DEEPAL

مركبة كهربائية ممتدة المدى
REEV
RANGE EXTENDED ELECTRIC VEHICLE

TOUCH THE FUTURE

The NEW ENERGY VEHICLE BRAND FROM CHANGAN GROUP.



G318

Dual Motor Max Power **430 hp**,
Combined Drive Range **Over 848 kms (WLTC)***,
Dual Motor SUV AWD

S07

Rear Electric Motor Max Power **235 hp**,
Combined Drive Range **Over 950 kms (WLTC)***,
Rear-Wheel Drive

S05

Rear Electric Motor Max Power **214 hp**,
Combined Drive Range **Over 1000 kms (WLTC)***,
Rear-Wheel Drive (Rear Electric Motor Only)

ضمان المصنع
٦ سنوات أو ٢٥٠,٠٠٠ كلم*
*(أيهما أسبق)

MANUFACTURING WARRANTY
6 YEARS OR 250,000 KMS*
*(WHICHEVER IS EARLIER)

ضمان بطارية الطاقة
٨ سنوات أو ٢٥٠,٠٠٠ كلم*
*(أيهما أسبق)

POWER BATTERY WARRANTY
8 YEARS OR 250,000 KMS*
*(WHICHEVER IS EARLIER)

*Terms and conditions apply.

deepaloman deepaloman.official www.deepaloman.com

C.R. No: 1232361

Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment LLC

Showrooms: **Qurum 96620435, Sohar 96620475, Salalah 96629050**

Sales Centres : **Mawaleh 97888180, Nizwa 96628940, Ibri 96628930, Barka 96629010, Sur 96628920**

800 50800

Times of Oman
GOLDEN JUBILEE
51 YEARS OF LEGACY

Founded 1975 · Volume 51 No. 188 | 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


A Nation Thriving Under Wise Leadership
On the occasion of the Glorious National Day,
we extend our warmest congratulations and sincere best wishes to
His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik.
www.bankmuscat.com
CR No. 1/14573/8

OMAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Oman's mandatory health insurance scheme on track for rollout: OCCI chief

Times News Service



Times Exclusive

MUSCAT: Oman's mandatory health insurance scheme is progressing toward implementation. The government is working on the final plans and procedures required for its rollout, according to Sheikh Faisal bin Abdullah Al Rawas, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI).

Speaking on the sidelines of the inauguration of the Al Hashar Visa Medical Centre in Muttrah on Sunday evening, Sheikh Faisal said the process was on track. He expressed hope that the scheme would be introduced in the near future, although he did not indicate a specific timeline.

He said the government is currently looking at the implementation plan and the steps needed to put the scheme into operation, adding that some procedural requirements still need completion.

The OCCI chairman said the Chamber is following developments through its health sector committee, which brings together representatives from across the healthcare industry to discuss challenges and offer recommendations on improving the regulatory framework.

"Most people working in the health sector are part of this committee. They share their challenges, obstacles and recommendations on how we can improve laws and legislation and make them easier and more up to date," he said. >A7

JUDICIAL AUTHORITY LAW

HM the Sultan issues two Royal decrees

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on Monday issued two Royal decrees, reading as follows:

Royal decree No. (110/2026) on the promulgation of the Judicial Authority Law.

Article (1) stipulates that the provisions of the Judicial Authority Law attached to this Decree shall be enforced.

Article (2) cancels the Judicial Authority Law promulgated by Royal decree No. (90/99) and the Public Prosecution Law promulgated by Royal decree No. (92/99) and all that contradicts this decree and the attached Law or contravenes their provisions.

Official Gazette

Article (3) states that this Decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall be enforced from the day following its date of publishing. >A7

Holiday

The next edition of the Times of Oman will be on Sunday, November 29, due to National Day holidays.

SAYYID THEYAZIN INAUGURATES BUSINESS HEADQUARTERS OF INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE OF OMAN IN MUSCAT

The ceremony witnessed the registration of the first 13 companies at the Centre



MUSCAT: HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the International Financial Centre of Oman (IFC Oman), inaugurated the Centre's business headquarters at Al Mouj Business Park in Muscat Governorate.

The inauguration coincided with the official announcement opening registration for local and international companies to establish their operations within the Centre's legal jurisdiction, in a step supporting the Sultanate of Oman's efforts to develop the financial services sector and attract international investments.

The inauguration ceremony witnessed the registration of the first 13 companies at the Centre and the handing over of their registration certificates, as the inauguration of the headquarters and the commencement of receiving registration applications mark a new phase in the establishment of the Centre that enables companies to take practical steps to set up their operations and benefit from the Centre's legal and regulatory system, in parallel with continuing preparations to commence issuing licenses to practice financial services activities at the beginning of 2027. >A7

FOR MOSQUE ARCHITECTURE

Omani architect Marwan Al Balushi wins pestigious Abdullatif Al Fozan Award in Saudi Arabia

MUSCAT: Omani architect Marwan Al Balushi, founder of the Muscat-based practice Altqadum Office, has brought international acclaim to the Sultanate after winning the prestigious Abdullatif Al Fozan Award for Mosque Architecture in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Recognised during the award's Fifth Cycle Winners Ceremony, Al Balushi earned the honour for his design of the Bab Al Salam Mosque, located in the Wilayat of Al Seeb in Muscat Governorate. Built by Al Jisr Foundation (Al Jaser Charity Association), the landmark project was completed in 2023 under the supervision of Al Balushi alongside fellow architect Abdulrahim Al Kindi.

Standing out among more than 300 entries from around the world, the mosque was selected as one of only five global laureates.

Beyond the formal ceremony, the occasion was marked by a memorable royal encounter at the venue. Observing Al Balushi conversing with His Royal Highness Prince Sultan bin Salman bin Abdulaziz during the event, attendees later learned the heartwarming details behind the exchange. When asked what the conversation was about, Al Balushi shared that Prince Sultan bin Salman had personally recorded a video of him while he was delivering his acceptance speech, and courteously asked for his permission to share the footage with His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. In response, Al Balushi graciously replied, "Of course—you do not need my permission to do that."



SCAN THIS TO LAUNCH THE VIDEO

Established to promote excellence and innovation in contemporary mosque design across the Islamic world, the Abdullatif Al Fozan Award commended Bab Al Salam Mosque for moving beyond conventional templates. Bringing this vision to life, however, was not without obstacles; the biggest challenge behind the project was securing official approval for its bold, abstract architectural concept—a pioneering approach that reinterprets authentic Omani architectural heritage through stripped-back, contemporary forms rather than traditional ornamentation.

Visitors stepping inside the mosque immediately experience the reward of that perseverance. The design thoughtfully applies principles of physics—specifically natural optics, acoustics, and thermal flow—alongside a soothing palette of colours to evoke deep calm and spirituality. By balancing clean, abstract geometric proportions with the controlled diffusion of daylight across locally sourced Omani marble and regional stonework, the interior transforms subtle shifts in light and colour into an atmosphere of quiet contemplation.

Al Balushi's achievement—made possible through Al Jisr Foundation's commitment to impactful community projects—places Oman alongside winning entries from the United Kingdom, Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Niger, underscoring the growing influence of Omani architects on the global stage and marking a proud moment celebrated at the highest levels of leadership in both nations.



Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment LLC
Showrooms: Qurum 96620435, Sohar 96620475, Salalah 96629050 | Sales Centres: Mawaleh 97888180, Nizwa 96628940, Ibri 96628930, Barka 96629010, Sur 96628920

T OMAN

AGREEMENT

Pacts inked to construct 22 houses under Al Atta'a Neighbourhood 2 in Al Amerat

Times News Service







MUSCAT: In conjunction with the Sultanate of Oman's National Day celebrations, Dar Al Atta'a Association has signed construction agreements with three contractors for the development of Al Atta'a Neighbourhood 2, a housing project located in the Wilayat of Al Amerat.

Spanning a total area of approximately 13,200 square metres, the project will comprise 22 residential units, with a total investment exceeding OMR 1.1 million. The initiative reflects the Association's ongoing commitment to supporting eligible families and contributing to community development, while marking this national occasion.

The launch of Al Atta'a Neighbourhood 2 follows the success of the Association's first project, Al Atta'a Neighbourhood 1, developed in Sana'a Bani Ghafir in the Wilayat of Al Khabourah.

The first neighbourhood comprises 36 residential units designed to modern standards, incorporating solar panels for electricity generation, a water purification system, and an integrated internal water distribution network.

It also stands as the first environmentally friendly residential neighbourhood developed by a charitable association in the Sultanate of Oman.

Since its establishment in 2002, Dar Al Atta'a Association has built more than 250 homes and carried out maintenance works on over 3,500 homes, reflecting its long-standing role in supporting families and improving living conditions across the Sultanate.

Through its housing initiatives, the Association seeks to strengthen social cohesion, promote family stability, and provide safe and suitable housing for eligible beneficiaries.

These efforts are carried out in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, the Ministry of Social Development, and voluntary charitable teams across various governorates of Oman.

In May 2026, the Association launched its initiative, "Together We Build... Together We Make an Impact", highlighting the importance of partnerships with governmental and civil society institutions to construct 25 residential units across several wilayats in the Sultanate.

Commenting on the project, Maryam bint Issa Al Zadjali, Founder and Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Dar Al Atta'a Association, said: "Al Atta'a Neighbourhood 2 represents a continuation of our first integrated residential neighbourhood project in the Wilayat of Al Khabourah. Through this experience, we aimed to move beyond the conventional approach of constructing individual homes in separate locations and instead establish a model residential neighbourhood that brings together homes and supporting facilities to better serve its residents."

She added: "We have signed agreements with three contractors for the construction of 22 residential units, with a total value exceeding OMR1.1 million. As our beloved Oman celebrates its National Day on 20 November, we are proud to be part of the nation's journey of giving and development, contributing to a society that enjoys security, stability, and prosperity under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, may God protect him."



OCCI announces winners of 2026-2030 board elections across all governorates

The committee was chaired by Eng. Ghalib bin Said Al Maamari, Undersecretary of MoCIIP and Chairman of the Committee

MUSCAT: The Elections Committee of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) announced yesterday evening the names of the winners in the elections for the Chamber's Board of Directors and its branch boards in the governorates of the Sultanate of Oman for the electoral term 2026–2030.

The committee was chaired by Eng. Ghalib bin Said Al Maamari, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and Chairman of the Committee. The meeting was attended by committee members representing the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and the Financial Services Authority.

For Muscat Governorate, the winners are Areej Mohsin Haider Al Zaabi, Rashid bin Amer bin Mohammed Al Muselhi, Ibrahim bin Abdullah bin Humaid Al Hosani, Ghazi bin Nasser bin Salim Al Alawi, and Juma bin Redha bin Juma Al Saleh.

For Dhofar Governorate, the winners are Moammer bin Abdulsalam bin Abdullah Al Rowas, Salim bin Abdullah bin Salim Al Kaf, Hamid bin Mahad bin Ali Qatan, Mohammed bin Fawzi bin Salim Al Shanfari, and Abdullah bin Said bin Tuwaib Akak.

For Musandam Governorate, the winners are Hamid bin Mohammed bin Zaman Kamel Al Raisi, Raed bin Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Shehi, Mazen bin Abdullah bin Said Al Saqri, Badr bin Said bin Sulaiman Al Shehi, and Mohammed bin Ahmed bin Hassan Al Shehi.

For A'Dakhiliyah Governorate, the winners are Hamad bin Said bin Nasser Al Rubkhi, Saif bin Nasser bin Saif Al Taiwani, Saif bin Said bin Rashid Al Durei, Badr bin Abdullah bin Saud Al Mahrouqi, and Nasser bin Nabhan bin Sulaiman Al Nabhani.

For North Al Batinah Governorate, the winners are Abdullah bin Ali bin Mohammed Al Balushi, Ahmed bin Salmeen bin Abdullah Al Kamshki, Mohammed bin Abdullah bin Saif Al Shafie, Harith bin Khamis bin Humaid Al Muqbali, and Ibrahim bin Mohammed bin Obaid Al Ajmi.

For South A'Sharqiyah Governorate, the winners are Mohammed bin Sultan bin Mohammed Al Masroori, Hamad bin Salim bin Hamad Al Alawi, Salim bin Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Mukhaini, Nasser bin Saif bin Amer Al Hashmi, and Hamad bin Rashid bin Hamad Al Araimi.

For North A'Sharqiyah Governorate, the winners are Mohammed bin Nasser bin Mohammed Al Maskari, Ali bin Salim bin Said Al Hajri, Qais bin Amer bin Qais Al Shaibani, Muhanna bin Mohammed bin Said Al Fazari, and Sultan bin Saif bin Ali Al Maskari.

For A'Dhahirah Governorate, the winners are Saif bin Said bin Rashid Al Badi, Ibrahim bin Hamad bin Sulaiman Al Hinai, Fahd bin Rashid bin Saif Al Zaidi, Khalid bin Mohammed bin Harib Al Jabri, and Sultan bin Majid bin Khamis Al Abri.

For Al Wusta Governorate, the winners are Abdullah bin Ghadeer bin Saleh Al Junaibi, Saleem bin Salim bin Saleem Al Askari, Mohammed bin Salim bin Suhail Al Harsousi, Badr bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Junaibi, and Hamad bin Juma bin Addai Al Shaibani.

For joint stock companies, the winners are Faisal bin Abdullah bin Said Al Rowas, Khalid bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Fannah Al Araimi, Mustafa bin Ahmed bin Salman, Siham Ahmed Yousef Al Harthy, and Faisal bin Mohammed bin Moosa Al Yousuf.

For foreign investor companies, the winner is Ahmed Sobani. -ONA

MINISTRY OF HERITAGE AND TOURISM

Experience Oman Drone Competition 2026 launched









MUSCAT: The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism launched the "Experience Oman" Drone Competition 2026, in strategic partnership with Ibn Firnas Drone Centre, to highlight the tourism, natural, cultural, and heritage assets of the Sultanate of Oman through aerial photography and modern digital technologies, with the total value of the competition's prizes amounting to OMR10,000.

The competition comes within the Ministry's efforts aimed at utilising modern technologies in promoting tourism for the Sultanate of Oman, documenting and digitally preserving its heritage and natural sites, empowering national and global talents, and encouraging photographers and content creators to present creative visions that reflect the diversity of the Sultanate of Oman and the richness of its civilizational and natural legacy under the promotional identity "Experience Oman."

The competition is supported by "Adasat Firnas," while the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth participates as a technical partner, and "Nool" Delivery Services Company serves as the exclusive logistics partner.

Haitham Mohammed Al Ghassani, Director of Tourism Promotion at the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, explained that the Ministry affirms its keenness to support creative initiatives that contribute to developing tourism promotion methods and leveraging modern technologies to highlight the tourism and cultural assets of the Sultanate of Oman through the "Experience Oman Drone Competition 2026," organised by Ibn Firnas Drone Centre in partnership with the Ministry.

In his remarks, he said that this cooperation represents an extension of the Ministry's efforts aimed at developing tourism promotion tools and strengthening the Sultanate of Oman's presence in regional and international markets through creative visual content that reflects its exceptional natural, heritage, and cultural diversity.

He added that the competition is an innovative national initiative that employs aerial photography and drone technologies to document tourism and heritage sites from creative angles, thereby contributing to enriching Omani digital content and showcasing the unique tourism experiences offered by the various governorates, while also opening the door for talented individuals, creators, and content makers from inside and outside the Sultanate of Oman to participate in presenting a modern visual vision that reflects the identity of the Sultanate of Oman and its uniqueness as a global tourism destination.

He pointed out that, stemming from the importance of visual content in travellers' tourism decision-making, the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism seeks through this initiative to build a strategic reserve of high-quality visual assets usable in international marketing campaigns, digital platforms, and specialised exhibitions and events. Furthermore, the creative outputs of the competition contribute to supporting the "Experience Oman" marketing identity and enhancing the reach of its promotional messages to broader segments of the target audience in priority tourism markets.

Haitham Al Ghassani affirmed that the competition represents an opportunity to boost the promotion of emerging tourism destinations and lesser-known sites alongside well-known attractions, thereby supporting the distribution of tourism activity across the various governorates, contributing to maximising the economic impact of the tourism sector, and enhancing local communities' benefit from the developmental opportunities associated with it. These efforts also support the drive toward diversifying tourism products and experiences and encouraging visitors to explore more of the natural and cultural assets that characterise the Sultanate of Oman.

