

Times

GOLDEN JUBILEE

OF OMAN

51

YEARS OF
LEGACY

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HM THE SULTAN, DEPUTY RULER OF ABU DHABI DISCUSS WAYS TO DE-ESCALATE TENSION



The leaders discussed diplomatic means and intensified coordination and consultation to safeguard the interests and security of states

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq gave an audience at Al Barakah Palace on Wednesday to Sheikh Tahnoon bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Ruler of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and National Security Adviser of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). At the outset of the audience, the guest conveyed the greetings of Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al

Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, to His Majesty the Sultan, along with his good wishes for continuous good health and wellbeing. On his part, His Majesty asked the guest to convey his greetings to Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, along with his wishes to him and the Emirati people for continued growth, development,

and prosperity. The audience discussed a set of topics of interest to the two countries at various levels, in a manner that serves the common interests and aspirations. In addition, views were exchanged on the rapid developments in the region and ways to achieve calm and de-escalate tensions through balanced diplomatic means and intensified coordination and consultation, to safeguard the interests and security of states. The audience was attended from the Omani side by HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, and Sheikh Mohammed bin Maktoum Al Maktoum, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to the Sultanate of Oman. **>A4**

FROM 11 TO 18 OCTOBER

Oman to host third edition of European Film Festival

MUSCAT: The European Union Mission and the embassies of EU Member States in the Sultanate of Oman, in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, Oman Film Society and International Film Foundation of Oman, announced yesterday the holding of the third edition of the European Film Festival 2026 in Muscat Governorate from 11 to 18 October. The festival is classified as a cinematic and cultural event featuring screenings of selected European films, along with cinematic activities and programmes aimed at enhancing communication and cultural exchange between Oman and Europe. The festival aims to introduce European cinema and its diversity, support talent and filmmakers in Oman, and encourage creativity



in the cinematic field. The festival will screen 20 films from Austria, Cyprus, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Romania, and Spain, highlighting the diversity of contemporary European cinematic creativity. Christophe Farnaud, Ambassador of the European Union to the Sultanate of Oman, said: "The third

European Union Film Festival in Oman sends a clear message: this cultural celebration has become an established tradition, welcomed, cherished and keenly awaited by our Omani friends. This year's program offers a rich variety of genres, characters and stories spanning the full range of human emotions – from despair to hope, from fear

to courage. It is a kaleidoscope of European lives and, ultimately, of all our lives. Come and immerse yourself in the diversity!" Christophe Ceska, Ambassador of Austria to the Sultanate of Oman, speaking on behalf of the Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, said: "The return of the European Union Film Festival to Muscat is another tangible expression of the deep and growing partnership between the European Union and Oman. The festival introduces Omani audiences to the diversity of European cinema while providing talented Omani filmmakers with a platform to present their work. Cinema enables us to see the world through the eyes of others, making it a powerful means of promoting cultural exchange, dialogue and mutual understanding." **>A6**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Oman Investment Authority strengthens presence in space technology sector



1 OIA has strengthened its presence in the space technology sector by adding a new investment in future technologies and space through the Spanish-Omani Private Equity Fund II's investment in the Spanish company PLD Space, which specialises in space transportation sector. **>A5**

SPORTS Oman reach Gulf Cup semis after 3-1 win

2 Oman's national football team advanced to the semis of the Gulf Cup. **>A6**

MARKET MSX wins award for highest dividend yield

3 MSX bags award for the 'Arab Exchange with Highest Dividend Yield'. **>B1**

THERAPEUTIC SERVICES

Khoula Hospital begins to use new technology for the treatment of drug-resistant epilepsy

MUSCAT: Khoula Hospital recently began to implement the Vagus Nerve Stimulation (VNS) technology to treat drug-resistant epilepsy. This initiative constitutes part of the hospital's efforts to expand specialised therapeutic services for epilepsy patients.

The implementation of this technology caps up the hospital's ongoing efforts to develop its surgical epilepsy treatment programme and provides advanced treatment options for patients who do not respond adequately to conventional medications, thereby enhancing the localization of specialized medical services within the Sultanate of Oman.

Dr. Ahmed bin Suleiman Al Azri, Senior Consultant Neurosurgeon who heads the Neurosurgery Unit at Khoula Hospital, told Oman News Agency (ONA) that Khoula Hospital's launch of the VNS technology sets a new milestone in the hospital's epilepsy treatment programme.

He noted that the implementation of this technology is the outcome of integration among the hospital's neurosurgery, neurology and epilepsy teams.

Dr. Ahmed pointed out that expanding these services helps minimize the need to refer such cases for treatment abroad and provides patients with advanced, specialized treatment options within the

national healthcare system. He affirmed that the upcoming phase will see the introduction of specialized surgeries under the epilepsy treatment programme.

