to person through close physical contact.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has borne the brunt of the ongoing outbreak of mpox, with a vast majority of the roughly 43,000 suspected cases and 1,000 deaths across the continent occurring in the central African country.

The new strain circulating this time has raised concerns because it is believed to transmit more easily than other strains and evidence suggests that it causes a more severe version of the disease.

The strain is different from the kind of mpox that spiked in 2022, which mainly affected men. The WHO declared an emergency at the time and it lasted until mid-2023. Vaccinating vulnerable groups brought it under control.

Sierra Leone was the previous epicenter of the 2014 Ebola outbreak, the deadliest in history. — **DW**

NEWLY INAUGURATED SONAMARG TUNNEL

‘Jammu and Kashmir becoming hub of tunnels, bridges and ropeways’

GANDERBAL: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said that Jammu and Kashmir is becoming a hub of tunnels, bridges and ropeways, adding that the world's highest tunnel, railroad bridge and rail lines are being built here. The Prime Minister was speaking after inaugurating the newly constructed Z-Morh tunnel in Sonamarg located in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Prime Minister said that the world is in awe after witnessing the marvellous engineering of the Chenab Bridge.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Sonamarg Tunnel, PM Modi said, "Our Jammu and Kashmir is becoming a hub of tunnels, bridges and ropeways. The highest tunnel in the world is being built here. The highest railroad bridge in the world is being built here. The highest rail lines in the world are being built here. The world is in awe after seeing the engineering of the Chenab Bridge."

PM Modi said that there's a time for everything, and all things will happen in its designated time. As PM Modi inaugurated the Sonamarg Tunnel today, he said that he has come here as 'sevak'.

"Today I came here as 'sevak' in between you. A few days ago I got the opportunity to lay the foundation stone of your own railway division in Jammu. This was your

very old demand. Today I have got the opportunity to hand over the Sonamarg Tunnel to the country. One more long pending has been fulfilled. This is Modi, 'wada karta hai to nibhata hai'. There's a time for everything, and all things will happen in due course. When I speak about Sonamarg Tunnel, this will ease the life of people of Kargil and Leh. This tunnel will reduce the hardships of the people of J-K and Ladakh," the Prime Minister said.

PM Modi reminisced his old days stating that he used to come to Kashmir valley as BJP worker and used to travel several kilometres on foot for hours.

He said, "Two days ago, our CM has shared some pictures, after seeing those pictures, I was excited to come between you people. When I worked as BJP worker, I had to come frequently. I have

spent a lot of time here, whether Sonamarg, Gulmarg, Baramulla or Ganderbal. We used to travel several kilometres on foot for hours and the snowfall used to be very heavy even then. But the warmth of the people of Jammu and Kashmir is such that we did not feel the cold. Today is a very special day, as every corner of state is in a festive mood. From today, Maha Kumbh has started in Prayagraj, crores of people have come for holy dip. The whole India is celebrating Lohri, Makar Sankranti, Pongal, Magh Bihu. I wish for all success of all."

Highlighting that this weather is called 'Chilla-i-Kalan' in the valley, the Prime Minister stated that this weather brings new opportunities for tourist destinations like Sonamarg, as tourists from all over the country are flocking here.

PM Modi said, "This time of the year is of Chilla-i-Kalan here in the

valley. This weather brings new opportunities for tourist destinations like Sonamarg. Tourists from all over the country are coming here. The work of this tunnel was actually started in 2015 only, when our party came into government. I am happy that this tunnel is completed in our government. This tunnel will bring various tourism opportunities in Sonamarg."

"Now, Kashmir is being connected with railways. People are happy with the developmental works. Schools and colleges are being constructed. This is the new Jammu and Kashmir. The whole nation is engaged into making India a developed nation. It is possible when no any part of family is not left in the race of development. For this, our government with resolution of Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas is working," he added. — **ANI**



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Qatar says Gaza ceasefire talks in ‘final stages’



Qatar’s Foreign Ministry has been touting a major “breakthrough” in longstanding and so far fruitless international ceasefire talks for Gaza between Israel and Hamas

DOHA: Qatar says truce talks between Israel and Hamas are at their “closest point” to a deal for Gaza after the resolution of “major issues” in recent weeks. Qatar’s Foreign Ministry has been touting a major “breakthrough” in longstanding and so far fruitless international ceasefire talks for Gaza between Israel and Hamas. The Gulf country, one of the leading mediators in the talks, said it was “hopeful” that the talks had entered their “final stage.” “I can confirm that the talks are going on at the highest level here in Doha as we speak right now,”

Qatari Foreign Ministry spokesman Majed al-Ansari said at a news briefing on Tuesday. “During the past months, there were underlying issues, major issues between the two parties unresolved. These issues were resolved during the talks in the past couple of weeks, and therefore we have reached a point where the major issues that were preventing a deal from happening were addressed,” he said. Al-Ansari said the talks were now focused on the “final details of reaching an agreement.” Israel over the weekend sent its Mossad spy agency chief David Barnea to the talks in Doha to participate. This is not the first time that one of the lead negotiators — whether Qatar, the US or Egypt — have hailed a breakthrough in talks and the possibility of an imminent truce. The timing of this latest push is also internationally conspicuous, coming in the final days before US President-elect Donald Trump’s January 20 inauguration. **Israel has killed 12,329 Palestinians students since Oct 7, 2023** Meanwhile in Gaza, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education said that 12,329 students were killed and 20,160 were injured since the beginning of the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip and the West Bank on October 7, 2023.

The Ministry of Education explained in a statement today that the number of students who were killed in the Gaza Strip since the beginning of the aggression reached more than 13,054, and those who were injured reached 21,320, while in the West Bank 123 students were killed and 671 others were injured, in addition to the arrest of 560. It indicated that 657 teachers and administrators were killed and 3,904 were injured in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, and more than 165 were detained in the West Bank. The Ministry pointed out that 324 government schools, universities and their buildings, and 65 affiliated with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) were bombed and vandalised in the Gaza Strip, 128 were completely destroyed, and 57 were partially destroyed, while 109 schools and 7 universities in the West Bank were stormed and vandalized. The Ministry of Education confirmed that 788,000 students in the Gaza Strip are still deprived of attending their schools and universities since the beginning of the aggression, while most students suffer from psychological trauma and face difficult health conditions. It pointed out that the repeated occupation raids on the Jenin and Tulkarm governorates have caused terror among students in their schools. — Agencies

NORTHERN PERU

Rescue crews search for trapped miners

LA LIBERTAD: Rescuers in northern Peru were searching for trapped miners at a small gold mine, after the mine was allegedly attacked by suspected illegal miners, a local mayor said. Segundo Armas, mayor of the Pataz district in the northwestern region of La Libertad, said on Monday that as many as 17 miners could be trapped at the mine. Armas was not able to confirm the number of miners who had been able to escape. **What do we know so far?** Armas said the mine collapsed after it was attacked on Sunday by “possible rival miners.”