The Director General of Tourism Promotion explained that partnership between the public and private sectors represents a fundamental pillar for developing innovative and sustainable marketing solutions. From this standpoint, the "Experience Oman Drone Competition 2026" embodies a model of integration between innovation and tourism promotion, contributing to presenting Oman's story to the world in a contemporary visual style that reflects its authenticity and diversity and enhances its standing as a destination worth discovering year-round.

Mohammed Abdullah Al Harthy, Chief Executive Officer of Ibn Firnas Drone Centre, said that drones are not merely a technical tool, but a new window through which the world sees the beauty of the Sultanate of Oman. He noted that the "Experience Oman" competition comes within social responsibility toward the nation and society and in service of Omani talents, indicating that the Centre contributes alongside the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism to presenting the Sultanate of Oman as a tourism destination worthy of being discovered, so that the world sees the Sultanate of Oman as its people see it: authentic, diverse, and inspiring.

He added that the competition targets photographers, content creators, aerial photography enthusiasts, and storytellers from inside and outside the Sultanate of Oman, whether beginners or professionals, to document daily life, authentic traditions, breathtaking nature, cities, and historical sites, and to deliver visual content that highlights diverse tourism experiences.

He pointed out that the competition is distributed across four main categories, encompassing drone photography with a maximum of five photos, short drone video with a duration ranging between 30 and 60 seconds in vertical format, and long drone video as a cinematic aerial film lasting between two and three minutes, in addition to the professional drone applications category, which includes photogrammetry, 3D modeling, digital twins, and virtual tours.

The competition also presents six creative themes: Life in Oman, Culture and Heritage, Places and Nature, People and Their Stories, Oman Today and Tomorrow, and Drone Technologies and Digital Creativity, enabling participants to present their varied visions of the Sultanate of Oman through works that combine artistic creativity with technical application.

Hussain Habib Al Lawati, Competition Director, said that the competition was designed to be open to everyone, whether flying a drone for the first time or a professional in aerial photography or digital modeling. Every participant has a story about a place they love—"Fly, capture, and share your Oman with the world"—looking forward to seeing villages, forts, coastlines, and markets through the eyes of their people and visitors, so that these works become an ambassador for the Sultanate of Oman before the world.

Submissions are subject to evaluation by a judging panel comprising professionals in photography and visual content creation as well as specialised engineers, according to specific evaluation criteria worth 100 points per category, ensuring the assessment of the creative, artistic, and technical aspects of the participating works.

According to the competition's timeline, registration remains open until 30 November 2026, while submissions are accepted until 8 December 2026, with judging taking place from 13-24 December, and the winners announced on 30 December 2026, coinciding with the awards ceremony.

The organising committee invited those wishing to participate to register via the website, noting the necessity that works be produced and filmed by the participant themselves and captured recently during the year 2026, while adhering to permits and regulations governing flight and filming, and disclosing any use of artificial intelligence technologies.

The winning works are scheduled to receive the opportunity to be showcased across the official platforms of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, the "Experience Oman" promotional identity, and Ibn Firnas Drone Centre, contributing to expanding their reach and introducing Omani tourism assets locally and internationally.

Within the framework of strengthening community and private sector partnership, the organising committee offers companies and institutions opportunities to participate in supporting the competition through platinum sponsorship packages valued at OMR5,000, gold packages valued at OMR3,000, silver packages valued at OMR1,500, and in-kind partnerships in the fields of media, travel, and community.

The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism affirms its keenness to support creative initiatives and projects that contribute to developing tourism marketing and promotion tools and enhance the utilisation of modern technologies and digital content in highlighting the tourism, heritage, and natural assets abundant in the Sultanate of Oman. The Ministry also attaches importance to partnership with national institutions and creative talents in innovating contemporary promotional methods that reach various markets and target audiences, contribute to presenting the Sultanate of Oman in an inspiring image to the world, and strengthen its presence and competitiveness as a sustainable tourism destination worth discovering.

— ONA

OMAN



COMMENTARY

Youth in Mind: Isma'ni: A Seed Planted, and Fruits Reaped



As the maxim goes, necessity is the mother of invention. Born from shared experience, Isma'ni (Listen to Me) was founded by three individuals who stutter and knew firsthand the isolation, low self-esteem, and quiet agony of being silenced by mockery and ridicule. They created the initiative to offer psychological safety and a dedicated platform where people who stutter can overcome societal bullying, rebuild their confidence, and showcase their talents.

These daily injustices silently deepen psychological wounds and push individuals to the margins. Yet beneath the struggle lies a wealth of knowledge, skill, and talent—gifts too often imprisoned by an inner critic that erodes self-esteem and traps them in a silent battle, haunted by the muffled question: Why me?

Isma'ni arrived like the dawn, offering a noble touch of hope to every person who stutters. It became a vital call to awaken souls, shake off the dust of silence, and heal from past wounds—urging them to reclaim their confidence, chase their dreams, and speak, knowing someone is listening, believes in their abilities, and awaits their unique contribution.

To explore the initiative's dimensions, achievements, and accolades, I spoke with co-founder Abdulhakeem Al-Azri about its humble beginnings and triumphs. He explained that Isma'ni emerged from a deeply personal experience with stuttering, transforming into a driving force to help others accept themselves, discover their capabilities, and build self-confidence. Under the slogan "Speak, We Hear You," it has grown into the first Omani volunteer initiative dedicated to empowering people who stutter psychologically and socially—becoming a beacon of hope, a trusted destination, and a welcoming door for all.

Over time, that small seed took root and branched out, drawing individuals from across Oman into a safe community where they can connect, share knowledge, and learn from one another. Registering Isma'ni as an official volunteer community initiative under the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth provided the institutional backing needed to sustain this momentum, opening doors to schools, colleges, and community forums across the Sultanate.

At the heart of this growing mission lies a clear conviction: stuttering neither diminishes a person's capabilities nor limits their ambitions, and it never justifies social isolation. Driven by this belief, Isma'ni helps people who stutter accept themselves and unlock their potential in a supportive space free from bullying or prejudice. Its core message is simple: people who stutter do not seek pity—they deserve understanding, acceptance, and genuine opportunities to be heard.

To turn this vision into reality, Isma'ni designed comprehensive programs addressing the broader dimensions of living with a stutter. Inspiring participants through "Empowering the Person Who Stutters" workshop—an intensive four-day, 28-hour program focused on self-acceptance, gratitude, confidence building, and stepping outside one's comfort zone. Moving beyond speech



mechanics, it fosters a healthier relationship with oneself and helps participants confront the fears holding them back from sharing their talents. Alongside this intensive course, the initiative offers psychosocial support, practical stuttering management, school and university awareness campaigns, guidance for parents, and opportunities for volunteers and specialists to contribute.

Yet the road has not been easy. "Our journey has not been without challenges," Abdulhakeem shared. "Early on, we faced inconsistent support for specialized training and a lack of accurate data on the number of people who stutter in Oman, while also addressing the academic, social, and psychological hurdles affecting their daily communication. Still, our deepest challenge lies in shifting societal misconceptions and confronting the prejudices that compound their suffering. That is why raising awareness and fostering a culture of acceptance became a core pillar of our mission."

"In today's digital age, leveraging media is essential to carrying our message to society," he continued. To that end, Isma'ni partnered with the digital platform Oyoun to host the seminar "Stuttering: Between Medical and Psychological Treatment and Social Motivation." The event explored both clinical and social dimensions while spotlighting inspiring personal triumphs—including Khalid Al-Amri, who overcame 18 years of fear and isolation to become a public speaker and trainer, and Professor Hassan Al-Lawati, who overcame speech challenges to become a university professor.

Addressing the harm caused by bullying, speakers at the seminar emphasised self-acceptance, specialist support, and nurturing environments at home and school. The initiative also urged schools to observe International Stuttering Awareness Day on October 22 to promote empathy and inclusion, while expressing gratitude to Oyoun and its supporters—especially Her Highness Sayyida Dr. Taghreed Al Said, whose moving humanitarian speech deeply resonated with the audience.

Today, the scale of Isma'ni's impact is unmistakable. From just three founders, membership has grown to over 200 people across age groups—predominantly creative youth—with a reach extending beyond Oman and social media content garnering around eight million followers. To sustain this growth, the initiative also invests in building local capacity by qualifying Training of Trainers (TOT) certified instructors in stuttering management, strengthening its ability to deliver specialized programs nationwide.

Recalling these milestones with pride, Abdulhakeem noted that a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step—and Isma'ni's steps have borne fruit well beyond Oman's borders. The initiative was honored by the Oman Human Rights Commission in 2022, ranked among the Arab world's top ten initiatives for the 2024 Beirut Volunteer Award, and won the 2025 Youth Excellence Award in the Youth Initiatives category. Its journey culminated in 2026 with the GCC-level Akhlaquna Award in Qatar, under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser. More than mere accolades, these honors stand as testimonies to an initiative that transformed personal struggle into empowerment.

Closing our conversation, Abdulhakeem affirmed that stuttering is no barrier to achieving one's dreams, and that self-acceptance is the foundation for overcoming fear and isolation. Lasting empowerment, he emphasized, depends on pairing specialized therapy with psychosocial support from families, schools, and the wider community. When people feel respected in how they communicate, they step forward with confidence to realize their potential.

Ultimately, Isma'ni is more than a speech-support initiative—it is a humanitarian call asking society how well we truly listen, accept differences, and allow others to express themselves without interruption or judgment. Many voices were never silenced by inability, only by a lack of patience from those around them. Echoing its motto—"Speak, We Hear You"—the initiative proves beyond doubt that a listening ear, an empathetic heart, and a safe space are often all it takes for human creativity to flourish.

"We owe deep gratitude to every noble idea, supporter, and generous hand fueling our journey," Abdulhakeem concluded, "empowering our youth to face stuttering with acceptance and confidence so they can contribute alongside everyone else to building our homeland."

An Omani writer focusing on youth development and cultural issues. Can be reached through youthinmind2040@gmail.com

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN

Commemorative coins issued highlighting historical eras of Omani civilization

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) announced the issuance of a set of four silver commemorative coins, whose designs embody four historical eras that contributed to shaping the journey of Omani civilization over more than five thousand years, starting from the Magan Civilization and the Land of Frankincense Civilization, passing through the Samad Era, and culminating in the Renaissance Era.

The commemorative coins were designed in accordance with the highest technical standards and are minted from pure silver with a face value of OMR1 per coin, a diameter of 38.80 mm, and





a weight of 28.28 grams.

These commemorative coins are legal tender at their face value and can be purchased from the Central Bank of Oman (Ruwi - Salalah - Sohar), or through the sales counter of Oman Post, with the start date of sales to be announced at a later time.

— ONA

ON 20 NOVEMBER ANNUALLY

Oman's Embassy in Bahrain hosts reception to celebrate National Day

MANAMA: The Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman in the Kingdom of Bahrain hosted a reception to mark Oman's National Day, which falls annually on 20 November. The event was attended by Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, ministers, members of Bahrain Shura Council and Council of Representatives Councils, senior officials and heads of diplomatic missions accredited to the Kingdom.

Sayyid Faisal Harib Al Busaidi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Kingdom of Bahrain, gave a speech in which he highlighted the deep-rooted historical relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Bahrain. He commended the ongoing bilateral cooperation, development and progress made in the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Bahrain under the Royal patronage of the two countries' leaders.

Al Busaidi outlined aspects of the Sultanate of Oman's comprehensive renaissance across various sectors under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik. He spoke about prospects of the ambitious objectives envisaged to be achieved through "Oman Vision 2040."

The reception's programme included a documentary that highlighted the Sultanate of Oman's rich history, its cultural and tourism assets and its key developmental achievements, as well as live examples of the progress and prosperity currently witnessed by Oman. — ONA

SULTAN QABOOS UNIVERSITY

Joint Committee meeting held

MUSCAT: The Joint Committee between Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) and the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology held its second meeting on Monday at the University.

The meeting was held in the presence of HH Sayyid Dr. Fahad Al Julanda Al Said, Vice Chancellor of Sultan Qaboos University, and Eng. Said Hamoud Al Maawali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, with the attendance of committee members from both sides at the University's campus in Muscat.

The committee discussed a number of topics, including reviewing the project for developing 3D graphene oxide membranes to purify Omani port waters from oils, and discussing ways to develop the organisation of the Oman Collegiate Programming Contest and ensure early coordination for it.

The committee also reviewed a package of strategic projects in the transport and logistics sector, which included developing port asset management systems, planning electric vehicle charging infrastructure, conducting a feasibility study on low-carbon marine fuel, and improving the quality of postal and express delivery services. — ONA



SRI LANKAN SCHOOL MUSCAT

A legacy of Excellence, A Future of Promise

Outstanding Pearson Learner Awards

6 Highest Mark in the World

13 Highest Mark In Middle East

15 Highest Mark in Oman

HIGHEST MARK IN THE WORLD



SAJAAN AMRITH — IAL MATHEMATICS & IAS MATHEMATICS



MIHAN EDIRISINGHE — IAS MATHEMATICS



MANITHA BANDARA — IAS MATHEMATICS



SEJANA GUNATHILAKE — IGCSE MATHEMATICS A



THAJ RIFA SHIYAM — IGCSE MATHEMATICS A

HIGHEST MARK IN THE MIDDLE EAST



HIGHEST MARK IN OMAN





THATHSILU DISSANAYAKE — I-PRIMARY MATHEMATICS



BUVINDU KARUNARATHNA — I-PRIMARY SCIENCE

The May/June 2026 examination session also marked a historic milestone for Sri Lankan School Muscat, as students sat for the Edexcel iPrimary Examinations for the first time. Achieving remarkable success in this inaugural attempt, ***Bareerah Shuja Khan, Buvindu Mehansa Karunarathna,*** and ***Roneth Dulain Peiris*** secured the **Highest Mark in the Middle East for iPrimary English.**

"Sri Lankan School Muscat Reaffirms Academic Excellence with Exceptional Pearson Edexcel Results in May/June 2026 Examinations with 6 Highest Mark in the World awards, 13 Highest Mark in the Middle East awards, and 15 Highest Mark in Oman awards across the International Advanced Level (IAL), International Advanced Subsidiary (IAS), International GCSE (IGCSE), GCSE and iPrimary Examinations,"

Sri Lankan School Muscat (SLSM) has once again demonstrated its tradition of academic excellence, recording an exceptional performance in the Pearson Edexcel Examinations held in May/June 2026. The students secured an impressive total of 6 Highest Mark in the World awards, 13 Highest Mark in the Middle East awards, and 15 Highest Mark in Oman awards across the International Advanced Level (IAL), International Advanced Subsidiary (IAS), International GCSE (IGCSE)/GCSE, and iPrimary Examinations.

Among the most outstanding achievers, ***Sajaan Amrith Bandara*** earned the **Highest Mark in the World** for **IAL Mathematics**. ***Mihan Tharinda Edirisinghe, Manitha Bandara Hulugalla*** and ***Sajaan Amrith Bandara*** excelled in **IAS Mathematics** in June 2026. Similarly, ***Sejana Ranthul Gunathilake*** and ***Thaj Rifa Shiyam*** achieved the Highest Mark in the World for **IGCSE Mathematics A.**

SLSM students also excelled at regional level, securing an impressive number of Highest Mark in the Middle East awards. In International Advanced Level Examination, ***Holly Aliza Berhardt*** achieved the **Highest Mark in the Middle East for IAL Accounting,** ***Manitha Bandara Hulugalla*** achieved the **Highest Mark in the Middle East for IAL Further Mathematics** while ***Visal Pullsitha Fernando*** received the **Highest Mark in the Middle East in IAL Chemistry.**

Similarly, ***Jannatul Ferdous*** obtained the **Highest Mark in the Middle East for IAS Biology** and ***Sajaan Amrith Bandara*** received the **Highest Mark in the Middle East for IAS Further Mathematics** in June 2026. Consecutively, the following students have obtained the **Highest Mark in the Middle East** for the following subjects at the **International GCSE Examination:** ***Onitha Damsithu Amarasena*** **for IGCSE Computer Science,** ***Sejana Ranthul Gunathilake*** **for IGCSE Chemistry and IGCSE English Literature,** ***Thatheer Zehra Jamani*** **for GCSE Urdu and** ***Syeda Mahdiya Bilal*** **for IGCSE Physics.**

These students have obtained the **Highest Mark in Oman** for the following subjects at the **International Advanced Level Examination**:
Dulara Janani Kuruppu **for IAL Biology and Physics and** ***Farzan Ahmed Khan*** **for IAL Business.**
The following students have secured the **Highest Mark in Oman** for the respective subjects at the **International Advanced Subsidiary Level Examination**:
Ali Hassan for IAS Economics (January 2026), ***Kaveeja Kandeepan*** **for IAS Accounting and Mohamed** ***Rushdaan Rashard*** **for IAS Chemistry (January 2026).**

Furthermore, the following students were awarded the **Highest Mark in Oman** in their respective subjects at the **IGCSE Level Examination**:
Semika Sensath Fernando **for IGCSE Information and Communication Technology,** ***Mohammed Abdur Rahman*** **for IGCSE Accounting,** ***Sidrah Naushad Maroof*** **for IGCSE Economics,** ***Syeda Mahdiya Bilal*** **for IGCSE Biology,** ***Tanhaz Nashir Sultan*** **for IGCSE Business,** ***Tazmeen Nazeem*** **for IGCSE English Language A and** ***Thaj Rifa Shiyam*** **for IGCSE Further Pure Mathematics**.