He added that this would consolidate cooperation and partnerships with specialised regional and international centres and facilitate the exchange of expertise and knowledge and keep pace with the latest therapeutic practices and technologies in the field.

The step aligns with efforts to localize epilepsy surgery services in the Sultanate of Oman and provide patients with advanced treatment options to control seizure frequency and improve the patients' quality of life, Dr. Ahmed observed. -ONA



IN SHINAS



UTAS launches 'Tamkeen' initiative

SHINAS: The branch of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences (UTAS) in Shinas yesterday hosted the first edition of an initiative codenamed "Tamkeen" (Empowerment) to enable the university's graduates to join the labour market in the industrial sector.

The first edition of the initiative, which is being implemented by the Office of the Wali of Shinas in cooperation with UTAS, targets 50 engineering graduates from four universities in the North Al Batinah Governorate.

The initiative aims to familiarize the engineers with the industrial sector's work environments and requirements, and to establish direct channels of communication between the target group and industry specialists and experts.

The initiative will be realised through a qualification programme that combines training, dialogue sessions and field visits.

This allows the participants to

gain first-hand insights into the nature of work within industrial establishments.

It will also brief the participants about the skills needed in the job market and the career options available in the industrial sector in general.

Sohar Aluminium hosted the initiative's inaugural programme, which included three dialogue sessions that dealt with topics like professional qualification, employment and the transition from university life to the employment environment.

The orientation session featured a programme by OQ covering the fundamentals of the manufacturing and production environment, in addition to a programme by Sohar Industrial City (Madayn) that focused on artificial intelligence (AI) applications to enhance operational efficiency and a programme by Sohar Port dedicated to the development of career tracks within the industrial sector. -ONA

13TH INTELLECTUAL FORUM

Forum recommends plan to enhance family stability, raise fertility rates

MUSCAT: The 13th Intellectual Forum, organised by the National Committee for Bioethics under the theme "Enhancing Family Stability: Declining Birth and Fertility Rates between Moral Duty and National Responsibility," has recommended the adoption of a national strategy to enhance family stability and raise fertility rates, and the inclusion of family stability indicators within the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

At the conclusion of its proceedings on Wednesday, the forum called, in the health and reproductive care domain, for the development of reproductive health services to encourage society toward childbearing, the expansion and support of fertility and infertility clinic services, and the establishment of a center for research and treatment of fertility and delayed childbearing. It also called for supporting research into the causes of infertility and reduced fertility.

In the economic and financial support domain, the forum recommended studying the provision of financial incentives and facilities for young low-income families upon an increase in the number of children, establishing an endowment to support the Marriage Fund in cooperation with private sector institutions, and studying an increase in the amount allocated for support from the Marriage Fund and an expansion of the target group.

It also recommended studying an increase in financial allocations for the childhood benefit to



support young low-income families, thereby helping alleviate the financial burdens associated with childbearing, and facilitating the provision of affordable housing for young families, including interest-free loans or rent-to-own options.

In the social and awareness domain, the forum called for the development of mandatory and free preparatory and counseling programs for those about to marry, the implementation of a national campaign to raise awareness of the importance of facilitating marriage and family formation and preservation, and the preparation of a national framework to rationalise marriage costs and curb extravagance and exaggeration, thereby contributing to facilitating marriage.

It also recommended coordination among various government and private entities, civil society associations, and specialized centers in providing family

counseling. The forum was convened to discuss rapid changes in demographic indicators, as national data indicate a decline in the birth rate in the Sultanate of Oman from 34.1 to 20.8 births per thousand population during the period from 2015 to 2025.

The forum aimed to address this phenomenon from a comprehensive national perspective combining ethical, social, economic, and health considerations, leading to policies that support family stability.

The forum's program included the presentation of a number of scientific papers and dialogue sessions distributed across three main themes.

The first theme, "The Demographic, Health, and Social Reality," addressed population changes, future trends, the risks of societal aging, and psychological and social phenomena associated with delayed marriage and early

divorce, in addition to medical factors and causes affecting fertility and available preventive solutions.

The second theme, "Family-Supportive Policies and Their Impact on National Development," discussed the economic impact of the demographic composition, ways to reconcile development with the targets of Oman Vision 2040, work environments and policies supporting work-life balance, and the role of family counseling as an investment in family stability.

The third theme, "Proposed Solutions and Future Aspirations," addressed, through a panel discussion, ways to enhance partnership among government institutions, represented by the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, the Ministry of Social Development, the Social Protection Fund, and the Ministry of Health, to facilitate marriage, support family stability, and develop social, financial, and housing initiatives.

The forum sessions concluded with a paper on the impact of Islamic Sharia and the importance of forming and preserving the family, presented by Sheikh Dr. Kahlan Nabhan Al Kharousi.