“The area is difficult to access and we are trying to confirm the number of those trapped,” Armas said, adding that cellular service does not reach the mine. La Libertad is one of the regions with the highest gold productions in Peru, and according to official reports at least 40% of the supply comes from artisanal or informal miners. The region is prone to attacks like the one mentioned by the mayor in this instance, with illegal mining and organised crime playing a major role in propping up insecurity in the area. — DW



Ministry of Defence

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

1. The Ministry of Defense invites MOD registered suppliers to participate in The following tender:

Subject	Tender Number	Last date for inquiries	Last date to submit the Tender	Tender Documnet Price
SUPPLY AND PROVISION OF MILITARY ID CARDS AND ACCESSORIES FOR THREE YEARS	01/2025	17/02/2025	24/02/2025	130 OMR
SUPPLY OF RUCKSACK AND ACCESSORIES FOR THREE YEARS	03/2025	17/02/2025	24/02/2025	324 OMR

2. Tenders documents and terms may be obtained on payment from the office of the Secretary of the Tender Committee, gate No. 14 of MAM Camp between 0900 to 1300 hrs. on the working days.

3. Payment of Tender documents to be made by using of any Visa Electron Cards or &" Visa credit" Cards or through Smart Card issued from all the banks are operated in Oman.



Sultan Qaboos University

TENDERS NOTICE

The Investment & Revenue Department at Sultan Qaboos University would like to invite companies to submit their quotations for:

Sl. No	Type of Business	Location	Date of site visit	Tender	The last date for collecting the Document	The last date for submission of the quotations
1	Renting & operating a business activity (Food related)	Outlet at Female complex No. (3)	20/01/2025 9:30 a.m.	SQU.IRD.1/25	13/02/2025	27/2/2025 before 11:00 a.m.
2	Vending machines for selling natural flowers and gifts	In various locations at Sultan Qaboos University Campus	21/01/2025 8:30 a.m.	SQU.IRD.2/25		

- The priority will be for the Small and Medium Establishments (SME), which fulfils the quality requirements. All classes of companies can also apply for these tenders.
- Tenderers who wish to participate in this Tender may collect Tender Documents from The Section of Revenue and Expenditures at the Investment & Revenue Department, Sultan Qaboos University, during the working hours for an amount of OR.25 for each tender document (non-refundable).
- The Site Visit for the selected shop is necessary. It will be on the above-mentioned date and the assembly point will be at the Investment & Revenue Department.
- The last date for submission of the quotations is on Thursday, 27/2/2025. The quotations should be submitted in a sealed envelope addressed to the Director of The Investment & Revenue Department, located on the first floor of the commercial building at Sultan Qaboos University and deposited in the Tender Box kept in the Department, before 11:00 a.m.
- The exterior of the envelope should be marked with the name and number of the Tender being presented and should bear no identification or mark of the Tenderer.

THE INVESTMENT & REVENUE DEPARTMENT
P.O Box 50, P.C. 123, Alkhod, Sultanate of Oman
Mobile: 93900477
E- mail: investment@squ.edu.om

ABU DHABI

Energy summit 2025 opens

ABU DHABI: World Future Energy Summit 2025, hosted by Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company, Masdar, opened today at the ADNEC Centre Abu Dhabi as part of the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW). The three-day summit is set to be a beacon for global collaboration, innovation, and action, with a roster of high-level ministerial and energy policymakers ready to outline their pathways to energy transition and circular economies. The summit serves as the main event of ADSW, convening 13 heads of state and over 140 ministers and government officials alongside business and technology leaders. — ANI/WAM



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TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

PROVIDING SCHOOL TRANSPORT SERVICE

Tender No	Tender Descriptions	Tender Fee (RO) (Non-Refundable)	Tender Documents Available from	Last date of Tender Submission
ISAS/Tend /054/2024	Approved Transport Services for Indian School Al Seeb students from Licensed Transporters in various routes.	10/-	15-01-2025	30-01-2025

The above tender is to be addressed to
The Chairperson, Transport Sub Committee, Indian School Al Seeb,
must be submitted in a plain sealed envelope, indicating the tender reference without showing any identity of the company.
Tenders may be dropped into the School Tender Box at the School's office.

The school reserves the right to reject any Tender without providing any reason and does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

SPORTS

Al Rawahi leads Oman’s charge as MERC season set to start in Sohar



Three FIA MERC champions to feature at the star-studded Oman International Rally from January 23-25

MUSCAT: The stage is set for an exhilarating season opener of the FIA Middle East Rally Championship (MERC) as Oman’s two-time event winner Abdullah Al Rawahi spearheads the local challenge against a bumper field of international rallying stars.

The Oman International Rally, organised by the Oman Automobile Association (OAA), will take place from January 23-25, with the Sohar Entertainment Centre (SEC) serving as its base.

This year’s edition features a stellar 23-strong entry list, in-

cluding the three most recent FIA MERC champions: Qatar’s Nasser Saleh Al Attiyah, Qatar’s Abdulaziz Al Kuwari, and Al Rawahi.

Competitors from nine nations will vie for glory across 13 special stages spanning 232.39km of competitive distance within a total route of 636.41km.

Al Rawahi, a hometown hero and two-time winner of the Oman International Rally, partners with Jordanian co-driver Ata Al Hmoud to defend his crown against stiff competition.

Meanwhile, Al Attiyah, a seven-time winner of the Oman event and 18-time MERC champion, teams up with French co-driver Edouard Boulanger for the first time in the regional rally series.

Boulanger, known for his illustrious cross-country rally career, joins Al Attiyah fresh from their campaign at the Dakar Rally.

Adding to the excitement is defending MERC champion Abdulaziz Al Kuwari, who enlisted Irishman Lorcan Moore for the Sohar-based rally.

The lineup also includes Qatar’s Rashid Al Muhannadi in a Peugeot 208, Saudi rallycross veteran Ra-

kan Al Rashed in a Toyota GR Yaris Rally2, and Indian driver Payyaakkal Panikkaveettil piloting a Ford Fiesta Rally2.

The competition heats up further with entries from Saudi Arabia’s Hamza Bakhshab, Jordan’s Shadi Shaban, and local talents like Abdullah Al Zubair and Zakariya Al Aamri.

In the FIA MERC5 category, Lebanon’s Shadi El Fakih returns to defend his title in a Renault Clio, while Saudi Arabia’s Yosra Jazzar will compete in the T4 Can-Am category.

Oman’s rich motorsport heritage shines through, with five local crews competing in the Oman National Championship to further bolster the event.

Brigadier Jamal Said Al-Tai chairs the 2025 rally, with key contributions from organising panel member Suleiman Al Rawahi and Rally Director Anwar Al Zadjali.

As the rally returns to Sohar with an upgraded format, the competition is poised to be one of the most exciting events in recent MERC history, putting Oman firmly on the motorsport map.