Further accolades were earned at the IPrimary level, where ***Buvindu Mehansa Karunarathna*** achieved the **Highest Mark in Oman for iPrimary Science** and ***Thathsilu Enal Dissanayake*** secured the **Highest Mark in Oman for .iPrimary Mathematics.**

Reflecting the consistently high academic standards maintained by the school, 12 students received the Edexcel High Achiever Awards at the International Advanced Level, while 8 students were recognized at the International Advanced Subsidiary Level. Further, 43 students were awarded the Edexcel High Achiever awards at IGCSE for their exceptional performance, collectively attaining 110 grades of Nine (9), 71 grades of Eight (8), and 57 grades of Seven (7).

Pearson Edexcel High Achievers

These remarkable accomplishments stand as a testament to the dedication, perseverance, and hard work of the students, as well as the unwavering support provided by their teachers and parents. As Sri Lankan School Muscat continues its proud tradition of academic excellence, the Management, Principal, staff, students, and parents extend their heartfelt congratulations to all award recipients and successful candidates of the Pearson Edexcel May/June 2026 examination session.

These exceptional accomplishments not only highlight the talents and perseverance of SLSM students but also reaffirm the school's unwavering commitment to academic excellence, shaping confident and accomplished individuals ready to make a meaningful impact on the world.

PEARSON EDEXCEL HIGH ACHIEVERS AT INTERNATIONAL ADVANCED LEVEL



PEARSON EDEXCEL HIGH ACHIEVERS AT INTERNATIONAL ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY LEVEL



PEARSON EDEXCEL HIGH ACHIEVERS AT INTERNATIONAL GSCE



PEARSON EDEXCEL HIGH ACHIEVERS AT I-PRIMARY



68 Edexcel High Achievers

0096824811005
www.slsm.edu.om
Sri Lankan School Muscat

T OMAN

DEDICATED VISA MEDICAL CENTRE IN MUTTRAH

Private sector expands its role in Oman's evolving health ecosystem

Times News Service



MUSCAT: As Oman continues to strengthen its healthcare infrastructure and expand the range of services available to its growing population, the role of private healthcare providers is evolving beyond traditional medical and pharmaceutical services to address more specialised and emerging needs.

With quality healthcare, accessibility, technological advancement and sustainability among the priorities of Oman Vision 2040, collaboration between public institutions and responsble private-sector organisations is increasingly important in building an efficient and inclusive healthcare ecosystem.

One area where this evolving demand is particularly evident is in organised medical examination services for expatriates, who constitute an important part of Oman's workforce and contribute significantly to the country's economic development. Medical screening for employment and residency is an essential component of the country's public health and administrative framework, making accessibility and efficiency in these services important considerations.

Against this backdrop, Al Hashar Healthcare SPC has expanded its presence in the healthcare sector with the establishment of a dedicated Visa Medical Centre in Muttrah, Muscat.

The facility, inaugurated on Sunday under the patronage of Sheikh Faisal bin Abdullah Al Rawas, Chairman of the Board of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), is dedicated to conducting medical examinations for expatriates applying for employment and residency in Oman.

The initiative reflects the growing importance of specialised support services within the wider healthcare ecosystem.

Well-organised medical examination facilities can help streamline essential screening processes while supporting public health requirements and improving the overall experience for individuals navigating employment and residency procedures.

For Oman, where economic diversification and workforce development remain important elements of the national development agenda, such services form part of the wider infrastructure that supports the movement and participation of people in the economy.

Dr. Ismail bin Ahmed Al Balushi, Chairman of the Board of Al Hashar Pharmacy, said that private-sector participation in healthcare development carries a responsibility that extends beyond conventional business activities.

"We believe that contributing to Oman's healthcare ecosystem is a shared responsibility. As the nation progresses towards Oman Vision 2040, every meaningful effort to improve healthcare accessibility, service quality and operational efficiency matters. This initiative reflects our commitment to being a constructive partner in the country's development journey," he said.

Al Hashar Pharmacy, which has been present in Oman for more than 50 years, has built its presence in the country's pharmaceutical and healthcare sector over several decades. The expansion into specialised healthcare services represents a further step in the group's efforts to respond to changing requirements within the sector.

Times OF OMAN

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

Founder: Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali
Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali
Deputy Editor-in-Chief: Anees bin Essa Al Zedjali
Chief Executive Officer: Ahmed Essa Al Zedjali

EDITORIAL: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24813153, E-mail: editor@timesofoman.com
ADVERTISING: Telephone: 22009004, E-mail: amcoman@choueirigroup.com
CIRCULATION: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24818270, E-mail: circulation@timesofoman.com

PRESIDENTIAL PALACE IN ASMARA



Eritrean President receives credentials of Ambassador of Oman

ASMARA: President Isaias Afwerki of the State of Eritrea, received Abdullah Nasser Al Rahbi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Arab Republic of Egypt, to present his credentials as Non-resident Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the State of Eritrea.

During the meeting, which took place at the Presidential Palace in the capital Asmara, the Ambassador conveyed the greetings of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to the Eritrean President, along with His Majesty's wishes of abundant health and happiness to the President. He also conveyed His Majesty's wishes of further progress and prosperity to the Eritrean people.

For his part, the President asked the Ambassador to convey his greetings and best wishes to His Majesty the Sultan for good health and well-being, and to the Omani people for continued progress and prosperity.

The President wished the Ambassador success in performing his duties, and further development and growth for the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

The President of Eritrea lauded the foreign policy of the Sultanate of Oman which is based on wisdom, moderation, and dialogue, and its role in supporting efforts for peace and stability, affirming the importance of strengthening cooperation and understanding in a manner that serves mutual interests and contributes to consolidating security and stability in the region. – ONA

ROYAL OMAN POLICE

Expats arrested

MUSCAT: Two expat women have been arrested by the Royal Oman Police (ROP), for stealing gold jewellery from a shop in Seeb, Muscat Governorate.

"Two Asian women were apprehended for stealing gold jewellery pieces from a jewellery shop in the Wilayat of Seeb after deceiving and distracting the employee. The arrest was carried out by the Directorate General for Inquiries & Criminal Research," the ROP said in a statement.

Ministry of Defence

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

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

No	Subject	Tender Number	Last Date For Purchasing Tender Document	Last Date To Submit Bids	Tender Document Fees + Vat
1	PRAVIDING OF LAUNDRY SERVICES FOR MINISTRY OF DEFENCE FOR FOUR YEARS	27/2026	14/12/2026	21/12/2026	RO 1277

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. Omani station compliance certificate (Issued by Ministry of Labor) with a validity period not exceeding one month from the date of issuance must be submitted when purchasing tender's document.
4. 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

WANTED!

AGENCIES
Creative, media, digital, PR, influencer, experiential - all the crew

CLIENT-SIDE LEGENDS
Marketing teams across FMCG, banking, auto, luxury & more

ALLIED SECTORS
Studios, production houses, event pros, designers

MEDIA & PLATFORMS
Publishers, broadcasters, adtech & content kings

STARTUPS & DISRUPTORS
Fresh minds stirring up the market

REGIONAL & GLOBAL ROCKSTARS
TOMI welcomes cross-border brilliance

TOMI AWARDS DECEMBER 10

If you work in Oman's marketing industry, whether brand, agency, creator, government or team, there's a strong chance you're eligible.

Find your category among 30+ at tomiawards.com

For more information, contact:
Sanjeev: sanjeev@mmg.om | +968 97221630
Syed Amir: syed.amir@mmg.om | +968 78471944

TOMI AWARDS

APPLY NOW
tomiawards.com

Managed by T EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE OF OMAN

Centre to enhance attractiveness of Oman for global investments and support national economic growth





< FROM A1 On this occasion, HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said stated: "We are pleased to inaugurate the business headquarters of the International Financial Centre of Oman, commending the efforts exerted in establishing it, laying down its legislative and regulatory system, and preparing a stable and competitive business environment, thereby enhancing the attractiveness of the Sultanate of Oman for global investments and financial institutions and supporting the growth of our national economy."

For his part, Sultan Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance and Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors of the International Financial Centre of Oman, said: "In an important milestone in the journey of the International Financial Centre of Oman represented by the commencement of company registration, the choice of thirteen companies to establish their operations at the Centre since its launch reflects the attractive business and investment fundamentals provided by the Centre. We look forward to welcoming more companies that will contribute to attracting new capital and expertise, stimulating business, and strengthening the financial services sector, in addition to deepening ties between international investors and companies in the region." The Minister explained that the Centre will continue working at the same pace to complete the Centre's regulatory system, paving the way for commencing the issuance of licenses to practice financial services activities at the beginning of next year. Within the framework of the Centre's proceedings, HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said chaired the Centre's Board of Directors meeting, which reviewed the progress achieved in completing the legal and regulatory system, operational infrastructure, and priorities related to attracting international companies and investments.

The inauguration of the Centre's business headquarters and the commencement of company registration follow the issuance of the Royal Decrees promulgating the Operations Law, the Regulatory Law, and the International Financial Centre of Oman Courts Law, alongside five foundational regulations covering operations, companies, partnerships, foundations, and interpretation. This system defines the frameworks governing the establishment of entities and the conduct of business, governance requirements, regulatory obligations, and dispute resolution mechanisms, enabling companies and investors to understand the requirements governing their operations within the Centre and plan their activities on a clear basis, while preparations continue concurrently to commence issuing financial services licenses at the beginning of 2027.

Company registration constitutes one of the stages of operationalising the Centre's activities, while preparations continue for licensing financial services activities at the beginning of next year, reflecting a phased approach in completing the requirements necessary to practice these activities in accordance with their designated regulatory framework. The Centre, established pursuant to Royal Decree No. 8/2026, aims to strengthen the linkage of the national economy with international capital, expand investment and business opportunities, and support the growth of financial and professional services, in alignment with the targets of Oman Vision 2040. – ONA

PUBLIC PROSECUTION MEMBERS

HM the Sultan issues two Royal decrees

< FROM A1 Royal Decree No. 11/2026 on the promulgation of the Schedule of Salaries, Allowances and Bonuses for Judges and Members of the Public Prosecution.

Article (1) states that—as regards the salaries, allowances and bonuses for judges and members of the public prosecution, the Schedule attached to this decree shall be enforced.

Article (2) stipulates that those addressed by the provisions of the Schedule set forth in Article (1) of this Decree shall be entitled to the salaries, allowances and bonuses prescribed for the positions they hold, as specified in the Schedule attached to this Decree. They shall also retain the salary levels they have attained, should these be higher than the starting salaries prescribed for their positions under the Schedule attached to this Decree.

Article (3) cancels the Royal Decree No. 110/2000 on the promulgation of the Schedule of Salaries, Allowances and Bonuses for Judges and Members of the Public Prosecution. It also cancels all that contradicts this Decree or the attached Schedule or contravenes their provisions.

Article (4) says that this Decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall be enforced on the day following its date of publishing. – ONA

ACTIVE OMAN

Specialised centre

MUSCAT: The SMEs Development Authority (Riyada) inaugurated yesterday the Specialised Entrepreneurship Centre for Craft Industries at "Active Oman" in Muscat Governorate.

The move aims to strengthen the craft industries support ecosystem and empower artisans and entrepreneurs to develop their projects and transform their skills and creative ideas into sustainable and competitive productive enterprises. – ONA

WIDER COVERAGE

'Mandatory health insurance would significantly impact Oman's healthcare sector'

< FROM A1 Sheikh Faisal said the introduction of mandatory health insurance would significantly impact the healthcare sector, with wider insurance coverage expected to increase demand for medical services, medicines and healthcare facilities while creating opportunities for private-sector investment.

"With health insurance coverage, demand for healthcare services and medicines will increase," he said.

Congratulating Al Hashar Pharmacy on opening its Visa Medical Centre in Muttrah, Sheikh Faisal described the facility as a positive addition to Oman's healthcare infrastructure.

He was glad to learn that Al Hashar Pharmacy is also looking to expand its presence across the country through additional clinics and home healthcare services, anticipating considerable growth in the sector over the coming years. "I believe this sector will witness growth over the next 10 years. It is a very good step for Al Hashar Pharmacy to enter this sector and support healthcare and the community in Oman," he added.

Sheikh Faisal also highlighted the OCCI's role in representing private-sector concerns before government authorities, particularly on issues relating to legislation, administrative procedures and fees.

Conducive environment

He said the OCCI works with businesses and relevant authorities to address such challenges and facilitate a more conducive business environment.

Oman has already established a regulatory framework for health insurance, including the Unified Health Insurance Policy and related regulations. The Financial Services Authority's Dhamani platform connects healthcare providers, insurers and other stakeholders, facilitating insurance approvals, claims and payments.

TIMES OF OMAN
BUSINESS LEADERSHIP
SUMMIT AND AWARDS 2026



Deenadayakaran Jeevamanickam of Arabian Car Marketing Company Honoured with Business Leader of the Year — Automotive at Times Business Leadership Awards 2026

Deenadayakaran Jeevamanickam, Business Head of Arabian Car Marketing Company LLC (ACM), was honoured with the Business Leader of the Year – Automotive award at the Times Business Leadership Summit & Awards 2026. Organised by Muscat Media Group, publisher of Times of Oman and Al Shabiba, in collaboration with Gulf Leaders Circle and managed by TEvents, the awards recognised outstanding business leaders and organisations demonstrating excellence in leadership, innovation and business growth across Oman.

Deenadayakaran was recognised for his strategic leadership, extensive industry expertise and contribution to the growth and development of Oman's automotive sector. As Business Head of Arabian Car Marketing Company, the official and exclusive distributor of Ford and Lincoln vehicles in Oman, he plays a key role in overseeing business operations, brand strategy, sales performance and after-sales services.

Through his leadership, Deenadayakaran has focused on strengthening the presence of Ford and Lincoln in the Omani market, enhancing customer engagement and driving sustainable business growth. His approach combines strategic planning, operational efficiency and a strong commitment to delivering quality automotive products and services that meet evolving customer expectations.

With the automotive industry undergoing significant transformation, Deenadayakaran continues to emphasise innovation, customer experience and the adoption of emerging automotive technologies. His focus on expanding automotive solutions, including electric vehicle offerings, reflects his commitment to keeping the business aligned with changing market trends and the future of mobility.

The recognition highlights Deenadayakaran's contribution to automotive business excellence, brand development and customer-centric leadership. Through his strategic vision and commitment to operational performance, he continues to support the growth of Arabian Car Marketing Company and the advancement of Oman's automotive industry.

The Times Business Leadership Summit & Awards 2026, held on 26 October 2026 at JW Marriott Hotel Muscat, brought together senior business leaders, industry experts and decision-makers under the theme 'Business Leadership in an Era of Unprecedented Change.' The event celebrated leadership excellence, business achievements and organisations contributing to economic growth, innovation and sustainable development in line with Oman Vision 2040.

For more information, contact: 78471944 / 97221630

MINISTER OF LABOUR

Employment indicators reviewed before State Council

MUSCAT: Dr. Mahad Said Ba'owain, Minister of Labour, reviewed before the State Council on Monday employment initiatives and the ministry's targets for the period (2026–2030), alongside the main features of the draft National Employment Policy and its executive plan.

The meeting also discussed the most prominent policies and programmes related to developing the labour market in the Sultanate of Oman.

The meeting included a visual presentation delivered by the Minister, during which he spoke about the efforts of the Ministry of Labour in developing the labor market regulatory ecosystem, enhancing employment and Omanisation policies, and raising workforce productivity.

He reviewed performance indicators, the results achieved in employment programs, regulatory and legislative developments, and the strategic features of the draft National Employment Policy, including its pillars, objectives, and executive plan.

Flexible work environment

The Minister affirmed that developing the labour market ecosystem represents a priority for the ministry through creating a flexible work environment that keeps pace with economic variables and the needs of various sectors, enhances the participation of the national workforce, and raises skill and productivity levels, in alignment with the targets of Oman Vision 2040.