The opening of the forum was held under the patronage of Dr. Hilal Ali Al Sabti, Minister of Health, in the presence of His Highness Sayyid Dr. Fahd Al Julanda Al Said, Vice Chancellor of Sultan Qaboos University and Chairman of the National Committee for Bioethics. -ONA

JABAL AKHDAR



Over 1,000 to take part in Himam Trail Run Race 2026

JABAL AKHDAR: The Wilayat of Jabal Akhdar in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate will host this Friday the fourth edition of Himam Trail Run Race 2026, with the participation of more than 1,000 male and female runners from 34 nationalities from within the Sultanate of Oman and abroad.

They will compete across five mountain trails of varying distances and age categories.

The hosting of the race comes within the framework of sporting events that leverage the natural and tourism assets of Al Dakhiliyah Governorate.

It contributes to enhancing Jabal Akhdar's presence as a destination for sports tourism and adventure by utilizing its diverse terrain, elevations, and villages to offer sporting experiences connected to nature.

The race competitions are distributed across trails of 50, 30, 20, 10, and 4 kilometres.

The 50-kilometre trail is the longest, starting from "Hayl Al Diyar" with a cumulative elevation gain exceeding 2,100 metres and a time limit of 15 hours, finishing at the finish line at Dusit D2 Resort Al Jabal Al Akhdar.

The 30-kilometre and 20-kilometer races start from Wadi Bani Habib Park, with a cumulative elevation gain exceeding 1,280 metres for the first and 560 metres for the second.

The 10-kilometre trail starts from Sayq Village, while the 4-kilometer trail starts from Hayl Al Yaman and is designated for the 10 to 14 age group.

This edition has introduced the "Fun Race" for distances of 1 kilometer and 2 kilometres, with participations starting and finishing within the courtyard of Dusit D2 Resort Jabal Akhdar. -ONA

IN OMANI CIVILISATION

Symposium explores history of currencies, coins



MUSCAT: The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth on Wednesday organised a symposium titled "Readings on currencies and coins in Omani Civilization". The Literary Forum represented the Ministry at the symposium, which was held at the lecture hall of the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque in the Wilayat of Bausher, Governorate of Muscat.

Held under the auspices of Dr. Mohammed bin Nasser Al Sagri, Member of the State Council, the symposium saw the presentation of specialized working papers featuring the monetary record of Oman, from the start of the early Islamic era to the end of



the 6th century AH. The topics of the symposium covered various monetary aspects, including the transition from metal coins to paper currencies, the historical significance of coin hoards that were discovered in the Sultanate of Oman and the role of those stores of currencies/coins as political

and economic symbols that document Oman's central position in global trade.

The event also included a video display titled "Our Culture: The source of our identity", in addition to an exhibition showcasing the history of Omani currencies and coins. -ONA

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Study highlights role of technology in boosting Oman’s food supply chain

The research sought to move beyond individual food safety controls by developing a more integrated, tech-enabled approach to managing risks across the supply chain

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A research project conducted in Oman has examined the impact of food safety risks on supply-chain performance and developed a framework aimed at strengthening the safety, resilience and sustainability of the country’s food supply chains. Titled “The Framework to Address the Impact of Food Safety Risks (FSR) on the Performance of Supply Chains,” the project was led by Dr Reason Masengu, Assistant Professor of Marketing at the Department of Management Studies at Middle East College. It was funded by the Strategic Research Programme of the Research and

Innovation Authority in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources. The study examined how food traceability, information technology, regulatory compliance, food safety requirements, risk management, data accuracy, supply-chain collaboration and predictive analytics influence the performance of food supply chains in Oman. The research sought to move beyond individual food safety controls by developing a more integrated, technology-enabled approach to managing risks across the supply chain. It combined statistical analysis with reviews of existing studies and conceptual research.



Among its key findings, the study identified information technology as an important enabler of stronger food supply-chain performance and more effective risk management. Technology-based traceability systems were also found to improve food safety performance and

strengthen collaboration among supply-chain partners. Collaboration, in particular, showed a strong direct effect on food safety performance. The study found that regulatory compliance contributes to improved food safety and more sustainable practices, particularly

when it results in more accurate and timely data. However, traceability alone does not necessarily improve overall supply-chain performance. Its benefits are more likely to be realised when supported by information technology, stronger collaboration, greater supply-chain visibility and improved risk-management capabilities. Dr Masengu also developed a predictive analytics framework that uses data to anticipate potential risks before they occur. The findings showed that stronger food safety practices, greater supply-chain transparency and better technological integration can support the earlier identification and management of food safety risks. Based on the findings, Dr Masengu recommended accelerating the adoption of integrated traceability technologies, including the Internet of Things (IoT), blockchain, artificial intelligence (AI), data analytics and connected digital record systems. He also called for stronger regulatory compliance, auditing and enforcement, while aligning food safety practices with international standards and requirements in