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OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES
The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by March 2025 reaching \$82.25, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 3 cents from the price of Monday, which was \$82.22. - **ONA**

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER
The MSX index closed at 4,611.09 points, up by 0.3% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.34% at 426.05 points. Ahli Bank, up 9.70%, was the top gainer while Al Batinah Power, down 4.11%, was the top loser.

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Asyad executes complex multimodal 335mt shipment from India to Nigeria

This project underscores Asyad’s capabilities in connecting Asia to West Africa through both air charter and ocean shipments

MUSCAT: Asyad Group, the global integrated logistics provider, recently successfully executed a complex multimodal shipment of 335 metric tonnes of cargo from India to Nigeria, using a combination of air charter and ocean vessel.

This project underscores Asyad’s capabilities in connecting Asia to West Africa through both air charter and ocean shipments and its expertise in managing diverse



cargo types, including specialized flat rack and tween deck shipments, showcasing its proficiency in handling complex logistics.

The shipment included essential compressed natural gas (CNG) equipment such as pre-fabricated CNG station materials, empty CNG cylinders, gas generators, electrical panels, compressors, and spare parts. Throughout the transportation process, Asyad managed

all end-to-end logistics, including consolidation, warehousing, packaging, documentation, customs clearance, and loading onto cargo aircraft and ocean vessels. This commitment ensures that varied customer needs are met while maintaining timely delivery.

By integrating land, air, and sea transshipment services, Asyad Group reinforces its position as a globally competitive logistics provider. With an extensive logistics ecosystem that includes active operations in vital cargo origins and destinations, Asyad Group continues to play a pivotal role in facilitating industries and trade around the world through unmatched platforms for efficient cargo movement and optimising supply chains while unlocking new growth opportunities. -**ONA**

INTERNATIONAL PLATFORM

Oman participates in Riyadh ‘Future of Mining Conference’

RIYADH: Represented by the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, the Sultanate of Oman yesterday participated in the “Future of Mining Conference” in Riyadh.

The conference constitutes an international platform that brings together governments, international companies, research institutions and experts in the

mining sector. It offers an opportunity to review the latest technological developments and investment potentials.

The Sultanate of Oman’s delegation was headed by Mohsin Hamad Al Hadhrami, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals.

Al Hadhrami said that Oman’s

participation in the conference aimed to build relations with countries around the world, with the objective of developing the minerals sector as a fundamental pillar for achieving economic diversification and enhancing sustainable development.

“Through its participation in the conference, the Sultanate of Oman

seeks to attract global investments, adopt the latest innovative technologies, empower national cadres and encourage relevant converting industries to maximize in-country added value (ICV),” said Al Hadhrami.

It is worth noting that the Ministry of Energy and Minerals has allocated many concession

areas for investment through competition. The mining agreements were signed with local and international companies to explore 21 concession areas for the purpose of prospecting raw materials. The total expected investments from these areas are estimated to be about RO 37 million. -**ONA**



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MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Ahli Bank, up 9.70%, was the top gainer while Al Batinah Power, down 4.11%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,611.09 points, up by 0.3% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.34% at 426.05 points. Ahli Bank, up 9.70%, was the top gainer while Al Batinah Power, down 4.11%, was the top loser. Shares of OQBI were the most active in terms of number of shares traded while OQEP were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 779 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 2.34 million, with more than 13.65 million shares changing hands. Out of 48 traded securities, 12 advanced, 15 declined, and 21 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net sellers for RO 334K while domestic investors were net buyers for RO 280K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 54K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,917.65 points, up 0.87%. Prices of

Ahli Bank, Financial Corporation, Bank Nizwa, Ominvest were up by 9.70%, 2.70%, 1.02%, 0.30% respectively. Prices of Al Anwar Investment, Al Sharqia Investment Bank Muscat, Sohar International Bank were down by 1.43%, 1.37%, 0.77%, 0.71% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,209.78 points, down 0.11%. Prices of Jazeera Steel Products, Voltamp Energy were up by 0.34%, 0.25% respectively. Prices of Galfar Engineering, Oman Cables Industry, Salalah Mills were down by 1.43%, 0.41%, 0.17% respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.4% before closing at 1,743.51 points. Prices of Phoenix Power, Dhofar Generating, Oman Telecom were up by 1.56%, 1.54%, 0.22% respectively. Prices of Al Batinah Power, Abraj Energy, Al Suwadi Power, Shell Oman Marketing, OQ Gas Networks were down by 4.11%, 1.49%, 1.39%, 0.81%, 0.74% respectively.— **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,628.19	4,597.45	4,611.09	4,597.45	13.64	0.30
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,939.29	7,849.22	7,917.65	7,849.22	68.43	0.87
Industry Index	5,238.78	5,209.78	5,209.78	5,215.30	-5.51	-0.11
Services Index	1,751.77	1,741.38	1,743.51	1,750.46	-6.96	-0.40
MSX Shariah Index	426.23	425.42	426.05	424.61	1.44	0.34
MSX TR INDEX	6,481.77	6,438.73	6,457.83	6,438.73	19.10	0.30
FINANCIAL TR IDX	9,019.85	8,917.53	8,995.27	8,917.53	777.74	0.87
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,044.31	6,010.85	6,010.85	6,017.21	-6.36	-0.11
SERVICES TR IDX	2,096.23	2,083.80	2,086.34	2,094.67	-8.33	-0.40
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
13,657,090	2,340,246	779	28,087,588,959	12	15	21	48

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 14

ISIN

SECURITY NAME

VOLUME

TURNOVER

TRADES

OPEN PRICE

HIGH

LOW

CLOSE PR.

PREV. CLOSE

DIFF BD.

DIFF %

LAST PR.

LAST BD.