Regarding the draft National Employment Policy, he clarified that it aims to regulate both the supply and demand sides, align economic and social policies with human resources development requirements, provide decent and sustainable job opportunities, and develop the skills of the national workforce.

The Minister pointed to the four main pillars, which include developing human capital, building a diversified and job-generating economy, enhancing a prosperous society, and creating a healthy and stimulating work environment. From these stem strategic objectives related to anticipating the future of the labor market, developing national skills, improving governance, and providing sustainable job opportunities. – ONA

SPORTS

18 CLUBS IN FRAY

Al Amerat face 'elite' test in bid for third straight His Majesty the Sultan's Cup hockey crown

Times News Service





MUSCAT: Defending champions Al Amerat face a demanding test in their bid for a third successive His Majesty the Sultan's Cup hockey title after being drawn alongside Quriyat, Salalah and Sohar in the Elite category for the 56th edition of the competition.

The four clubs have secured direct entry into the final stage, while 14 other teams must battle through the Challenge phase for the remaining four places in an eight-team title race.

Organised by the Oman Hockey Association (OHA), the draw ceremony was held at the Sheraton Oman Hotel on Monday under the auspices of Sheikh Dr Ali bin Masoud al Sunaidi, Adviser at the Diwan of Royal Court, in the presence of sports officials and club representatives.

Al Amerat, who won the trophy in 2024 and retained it in 2025, will seek to maintain their hold on the competition. Their Elite rivals, however, will be equally determined to prevent the defending champions from completing a hat-trick of titles.

The remaining 14 clubs have been divided into four Challenge groups, with only the winners advancing to the final stage.

Group One comprises Majees, Al Suwaiq and Saham, while Group Two features Fanja, Dhofar, Al Bashayer and Al Ittihad. Bausher, Seeb, Rustaq and Al Shabab make up Group Three, with Ibri, Masirah and Al Nahda drawn in Group Four.

Each Challenge group will be played on a single round-robin basis, with matches scheduled at hockey grounds in sports complexes and at Hockey Oman Stadium.

The four group winners will join the Elite quartet in the final stage, where the eight teams will be divided into Groups Five and Six. Each side will play the other teams in its group once, with the top two advancing to the semi-finals.

The group winners will meet the runners-up from the opposite group, while the losing semi-finalists will contest third place.

The champions will receive the trophy, 30 gold medals and OMR40,000, while the runners-up will collect 30 silver medals and OMR25,000. Third place carries bronze medals and OMR15,000.

The best player, leading scorer and best goalkeeper will each receive a commemorative award and OMR100.

During the ceremony, Al Sunaidi presented a replica of the trophy to Al Amerat chairman Mohsin bin Hani al Bahrani in recognition of the club's success in the previous edition. OHA chairman Dr Marwan bin Juma al Juma also presented a memento to the chief guest.

The association honoured Khalil al Balushi and Khamis al Balushi for their contributions to domestic and international umpiring. Mahmood Ali al Hassani was also recognised following his recent achievement of attaining international umpire status.

Partners and sponsors were honoured, including Jindal Steel, Muscat Steel, Badr Al Samaa Group and BankDhofar, alongside media organisations and journalists supporting the sport.

A presentation reviewing the association's activities during 2026 highlighted Oman's triumph at the Men's Asian Games Qualifier in Bangkok in April and the national team's subsequent qualification for the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games.

The review also covered Muscat's hosting of the Women's Junior AHF Cup and the Men's and Women's Youth Hockey5s Asian Championship in July, alongside domestic competitions aimed at developing young players.

Other milestones included Al Juma's election as president of the Arab Hockey Federation and the relocation of its headquarters to Oman, as well as the agreement for the Jindal High-Performance Centre for Hockey Oman.

The BankDhofar-sponsored Oman Hockey League was another key feature of the domestic calendar. First held in 1971, the Sultan's Cup was won by Oman Club in its inaugural edition.

Oman D20 to usher in new era with historic DRS introduction

Oman Cricket's premier domestic competitions will feature the Decision Review System (DRS) for the first time when the Oman D20 gets underway on November 26, bringing advanced decision-making technology to the domestic leagues



DULEEP MENDIS, Oman Cricket Chief Development Officer



ALKESH JOSHI, Oman Cricket treasurer







DRS technology was trialled during the tri-series involving Oman, Mumbai and Kerala teams earlier this year at the Oman Cricket Academy ground in Al Amerat

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Cricket (OC) is set to take a significant technological leap with the introduction of the Decision Review System (DRS) in its premier domestic competitions, beginning with the Oman D20 tournament on November 26.

The move will mark the first time DRS is being deployed in Oman's domestic season, bringing a new dimension to the country's competitive cricket landscape and underlining the board's commitment to raising playing standards.

The opening day of the Oman D20 will make history, with Muscat Thunderers taking on Majees Titans in the first match to feature the technology. Three matches are scheduled on the opening day, giving players and officials an early opportunity to experience the new system.

While the technology was trialled in Oman during the tri-series involving Kerala and Mumbai in September, its introduction in the Oman D20 marks a significant step towards making DRS part of the country's regular domestic cricket structure.

The initiative reflects Oman Cricket's ambition to provide its players with facilities and match conditions increasingly aligned with the international game, particularly as competition among top-flight teams continues to intensify.

OC treasurer Alkesh Joshi welcomed the introduction, describing it as a significant milestone for the country's domestic game.

"We are proud to be the first Associate nation to introduce this cutting-edge DRS technology in our domestic cricket. With its remote-production model, the technology also offers other Associate nations a more accessible and cost-effective way forward," Joshi said. The senior board member said the introduction was only the beginning of Oman Cricket's plans to embrace technological advancements.

"This is just the beginning. Oman Cricket plans to broaden the use of technology and introduce greater levels of automation to support the development of the game in the Sultanate," he added.

Duleep Mendis, OC's Chief Development Officer (CDO), described the development as a landmark moment for the country's cricketing journey, crediting the board's vision under the leadership of its chairman Pankaj Khimji.

"The implementation of the Decision Review System (DRS) marks a landmark moment for Oman Cricket. It reflects the vision and commitment of the board, under the leadership of Pankaj Khimji, to continuously raise cricketing standards in Oman and embrace technological advancements that strengthen the game," Mendis said.

He emphasised that technology would provide an added layer of accuracy and fairness, particularly in a sport where marginal decisions can have a decisive impact.

"While human error is inevitable, DRS provides an additional layer of accuracy and fairness, ensuring that every player has the confidence that every decision is given due consideration," he added.

The system, Khel Lite, is being provided by Indian cricket technology company Khel.ai. It uses cameras permanently installed at the Oman Cricket Academy Ground, with ball-tracking and edge-detection technology processed through the cloud.

"The system also supports reviews involving no-balls, wides, run-outs and stumpings, without requiring specialist technical crews to travel for every match. Mendis said the introduction was particularly relevant given the growing competitiveness of Oman's domestic cricket.

"With competition in Oman's domestic cricket ecosystem growing significantly, particularly with the increased competition between top-tier teams, the introduction of DRS is an important step towards maintaining a level playing field and enhancing the overall quality and credibility of our competitions," he said.

How Khel Lite works

- **Installed once.** Cameras are fixed permanently at the ground — nothing is flown in for each fixture.
- **Decided in the cloud.** Ball-tracking and edge detection run in Khel.ai's cloud, not in a production truck.
- **Run by one local operator.** No travelling technical crew.
- **Fast.** Simple decisions in about 1 minute; full ball-tracking and edge detection in about 2 minutes.
- **Complete.** LBW ball-tracking, NickSense edge detection, no-balls, wides, run-outs and stumpings — plus live streaming and replays from the same cameras.

FORMER SOUTH AFRICA BATTER

'Aussies were ball-tampering from first 2018 Test in Durban': De Villiers

JOHANNESBURG: Former South Africa batter AB de Villiers has alleged Australia were ball-tampering from the first match of their controversial 2018 Test series in Durban.



Australia captain Steve Smith, vice-captain David Warner and batter Cameron Bancroft received long-term bans for their roles in using sandpaper to alter the ball during the third Test in Cape Town. Former Australia batter Usman Khawaja, whose new autobiography has re-started scrutiny of the scandal, has previously claimed that sandpaper was also used during the preceding Test at at Gqeberha, then known as Port Elizabeth.

Warner and Bancroft have both corroborated Khawaja's claims about that match, but De Villiers has now suggested the ball was altered during the series opener in Durban. "It started in Durban, by the way, not in PE," De Villiers said on his YouTube channel ABD360. "I'm very happy for people to quote me on that.

"I see everyone is sort of admitting that in Port Elizabeth it also happened. I can very much tell you Durban was no different, in the first Test. Go look at the footage. Absolutely no doubt in my mind.

"We lost that first Test match in Durban with the ball reversing at a very, very interesting time. Way too early for anyone to reverse a ball at Kingsmead. Trust me, I've played a lot of cricket there.

"So whatever they did there, whether it was sandpaper or (a) nail, I don't care. The fact of the matter is they were caught and everyone knew. Just stand up and say 'we were wrong'. A lot is at stake now because they lied.

"The bowlers in particular knew because the ball doesn't just reverse. It's not your first Test match for Australia. So just stand up and say, 'guys, we were wrong'."

De Villiers also acknowledged that he was not an "angel" during his playing career but insisted his side had stayed within the rules of the game when working on the ball. "I'm not playing all innocent and saying that I'm the perfect person," he said. "We all try and get the ball to reverse. We try and bounce it in. We try and do it in a legal manner and we try and push the boundaries as much as possible." - Agencies

INDIA VS NEW ZEALAND

Wellington Test ends in a draw

WELLINGTON: India managed to create enough excitement to take the Wellington Test into the final session with an outright result possible, but in the end, the unyielding Basin Reserve pitch prevailed as New Zealand batted out 120 overs for a draw on Monday.



There was little seam or wear and tear to help the bowlers, and pace also died gradually: even in the last innings of the match only 91 false shots could be created, compared to 99 and 96 in the first two innings.

The draw pushed India further away from World Test Championship (WTC) final contention. Even though they salvaged four points despite conceding 720, New Zealand slipped to No.3 on the points table.

India started the day needing eight wickets to force a result against all odds. Life remained in the match going into the final session due to some hope against hope from the new ball and the three wickets India managed to take in the 37 overs they bowled with the old ball.

Washington Sundar's drift in the air created a bat-pad from Devon Conway, Rachin Ravindra's hard hands gave Prasidh Krishna a wicket, and Anshul Kamboj craftily drew a feather from Tom Blundell just before the new ball.

Daryl Mitchell and Glenn Phillips, though, batted 43 overs together to force the stalemate. Mitchell survived 186 balls for 49 not out, the undefeated Phillips kept out 126. There were long periods of little activity: eight consecutive maidens just before tea and 43 consecutive dot balls just after.

India also managed workload management with Jasprit Bumrah bowling no spells longer than three overs; this was still the fifth-busiest Test for him with a total of 49 overs for five wickets, taking his career bowling average to 19.94.

Conway and Ravindra, already more than 22 overs into their partnership overnight, batted for more than ten overs on the final morning for just 13 runs.

Washington finally got the inside edge of Conway's bat onto the pad for Rishabh Pant to take a tumbling catch. Ravindra fell to Prasidh.

Kamboj eventually got a feather from Blundell, which didn't register with Pant but was confirmed by DRS. Mitchell and Phillips partnership grew and India offered the draw the moment it became possible with 15 of the scheduled overs unbowled.

Brief scores: New Zealand 368 and 239 for 5 (Conway 65, Mitchell 49*, Prasidh 2-23) drew with India 720 for 9 decl. **(With Cricinfo inputs)**

OMAN OIL PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman crude oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by January reaching $87.25.
The price of Oman crude oil fell by $0.32 from the price of Friday, which was $87.57.



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 7,209.79 points, up by 0.00% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -0.01% at 599.82 points. Oman & Emirates Investment, up 0.09%, was the top gainer while, Oman Cement, down 0.10%, was the top loser.

Gold slump draws shoppers back to Oman's jewellers

The price of 24-carat gold, which peaked at OMR70.20 per gram on January 29, has dropped to around OMR46.45 per gram on Monday, a decline of more than OMR23, or nearly 33 per cent



Times News Service

MUSCAT/SINGAPORE: After reaching record highs earlier this year, gold prices in Oman have fallen sharply, offering welcome relief to jewellery buyers and investors.

The price of 24-carat gold, which peaked at OMR70.20 per gram on January 29, has dropped to around OMR46.45 per gram on Monday, a decline of more than OMR23, or nearly 33 per cent.

On Monday, 24-carat gold was trading at OMR46.45 per gram, while 22-carat gold stood at OMR43.60, 21-carat at OMR39.90 and 18-carat at OMR34.65.

Substantial savings

For consumers in Oman, the decline translates into substantial savings. A 10-gram purchase of 24-carat gold now costs approximately OMR464.50, compared with OMR702 at the January peak, representing a saving of around OMR237.50.

"The fall in prices is encouraging buyers to return to the market," said Mohammed, a manager at Al Haseena Jewellery.

Jewellers say lower prices are already attracting customers who had postponed purchases during the recent price rally.

Demand is expected to pick up, particularly for wedding jewellery, gifts and investment purchases.

Internationally, gold prices rose at the start of Asian trading on Monday, recovering from a 14-month low recorded in the previous session.

Investors are awaiting a key US inflation report that could provide clues about the Federal Reserve's next monetary policy move.

Spot gold climbed 1.2 per cent to $3,576.10 per ounce, after hitting its lowest level since September 2025 last Friday. Gold fell about 9 per cent last week, marking its largest weekly decline since March.

US gold futures for December delivery rose 1.7 per cent to $3,576.20 per ounce.

According to the CME FedWatch tool, market expectations indicated a 93 per cent probability of an interest rate hike at the Federal Reserve's December monetary policy meeting.

Higher interest rates increase the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding assets such as gold, reducing their appeal to investors.

US personal consumption expenditures (PCE) data is due for release on Wednesday. The indicator is closely monitored by the Federal Reserve as it seeks to bring inflation down to its 2 per cent target.

Among other precious metals, spot silver rose 2.3 per cent to $42.11 per ounce. Platinum climbed 1.4 per cent to $1,316.97, while palladium gained 1.3 per cent to $904.15.

TRANSPORT AND AIR SERVICES



Oman signs 5 pacts to expand its international air transport network

MONTREAL: The Sultanate of Oman on Monday signed 5 agreements in the field of transport and air services with Canada, Mali, the Netherlands (regarding the island of Curaçao) the Republic of Belize and the Republic of Togo.

The agreements were signed in Montreal on the sidelines of Oman's participation in the 43rd extraordinary session of the General Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

On behalf of the Government of the Sultanate of Oman, the agreements were signed by Eng. Nayef bin Ali Al Abri, Chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority. The agreements were signed with the respective countries by the following: Michael Vandergrift, Deputy Minister of Transport in Canada; Mohamed Hamadi Diallo, Deputy Director General of Mali's National Civil Aviation Agency; Peter Steinmetz, Director General of the Civil Aviation Authority in Curaçao (on behalf of the Netherlands with regard to Curaçao); Nigel Carter, Director of Civil Aviation of Belize); and Air Brigadier General Agnidofaye Mamah, Director General of Togo's National Civil Aviation Agency.

Oman has so far signed 140 agreements with different countries around the world in the field of air transport and air services. This reflects Oman's vision to consolidate its presence in the global aviation arena and to enhance the role of the civil aviation sector as a strong enabler in the supporting sectors of trade, tourism and investment in line with the objectives of the National Aviation Strategy 2040. -ONA

FUTURE DIRECTION

Energy Oman highlights Sukuk Series 2 and strategic energy priorities at media roundtable





MUSCAT: Energy Oman (Energy Development Oman) held a media roundtable in Muscat, highlighting its OMR Sukuk Series 2 alongside the company's strategic priorities and future direction in Oman's energy sector. The session coincided with the opening of Category II subscriptions, providing individual investors with the opportunity to subscribe until 30 November.

During the session, Sultan Al Mamari, Chief Financial Officer of Energy Oman, and Dr. Bader Al Abri, Asset Director – Gas and New Energies at Energy Oman, highlighted the company's role in managing and developing strategic energy assets, its priorities for strengthening the commercial performance of Block 6, and its approach to pursuing new income-generating opportunities. The discussion also covered Energy Oman's contribution to supporting the continued transformation of Oman's energy sector.