Oman. Dr Masengu further emphasised the need to improve the accuracy, timeliness and visibility of information shared across the food supply chain, including among producers, importers, logistics providers, regulators and retailers. He recommended greater use of predictive analytics and proactive monitoring to identify potential hazards before they develop into product recalls, supply disruptions or public health incidents. Other recommendations included investing in staff training, strengthening collaboration among stakeholders and adopting performance measures that assess food safety alongside supply-chain resilience, sustainability and efficiency. The project has also resulted in several peer-reviewed publications addressing food traceability, food quality and safety management systems, predictive analytics and supply-chain performance. The research team included Dr Reason Masengu, Dr Charles Tsikada, Ms Jouhara Sultan Al Habsi, Dr Chenjerai Muchenje, Mr Benson Ruzive and Mr Mohamed Salah El Din.

IN A'SEER

MUNICIPAL POLLS

Municipality signs pact to upgrade Al Salam Street

MUSCAT: Muscat Municipality signed an agreement on Wednesday with AZ Engineers and Partners to implement the Al Salam Street Upgrade Project. This falls within the municipality’s efforts to develop the road and infrastructure system in Muscat Governorate, provide sustainable traffic solutions to address congestion points at vital locations, and increase the road’s capacity to keep pace with urban expansion and the anticipated rise in traffic volume. The project targets two vital locations experiencing high traffic density on Al Salam Street by developing intersections and enhancing their capacity. This

contributes to reducing stopping times and congestion and improving traffic flow efficiency and safety levels in the area. The first location involves upgrading the Industrial Roundabout intersection at the junction of Al Salam Street and Al E'mar Street by constructing a tunnel along Al Salam Street that allows continuous traffic flow in both directions without stopping. The tunnel consists of two lanes in each direction, with additional space allocated for a future third lane, providing the flexibility needed to increase road capacity in line with future requirements. The development of this location also includes the construc-

tion of two-lane overpasses, along with the provision of necessary entry and exit points and the upgrading of roads connected to the intersection. This contributes to organizing vehicle movement and facilitating transit between surrounding roads. The second location involves upgrading the traffic light intersection between Al Salam Street and Al Khair Street by constructing a tunnel along Al Salam Street consisting of two lanes in each direction, with additional space allocated for a future third lane. The development also includes the construction of two-lane overpasses, along with free-flow turning lanes. -ONA



Objection to candidates’ names for poll ends today

MUSCAT: The period for filing objections to the names listed in the preliminary candidate lists for the fourth term municipal council elections will conclude on Thursday. The Ministry of Interior have set a five-day objection period starting from the date the preliminary lists were announced. Objections may be submitted through the “Intikhab” application or the elections website (elections.om). -ONA

COURT AFFAIRS

Oman registers ‘Razat’ banana variety with UPOV

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, represented by the Directorate General of Agriculture and Animal Research, has completed the technical procedures required to register the ‘Razat’ banana variety submitted by the Royal Court Affairs, represented by the management of the Royal Razat Farm, with the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV). The registration of the variety follows the completion of the necessary technical examinations and tests in accordance with the approved rules and guidelines for novelty, distinctness, and stability testing of plant varieties. The results of the examinations and the assessment of the Plant Variety Registration Committee concluded that the “Razat” banana variety meets the technical requirements prescribed for registration, confirming its distinctness, uniformity, and stability of characteristics in accordance with the registration application. The registration of the ‘Razat’ banana variety serves as a practical model of integration between research, agricultural production, resource protection, legislation, and investment.



It demonstrates how agricultural efforts can be transformed, through documentation, evaluation, and legal protection, into scientific and economic value capable of development as national assets. These assets can contribute to supporting innovation, developing the agricultural sector, creating new investment opportunities, enhancing the added value of local

products and resources, and opening broader prospects for the private sector to invest in technologies and plant resources. It also strengthens the agricultural sector’s contribution to the national economy. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources affirmed that this measure carries significance beyond being a legal



or technical step to register a new plant variety in the Sultanate of Oman. It forms part of a national framework aimed at protecting, documenting and preserving plant genetic resources, and establishing frameworks that enable their development and sustainable utilization. This enhances the value of national agricultural resources as a wealth capable of development and investment. Dr. Safaa Mohammed Al Farsi, Head of the Seed Research and Plant Genetic Resources Depart-