LAST OFFER

PREV. VALUE

MARKET CAP

REGULAR MARKET

OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	51,098	15,223	4	0.297	0.298	0.297	0.298	0.297	0.001	0.337	0.298	0.298	0.320	0.100	37,219,592
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	73,145	23,755	19	0.327	0.330	0.324	0.330	0.329	0.001	0.304	0.330	0.328	0.329	0.100	220,560,591
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	207,461	189,326	38	0.916	0.920	0.910	0.920	0.918	0.002	0.218	0.920	0.914	0.920	0.100	690,000,000
OM0000001881	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	25,155	1,811	4	0.072	0.073	0.072	0.073	0.073	0.000	0.000	0.073	0.072	0.073	0.100	8,896,875
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	3,265	1,286	6	0.395	0.395	0.393	0.395	0.395	0.000	0.000	0.395	0.379	0.395	0.100	130,694,720
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	10,694	3,039	4	0.099	0.099	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.000	0.000	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.100	21,340,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	159,376	9,553	10	0.060	0.061	0.059	0.060	0.060	0.000	0.000	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.100	21,367,638
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	83,807	7,375	8	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.000	0.000	0.088	0.088	0.096	0.100	17,600,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	4,000	912	3	0.228	0.228	0.228	0.228	0.228	0.000	0.000	0.228	0.228	0.228	0.100	148,415,284
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	2,500	250	1	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.100	0.107	0.100	96,457,195
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	51,960	4,416	8	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.000	0.000	0.085	0.084	0.085	0.100	14,875,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	67,000	24,719	13	0.367	0.369	0.367	0.369	0.371	-0.002	-0.539	0.369	0.366	0.369	0.100	87,235,290
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	1,713,788	238,622	34	0.139	0.140	0.139	0.140	0.140	-0.001	-0.714	0.139	0.139	0.140	0.100	919,977,232
OM0000009072	OQAS NETWORKS	802,355	108,747	87	0.135	0.137	0.135	0.135	0.136	-0.001	-0.735	0.135	0.135	0.137	0.100	584,634,229
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	1,533,046	395,477	13	0.258	0.258	0.257	0.258	0.260	-0.002	-0.769	0.258	0.258	0.265	0.100	1,968,650,442
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	1,040	671	2	0.650	0.650	0.615	0.615	0.620	-0.005	-0.806	0.615	0.610	0.615	0.100	58,425,000
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO.	10,000	720	2	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.073	-0.001	-1.370	0.072	0.069	0.073	0.100	6,480,000
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	281,144	19,961	6	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.072	-0.001	-1.389	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.100	50,722,850
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	762,123	202,289	54	0.268	0.268	0.264	0.264	0.268	-0.004	-1.493	0.265	0.264	0.265	0.100	203,332,800
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	250,000	17,600	14	0.071	0.071	0.070	0.070	0.073	-0.003	-4.110	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.100	47,242,120
Total	30	6,092,877	1,263,751	330												

Parallel Market

OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	38,110	6,889	5	0.178	0.181	0.178	0.181	0.165	0.016	9.697	0.181	0.181	0.181	0.100	425,288,001
OM0000002911	FINANCIAL CORPORATION	100	4	1	0.038	0.038	0.038	0.038	0.037	0.001	2.703	0.038	0.035	0.038	0.100	2,661,138
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	4,590	567	4	0.123	0.124	0.123	0.124	0.121	0.003	2.479	0.124	0.122	0.123	0.100	73,338,173
OM0000005983	PHOENIX POWER	85,320	5,559	14	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.064	0.001	1.563	0.065	0.064	0.065	0.100	95,069,095
OM0000007407	DHOFAH GENERATING	29,000	1,914	2	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.065	0.001	1.538	0.066	0.066	0.068	0.100	14,667,840
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	2,514	249	2	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.098	0.001	1.020	0.099	0.096	0.104	0.100	221,458,350
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	1,477,928	506,795	175	0.340	0.344	0.340	0.343	0.340	0.003	0.882	0.343	0.343	0.374	0.010	2,744,000,000
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	36,527	14,811	13	0.410	0.430	0.405	0.405	0.404	0.001	0.248	0.405	0.405	0.405	0.100	32,968,114
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	60,000	4,620	5	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.000	0.000	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.100	6,545,000
OM0000001409	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	2,905	1,278	2	0.440	0.440	0.440	0.440	0.440	0.000	0.000	0.440	0.440	0.440	0.100	69,300,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	954,138	44,915	12	0.047	0.048	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.000	0.000	0.047	0.047	0.051	0.100	14,435,877
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	21,000	2,730	3	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.000	0.000	0.130	0.130	0.143	0.100	74,581,557
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	10,000	3,490	1	0.349	0.349	0.349	0.349	0.349	0.000	0.000	0.349	0.348	0.349	0.100	69,672,824
OM0000004669	SHARQIAH DESALINATION	2,657	340	1	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.000	0.000	0.128	0.128	0.135	0.100	12,518,676
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	1,300	166	4	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.000	0.000	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.100	7,040,000
OM0000005280	OMAN ARAB BANK	6,554	996	2	0.152	0.152	0.152	0.152	0.152	0.000	0.000	0.152	0.149	0.152	0.100	253,750,320
OM0000009908	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	2,934,265	334,503	94	0.114	0.115	0.113	0.114	0.114	0.000	0.000	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.040	394,381,957
OM0000001889	SALALAH MILLS	500	290	1	0.579	0.579	0.579	0.580	0.580	-0.001	-0.172	0.579	0.590	0.000	0.100	36,166,114
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	430	1,242	3	2.888	2.888	2.888	2.888	2.890	-0.012	-0.414	2.888	2.890	3.190	0.100	259,053,600
OM0000008447	OMAN RETT FUND	10,992	837	5	0.077	0.077	0.076	0.076	0.077	-0.001	-1.299	0.076	0.076	0.080	0.100	38,655,978
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	399,043	28,043	35	0.070	0.072	0.069	0.069	0.070	-0.001	-1.429	0.069	0.069	0.070	0.100	14,640,420
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	1,435,000	99,616	55	0.070	0.070	0.069	0.069	0.070	-0.001	-1.429	0.069	0.069	0.074	0.100	14,006,065
Total	22	7,512,993	1,059,853	439												

REPORT

India's plastic pipe industry has significant headroom for growth

NEW DELHI: India's plastic pipe industry has immense growth potential due to its lower per-capita pipe consumption compared to the global average, according to a recent report by Jefferies.

The report stated that the country's consumption levels are significantly below those of developed regions like the US, Europe,

and China, highlighting a large untapped market.

It said, "India's per-capita-pipe-consumption is lower than World average and further lower than US, Europe and China. This implies significant headroom for growth for Indian plastic pipe industry."

The report also revealed that the plastic pipes sector has recorded an

impressive 8 per cent compound annual growth rate (CAGR) over the past decade, from FY15 to FY24.

It is projected to reach a market size of Rs 500 billion by FY25, driven by a revival in capital expenditure (capex) and a robust housing cycle. Industry growth is expected to remain strong, fueled by increasing traction in the housing sector

and infrastructure investments. However, the report also outlines challenges related to the key raw material, polyvinyl chloride (PVC). PVC prices have been volatile,



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OBESITY AT CANCER DIAGNOSIS LINKED TO HIGHER MORTALITY RISK IN CHILDREN

The study found that five-year event-free survival (cancer relapse-free survival) was lower for obese children (77.5%) compared to non-obese peers (79.6%).

A Canadian study reveals that children with cancer who are obese at diagnosis face an elevated risk of relapse and death.

The population-based research analysed data from 11,291 children aged 2 to 18 years in the Cancer in Young People in Canada (CYP-C) database between 2001 and 2020.

Obesity was defined as a body mass index at or above the 95th percentile for age and sex.

Among the participants, 10.5% were obese at diagnosis.

The study found that five-year event-free survival (cancer relapse-free survival) was lower for obese children (77.5%) compared to non-obese peers (79.6%).

Similarly, overall survival rates were lower for obese patients (83.0% versus 85.9%).