Energy Oman manages its interests across the oil and gas sector while focusing on enhancing efficiency and improving operating models, procurement and supply chains to create sustainable long-term value. The company's broader role also includes supporting the growth of renewable energy and helping create an enabling environment for investment in green energy initiatives, in line with Oman Vision 2040 and the Sultanate of Oman's ambition to achieve net zero by 2050.

The OMR Sukuk Series 2 forms part of Energy Oman's approach to diversifying its funding sources, strengthening financial sustainability and contributing to the continued development of Oman's capital markets. This positioning is consistent with Energy Oman's launch messaging, which presented the issuance as part of building a strong long-term financing platform while creating opportunities for investor participation in an investment supported by cash flows from Oman's energy assets.

The Category II subscription price has been set at OMR 0.99785 per certificate, with a cut-off yield of 5.05%. The Sukuk carries a fixed profit rate of 5% per annum, payable quarterly, with a five-year tenor. Each certificate has a nominal value of OMR 1.000.

Individual investors can subscribe for a minimum of 100 certificates through the mobile banking applications of the collecting banks. Investors who do not maintain an account with any of the collecting banks may submit their applications through Bank Nizwa's website. Applicants are required to have an account and Investor Number with Muscat Clearing and Depository and should ensure that their banking details are up to date.

The issuance has a base offer size of OMR 50 million, with a greenshoe option of up to an additional OMR 25 million. If exercised, Category II investors will be given priority in the allocation of the additional certificates, subject to the terms set out in the offering documents. Submission of an application does not guarantee full allotment. The OMR 50 million base size, OMR 25 million greenshoe option, five-year tenor and 5% fixed profit rate are consistent with Energy Oman's existing Sukuk materials.

National Bank of Oman and Bank Nizwa are acting as Joint Issue Managers. Energy Oman's issuance materials also identify both institutions as Issue Managers. The collecting banks are Ahli Bank, Ahli Islamic, Bank Dhofar, Dhofar Islamic, Bank Nizwa, National Bank of Oman, Muzn Islamic Banking, Oman Arab Bank, Sohar International and Sohar Islamic.

Oman Investment Bank has been appointed as Liquidity Provider to conduct market-making activities. Following completion of the allocation and settlement process, the Sukuk is expected to be listed on the Muscat Stock Exchange on or around 10 December.

The Prospectus and subscription information are available through the Joint Issue Managers and collecting banks. Investor enquiries can be directed to ir@edoman.om.

Capital is not guaranteed. Investors should read the Prospectus, including the risk factors, before making an investment decision.

DIALOGUE SESSION

Role of SMEs in media and creative industries sector reviewed



MUSCAT: The SMEs Development Authority (Riyada) organised on Monday its twenty-first dialogue session titled "Opportunities, Challenges, and the Impact of Small and Medium Enterprises in the Media and Creative Industries Sector."

The event reviewed the policies and legislation regulating the sector, the fees and licenses required to practice media and creative activities, the incentives and facilities available to SMEs, as well as showcasing business opportunities and enablers supporting the growth of enterprises and the expansion of their activities.

The session also addressed the importance of strengthening integration between government entities and enterprises operating in the sector, developing mechanisms for providing commercial opportunities, and enabling SMEs to access markets, contracts, and projects, thereby contributing to raising their competitiveness and ensuring the sustainability of their operations.

Mohammed Said Al Balushi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information, explained that this dialogue session represents an opportunity to meet with owners of SMEs operating in media fields, review areas of cooperation available with the Ministry of Information—represented by Oman News Agency, Oman Radio and Television, and electronic media—and explore training and qualification opportunities through the Media Training Centre.

In a press statement, the Undersecretary affirmed the Ministry of Information's continued support for SMEs operating in the media sector, noting that the session provides space for owners of these enterprises to identify the most prominent challenges facing them and discuss solutions and proposals capable of overcoming them, expressing his hope that its outcomes will contribute to strengthening cooperation between the Ministry and private media enterprises, elevating their performance, and developing the media sector in the Sultanate of Oman.

The session focused on the growing role of SMEs in the media and creative industries sector as one of the promising sectors based on knowledge, innovation, and content production, and the opportunities it offers to establish entrepreneurial projects with added value, develop media and creative services and products, and enhance the presence of national competencies and institutions in the market.

The session comes within the Authority's efforts to enhance direct dialogue with entities concerned with promising economic sectors, explore investment and commercial opportunities available to small and medium enterprises, identify the challenges facing their growth and expansion, and develop a stimulating business environment that enables them to contribute effectively to diversifying the national economy, in alignment with the targets of "Oman Vision 2040."

During the session, the Riyada reviewed several indicators related to small and medium enterprises operating in the media and creative industries sector, where the number of enterprises registered in the Authority's database within the sector reached 3,490 enterprises by the end of September 2026, comprising 2,993 micro enterprises, 453 small enterprises, and 44 medium enterprises, while the number of enterprises holding the Riyada Entrepreneurship Card reached 1,251 enterprises.

The activities of these enterprises were distributed across several fields, most notably professional, scientific, and technical activities, information and communications, and administrative and support service activities, reflecting the diversity of economic opportunities associated with the sector and the growth potential of entrepreneurial projects within it.

The session emphasised the importance of continuing partnership and integration between the Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development, the Ministry of Information, and relevant entities, working to prepare a more competitive business environment, developing supporting enablers and policies, and motivating entrepreneurs to present innovative solutions and ideas that contribute to developing the media and creative industries sector.

This session comes within a series of dialogue sessions organised by Riyada to enhance communication with partners and entrepreneurs, listen to challenges and proposals, and translate dialogue outcomes into opportunities for development and improvement, thereby strengthening the contribution of small and medium enterprises to sustainable economic development. -ONA

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Oman & Emirates Investment, up 0.09%, was the top gainer while, Oman Cement, down 0.10%, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 7,209.79 points, up by 0.00% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -0.01% at 599.82 points. Oman & Emirates Investment, up 0.09%, was the top gainer while, Oman Cement, down 0.10%, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded while Oman Telecom were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 11858 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 46.45 million, with more than 137.42 million shares changing hands. Out of 0 traded securities, 19 advanced, 23 declined, and 68 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net sellers for RO 180K while GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for RO 173K, followed by domestic investors for RO 7K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 13,161.06 points, up 0.00%. Prices of Oman & Emirates Investment, Al Anwar Investment, Oman Qatar Insurance, Al Sharqia Investment, Bank Muscat were up by 0.09%, 0.05%, 0.04%, 0.01%, 0.00% respectively. Prices of



Oman United Insurance, Takaful Oman, Oman Arab Bank, Global Financial Investments, Ominvest were down by 0.03%, 0.02%, 0.02%, 0.01%, 0.00% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 9,421.52 points, down -0.01%. Prices of Muscat Thread Mill, Galfar Engineering, A'Saffa Foods, Raysut Cement were up by 0.02%, 0.02%, 0.01%, 0.01% respectively. Prices of Oman Cement, Gulf International Chemicals, Oman Flour Mills, Al Anwar Ceramics, Voltamp Energy were down by 0.09%, 0.07%, 0.04%, 0.01%, 0.01% respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.01% before closing at 2,922.47 points. Prices of Phoenix Power, Ooredoo, Al Batinah Power, Al Batinah Power, Al Suwadi Power were up by 0.03%, 0.02%, 0.01%, 0.01%, 0.01% respectively. Prices of Dhofar Generating, OQ Exploration & Production, Al Jazeera Services were down by 0.03%, 0.00%, 0.00% respectively. **-United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	7,243.964	7,199.901	7,209.793	7,203.947	5.846	0.08%
FINANCIAL INDEX	13,202.276	13,113.356	13,161.058	13,116.231	44.827	0.34%
Industry Index	9,638.404	9,413.692	9,421.516	9,559.464	-137.948	-1.44%
Services Index	2,923.990	2,906.755	2,922.470	2,906.755	15.715	0.54%
MSX Shariah Index	607.570	597.897	599.820	604.806	-4.986	-0.82%
MSX TR INDEX	11,340.158	11,271.180	11,286.665	11,277.370	9.295	0.08%
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	12,442.865	12,152.769	12,162.870	12,340.956	-178.086	-1.44%
SERVICES TR IDX	4,062.565	4,038.619	4,060.453	4,038.619	21.834	0.54%
FINANCIAL TR IDX	16,231.510	16,122.187	16,180.834	16,125.721	55.113	0.34%
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,291.615	1,291.615	1,291.615	1,291.615	0.000	0.00%

Trading Summary

Market Cap	Volume	Turnover	Trades	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
38,696,877,579	137,426,132	46,453,727	11,858	26	19	23	68

MSX DAILY BULLETIN AS ON 23/11/2026

REGULAR MARKET

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	MARKET CAP
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	6,000	1,200.000	1	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.190	0.010	5.26%	0.200	0.190	0.200	61,501,903.800
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	812	568.400	2	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.690	0.010	1.45%	0.700	0.000	0.700	84,000,000.000
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO	1,000	98.000	1	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.090	0.008	8.89%	0.098	0.090	0.099	12,540,937.500
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	75,795	24,739.465	16	0.320	0.327	0.320	0.327	0.320	0.007	2.19%	0.327	0.327	0.327	212,858,763.210
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	250,445	50,335.203	45	0.199	0.206	0.199	0.206	0.200	0.006	3.00%	0.206	0.201	0.206	301,295,900.760
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	11,160,983	14,960,562.868	120	1.338	1.342	1.338	1.340	1.337	0.003	0.22%	1.340	1.470	1.340	1,005,000,000.000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	24,528,396	10,088,747.703	1,405	0.411	0.419	0.411	0.412	0.410	0.002	0.49%	0.412	0.451	0.412	3,092,635,589.544
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	4,400	2,287.200	2	0.518	0.520	0.518	0.520	0.518	0.002	0.39%	0.520	0.520	0.520	845,492,104.600
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	305,871	61,939.505	37	0.202	0.203	0.201	0.203	0.201	0.002	1.00%	0.203	0.202	0.203	137,002,148.290
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	19,507	3,923.665	13	0.200	0.202	0.200	0.202	0.200	0.002	1.00%	0.202	0.202	0.202	144,310,080.680
OM0000001509	DHOFAR INT'L DEVELOPMENT & INVEST	5,991	1,566.510	4	0.260	0.265	0.260	0.261	0.260	0.001	0.39%	0.265	0.265	0.265	129,470,652.801
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO.	16,000	1,584.000	3	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.098	0.001	1.02%	0.099	0.098	0.100	8,910,000.000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	43,737	12,026.534	14	0.276	0.276	0.273	0.276	0.275	0.001	0.36%	0.276	0.273	0.275	65,249,160.000
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	14,593	2,506.996	5	0.172	0.172	0.171	0.172	0.171	0.001	0.59%	0.172	0.172	0.188	34,337,323.200
OM0000009908	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	2,848,113	626,541.409	2,057	0.221	0.222	0.218	0.221	0.220	0.001	0.46%	0.221	0.220	0.221	764,547,477.850
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	100	323.000	1	3.230	3.230	3.230	3.230	3.230	0.000	0.00%	3.230	3.001	3.230	289,731,000.000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	516	44.892	1	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.000	0.00%	0.087	0.086	0.087	30,983,074.926
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	26,000	5,799.000	161	0.224	0.224	0.221	0.224	0.224	0.000	0.00%	0.224	0.202	0.226	680,914,871.168
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	48,398,660	8,141,342.850	2,107	0.168	0.171	0.167	0.168	0.168	0.000	0.00%	0.168	0.167	0.168	1,289,568,953.064
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	2,340	3,498.300	1	1.495	1.495	1.495	1.495	1.495	0.000	0.00%	1.495	1.495	1.495	91,606,125.000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	100	89.900	1	0.899	0.899	0.899	0.899	0.899	0.000	0.00%	0.899	0.887	0.899	112,283,266.040
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	650	91.000	2	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.000	0.00%	0.140	0.139	0.140	313,173,424.480
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	37,920	3,912.760	10	0.103	0.104	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.000	0.00%	0.103	0.103	0.104	18,025,000.000
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	2,974	487.736	1	0.164	0.164	0.164	0.164	0.164	0.000	0.00%	0.164	0.157	0.164	12,385,608.000
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	2,166,970	951,139.604	855	0.440	0.440	0.435	0.438	0.438	0.000	0.00%	0.438	0.435	0.438	337,347,600.000
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	28,543,975	6,024,699.440	2,012	0.212	0.213	0.211	0.212	0.212	0.000	0.00%	0.212	0.213	0.212	918,092,271.040
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	2,704	1,433.120	3	0.530	0.530	0.530	0.530	0.531	-0.001	-0.19%	0.530	0.496	0.530	26,681,459.810
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	6,824	2,702.804	3	0.397	0.397	0.396	0.396	0.397	-0.001	-0.25%	0.396	0.390	0.403	444,650,150.340
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	118,741	35,018.595	11	0.295	0.295	0.294	0.294	0.295	-0.001	-0.34%	0.294	0.290	0.294	12,595,839.354
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	332,880	60,325.471	45	0.184	0.184	0.181	0.181	0.182	-0.001	-0.55%	0.181	0.180	0.181	181,000,000.000
OM0000010120	ASYAD SHIPPING	3,097,317	623,541.433	1,996	0.202	0.203	0.200	0.200	0.201	-0.001	-0.50%	0.200	0.200	0.221	1,041,748,856.000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	276,050	95,501.500	70	0.358	0.358	0.345	0.357	0.359	-0.002	-0.56%	0.357	0.345	0.351	71,400,000.000
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	6,510,944	2,767,321.704	350	0.427	0.427	0.423	0.424	0.426	-0.002	-0.47%	0.424	0.423	0.424	3,392,000,000.000
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	1,189,194	327,316.848	25	0.280	0.285	0.270	0.280	0.290	-0.010	-3.45%	0.280	0.280	0.280	29,400,000.000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	558	373.360	2	0.666	0.670	0.666	0.670	0.740	-0.070	-9.46%	0.670	0.670	0.800	221,684,715.700
Total	35	129,997,060	44,883,590.775	11,382											

Parallel Market

OM0000006979	OMAN QATAR INSURANCE	1,638	270.270	1	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.158	0.007	4.43%	0.165	0.165	0.173	26,601,064.050
OM0000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	4,066	996.170	2	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.240	0.005	2.08%	0.245	0.236	0.245	4,533,687.270
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	328,905	52,905.300	28	0.159	0.163	0.159	0.161	0.159	0.002	1.26%	0.161	0.160	0.161	13,685,000.000
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	142,552	19,106.561	29	0.143	0.143	0.131	0.133	0.131	0.002	1.53%	0.137	0.130	0.137	26,997,197.318
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	3,185	459.751	3	0.144	0.145	0.144	0.145	0.144	0.001	0.69%	0.145	0.146	0.157	14,355,000.000
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	189	147.798	2	0.782	0.782	0.782	0.782	0.782	0.000	0.00%	0.782	0.782	0.782	74,290,000.000
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	2,644	179.792	1	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.000	0.00%	0.068	0.068	0.074	2,930,800.000
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	52,752	11,341.680	8	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.000	0.00%	0.215	0.205	0.215	139,899,510.140
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	139	34.750	1	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.000	0.00%	0.250	0.242	0.250	13,750,000.000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	418,165	55,755.915	50	0.134	0.134	0.132	0.132	0.133	-0.001	-0.75%	0.132	0.132	0.133	29,040,000.000
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	2,595	145.320	2	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.057	-0.001	-1.75%	0.056	0.056	0.062	14,000,000.000
OM0000011151	OMIFCO	4,810,430	945,315.873	217	0.197	0.198	0.195	0.195	0.196	-0.001	-0.51%	0.195	0.195	0.177	1,304,428,125.000
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	46,540	3,407.960	3	0.074	0.074	0.073	0.073	0.075	-0.002	-2.67%	0.073	0.070	0.074	16,223,520.000
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	1,310,769	332,016.596	55	0.247	0.254	0.242	0.243	0.247	-0.004	-1.62%	0.242	0.242	0.248	506,138,628.159
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	30,660	2,003.740	6	0.067	0.067	0.064	0.064	0.069	-0.005	-7.25%	0.064	0.066	0.069	1,344,000.000
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	1,495	194.350	2	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.137	-0.007	-5.11%	0.130	0.130	0.134	3,900,000.000
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	12,000	6,469.902	12	0.559	0.559	0.530	0.540	0.560	-0.020	-3.57%	0.530	0.510	0.530	93,767,625.000
Total	17	7,168,724	1,430,751.728	422											

COMPETITIVE PROFIT RATE

Meethaq celebrates National Day with special auto finance offer

MUSCAT: In celebration of Oman's National Day and reaffirming its commitment to providing innovative financing solutions that meet customers' aspirations and evolving needs, Meethaq Islamic Banking from Bank Muscat has announced a special Auto Finance offer, giving customers the opportunity to purchase new and used vehicles at a competitive profit rate of 4.50% for a limited period.