ment at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, told Oman News Agency (ONA) that documenting and registering plant varieties is one of the important pathways in conserving genetic resources. The registration process is not limited to proving the characteristics of a variety and granting it legal protection; it also contributes to establishing a documented scientific and technical record that can be referenced and utilised in agricultural research and development programs. This becomes increasingly important given the strategic value of plant genetic resources for the agricultural sector as a fundamental basis for scientific research, production development, variety breeding, and improvement of agricultural practices. She added that the registration of the “Razat” banana variety represents an addition to the base of plant varieties documented with the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) in the Sultanate of Oman. It enhances efforts aimed at conserving plant diversity, preserving knowledge related to varieties and their characteristics, and making

them available for future utilization in accordance with approved scientific and legal frameworks. It is worth noting that the procedures for registering the “Razat” banana variety are based on the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Breeders of New Plant Varieties issued by Royal Decree No. 49/2009 and its Executive Regulations issued by Ministerial Decision No. 277/2015. These include the controls and procedures related to the examination and registration of new plant varieties in accordance with approved national frameworks and in line with the technical guidelines followed in the field of protecting new plant varieties. The existence of this legislative framework, with the Sultanate of Oman’s membership represented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, reflects the paramount importance of protecting agricultural innovation and encouraging entities and institutions to document and develop varieties. This achieves a balance between protecting the rights of variety owners and enabling research, development and economic utilization in accordance with the law. -ONA



HM gives audience to Deputy Ruler of Abu Dhabi, UAE National Security Adviser



OIA boosts presence in space tech sector

PLD Space had signed a memorandum of understanding on 20 February 2025 with the Etlag Spaceport in Duqm to launch its Miura 5 rocket from Oman



MUSCAT: Oman Investment Authority (OIA) has strengthened its presence in the space technology sector by adding a new investment in future technologies and space through the Spanish-Omani Private Equity Fund II's investment in the Spanish company PLD Space, which specialises in the space transportation sector.

PLD Space had signed a memorandum of understanding on 20 February 2025 with the Etlag Spaceport in Duqm to launch its Miura 5 rocket from the Sultanate of Oman, following the completion of the necessary commercial and technical studies to verify the feasibility of the launch.

PLD Space was founded in 2011 by Spanish entrepreneurs Raúl Torres and Raúl Verdú and is headquartered in the city of Elche in the Spanish province of Alicante. The company successfully launched a rocket in 2023, becoming the first private company to succeed in launching a rocket in Europe.

The company specialises in the design, manufacturing, development, and operation of launch vehicles. It is also working on developing reusable launch vehicles to send small satellites into space, within an integrated model covering the various stages of rocket development.

PLD Space's activities are based on developing advanced technologies to keep pace with the rapid growth of the space economy and the rising demand for launch services.

The company is building the Miura 5 rocket, designed to transport small satellites and payloads to low Earth orbit, whether through dedicated or rideshare launches. It also has future plans to expand its capabilities toward transporting larger payloads, including cargo transport, ultimately leading to the development of human spaceflight capabilities.

Saif Hamad Al Mahrouqi, Senior Manager of Joint Government Partnerships at Oman Investment Authority, stated that this invest-

ment falls within the authority's strategic partnerships aimed at enhancing the geographic and sectoral diversification of its investment portfolio, achieving sustainable returns, and attracting capital and transferring knowledge and expertise to the Sultanate of Oman.

This, he said, supports economic diversification, reinforces the authority's role in implementing Omani economic diplomacy, and embodies the principle of the "Omani dimension" in the authority's foreign investments.

He added that the authority has so far succeeded in concluding a range of strategic partnerships with sisterly and friendly countries, most notably Qatar, Jordan, Türkiye, China, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Pakistan, Spain, Azerbaijan, India, and Brunei Darussalam.

The Spanish-Omani Private Equity Fund II is an extension of the investment partnership between Oman Investment Authority and COFIDES, a company owned by the Spanish government.

This partnership began in 2018



Plan to enhance private sector cooperation

MUSCAT: Qais Mohammed Al Yousef, Chairman of the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones, met with Laziz Kudratov, Minister of Investment, Industry and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and his accompanying delegation, who is currently visiting the Sultanate of Oman.

The meeting discussed means of enhancing cooperation in the field of economic, free, and industrial zones, as well as exploring new areas for partnership in logistics, investment, and trade, and strengthening cooperation between the business communities in both countries.

The two sides touched on a number of sectors of mutual interest, including manufacturing, logistics, cold chains, food and agricultural security, and the opportunities available for establishing investment projects and partnerships in these sectors.

They also discussed benefiting from the specialisations and comparative advantages enjoyed by the special economic zones, free zones, and industrial cities in

the Sultanate of Oman.

During the meeting, the authority reviewed the competitive advantages of these zones and the integrated investment environment they provide to support the establishment, growth, and expansion of projects.

This leverages the Sultanate of Oman's strategic location and its connection to a network of ports, airports, and infrastructure and logistics capabilities, thereby enhancing access of products to regional and global markets and providing a suitable base for companies seeking to expand and reach new markets.