After adjusting for variables like age, sex, ethnicity, and cancer type, obesity at diagnosis was associated with a 16% higher risk of relapse and a 29% higher risk of death.

The impact was particularly significant in children with acute lymphoblastic leukemia and brain tumors.

“Our findings emphasize the need to address childhood obesity to improve cancer outcomes,” said Dr. Thai Hoa Tran, co-senior author of the study.

The results underscore the urgency of combating childhood obesity to reduce its detrimental effects on health. - **ONA**

SPORTS

Racquet-smashing Medvedev survives scare from Samrei

The Russian lost his cool in the third set before rallying to beat unheralded Thai player at the Australian Open

MELBOURNE: A volatile Daniil Medvedev mangled his racquet in an epic temper tantrum Tuesday before battling through a five-set roller coaster to stay alive at the Australian Open.

The feisty Russian, a three-time finalist in Melbourne, lost his cool in the third set before rallying to beat unheralded Thai Kasidit Samrej 6-2, 4-6, 3-6, 6-1, 6-2 on Rod Laver Arena.

Fifth seed Medvedev was 3-5 behind and on the brink of going two sets to one down against a player ranked 418 when he exploded, slamming his racquet into the net camera repeatedly until they both became a broken mess.

Ball kids had to sweep up the debris when he lost the game and set, while the match was postponed briefly as officials ran repairs on the net. Medvedev was playing his first match since the ATP Finals in November after arriving in Australia late to be at home for the birth of his second child.

He pledged before the tournament to be a “disruptor” against the big guns this season, but his stuttering start against a player with no pedigree showed he has his work cut out.

“I play better when I play more tennis so I thought, ‘Why play one hour 30, I need minimum three hours to feel my shots better,’” he joked afterwards.

“But really, second and third set



I couldn’t touch the ball. I didn’t know what to do.

“I watched his matches before and didn’t see this level, so I was surprised.”

The former world number one broke his opponent’s opening service game and was never troubled in the first set, racing through it in 30 minutes.

But the Thai player, who qualified for his Grand Slam debut by winning the Asia-Pacific wildcard playoff event, refused to go away.

He stunned the Russian by breaking him at 5-4 to take the second and was well on top in the third before the Medvedev meltdown.

But the 28-year-old is a veteran of five-setters in Melbourne, contesting four and winning three last year, and he regrouped.

Medvedev used his experience to take charge in the fourth as Samrej began flagging and an early break in the fifth set put victory in sight.

Medvedev has reached three of the last four finals in Melbourne.

He was outplayed by Novak Djokovic in 2021 before a heart-wrenching defeat to Span-

iard Rafael Nadal a year later.

He imploded against Jannik Sinner last year, crashing in five sets after being two up.

Elsewhere, French veteran Gael Monfils outlasted his 21-year-old compatriot Giovanni Mpetshi Perriard in another five-set thriller.

Monfils, 38, became the oldest ATP Tour champion last week when he won the ASB Classic in Auckland.

“I don’t really look up my age,” said Monfils, who won 7-6 (9-7), 6-3, 6-7 (6-8), 6-7 (5-7), 6-4.

“It is just a number. I try to avoid to think about it, but I can tell you that tomorrow morning I will be more 48 than 38.”

Monfils will next face Germany’s Daniel Altmaier in the second round. His win marks his 17th appearance at Melbourne Park in that stage.

In other first-round action, Holger Rune, and Emma Navarro advanced after their own thrilling encounters.

Meanwhile, fourth seed Taylor Fritz dropped just five games in a dominant 6-2, 6-0, 6-3 win against fellow American Jenson Brooksby. - Agencies



Rybakina takes just 53 minutes to win Melbourne opener against Aussie teen

MELBOURNE: Elena Rybakina needed just 53 minutes to reach the Australian Open second round with a dominant win over Australian teenager Emerson Jones.

Kazakh Rybakina, runner-up in Melbourne in 2023, served 11 aces and hit 26 winners in a 6-1, 6-1 win.

Rybakina’s only moment of concern came as she attempted to serve out the first set, when three unforced errors gave Jones three break points.

But the sixth seed responded emphatically with four successive aces, before closing with a forehand winner to move halfway to victory.

Asked if she and coach Goran Ivanisevic, the 2001 Wimbledon champion



renowned for his serving, debate who has the best serve, Rybakina joked: “Maybe I need to to challenge him on the practice court, we will see.”

Rybakina, Wimbledon champion in 2022 will meet American 17-year-old wildcard entry Iva Jovic next.

Elsewhere, American eighth seed Emma Navarro, winner of the WTA’s Most Improved Player of the Year Award last year, had to come from a

set down to beat compatriot Peyton Stearns 6-7 (5-7), 7-6 (7-5), 7-5.

Elsewhere, Emma Raducanu overcame second-serve wobbles to start her 2025 season with a scrappy win in the Australian Open first round.

The British No.2, whose preparations were disrupted by a back injury, won 7-6 (7-4), 7-6 (7-2) against Russian 26th seed Ekaterina Alexandrova.

World No.61 Raducanu will face another higher-ranked player next in Amanda Anisimova. The 23-year-old American, who is ranked 35th having returned from a nine-month mental health break in 2023, beat Argentina’s Maria Lourdes Carle 6-2, 6-3 to set up Thursday’s match.

PACER WITH PAKISTAN HERITAGE

Saqib Mahmood visa delay hits England preparations for India tour

LONDON: Saqib Mahmood has been forced to miss an England training camp in Abu Dhabi ahead of their white-ball series in India due to a delay in securing his visa. The England and Cricket Board (ECB) expects that the issue will be resolved before the rest of the team travel to Kolkata on Friday ahead of Wednesday’s first T20I but the delay is a familiar issue for England players with Pakistani heritage.

Last year, Shoaib Bashir was ruled out of England’s first Test in Hyderabad due to a delay in securing his visa.

The ECB declined to comment but is understood to be optimistic that Mahmood will secure his visa in time to board the team’s flight. The two other players in England’s T20I squad with Pakistani heritage, Adil Rashid and Rehan Ahmed, are understood to have received their visas.



Mahmood was due to join Jofra Archer, Gus Atkinson, Brydon Carse and Mark Wood at a pace-bowling camp in Abu Dhabi ahead of the India tour, which is being overseen by James Anderson in his capacity as a fast-bowling consultant. But he has been required to surrender his passport as part of the visa process, and was therefore unable to travel.

Mahmood, 27, has played 29 games for England across formats. - Agencies

FORMER WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION

Fury announces retirement from boxing again

LONDON: Former world heavyweight champion Tyson Fury has announced his retirement from boxing.

Fury last fought in December when he lost his rematch against WBA (Super), WBC and WBO champion Oleksandr Usyk.

The 36-year-old Fury previously announced his retirement after beating Dillian Whyte in April 2022 but returned six months later.

The Briton has enjoyed two stints as heavyweight champion and holds a record of 34 wins, two defeats and one draw.