Available until 31st December 2026, the offer is valid to both existing and new Meethaq customers applying for Auto Finance facilities. It provides attractive financing options for customers purchasing their first car, upgrading their vehicle or choosing one to suit their family needs.



Through this offer, Meethaq continues to make Sharia compliant financing more accessible, bringing together competitive pricing and solutions tailored to customers' everyday needs. The initiative forms part of its ongoing efforts to deliver greater value through products and services that support customers at different stages of their life.

Commenting on this occasion, Sami Bait Rashid, Assistant General Manager – Meethaq Personal Banking, said: "We are pleased to celebrate Oman's National Day with a special Auto Finance offer that helps customers purchase their preferred vehicles through attractive, Sharia compliant financing. This offer reflects our commitment to bring in added value to our customers and supporting their aspirations. We invite everyone to visit all car dealerships and showrooms to take advantage of this opportunity. At Meethaq Islamic Banking, we continue to enhance our financial solutions to make banking more convenient and affordable, strengthening our relationship with customers.

PROMOTION

Audi launches new campaign across its wide range of models

MUSCAT: Audi Oman, represented by Premium Motors, has announced a new campaign across a diverse selection of Audi models, combining attractive financing benefits with comprehensive ownership services to make it easier for customers across Oman to experience Audi.

Designed around confidence, convenience and long-term value, the campaign brings together the distinctive design, advanced technology and dynamic performance of Audi with a flexible financing proposition.

Customers can benefit from a covered down payment, 0% interest and instalments over 24 months. The campaign also includes a five year or 150,000 km manufacturer's warranty, a five year or 75,000 km service package, five years of roadside assistance and complimentary first year registration.



Muhammad Faisal Nawaz, Strategy Manager of Audi Oman at Premium Motors, said "At Audi Oman, we are committed to delivering a complete customer experience that brings together outstanding performance, advanced technology and peace of mind. Through our new campaign, we aim to make Audi ownership more accessible with 0% interest and instalments over 24 months, while covering the down payment and providing warranty, servicing and roadside assistance benefits for up to five years. Our goal is to give customers an exceptional ownership experience that reflects Audi's quality and lasting value."

The campaign features a wide selection of vehicles, including the Audi A3, A5 and A6, the performance focused S3 and RS3, and the Q3, Q5, Q7 and Q8 SUVs.

Also included are the fully electric Audi A6 e-tron and Q6 e-tron, showcasing Audi's continued focus on innovation and the future of electric mobility.

OMANI PRODUCTS REACHING MORE SHOPPERS

Lulu launches 'Made in Oman' promotion across Qatar

MUSCAT: Omani products are reaching more shoppers beyond Oman. Lulu Hypermarket has launched its "Made in Oman" promotion across Qatar, giving shoppers a week-long opportunity to discover goods produced in Oman. The promotion was inaugurated on 22 November at Lulu's Al Gharafa branch in Doha, in association with the Embassy of Oman in Qatar, in the presence of the Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the State of Qatar.



The spirit of partnership between the neighbours is now visible in Lulu stores across Qatar, where Omani products take centre stage. The promotion runs until 28 November at 25 participating Lulu Hypermarket branches across Qatar. Shoppers will find Omani fresh produce, frozen chicken and other frozen foods, pantry staples and household essentials, all on special offer.

The campaign shows that Omani products are being embraced well beyond the Sultanate's borders, with Lulu giving them prominent in-store space for Qatar's diverse consumer base. It reflects the quality, consistency and production standards of Omani manufacturers and producers. For Omani businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, the promotion offers a platform to reach new customers and build brand recognition in a neighbouring market. It also supports Oman Vision 2040 and its goals of economic diversification, a stronger private sector and a greater role for national products in regional and global markets.

The initiative also highlights the growing trade and economic ties between Oman and Qatar. Through the promotion, Lulu Hypermarket is helping connect producers, retailers and consumers in both countries, and bringing the Sultanate's food industries closer to Qatari households. The Qatar promotion follows Lulu's "Made in Oman" campaign in the Sultanate, which ran from 12 to 21 November alongside Oman's National Day celebrations. That campaign was inaugurated by Eng. Khalid bin Salim Al Qasabi, Director General of Industry at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, and placed Omani-made goods at the centre of the shopping experience. Taking the campaign to Qatar extends that commitment from the home market to the wider region.

During the promotion, shoppers at Lulu Hypermarket branches in Qatar will find dedicated "Made in Oman" displays and competitive prices, and are invited to try the products and judge their quality for themselves.

EXPANSION

eXtra reopens renovated Al Ghubra store following major transformation

MUSCAT: United Electronics Company (eXtra), a leading retailer of consumer electronics and home appliances in the GCC, has officially reopened its renovated Al Ghubra store following an extensive transformation designed to deliver a more modern, convenient, and customer-focused shopping experience. The reopening ceremony was held under the patronage of Sheikh Ahmed bin Ali Al Habsi, Wali of Bousher, in the presence of representatives from government authorities, community organisations, business partners, members of the media, and eXtra's management team.



One of eXtra Oman's most established locations, the renovated store features an improved layout, upgraded brand and category zones, enhanced product displays, and clearer navigation. Its accessible Al Ghubra location and convenient parking further contribute to a seamless shopping experience.

The store also features self-checkout facilities, providing customers with an additional payment option alongside traditional checkout counters and personalised assistance.

In the home-appliances section, a large interactive display allows customers, with the assistance of eXtra's sales team, to explore and compare a wider range of products, including options not physically displayed on the sales floor.

Commenting on the reopening, Fadi Shbaro, Country Manager of eXtra Oman, said: "The reopening of our renovated Al Ghubra store marks an important milestone for eXtra in Oman. As one of our most established locations in the Sultanate, this investment reflects our commitment to continuously enhancing the customer experience with a modern, accessible, and service-focused retail environment. We are honoured by the patronage of His Excellency Sheikh Ahmed bin Ali Al Habsi, Wali of Bousher, and grateful for the continued support of the authorities, our partners, customers, and the wider community. I would also like to acknowledge the dedication of our team and project partners, who successfully completed this transformation while the store continued to serve customers throughout the renovation."

Customers can access eXtra's full product range through its stores and online platform, with delivery available across Oman. The company also offers extended warranty, delivery, installation, and after-sales services. Flexible payment options include Qpay Buy Now, Pay Later, available in stores and online, as well as Easy Payment Plans for eligible credit cardholders at participating banks in Oman.



CONNECT
PRINT EDITION



RENT



CARGO



CARGO MADE SIMPLE
Advertise with us

Send your advertisement to:
amcoman@choueirigroup.com

VACANCY

PLACE YOUR ADVT HERE
Send your ad to: amcoman@choueirigroup.com





- Fleet of 2,000 vehicles
- Choose from a wide range of brands & models
- PDO, OXY and BP spec vehicles available
- Attractive rates for short-term & long-term lease

Muscat 9679 0594
9679 0684
Sohar 9731 6218
Salalah 9429 9325
www.orbit-oman.com
أوربت ORBIT Car Rental & Lease

ADVERTISE WITH US
Send your advt. to: **amcoman@choueirigroup.com**

JOB VACANCY

MANAGER
PROJECT MANAGER/ PROJECT DIRECTOR
seeking senior management/ leadership position in major civil engineering projects. Experienced, available & ready to lead.
94108621 princejacub@gmail.com

MANAGER-CIVIL
B.E (Civil) with over 22 yrs of experience (15 yrs in Oman) with Oman D/L, seeks suitable placement.
E-mail : ercivjc@gmail.com
Contact : 98297717

MANAGER
Indian professional with 27+ years of experience in Oman, specializing in construction, infrastructure, business operations, project and contract management, P&L, cost control, risk mitigation, and strategic leadership. M.Tech | PMP | LSS.
E-mail : stscco@gmail.com
Contact : 79227820



FINANCE MANAGER
An Indian CA with over 25 years of experience in manufacturing, retail and construction industry in accounting, MIS, banking arrangements, Tax, VAT, budgeting and cash flow management seeks managerial position.
Contact : 75259157



JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Accountant, 5+yrs Oman experience seeks placement. Contact: 95893913

Indian male accountant 8 yrs experience looking for job. Contact: 95968548

ADMINISTRATION

32M, Commerce grad. 10 yrs experience in operations & admin at Indian banks seeking job opportunities. Contact: 72015129

ADMINISTRATION

Seeking a position as camp boss / store supervisor. Email: ganga.ijaz@gmail.com. Contact: +968-97082625

Indian, excellent English, 20 yrs Oman experience including office management, corporate communication, project coordination, administration. Contact: 97457945

DRIVER

Looking for a driving job. 12 yrs experience, also in sales and marketing, fluent in Arabic English Hindi. Contact: 94736091

ENGINEER

Mechanical Engineer, 4+ years Oman:facilty & plant maintenance, fabrication. Seeking job. Contact: 78481998

ENGINEER

Chemical Engineer-Indian Male, B.Tech Graduate, NEBOSH IGC Certified, Process Design Trained. Seeking opportunities in Oman. Immediate joining. Contact: +968-77200484.

MANAGER

Manager accounts and operations, 24 yrs, male seeks suitable placement. Contact: 91410602

MEDICAL

Dentist, Indian, 7 yrs Oman licensed experience. Contact : 95943787

SALES/MARKETING

Indian male BBA 5 yrs experience in sales & admin. Contact: 75307401

SALES/MARKETING

Indian Male, BBA, 20 years experience in Sales & Marketing in Oman. Holding valid Oman driving license seeks suitable placement. Contact No : 93011232. Email: jitinjoshua920@gmail.com

ADVERTISE WITH US
Send your advertise to:
amcoman@choueirigroup.com



WORLD

Climate talks break down over fossil fuel exit and funding

After two weeks of tough negotiations, the EU said it could not support the proposed agreement, known as the Antalya Pact, put forward by the COP presidency, saying it does not respond to the science



ANTALYA: Almost two days into overtime, climate talks in the Turkish city of Antalya have collapsed as countries led by the European Union rejected a deal that critics say undermines the shift away from planet-heating fossil fuels.

After two weeks of tough negotiations, the EU said it could not support the proposed agreement, known as the Antalya Pact, put forward by the COP presidency, saying it does not respond to the science.

"We will not endorse a cover decision that does not even mention fossil fuels, the driver of climate change. And we will not accept negotiating backward in time," said Irish climate minister Darragh O'Brien, speaking on behalf of the EU on Sunday.

He said adopting a decision that omitted fossil fuels would be "unconscionable" and risked "deepening the chasm between global commitment and the action required."

Panama also rejected the deal, describing it as a step backwards in addressing the climate crisis, and adding that any decision must acknowledge "the truth about the collective failure on 1.5 degrees Celsius [2.7 degrees Fahrenheit]." That is the threshold outlined in the 2015 Paris Agreement to avert runaway climate change.

"Those who contributed to this crisis ... must shoulder the responsibility to deal with it," the Panamanian delegation said.

The Marshall Islands, which faces an existential threat from sea level rise, formally objected to the cover decision, saying "we will not compromise our future to benefit fossil fuel interests."

Chris Bowen, Australia's COP31 negotiating president said the breakdown in talks was very disappointing.

Russia, however, supported the decision to leave out wording on accelerating a phaseout of fossil fuels, arguing that they are still a necessary power source and that each country should be able to determine its own pathway on how to cut emissions.

Pakistan and Ghana, defended the agreement as a necessary compromise in the spirit of multilateralism. "We need to build bridges not barriers," said the Pakistan negotiator.

Deep divisions over climate finance

The marathon talks, held at a time when the window is rapidly closing to avoid the escalating impacts of climate change, including drought, deadly heat and flooding, also saw major disputes over financing.

Developing states blamed the collapse in talks on the EU and other wealthier nations for failing to scale up financing to help them adapt to climate-linked weather extremes and the damage they cause. The EU is the largest provider of climate finance and has resisted new adaptation finance targets.

Harjeet Singh of the Fill the Fund campaign accused wealthy countries of demanding greater climate ambition while refusing to stump up the cash to pay for it.

"You can't ask developing countries to transform their economies while they're drowning in disasters and debt," he added.

The final cover decision had proposed further discussions on "an implementation pathway for tripling adaptation finance by 2035" but without mentioning a figure. It noted that developing countries need some $300 billion annually for adaptation until 2035, and expressed concern about "the gap between climate finance flows and needs."

Fossil fuel exit on the sidelines

Outside formal negotiations, a separate initiative to Transition Away from Fossil Fuels (TAFF) has been gaining momentum.

Maina Talia, Tuvalu's minister for climate change and the environment, said TAFF was "moving beyond debating whether fossil fuels are simply mentioned in a text, to creating detailed plans for a global transformation."

At the same time, a growing number of states, including Ireland, Denmark, the Netherlands, France, Germany and Finland, have either completed or are working on so-called national roadmaps to wean themselves off fossil fuels.

But Brandon Wu, director of Policy and Campaigns ActionAid USA, dismissed such plans as "meaningless" and "nothing more than restatements of inadequate existing policy" on the part of rich countries not stepping up on climate finance.

"COP31 was one of the worst COPs ever, and it's because the EU and other developed countries came with zero spirit of solidarity, cooperation or compromise. They may as well have come to the COP shouting at vulnerable communities: 'we don't care if you die.'"

The push for global electrification

The rejected cover decision had recognized that electrification can deliver emissions reductions, improve energy security and expand access to energy.

It included a call to increase the share of electricity in final energy demand from around 20% now to 35% by 2035 — a proposal heavily touted by co-host Turkey.

Still, about 75 countries, including solar powerhouse China, adopted the pledge outside of the formal negotiations. It is non-binding and does not specify whether that additional electricity must come from clean sources. Critics say this leaves open the possibility that expanded electricity demand could be met by fossil fuels.

Hottest ever climate conference

The talks in Turkey marked the first time a COP was taking place under the explicit knowledge that global temperatures will exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Countries were split on how to deal with that so-called "overshoot."

The cover decision had called on states to commit to limiting overshoot , acknowledging that every increment of warming above current levels would "result in increasingly adverse, and in some cases irreversible, impacts and risks to human and natural systems."

It also recognised the need for "deep, rapid and sustained" emissions cuts and for action on ramping down potent greenhouse gas methane. Maldives environment minister: 'We are not going to live in the dark'

Another contenious issue at the talks and in the final draft decision was a call for "increasing" carbon capture and storage technologies that entails capturing CO2 and burying it. The text said the world should aim to reach "gigaton scale" by 2035. -DW

DISRUPTIONS

Automation glitch triggers ground delays of US flights

ATLANTA: The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on Sunday (local time) said that all Delta Air Lines flights operating to and from Atlanta were delayed following a problem with the system used to calculate an aircraft's weight and balance, The New York Times reported.

The disruptions at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, Delta's largest hub and one of the world's busiest airports, came a week after a nationwide ground stop led to the cancellation of thousands of flights.

This was followed by a technical problem involving United Airlines on Monday, which also resulted in flight delays, according to The New York Times.

"Delta is working to resolve issues with the airline's weight and balance automation system. These delays are not related to any FAA air traffic systems," the FAA said.

Flights experienced delays of approximately one hour, with the FAA advisory covering all Delta flights departing for Atlanta from within the contiguous United States, as well as flights leaving Atlanta. Delta was the only commercial airline placed under the delay programme.



According to aviation analytics company Cirium, cited by The New York Times, Delta's flight departures began falling behind schedule at 6 am By 7 am, around 26 per cent of the airline's flights had either been cancelled or had not operated. At Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, more than 40 per cent of Delta flights were delayed by 9 am, Cirium said.

The system that went offline is used to calculate an aircraft's total weight, including its airframe, fuel, passengers and baggage. It also helps pilots determine the aircraft's centre of gravity and ensure that its weight is evenly distributed, which are essential for safe flight operations.

In a statement on Sunday, Delta said its teams were using manual procedures to ensure flights could depart safely while efforts continued to restore the automated system, The New York Times reported.

"Delta teams are using manual workarounds this morning to safely get flights departed while work continues to restore automation," the airline said, as quoted by The New York Times.