The meeting also discussed mechanisms for enhancing mutual cooperation on investment opportunities, exchanging expertise and information, and encouraging reciprocal visits by trade delegations, businessmen, and investors.

This contributes to transforming areas of mutual interest into partnerships and investment projects and strengthening links between private sector institutions in both countries. -ONA

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Attorney General visits Public Prosecution in UAE



ABU DHABI: Nasr Khamis Al Sawae, Attorney General, paid a visit yesterday to the Public Prosecution in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), where he met with Hamad Saif Al Shamsi, Attorney General of the United Arab Emirates.

This meeting was held on the sidelines of the Public Prosecution's participation in the 15th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held in Abu Dhabi.

During the meeting, aspects of

cooperation between the Public Prosecutions in the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates were reviewed, and ways to enhance and develop them were discussed, supporting the exchange of expertise and experiences in areas of common interest and contributing to elevating prosecutorial work.

During the visit, the Attorney General was also briefed on a number of experiences and practices adopted by the Public Pros-

ecution in the United Arab Emirates in the technical field, and the prosecutorial work system's utilisation of modern technologies and artificial intelligence in developing procedures and services, as well as enhancing performance efficiency. This visit comes in affirmation of the joint keenness to enhance institutional cooperation, exchange expertise, and benefit from modern experiences and practices, supporting efforts to develop the justice system. -ONA

MEETING

OCCI discusses ties with Uzbekistan delegation

MUSCAT: Faisal Abdullah Al Rowas, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), received Laziz Kudratov, Minister of Investment, Industry and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

During the meeting, prospects for developing economic and commercial relations between the two countries were discussed, alongside enhancing the role of the private sector in expanding areas of cooperation and establishing sustainable commercial and investment partnerships.

The meeting touched upon ways to boost commercial exchange between the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Uzbekistan, expand the range of traded products, and introduce opportunities available to companies in



both countries. The two sides also reviewed the importance of direct communication between Omani and Uzbek companies to explore areas of joint action and study potential projects.

Al Rawas pointed out that Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry is working to enhance communication between

the business communities in both countries by supporting the exchange of trade delegations and organising business forums and bilateral meetings between Omani and Uzbek companies, contributing to the development of trade relations and opening broader horizons for cooperation and partnership. -ONA



MUSCAT GOVERNORATE

MUSCAT MUNICIPALITY

Advertisement No. 37 /2026

Muscat Municipality invites Companies specialized in the field and registered with Projects,Tenders & Local Content Authority, to participate and obtain tender documents from the website via the following link: (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>) starting from the date of this announcement and until the end of deadline stipulated below.

Tender Number	Description of Tender	Last date	Tender return date
PRE-26-150	Lighting & Illumination Works at Muscat Governorate	08/10/2026	15/10/2026

1.

Bidders shall submit their offers electronically.

2.

Clarification and Support:

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For any inquiries regarding tenders, please visit e-tendering website: (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>).

●

For technical support of e-tendering system please send an email to (etenderhd@ptlc.gov.om) or call (+96824402200).

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www.mm.gov.om

Public Tender Advertisement for the Sale of Heavy Equipment, Vehicles, Light Equipment, Generators and Other Assets

Assets Offered for Sale on an "As Is, Where Is" Basis

Al Watanyiah United Engineering and Contracting Co. LLC hereby announce the public tenders listed below for the sale of a range of heavy equipment, vehicles, light equipment, generators, scaffolding, household appliances, electrical transformers and other assets. Bidders may purchase the Tender Documents and submit bids for any one or more of the tenders listed below.

Tender Documents are available at the Company's Head Office in Ghala Industrial Area from 28 September 2026 to 11 October 2026 during official working days, from 8:00 AM- 5:00PM, upon payment of the applicable Tender Fee into the Company's Bank Dhofar Account No. 01040605344006, IBAN: OM080250001040605344006. The Tender Documents will be issued upon payment of the applicable Tender Fee.