“Hi everybody, I’m going to make this short and sweet,” Fury said.

“I’d like to announce my retirement from boxing, it has been a blast, I’ve loved every single minute of it and I’m going to end with this; Dick Turpin wore a mask.”

The Briton shocked long-reigning world champion Wladimir Klitschko in 2015 to win the WBA (Super), IBF, WBO, IBO, and The Ring heavyweight titles.

After over two-and-a-half years out of the ring, during which he tackled mental health issues, Fury



returned to action in 2018 and became a two-time champion by beating Deontay Wilder to claim the WBC belt in 2020.

Fury’s decision to retire denies fans the chance to see a long-anticipated clash with fellow Briton Anthony Joshua.

On Saturday, Joshua said a fight with Fury “has to happen this year” when speaking at the Ring Magazine awards.

Matchroom’s Eddie Hearn, who promotes Joshua, has however

questioned the legitimacy of Fury’s announcement.

“We’ve been here before. If that is the end, congratulations on a great career,” Hearn told BBC Sport.

“One of the best heavyweights of this generation and made a bucket load of money. If your hearts not in it, if the fight has been punched out of you, it’s definitely time to call it quits.

“A few people will always suggest that he could be calling a bluff,

but I don’t know him well enough to give you an answer. If you don’t want it anymore, if your hearts not in it anymore, if you’ve had the fight punched out of you – it’s a dangerous game.”

Joshua and Fury have been leading figures in the heavyweight division over the past decade but both are looking to bounce back from losses.

Joshua suffered the fourth defeat of his career against IBF heavyweight champion Daniel Dubois in September, while Fury’s last two trips to the ring have ended in losses against Usyk.

“You do not want to get in the ring with Anthony Joshua if you’re doing it for money,” Hearn added.

Fury boasted an undefeated record of 34 wins and one draw until he met Ukraine’s Usyk in the first heavyweight undisputed contest of the four-belt era.

Frank Warren, who promotes Fury, told BBC Radio 5 Live he had not spoken to Fury prior to his retirement announcement. “I’ve said all along that there is no way I will be trying to in anyway influence him,” Warren said. - Agencies

TEST FUTURE SUBJECT OF GREAT DEBATE

India skipper Rohit joins Mumbai training camp in bid to rediscover form

MUMBAI: Rohit Sharma has linked up with Mumbai’s squad for their training sessions ahead of the second phase of the 2024-25 Ranji Trophy, starting January 23.

The group had a two-hour centre-wicket session at Wankhede Stadium on Tuesday, and are expected to train through the week as they build up to their sixth-round home fixture against Jammu and Kashmir.

India Test and ODI captain Rohit’s participation in the game is not yet confirmed, but his keenness to train with the group in consultation with head coach Omkar Salvi suggests that there is a possibility he could be available for

at least one of the two remaining fixtures. The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) is expected to announce the squad later this week.

Rohit’s return to train with his first-class side comes at a time when his Test future has become a subject of great debate. Rohit, 37, isn’t ready to give up just yet, having clearly stated his intention to continue playing in the longest format despite having “stood down” from India’s XI for the fifth and final Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Sydney earlier this month.

He had scored just 31 runs in five innings across three Tests on tour in Australia. Prior to that, he had averaged 13.30 over ten in-



nings against Bangladesh and New Zealand during the 2023-24 home season, during which he led India to a shock 3-0 defeat to New Zea-

land, the first time ever that India had been whitewashed at home in a series of three or more matches.

After the SCG Test, India head

coach Gautam Gambhir had stressed on the importance of Test players turning up to play domestic first-class cricket as often as possible. He had also refused to speculate over the future of the Test future of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, another veteran who has been well off his best in recent times.

When asked about his thoughts on a long-term roadmap for the team in red-ball cricket, and whether it was time to invest in youngsters, Gambhir had said, “Look, it’s too early to talk about it. The series has just got over. I think we still have five more months to plan where we want to head towards. But it’s not the right

moment right now for me to talk about that. Where are we going to be after five months?

“A lot of things change in sport. Forms change. People change. Attitude change. Everything changes in sport. And we all know that five months is a long time. So, let’s see before the [England] series what’s going to happen. But whatever will happen, will happen for the best interest of Indian cricket.”

Mumbai, the defending Ranji Trophy champions, are primed to make the knockouts. They are currently third in Group A with three wins in five matches, only a point behind second-placed Jammu and Kashmir. - Agencies

ahlibank introduces ahliPOS new innovative payment solution

The app is designed to offer businesses and their customers a swift, secure and seamless payment experience

MUSCAT: In keeping with the latest technological advancements in the digital banking scene, ahlibank unveiled its new payment solution app, ahliPOS. The app is designed to offer businesses and their customers a swift, secure and seamless payment experience. It enables merchants with the convenience of accepting card payments directly on their Android devices, guaranteeing a hassle-free transaction environment.

The new innovative application enables merchants to accept card payments in a smart, secure, and convenient manner directly on their NFC-enabled Android devices. ahliPOS eliminates the need for any additional hardware or software, simplifying the payment process for businesses. One of the key features to note is advanced security and convenience, with ahliPOS being designed to prioritize user security while offering a highly convenient payment experience. Moreover, customers can make contactless payments smoothly, thereby enhancing transaction speed. Additionally, the app is compatible with any latest version Android smartphone or tablet that is NFC-enabled, with ahliPOS accepting all major NFC-enabled card schemes, thus facilitating a wide range of payment options. Receipts can be instantly sent to customers via SMS, or by scanning a QR code, or through email; thereby supporting digital record-keeping. On the launch of ahliPOS, Qais Ibrahim Al Hasni, AGM - Head of

Retail Business Support at ahlibank, said, “We are proud to unveil ahliPOS, an innovative payment solution that empowers businesses with seamless and efficient payment capabilities without the need for traditional hardware. This pioneering service simplifies the payment process, offering businesses a secure, hassle-free option that drives operational efficiency. By providing a solution tailored to enhance business agility, ahliPOS strengthens our clients’ competitive positioning in today’s dynamic market. Our commitment goes beyond delivering cutting-edge technology—we are dedicated to accelerating business growth, optimizing operations, and creating superior customer experiences.” Most notably, this service is available exclusively for businesses holding an ahlibank business account. The Bank continues delivering the latest technological advancements to its diverse clientele, guaranteeing them receiving the best and most innovative solutions that greatly boost their growing enterprises.