The airline also said it was coordinating with air traffic controllers to help ease congestion at its Atlanta hub. -ANI

MIDTERM ELECTIONS

Democrats secure 258 House seats, largest in 3 decades

WASHINGTON, DC: Democrats have gained 44 House seats so far, surpassing the 40 seats they won during US President Donald Trump's first midterm elections in 2018.

The 258-seat tally was reached on Sunday after Democrat Chuck Hubbard defeated Republican Representative Virginia Foxx in North Carolina. Hubbard secured the victory by a margin of 330 votes following a recount, according to the North Carolina Board of Elections.

The result marks an election sweep not witnessed by either party since 1992, presenting Democrats with significant opportunities to govern while also placing considerable pressure on them to fulfil their campaign promises and priorities, CBS News reported.

Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries, who is set to become the Speaker of the House, said that House Democrats had secured the largest majority held by any party in the US Congress this century, celebrating the milestone in a post on X.

"House Democrats have just secured the largest majority any party in Congress has held this century. BOOM," Jeffries, who represents New York, wrote on X.



According to CBS News, the 258-seat majority in the 435-member House surpassed Democrats' own expectations, with the party still having the possibility of adding a few more seats as four races remained undecided. These included one each in Minnesota and Tennessee and two in Louisiana, where runoffs were scheduled for December.

Republicans were set to hold at least 173 seats in the minority, CBS News reported.

The election results have paved the way for a divided government, with Democrats controlling the Senate while Republican President Donald Trump remains in the White House. According to CBS News, Democrats are preparing a 100-day agenda focused on addressing the rising cost of living, alongside an extensive oversight programme targeting the Trump administration for the remainder of his second term. -ANI

BILATERAL TIES

Indian PM holds bilateral talks with his Nepali counterpart

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Nepali counterpart Balendra Shah arrived at Hyderabad House on Monday to hold bilateral talks to review India-Nepal relations and explore avenues for strengthening cooperation across key sectors.

The discussions are expected to focus on strengthening economic cooperation, particularly in trade, transportation, investment and infrastructure development. Both countries are also expected to exchange memorandums of understanding (MoUs) covering several areas of mutual interest, including education, health, agriculture, sports, disaster management and human resource development.

Connectivity and energy cooperation are also expected to feature prominently during the visit. The two sides are expected to inaugurate several completed projects in these sectors and lay foundation stones for upcoming initiatives, reflecting their efforts to expand cross-border cooperation.



Beyond government-level engagements, the visit will also feature a Nepal-India Business Forum aimed at attracting Indian investment to Nepal. The forum will provide a platform for business representatives from both countries to explore opportunities for collaboration and strengthen commercial ties.

Prime Minister Modi will also host an official luncheon in honour of his Nepalese counterpart and his 34-member government delegation.

The Nepal Prime Minister is accompanied by Finance Minister Swarnim Wagle, Foreign Minister Shishir Khanal, Chief Advisor to the Prime Minister Kumar Byanjankar and other senior government officials.

Earlier in the day, Balendra Shah on Monday paid tribute to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, by laying a wreath at his memorial in Raj Ghat, as part of his state visit to India.

The Nepal PM also signed the guestbook at the memorial site after he paid a floral tribute to the Father of the Nation.

Prior to this, PM Shah received a ceremonial Guard of Honour at Rashtrapati Bhavan, with Prime Minister Modi in attendance.

The two-day State visit is expected to provide an opportunity for both sides to take stock of their bilateral partnership, review ongoing cooperation and explore ways to expand engagement across areas of shared interest.

Balendra Shah pays homage to Mahatma Gandhi at Raj Ghat

Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah on Monday wrote in the memorial's visitor book at Raj Ghat during his state visit to India, describing truth as "a power unmatched by any force" and calling compassion "the ultimate strength".

In his signed message after paying a floral tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, Shah wrote, "At this sacred place, I pay profound homage to Mahatma Gandhi, whose life proved to the world that truth possesses a power unmatched by any force."

Linking Gandhi's legacy with Nepal's heritage, the Nepalese prime minister added, "On behalf of the people and Government of Nepal, I offer my deepest tribute. Coming from the birthplace of Lord Buddha, I behold in Gandhiji's legacy that very same immortal light: the profound truth that compassion is the ultimate strength, and that true leadership lies in selfless service to the humblest among us."

Shah also underscored the historical and cultural ties between the two neighbours, stating that "Nepal and India are bound not merely by shared geography, but by an eternal heritage of faith, kinship, and enduring friendship."

Reaffirming Kathmandu's commitment to bilateral ties, he wrote, "In honouring Gandhiji's timeless spirit, I reaffirm Nepal's solemn commitment to nurture this enduring bond with deep honesty, mutual respect, and unwavering trust."

Concluding his note, Shah wrote, "May Gandhiji's ideals continue to illuminate our shared path toward a peaceful, just, and harmonious world."

The Raj Ghat visit came after Shah was accorded a ceremonial guard of honour at Rashtrapati Bhavan earlier on Monday, with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in attendance.

Shah is on a two-day state visit to India from November 22 to 23, his first visit to India since assuming office in March 2026, ahead of bilateral talks with PM Modi at Hyderabad House and a call on President Droupadi Murmu.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the discussions would cover the entire spectrum of bilateral relations and regional and international developments of mutual interest.-ANI

AL BURAIMI GOVERNORATE

A driver of development and investment



The priorities of the next phase focus on achieving developmental integration among the three wilayats, completing ongoing projects, developing parks and sports facilities, expanding electronic services, supporting productive sectors and involving youth in setting priorities









AL BURAIMI: Al Buraimi Governorate continues to implement its development and investment plans through a package of projects and programmes aimed at strengthening infrastructure, improving quality of life and revitalising economic and tourism sectors. It draws on its distinguished geographical location and the assets of its three wilayats: Al Buraimi, Mahadhah and A'Sunainah, in pursuit of the targets of the Oman Vision 2040.

Data issued by the governorate showed that the total number of projects included in the Tenth Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) reached 122 projects, with a total value of approximately OMR29.5 million and an overall completion rate of 93 percent.

In the urban development sector, the first phase of the "Al Buraimi Oasis" project (the city centre) has been completed at a completion rate of 100 percent, over an area of 68,000 square metres. It includes commercial and service facilities, pedestrian walkways, bicycle paths and water features. The tender for the second phase of the project has recently been floated to enhance economic activity and provide outlets of support for small and medium enterprises. The completion rate of the first phase of the "Crystal Lake" project has reached 92 percent, over an area exceeding 91,000 square metres, coinciding with the floating of the tender for the second phase, so that the project forms a new tourism and recreational destination.

In the infrastructure and roads sector, the governorate has completed the paving of 60 kilometres of internal roads, and work is underway to pave another 90 kilometres. This falls within a plan that includes paving an additional 190 kilometres during the next phase. On the urban landscape front, the project to develop the main street from Al Salam Roundabout to Al Khadhra Roundabout has been completed. Work continues on developing the section extending from Al Nahdha Roundabout, passing through Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque Roundabout, up to Al Salam Roundabout. The two projects to develop Sa'ara Park and Shari'at Falaj Al Buraimi have also been completed.

> The total number of projects included in the Tenth Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) reached 122 projects, with a total value of approximately OMR29.5 million and an overall completion rate of 93 percent

On the investment attraction front, the governorate has signed 23 investment contracts worth approximately OMR12 million in various fields. The economic zone in the Al Rawdhah district of the Wilayat of Mahadhah, in its first phase spanning 14 square kilometres, leads strategic initiatives to attract manufacturing, pharmaceutical, plastics, mining and logistics industries.

These assets are complemented by the Al Buraimi Industrial City, spanning 14 million square metres with investments reaching OMR267 million. There is also the "Hafeet Rail" railway network project, which links the Sultanate of Oman to the United Arab Emirates through the governorate, enhancing the efficiency of supply chains and logistical integration.

On the food security front, the Wilayat of A'Sunainah continues to develop agricultural and livestock production pathways. It hosts 16 projects in the plant sector, as well as date, poultry and strategic crop projects. Economic and tourism events, such as the "Al Buraimi Lights Festival", the "Al Buraimi Winter Events" and the "Mahadhah International Sand Drag Racing Championship", have also contributed to stimulating commercial activity and supporting entrepreneurs and small and medium enterprises.

Sayyid Dr. Hamad bin Ahmed Al Busaidi, Governor of Al Buraimi, affirmed that the governorate's development path is based on developing services, preparing the investment environment and expanding partnership with the private sector and local community. The aim is to transform the governorate's comparative advantages into job opportunities and achievements with a direct impact on citizens, residents and visitors.

He explained that the priorities of the next phase focus on achieving developmental integration among the three wilayats, completing ongoing projects, developing parks and sports facilities, expanding electronic services, supporting productive sectors and involving youth in setting priorities. This consolidates the Wilayat of Al Buraimi as a commercial, industrial and logistical centre, develops the agricultural, tourism and mining assets of the Wilayat of Mahadhah, and supports the role of the Wilayat of A'Sunainah in food production and sustainable desert tourism.

SPORTS

Liverpool trounce Man United as Pochettino has disastrous debut

Mauricio Pochettino's reign as Manchester United head coach began in desperate fashion as his team were thrashed to remain in the English Premier League relegation zone





LONDON: Mauricio Pochettino had a nightmare debut as Manchester United coach as his side was beaten 4-0 away to Liverpool in the English Premier League on Sunday afternoon.

The Argentine only arrived in Manchester on Wednesday and had little time to work with his new side, but he could never have expected to see the game all but over by the 13th minute.

United were down to 10 men after eight minutes when Leny Yoro was sent off for fouling Alexander Isak as the Liverpool forward ran through on goal, and the punishment was doubled when Dominik Szoboszlai scored from the resulting free kick.

Florian Wirtz made it 2-0 in the 13th minute with a volley from Rio Ngumoha's cross, and Ngumoha added his side's third after 66 minutes following Bradley Barcola's surging run and cross.

United had goalkeeper Senne Lammens to thank for keeping the score down, but he could do nothing to deny Victor Munoz Liverpool's fourth goal.

Elsewhere on Sunday, Hull City striker Ollie McBurnie scored two goals in injury time to give the Tigers a 2-0 win at home to Brighton.

Brighton would have closed to within three points of Arsenal with a win, but Konstantinos Tzolakis, Hull's Greece international goalkeeper, made a series of saves to deny them.

McBurnie bundled home the opener in the 92nd minute, shortly after Joao Costinha was sent off to leave Brighton with 10 men, and sealed his side's third league win of the season in the 95th minute to maintain their unbeaten home record.

In Saturday's action, league leaders Arsenal missed the chance to extend their advantage at the top after being held to a 2-2 draw away to Newcastle United.

Manchester City drew 1-1 with Fulham at home, ending a run of three consecutive league defeats.

Bournemouth beat Nottingham Forest 2-0 to climb to fourth and extend their winning streak to five league games.

Leeds United thrashed Chelsea 4-1 away, with Noah Okafor scoring twice. Sunderland drew 0-0 with Aston Villa, while Tottenham beat Ipswich Town 2-0, with 18-year-old Luca Williams-Barnett scoring and assisting on his Premier League debut.

Coventry City beat Crystal Palace 3-2 with an 85th-minute own goal from Dwight McNeil, spoiling Thomas Frank's debut as Palace coach. - Xinhua

EUROPEAN FOOTBALL



Esposito scores hat-trick for Inter



TURIN: Pio Esposito scored a hat-trick but it wasn't enough for the defending champions Inter Milan to win in Italy, while Juventus and AC Milan had emphatic victories in the Serie A games on Sunday.

Defending champions Inter wasted their chance to move into second place behind Lazio in a 4-4 draw at Atalanta in the late game, with three goals from Esposito.

The prolific Italy forward secured his hat trick in the 52nd minute by calmly sweeping the ball over the goalkeeper after being put through by Marcus Thuram's pinpoint pass. Franck Kessie got a point for Atalanta by converting a stoppage-time penalty. Inter are third, a point behind second-placed Roma.

Luciano Spalletti's 600th Serie A game as a coach ended happily despite Juventus being booed by fans at halftime.

After a goalless first half against Venezia, Juve came out roaring in the second with Nick Woltemade, Teun Koopmeiners and Juan Cabal Randal scoring before Randal Kolo Muani made it 4-0 from the penalty spot.

Paris FC stay second

Paris FC remained second in France —— after a 4-0 win against struggling Angers on Sunday.

All the four goals came in the second half.

Patrick Zabi tapped in the opening goal right after the break and Luca Koleosho made it 2-0 in the 55th minute. Maxime Lopez and Diego Coppola closed out the scoring on a rainy afternoon in Paris.

In their second season since being promoted to Ligue 1, Paris FC have seven wins in 11 matches and sit three points behind Paris Saint-Germain at the top of the table. Marseille had a 2-0 lead but lost 3-2 at home to Le Mans after Jean Vercruysse's stoppage-time winner. - Agencies

SPANISH LA LIGA

Barcelona fight back to edge past Villarreal, stay on top





MADRID: Barcelona fought back from two goals down to beat Villarreal 3-2 at home on Sunday, preserving its three-point lead at the top of Spanish La Liga.

Villarreal stunned the hosts with two goals inside the opening seven minutes. Tajon Buchanan opened the scoring with a powerful strike before Tani Oluwaseyi raced onto a through ball and fired into the roof of the net to double the visitors' advantage.

Barcelona had a chance to reduce the deficit in the 23rd minute, but Lamine Yamal failed to convert a penalty, leaving the hosts with a mountain to climb.

The comeback finally began in the 57th minute when Gerard Martin headed home Pedri's cross, and Fermin Lopez drew Barcelona level just four minutes later.

Villarreal's collapse was complete in the 67th minute when defender Pau Navarro turned Eric Garcia's cross into his own net while attempting to clear it.

Navarro's miserable afternoon ended with a second yellow card in stoppage time, reducing Villarreal to 10 men.

The home victory moved Barcelona clear of Real Madrid, which on Saturday came from behind to defeat Celta Vigo at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

Barcelona have won three straight league matches since their first league defeat of the season — against Real Madrid in the El Clasico at Camp Nou last month.

Elsewhere in Spain, third-placed Atletico Madrid beat host Getafe 3-0

Alex Baena opened the scoring in the 10th minute before Johnny Cardoso doubled Atletico's lead on the half-hour mark, with Julian Alvarez assisting both goals.

Atletico controlled proceedings thereafter, and Alejandro Grimaldo completed the scoring from the penalty spot in stoppage time after Getafe defender Djene Dakonam was sent off for fouling Alexander Sorloth. Elsewhere on Sunday, Racing Santander survived a Real Sociedad comeback to claim a 3-2 home victory.

Yassir Zabiri struck twice inside the opening eight minutes to put Racing firmly in control, but Mikel Oyarzabal reduced the deficit in first-half stoppage time.

Goncalo Guedes equalised for Sociedad on the hour mark, only for Sergio Canales to convert a penalty in the 68th minute and secure all three points for the hosts.

Ante Budimir scored the only goal as Osasuna edged Malaga 1-0 at home, leaving the visitors still searching for their first league win of the season. Osasuna finished with 10 men after defender Alejandro Catena received a second yellow card in stoppage time for pulling an opponent's shirt to halt a Malaga attack. - Xinhua

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

Njinmah double powers Werder Bremen to northern derby victory





BERLIN: Justin Njinmah scored twice in four minutes as Werder Bremen thrashed Hamburg SV 4-0 in the 111th Bundesliga northern derby on Sunday to remain within touching distance of the top five.

Bremen coach Daniel Thioune, who signed a new contract on Saturday, made two changes following his side's defeat at Stuttgart, bringing in Chuki and Njinmah, with the latter making his first start since late August.

Hamburg made the brighter start, with Patson Daka firing wide from 17 metres before Niclas Fullkrug headed straight at goalkeeper Daniel Heuer Fernandes at the other end.

The visitors suffered an early setback when Miro Muheim was forced off injured in the 19th minute, with Kofi Amoako replacing him.

Bremen gradually took control and almost broke the deadlock when Njinmah capitalised on a defensive error to race clear, only to be denied by Heuer Fernandes.

Fullkrug then squandered another chance shortly before halftime, firing over the crossbar after being picked out by Arthur.

Hamburg emerged with renewed attacking intent after the break but fell behind in the 55th minute when Bremen captain Marco Friedl met Chuki's corner with a header. Heuer Fernandes saved his initial effort, but Friedl reacted quickest to volley home the rebound.

Amos Pieper made a crucial intervention to deny Albert Gronbaek an equaliser in the 65th minute, and Bremen doubled its advantage just a minute later.