S. No.	Tender No.	Description	Location	Tender Fee Inc. VAT %5 (±)	Earnest Money Deposit (±)	Period for purchase of Tender	Last date for submission of offer
1	AW/T/ PH4/01/ 2026	Sale of 14 units of used heavy equipment and vehicles, including a crawler dozer, excavator, wheel loaders, tipper trucks, a water tanker truck and a crane-mounted truck.	Ghala / Barka Yard	150/-	10% of total bid value incl. VAT	28/09/2026 To 11/10/2026	20/10/2026 5:00 PM
2	AW/T/ PH4/02/ 2026	Sale of 39 used light and miscellaneous vehicles, including a 3-ton truck, buses, pickups, a fuel tanker truck, small water tankers, saloon cars and station wagons.	Ghala / Barka Yard	50/-	10% of total bid value incl. VAT	28/09/2026 To 11/10/2026	20/10/2026 5:00 PM
3	AW/T/ PH4/03/ 2026	Sale of 145 units of used light and construction equipment, including 3-ton tandem rollers, air compressors, asphalt cutters, bar-bending and bar-cutting machines, concrete mixers and vibrators, dumpers, skid-steer loaders, tower hoists, lighting towers and other equipment.	Ghala / Barka Yard	50/-	10% of total bid value incl. VAT	28/09/2026 To 11/10/2026	20/10/2026 5:00 PM
4	AW/T/ PH4/04/ 2026	Sale of 33 used electrical generators of various capacities ranging from 30 kVA to 250 kVA.	Ghala / Barka Yard	25/-	10% of total bid value incl. VAT	28/09/2026 To 11/10/2026	20/10/2026 5:00 PM
5	AW/T/ PH4/05/ 2026	Sale of used scaffolding, household appliances, electrical transformers and other assets.	Ghala / Barka Yard	50/-	10% of total bid value incl. VAT	28/09/2026 To 11/10/2026	20/10/2026 5:00 PM

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Purchasers of the Tender Documents may inspect the assets at the Company's Ghala and Barka Yards during official working hours, subject to prior appointment.

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Each bid must be accompanied by an Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) equivalent to 10% of the total bid value inclusive of VAT, provided as a certified cheque issued by a local bank, a bank deposit or transfer to the Company's account, or a bank guarantee issued by a local bank. Proof of any deposit or transfer must state the bidder's name and Tender Number.

●

Where the EMD is provided as a bank guarantee, it must remain valid for at least 30 days from the Tender closing date. Any certified cheque must be valid for collection upon presentation. The bid and original EMD instrument, where applicable, must be deposited in the Tender Box at the reception of the Company's Head Office in Ghala, Muscat, no later than 20 October 2026 at 5:00 PM. late bids will not be accepted.

●

Tender Fees and submitted bid prices shall be inclusive of VAT. The 10% EMD shall be calculated on the total bid value inclusive of VAT. Contact: 24502581/82, Ext. 149/150, Mobile: 71228166 / 92947637.

Oman reach Gulf Cup semis after 3-1 victory

Oman coach Sektoui thanked the players for their efforts throughout the tournament

JEDDAH: Oman's national football team advanced to the semi-finals of the 27th Arabian Gulf Cup after defeating Kuwait 3-1 at Prince Abdullah Al Faisal Sports City Stadium in the final round of Group A. Kuwait took an early lead through Shabeeb Al-Khaldi in the sixth minute, with Oman trailing 1-0 at halftime despite creating several opportunities. Oman came out strongly after the break and equalised in the 65th minute through Nasser Al-Rawahi, who converted a cross from Jamil Al-Yahmedi. Al-Rawahi struck again in the 80th minute to put Oman ahead before Musab Al-Shaqsi completed the comeback five minutes later with a powerful header. The victory lifted Oman to four points and secured the second



qualification spot from Group A on goal difference, with Iraq also finishing on four points. Saudi Arabia topped the group with nine points after defeating Iraq 2-0. Oman coach Tarik Sektoui said the match was difficult, particularly because the team needed to score several goals to strengthen

their physical and mental readiness despite the challenges faced at the start of the campaign. He added that the technical staff remained committed to developing Omani football and that his selection of players was based on confidence in their abilities and performances.



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MILITARY COOPERATION

RAO Commander meets top Italian Army official



ROME: Maj. Gen. Mattar Salim Al Balushi, Commander of the Royal Army of Oman (RAO), met with Gen. Carmine Masiello, Chief of Staff of the Italian Army, within the framework of his visit to the Italian Republic. During the meeting, they discussed areas of military cooperation between the two sides and ways to enhance them, particularly in training, qualification, and capability development. The Commander of the RAO and his accompanying delegation visited a number of Italian Army units, and were briefed on their qualitative capabilities and the advanced systems and technologies they utilise. -ONA

OUTLINE THE REGULATIONS

Ministry holds workshop on insurance of govt assets

MUSCAT: Acting in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Finance on Wednesday organised a workshop titled "Insurance of Government Assets and Management of Movable Assets". The workshop aimed to outline the regulations and procedures governing the insurance of government assets and related disposal.