EXHILARATING OFF-ROAD EXPERIENCES



Discover your desires of adventure with powerful, rugged 4x4 Ford Bronco

MUSCAT: The Ford Bronco blends legendary off-road heritage with modern engineering and technology. Built tough and ready for anything, the Bronco line-up features the classic two-door, the first-ever four-door and the rugged Bronco Sport. Every Bronco is purpose-built to conquer the wild, delivering exhilarating off-road experiences while honouring the legacy of the original 1966 Bronco and its storied racing roots. Whether scaling rocky pathways, navigating muddy trails, or cruising city streets, the Bronco combines unrelenting capability with cutting-edge technology tailored for modern-day explorers. With its heritage-inspired design and advanced off-road engineering, the Bronco isn't just built to drive. It is built to dominate. Ford's exclusive Terrain Management System featuring G.O.A.T. Modes (Go Over Any Terrain) ensures the Bronco is ready for any challenge. Whether in Normal or Eco mode for daily drives, or venturing off-grid, Mud/Ruts, or Rock Crawl modes, Bronco transforms every journey into a thrilling ride. At the heart of the Bronco's off-road prowess is its advanced 4x4 system, available in two configurations. Choose the base two-speed, shift-on-the-fly transfer case for quick adaptability or opt for the advanced two-speed electromechanical transfer case for seamless auto-switching between 2H and 4H. The Bronco Trail Toolbox takes your off-road mastery up a notch with innovative features like Trail Control for low-speed cruising, Trail Turn Assist for sharp cornering and Trail One-Pedal Drive for effortless rock crawling. Designed to tackle the extreme, the Bronco doesn't just go off-road, it thrives there. With

best-in-class ground clearance of 11.6 inches, a break-over angle of 29 degrees, a departure angle of 37.2 degrees and water-wading capabilities up to 33.5 inches, no obstacle is too big. Its legendary Baja racing DNA guarantees pulse-pounding performance with the style, comfort and confidence you need to enjoy every landscape. Under the hood, the Bronco brings race-inspired power to every trail. Choose from two robust EcoBoost engine options—the 2.7-liter V6 with an impressive 310 horsepower and 400 lb.-ft. of torque, or the 2.3-liter turbocharged engine delivering best-in-class four-cylinder torque at 270 horsepower. Transmission choices include the segment-first 7-speed manual for ultimate control or the smooth 10-speed automatic for seamless performance. Step inside the Bronco and you'll find a cabin that's equal parts heritage and innovation. The intuitive instrument panel inspired by the original Bronco places controls and connectivity at your fingertips. The available 12-inch SYNC 4 system ensures you stay in command, with seamless connectivity. Every detail has been designed with explorers in mind, blending durability, functionality and modern tech for a ride that's as comfortable as it is capable. Safety is at the core of the Bronco's design from the high-strength steel roll cage to integrated side-curtain airbags, Ford Co-Pilot360 driver-assist technologies and stability-enhancing systems like AdvanceTrac with Roll Stability Control, you'll drive with confidence on every terrain. Whether you're towing gear for your next outing or pushing the limits off-road, the Bronco keeps safety front and centre.

FLAGSHIP PROJECT

Adanté Realty launches Yenaier Residences, defining new era of sustainable luxury in Oman



MUSCAT: Adanté Realty, the real estate arm of the Al Adrak Group, a leading conglomerate in Oman, announced the launch of its flagship project, Yenaier Residences, located at the heart of Sultan Haitham City, Oman's first smart city. The official launch of Yenaier Residences occurred on January 13 at the St. Regis Hotel, Muscat, attended by Dr Khalfan bin Said Al Shueili, Minister of Housing & Urban Planning and prominent guests from the government and private sector. This landmark development embodies a new beginning in luxury living, rooted in sustainability and designed to foster community and connection. It is named in tribute to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, reflecting the significance of January, the month of his accession. Yenaier aims to set new benchmarks in the Omani real estate sector as a Freehold project for all nationalities. Al Shueili highlighted the project's location within Sultan Haitham City and said: “Yenaier Residences, being located in the heart of Sultan Haitham City, is at the forefront of sustainable urban development, which aligns with the goals of Oman's Vision 2040 and showcases the nation's commitment to innovation.” Yenaier Residences offers more than just an address; it's a lifestyle

destination for discerning homebuyers. Located within Sultan Haitham City in Al Seeb, Muscat, the project is part of a comprehensive transformation championed by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning (MoHUP). This eco-city spans 2.9 million square meters and integrates key features, including Green Spaces, Smart City Infrastructure, and Comprehensive Facilities: healthcare, schools, universities, mosques, commercial establishments, souqs, and cultural and daycare centres. The Yenaier Residences feature six iconic towers interconnected by looping boulevards and green spaces. The design philosophy is based on Contemporary Fluid Architecture, Eco-Friendly Principles, and Smart Living. The development includes a range of residences: loggia studios, loggia suites (1 BHK), sky residences (2 BHK), and sky villas (3 BHKs) and sky palaces (penthouses), with sizes ranging from 71 sqm to 462 sqm. Yenaier offers a range of amenities that promote an active and connected lifestyle, including Fitness and Wellness, Community and Social Hubs, Convenience, and Leisure. Adanté Realty, as the development arm of the Al Adrak Group, brings 39 years of experience in the real estate sector in Oman and the UAE. This legacy ensures that Yenaier is built with a strong foundation and

a commitment to high-quality materials and craftsmanship. Notably, Al Adrak Group's expertise has been recognised by Ellington Properties in the UAE, where they are currently constructing two prestigious projects (EH3 and EH4), further solidifying their reputation for excellence. Adanté Realty's vision is rooted in supporting Oman's Vision 2040 and contributing to the nation's infrastructure development. Regarding Adanté's entry into the premium real estate market in Oman, Dr. Thomas Alexander, the founder and the Chairman of Al Adrak Group, commented: “Adanté Realty is not just building properties; we are crafting legacies. Leveraging the Al Adrak Group's 39 years of experience, we are setting new benchmarks for luxurious, sustainable living in Oman. Our commitment to quality and innovation is unwavering as we shape the future of urban spaces.” Dr. Thomas Alexander added regarding the sustainable design and construction of Yenaier: “Yenaier Residences is a testament to our commitment to eco-conscious living. Through the use of sustainable building materials, innovative technologies, and green design, we are creating a development that is not only luxurious but also environmentally responsible.” On the unique investment opportunity that Yenaier presents,

Dr. Aadil Thomas Alexander, Executive Director of Al Adrak Group and the Chief Executive Officer of Adanté, said, “Investing in Yenaier Residences is not just about buying property; it's about securing a prosperous future. Oman offers a stable and attractive investment environment, with freehold ownership, no taxes on personal income, property, or inheritance, and residency for investors and their families linked to the property ownership. We are proud to offer a prime opportunity for both local and international investors.” Dr. Aadil further highlighted the focus on community and lifestyle: “At Yenaier, we are creating a place where people can connect, thrive, and create lasting memories. Our focus on sustainability, community spaces, and premium amenities reflects our commitment to enhancing the quality of life for our residents. The integrated community is a place designed for a 'new generation' while appealing to 'more traditional lifestyles'.” Oman offers a stable and attractive environment for real estate investment, with zero taxes on personal income and 100% property ownership, promising a booming real estate market and supportive business laws. These benefits position Yenaier as a prime opportunity for both local and international investors.