Fullkrug picked out Njinmah, who curled a precise finish inside the far post to put the hosts firmly in control.

Njinmah struck again in the 70th minute, collecting a pass from Ludovit Reis before unleashing a long-range effort that took a deflection on its way into the top corner.

Hamburg struggled to contain the hosts in the closing stages, with Fullkrug striking the post before finally getting on the scoresheet in the second minute of stoppage time.

The striker capped Bremen's dominant display with a powerful shot from nearly 20 meters that flew past Heuer Fernandes to complete the rout.

The victory kept Bremen sixth in the standings with 18 points, one behind fifth-placed Bayer Leverkusen, while Hamburg remained 12th with 12 points.

Borussia Dortmund lead the Bundesliga with 24 points, two clear of Bayern Munich and Freiburg, while RB Leipzig sit fourth on 21.

Elsewhere, Augsburg secured a 3-1 home victory over Mainz after establishing a two-goal lead before halftime.

The result lifted Augsburg to 10th with 12 points, while Mainz slipped to 13th with 10, three clear of Schalke in the relegation playoff spot. - Xinhua

SPORTS

World champions headline Snooker World Cup in Muscat

Defending champions Harvey Chandler of England and Pakistan's Muhammad Asif and Asjad Iqbal lead a star-studded field of more than 40 players from 15 countries competing in the seven-day tournament









Times News Service

MUSCAT: World champions are back in Muscat as the second edition of the Oman Team & Men World Snooker Cup 2026 got under way at the Active Oman Centre on Monday.

England's Harvey Chandler and Pakistan's Muhammad Asif and Asjad Iqbal have returned to defend their singles and team titles respectively.

The tournament, which runs until November 29, features more than 40 players from 15 countries, including several world champions and leading international names.

Among the notable participants are Iran's reigning IBSF men's world champion Ali Gharahgozlou and former world team champion Amir Sarkhosh, Qatar's 2023 world snooker champion Ali Alobaidli, and India's Sourav Kothari, a two-time IBSF world billiards champion, and Aditya Mehta, the first World Games snooker gold medallist.

India's Pankaj Advani, a 29-time world champion across billiards and snooker, is expected to arrive on November 25 for the team event. The opening ceremony was held under the patronage of Sayyid Saud bin Hilal bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth.

Among those attending were Halima bint Rashid Al Zari, Chairperson of the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority; Brigadier Jamal bin Said Al Tai, Chairman of the Oman Automobile Association (OAA); and Khalid bin Khalfan Al Subhi, Chairman of the Oman Billiards and Snooker Committee.

The participating nations are Oman, Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, England, India, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Türkiye and the UAE. The men's singles competition runs till November 26, followed by the team event from November 27 to 29.

Oman's eight representatives are Ahmed Al Khusaibi, Hussain Al Lawati, Musalim Al Mashali, Qasim Al Balushi, Sami Al Hamrashdi, Haitham Al Mahri, Mahir Al Balushi and Mubarak Al Wahaibi.

Khalid Al Subhi said the tournament's return for a second successive year marked an important step in the development of snooker in Oman. "The presence of world champions and leading international players will raise the standard of competition and provide our players with valuable exposure to different playing styles and international experience," he said.

He added that the committee had worked with the relevant authorities to complete the organisational and technical preparations, building on the success of the inaugural edition in 2025.

Brigadier Jamal Al Tai said hosting the event again reflected the confidence placed in Active Oman by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth and the Oman Billiards and Snooker Committee.

"The participation of more than 40 players from 15 countries, along with international referees and a seven-day programme, reflects Oman's growing profile as a host of international snooker events," he said.

He also highlighted the importance of cooperation between sports organisations and the private sector in developing the game and attracting more international competitions to Oman.

Active Oman hosted the opening ceremony of the inaugural edition in 2025 and has equipped a dedicated snooker hall with modern tables and lighting to meet the tournament's technical requirements.

MUSCAT CLUB



Crowe to defend title at 24th Oman Auditor's Cup

MUSCAT: The 24th edition of the Oman Auditor's Cup will be held on December 4 and 5, 2026, at Muscat Club, Al Wadi Al Kabir, featuring ten teams from the country's leading audit firms.

Defending champions Crowe will face competition from EY, Deloitte, KPMG, PwC, Moore, BAF, BDO, Al Nuha and Grant Thornton in the two-day tournament, organised by Jazz Boys Sports Club.

The competition will follow a league-based group-stage format, with teams vying for the coveted title.

Beyond the cricket, the event will feature live commentary, an interactive kids' zone, spot prizes, surprises and a tug-of-war competition, offering entertainment for players, spectators and families.

8th Tely Boyz Box Cricket Tournament on Dec 3–4



MUSCAT: The eighth edition of the Tely Boyz Box Cricket Tournament 2026 will be held on December 3-4 at Zaytoona Sports Club, Al Ghubrah, bringing together nine teams for two days of cricket and community camaraderie.

Celebrating 32 years of friendship and togetherness, the annual tournament provides a platform for players across generations to reconnect and compete in the spirit of sportsmanship.

Among the participating teams is Wills Cricket Team, Saidar Pally, which joins the tournament with the support of NEXGEN Technoserve LLC, an Oman-based provider of data centre infrastructure and HVAC solutions.

Representing NEXGEN, Muhammed Sapheer and Khalid Al Busaidi extended their support to the team and appreciated the Tely Boyz organising committee for its continued efforts in bringing the cricketing community together through the annual event.

Established in 1980, Wills Cricket Team, Saidar Pally, marks 46 years of cricketing legacy, friendship and community spirit this year. Its participation adds another chapter to the team's long association with the game and its tradition of camaraderie.

DECEMBER 10-12

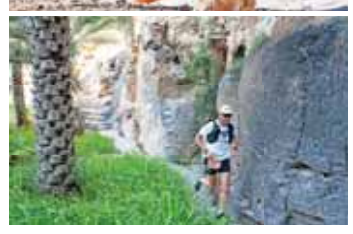
Oman by UTMB attracts 2,000 runners from more than 90 nationalities











Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman by UTMB is set to welcome 2,000 registered runners representing more than 90 nationalities when the international mountain trail running event returns to the Hajar Mountains from December 10-12.

Part of the UTMB World Series, the event will feature five race categories, taking participants across the spectacular mountain landscapes, rocky ridges, wadis and historic villages of Al Dakhiliyah Governorate.

The five races comprise Hajar ULTRA (154km/100M), Jabal Classic (103km/100K), Skyward Canyon (50km/50K), Old Capital Trail (32km/30K) and Scenic Ascent (21.5km/20K). Starting from Al Hamra, Imti in Izki, Nizwa and Birkat Al Mouz, all five races finish in Birkat Al Mouz, which will also host the race village.

The event reinforces Oman's growing reputation as an international destination for adventure and sports tourism, while creating opportunities for local businesses and mountain communities.

It also supports the development of trail running in Oman, builds local expertise in hosting international sporting events and introduces visitors to the country's distinctive natural landscapes and heritage.

Haitham Al Ghassani, Director General of Tourism Promotion at the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, said: "Hosting Oman by UTMB is part of our work to broaden what Oman offers visitors and strengthen the contribution of sports tourism to the national economy, in line with Oman Vision 2040. The race gives runners and their companions a chance to explore Oman's mountain villages and heritage sites and experience Omani hospitality. We want that experience to encourage visitors to stay longer and explore more of the country, while creating opportunities for Omani businesses to build partnerships and bring locally made products and services to an international audience."

Ahlam Al Qasabi, Director of the Department of Heritage and Tourism in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate, said: "Hosting the race gives us an opportunity to introduce visitors to Al Dakhiliyah's mountain villages, markets and heritage sites. We expect runners and their companions to boost hotel occupancy and increase demand for heritage inns, transport and local guides. The event also gives entrepreneurs and local communities a chance to welcome visitors and share the crafts, products and traditions of the governorate."

Mohammed bin Saud Al Riyami, CEO of Himam Events, said: "We want this edition to strengthen Oman's place on the international trail running calendar and give runners an experience shaped by the terrain of the Hajar Mountains, Omani hospitality and the people who deliver the race."

All finishers will earn Running Stones towards the lottery for the UTMB World Series Finals in Chamonix, France. The top three men and women in the 50K, 100K and 100M categories will qualify directly for their corresponding races at the 2027 Finals, subject to eligibility and entry requirements.

Results will also count towards the UTMB Index.

Beyond the sporting competition, the event is expected to generate local economic benefits through visitor spending, event procurement and opportunities for small businesses, entrepreneurs and home-based enterprises. It will also encourage outdoor participation, create volunteering opportunities and promote responsible use and protection of the Hajar Mountains' natural environment.

IN TURIN

Alcaraz beats Zverev to claim maiden ATP Finals title

TURIN: Carlos Alcaraz defeated world No.1 Alexander Zverev 6-2, 7-6 (7) in Turin on Sunday to claim his first ATP Finals title and become only the fourth man to win all four Grand Slam tournaments and the season-ending championship.

The 23-year-old Spaniard completed a perfect campaign with five wins from five matches, having swept through the round-robin stage before rallying past American Ben Shelton in the semifinals.

The victory gave Alcaraz his sixth title of the season and 30th of his career, while making him the first Spaniard to win the ATP Finals since Alex Corretja in 1998.



He also joined Andre Agassi, Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic as the only men to have won all four Grand Slam titles and the ATP Finals.

"It's been an amazing week. I couldn't finish the week in a better way, so I'm really proud," Alcaraz said. "I've been through really difficult moments with myself, with my team, and we could go through everything. I'm playing great tennis, so for me, lifting this trophy is something that I've been chasing for a really long time. It means the world to me."

Alcaraz took control from the outset against a Zverev who had not dropped serve throughout the tournament before Sunday's final.

The German saved three break points in his opening service game but struggled to contain Alcaraz's aggressive baseline play, surrendering serve three times as the Spaniard raced through the opening set 6-2. Zverev mounted a stronger challenge in the second set, with both players exchanging breaks before the contest moved into a tiebreak.

Alcaraz surged into a 3-0 lead, but Zverev responded by winning six consecutive points to earn three set points. The Spaniard held firm, saving all three before converting his second championship point with a backhand winner to seal the tiebreak 9-7 and secure the title. Sunday's victory extended his winning streak to 14 matches and capped a remarkable comeback in the closing months of the season. - **Xinhua**

ROUND-UP

Volkswagen Oman launches its exclusive campaign with attractive prices across selected models

The campaign features four popular Volkswagen models: Touareg, Tiguan, T-Roc, and Teramont, offering customers a diverse selection of vehicles designed to complement different lifestyles and driving preferences



MUSCAT: Premium Motors, the authorized Volkswagen dealer in the Sultanate of Oman, has announced the launch of its latest campaign across selected Volkswagen 2026 models, bringing together distinctive German engineering, advanced technology, and exceptional driving experiences with competitive pricing and comprehensive ownership benefits.

The campaign features four popular Volkswagen models: Touareg, Tiguan, T-Roc, and Teramont, offering customers a diverse selection of vehicles designed to complement different lifestyles and driving preferences.

The Volkswagen T-Roc 2026 starts from OMR 7,995, with savings of up to OMR 2,000, while the Tiguan 2026 is available from OMR 10,700, with savings of up to OMR 1,500. The Touareg 2026 starts from OMR 23,995, offering savings of up to OMR 3,000, while the Teramont 2026 is available from OMR 16,999, with savings of up to OMR 1,000. Beyond competitive pricing, the campaign includes a comprehensive range of ownership benefits designed to deliver added convenience, confidence, and peace of mind.

Customers purchasing the Touareg, Tiguan, or T-Roc can benefit from a 3-year manufacturer warranty, a 3 year or 45,000 km service package, and 3 years of roadside assistance, along with premium window tinting, lifestyle accessories, and free vehicle registration.

The Volkswagen Teramont comes with an extended 6 year or 1 million km warranty, a 5 year or 75,000 km service package, and 7 years of roadside assistance, complemented by premium window tinting, lifestyle accessories, and free registration.

Through this campaign, Volkswagen Oman reinforces its commitment to delivering a rewarding ownership experience, combining the reliability of German engineering with innovative technology, comfort, safety, and comprehensive customer support.

Mohammed Faisal Nawaz, Strategy Manager at Volkswagen Oman, said: "At Volkswagen Oman, our focus is on delivering an ownership experience that goes beyond driving. We bring together distinctive German engineering, modern technology, and comprehensive customer services to meet the evolving expectations of our customers. This campaign provides an excellent opportunity to explore the Volkswagen 2026 lineup while benefiting from added value, convenience, and confidence throughout the ownership journey."

Premium Motors continues to strengthen Volkswagen's presence in the Sultanate of Oman by providing a diverse vehicle portfolio supported by professional sales, maintenance, and aftersales services.

Customers interested in exploring the Volkswagen 2026 line-up and learning more about the campaign can visit the Volkswagen Oman showroom or call 22845100 for further information.

Terms and conditions apply.

SONG SURPASSES 3 MILLION VIEWS

BankDhofar celebrates National Day with festivities showcasing pride in Omani identity and cultural heritage





MUSCAT: BankDhofar celebrated Oman's National Day with a series of festivities reflecting a deep sense of national pride, belonging and appreciation for the Sultanate's rich cultural heritage. The celebrations brought together employees from across the bank, who donned traditional Omani attire and enjoyed authentic Omani cuisine, patriotic songs and other activities that added to the festive spirit of the occasion.

The celebrations underscored BankDhofar's commitment to promoting national values, strengthening Omani identity within the workplace and commemorating significant national occasions that provide an opportunity to reflect on the Sultanate's remarkable development journey and achievements.

Amjad Iqbal Al Lawati, GM and Chief Corporate Services Officer at BankDhofar, said: "National Day is a cherished occasion for all of us, offering an opportunity to reflect on our nation's achievements and reaffirm our pride in our Omani identity and rich cultural heritage. At BankDhofar, we are delighted to celebrate this special occasion with our employees in a spirit that embodies our shared values of patriotism, belonging and loyalty to the nation."

As part of its National Day celebrations, BankDhofar launched a special patriotic song titled 'Nas Najma' and unveiled a giant Omani Kummah installation, symbolising the bank's pride in Oman's national identity, cultural traditions and enduring heritage. These initiatives reflect the bank's efforts to celebrate the nation's cultural legacy while engaging the wider community in the joy and spirit of National Day.

Notably, 'Nas Najma' has garnered more than three million views across social media platforms, reflecting enthusiastic public engagement and the widespread appeal of its patriotic message. The milestone highlights the song's success in connecting with audiences and inspiring a shared sense of national pride.

Through these initiatives, BankDhofar continues to reaffirm its commitment to preserving and celebrating Oman's cultural heritage, nurturing a strong sense of national identity and fostering the values of patriotism, unity and belonging among its employees and the wider community.

PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGNS

Mark & Save celebrates its 4th global anniversary with grand GCC-wide celebrations



MUSCAT: Mark & Save is gearing up to celebrate its 4th Global Anniversary with grand celebrations across its GCC operations, bringing customers an exciting combination of shopping, entertainment and family experiences.

As part of this milestone celebration, Mark & Save will launch a series of special activities and promotional campaigns across its GCC outlets starting November 23. The anniversary celebrations will feature exclusive shopping offers, special discounts across various product categories, exciting deals and attractive promotions for customers.

Beyond shopping, the celebrations will focus on creating memorable experiences for families and shoppers. A variety of fun-filled activities, interactive games, entertainment programmes and family-oriented events will be organised across participating outlets, making the anniversary a festive occasion for customers of all ages.

The press meet was attended by Mohd Rehan Shad (Sales Head), Abdullah Yakoob Al Amri (Public Relations Manager), Mohd Yasir Arafath (Commercial Manager), and Shafi Shakkeer (Marketing Manager). The officials highlighted the company's four-year journey, its growth across the GCC, exclusive anniversary promotions and the exciting entertainment activities planned for customers. They also expressed their appreciation for the continued trust and support of customers, employees and business partners.

The 4th Global Anniversary marks an important milestone in Mark & Save's journey, reflecting its continued commitment to delivering value-driven shopping experiences, quality products and engaging retail initiatives.

Customers are invited to be part of the celebrations from November 23 onwards and enjoy exciting offers, entertainment and family activities at Mark & Save outlets across the GCC.

For the latest updates on anniversary offers, events and activities, customers can follow Mark & Save's official social media channels.



TO CONTINUE READING THE FULL EDITION, PLEASE FOLLOW OUR OFFICIAL WHATSAPP CHANNEL

إسهار
التوزيع الرقمي
Eshhar
Your Digital Distributor