MEETING HELD FOR DENTISTS IN MUSCAT

A meeting was held for the dentists last week supported by Muscat Pharmacy at City Season Hotel in Al-Khuwair. The meeting was presided over by Dr Hareesh Basheer, senior dental surgeon with Hatat specialty polyclinic. Dr. Frank of Aqua clinic gave a lecture on implant dentistry and Dr. Tariq regarding aesthetic dentistry. Dr Manoj Thomas of Smile Dental Clinic, Dr Mujeeb of Al Manama Medical Centre, Dr. Kishor of Taj dental clinic spoke of various issues facing day to day practice. Dr Archana of Al-Ghubra Dental Clinic was the Guest of Honour. — Supplied picture



ROUND-UP

MHD Automobiles launches all-new Jetour T1 and Jetour X50 in Oman



Jetour, a luxury SUV brand with a growing global reputation, is committed to redefining the driving experience through innovative designs, advanced technology, and premium features

MUSCAT: MHD Automobiles, the exclusive distributor of Jetour in Oman, announced the launch of two premium SUVs — the Jetour T1 and Jetour X50 — marking an exciting milestone in the luxury SUV segment.

The unveiling took place on December 25, 2024, showcasing the perfect blend of luxury, performance, and affordability that the Jetour brand offers.

Jetour, a luxury SUV brand with a growing global reputation, is committed to redefining the driving experience through innovative designs, advanced technology, and premium features. The introduction of the Jetour T1 and Jetour X50 to the Omani market underscores MHD Automobiles’ mission to offer vehicles that cater to diverse customer needs while ensuring exceptional value.



Jetour T1: Where luxury meets power

The Jetour T1 is designed for those seeking sophistication and functionality. This premium SUV comes equipped with:

- A panoramic sunroof offering expansive views.
- Powered front seats and a premium audio system for ultimate comfort and entertainment.
- A unique crystal-themed transmission lever, wireless smartphone charging, and thoughtfully designed cup holders for added convenience.

Under the hood, the Jetour T1 boasts a powerful 1.5L petrol engine with a displacement of 1498 cc, paired with an automatic transmission for a seamless driving experience.

Jetour X50: Compact luxury redefined

The Jetour X50 is a stylish compact SUV, available in the Premium variant, featuring:

- A luxurious cabin with quilted leather seats and aluminium AC vents.
- Advanced technology, including a 10.25-inch digital instrument cluster, a 10.25-inch touchscreen infotainment system, and wireless smartphone charging.
- Safety-first design, offering features such as Anti-Lock Braking System, airbags, child safety locks, lane change indicator, and a tire pressure monitoring system.

The Jetour X50 stands out as a Petrol Automatic variant, combining modern features with great value. Its safety and security highlights include central locking, anti-theft alarms, and comprehensive passenger protection systems.

Speaking at the launch, Mohsin Hani Al Bahrani, CEO of MHD ACERE, remarked: “The launch of the Jetour T1 and Jetour X50 represents a pivotal step in redefining the luxury SUV market in Oman. At MHD Automobiles, we are committed to introducing world-class vehicles that blend innovation, style, and value, meeting the evolving needs of our customers. Jetour’s cutting-edge design and engineering are perfectly aligned with our vision to offer unparalleled driving experiences. We are excited to see these SUVs resonate with the discerning automotive enthusiasts in Oman.”

The Jetour T1 and Jetour X50 are now available at Jetour Showrooms in Aziba, Mabela, Buraimi & Salalah.

BANK MUSCAT

Tadhamun continues to support deserving families



MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial service provider in the Sultanate of Oman, remains dedicated to advancing social responsibility and community service through various programmes and initiatives.

These efforts align with the bank’s sustainability and CSR strategy, aiming to deliver long-term benefits to community members across Oman’s governorates and foster a lasting impact for future generations.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, Bank Muscat has launched its initiative under the “Tadhamun” programme. This initiative seeks to meet the evolving needs and aspirations of the

eligible families. Accordingly, the Bank has been keen to develop the programme by studying the beneficiaries’ needs.

As a result, this year’s distribution included household furniture handed to families with homes under the social housing programme, alongside essential household appliances like air conditioners and refrigerators. This year, about 175 families across various governorates are set to benefit, increasing the total number of beneficiary families since the programme’s inception in 2013 to over 2,200.

‘Tadhamun’, one of the prominent social responsibility initiatives of Bank Muscat, operates through a structured process where specialists from the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry

of Housing and Urban Planning review applications, evaluate eligibility, and conduct needs assessments for target families, ensuring their basic needs are met.

Talib Saif Al Makhmari, Head of Community and Media Relations at Bank Muscat, emphasized the Bank’s commitment to CSR programmes, stating, “We are devoted to enhancing community partnership and supporting community members by collaborating with relevant authorities to reach targeted groups. The “Tadhamun” programme is just one of many sustainable initiatives we implement annually to reinforce our leadership in social responsibility and community service.”

He further noted, “This year, in collaboration with our partners,

we expanded the programme to reach more beneficiaries, aligning with our strategy to develop the programme annually and introduce new support areas for the community in a sustainable manner. I extend gratitude to the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, and all participants and volunteers for their cooperation in making this initiative a success.”

Hamood Murdad Al Sahbib, Director General of Partnership and Social Development at the Ministry of Social Development, emphasized the significance of the ongoing strategic partnership with Bank Muscat, highlighting it as a focal point of the Ministry’s appreciation and attention. He remarked, “Bank Muscat’s commit-

ment to supporting the deserving families underscores its dedication to enhancing social well-being and improving living conditions for these families. This initiative clearly reflects the Bank’s leadership in social responsibility and community service. We genuinely value Bank Muscat’s efforts in supporting this initiative and eagerly anticipate more partnerships that aim to fulfill the fundamental needs of eligible families.”

Bank Muscat’s Social Responsibility and community service efforts encompass several key initiatives in addition to “Tadhamun”, such as the “Maliyat Academy” for financial literacy, the “Green Sports” initiative supporting local sports, and the “Al Wathbah Academy” targeting small and medium-

sized enterprises, among other community projects consistently undertaken by the Bank.

In recognition of these community initiatives and sustainable programmes, Bank Muscat has received numerous accolades, including the North Batinah Award for Social Investment for its “Green Sports” programme, and the “CSR Impact on Education: Financial Literacy by Maliyat Academy” award at the Oman CSR Summit & Awards 2024. The Bank was also honoured by the Ministry of Social Development for its dedication to social responsibility initiatives, particularly those enhancing the participation of people with disabilities, during the recent International Day of Persons with Disabilities celebration.

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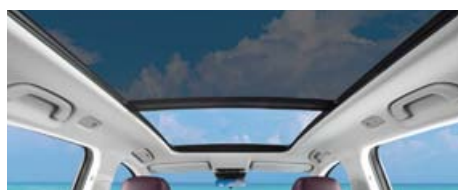
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