The workshop covered two main topics: The first focused on insurance policies safeguarding government assets against risks, as well as procedures for follow up of insurance claims. **Disposal/management** The second topic addressed the regulations and procedures governing the disposal/management of government movable assets,

including processes for sale and electronic auctions. **Public awareness** The workshop aimed to raise public awareness about the management of government assets and enhance compliance with approved regulations and procedures in a manner that contributes to the preservation of public funds. -ONA



IN YITI

Omran Group, SEE Holding ink pact to develop 'The Plaza' Complex

MUSCAT: Omran Group and SEE Holding on Wednesday jointly signed a financing agreement worth OMR38.5 million with the World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC) to support the development of "The Plaza" complex project at The Sustainable City in the Wilayat of Muscat's Village of Yiti, Governorate of Muscat. The signing of the joint venture affirms international confidence in investment opportunities within the Sultanate of Oman. The pact will accelerate the implementation of one of the governorate's most prominent urban development projects. "The Plaza" project features a diverse range of retail, dining, leisure, entertainment and community facilities. It is designed to be a vibrant destination that enhances



the quality of life for residents and visitors, while at the same time supporting the city's commercial viability and sustainable lifestyle in the long run. The agreement reflects the commitment of "Sustainable Development & Investment Company (SDIC)" and its shareholders and the company's keenness to foster urban development, attract responsible investment and deliver long-term economic and social value, thereby contributing to the realization of the goals of Oman Vision 2040. -ONA

FILM FEST

'Cinema helps in bringing people and cultures closer'

< FROM A1 Sayyid Said bin Sultan Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth for Culture, said the Ministry's participation reflects its belief in cinema's important role in fostering cultural dialogue and bringing people and cultures closer together. He highlighted the festival as an opportunity to discover diverse European cinematic experiences, support Oman's growing film sector and create new opportunities for cooperation between Omani and European cultural and artistic communities. Anwar bin Khamis al-Raziqi, President of the Oman Film Society, welcomed the festival and particularly the Short Film Competi-



tion as a platform for young Omani talent, stressing the Society's commitment to strengthening international partnerships and developing Oman's film sector. Sudha Sha, Director of IFFO, welcomed the festival's continued growth and noted that the new competition would give local filmmakers an opportunity to gain recognition while further strengthening cultural exchange between Europe and Oman. A special highlight this year is the Short Film Competition, organized with the support of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth and the Oman Film Society. Open to emerging and established filmmakers in Oman, it provides a platform to showcase local creativity and storytelling. Shortlisted films will be presented in free public screenings from 12 to 14 October, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Hiba Said Al Naabi Wins Public Service Leader of the Year - Sports Award



Hiba Said Al Naabi, Co-Founder of Shooting Stars Oman, was felicitated with the 'The Origin Public Service Leader of the Year - Sports Award' at The Origin - Women Forum & Awards 2026. The awards presentation was held at JW Marriott Hotel Muscat, bringing together women leaders, professionals, entrepreneurs and changemakers from across Oman and the region. A passionate advocate for sports, community development and women's participation, Hiba has built her journey around the belief that sport can be a powerful platform for creating opportunities, developing confidence and bringing communities together. Her work reflects a commitment to encouraging greater participation, particularly among women and girls. As Co-Founder of Shooting Stars Oman, Hiba has contributed to creating an environment where individuals can engage with sport, develop their abilities and experience the wider benefits that come from teamwork, discipline and participation. Through the initiative, she has helped strengthen the connection between sport, personal development and community engagement. Hiba's contribution extends beyond sporting competition. Her approach recognises sport as



a means of empowerment and positive social change, creating spaces where women and girls can participate, build confidence, challenge boundaries and discover their potential. Her recognition as Public Service Leader of the Year - Sports celebrates her contribution to sports and community development, as well as her efforts to create greater opportunities for others. It reflects the important role that purpose-driven sports leaders can play in encouraging participation and using sport to make a meaningful difference within society. Hiba's journey with Shooting Stars Oman demonstrates how passion for sport can translate into lasting community impact. Her recognition at The Origin 2026 celebrates her leadership and continued commitment to empowering others through sport while inspiring more women and girls to participate, lead and pursue their ambitions. The Origin Awards 2026 are instituted by Times of Oman, in collaboration with Muscat Media Group, Gulf Leaders Circle and TEvents. The awards recognise exceptional women, organisations and initiatives making a meaningful impact across industries and communities, while advancing leadership, empowerment, inclusion and progress.

‘Alternative Nobel’ honours women activists, AI researcher

The Right Livelihood Award has gone to a female AI researcher and women fighting repression

BERLIN: A leading AI researcher, together with a woman lawyer from Pakistan and two women-led rights groups, on Wednesday received a Sweden-based rights award that honors work seen as contributing to a more just and peaceful world.

The Right Livelihood Award was created by Swedish-German philanthropist Jakob von Uexkull in 1980 to celebrate achievements in the fields of environment and international development disregarded by the Nobel Prizes.

It is usually awarded a week before the Nobel Prizes.

Right Livelihood said this year's winners, selected from 200 nominations from 72 countries, were being honored for "resistance to systems that push people to the margins, and a shared insistence on putting people back at the center."

Who won the Right Livelihood Award in 2026?

Timnit Gebru, woman with glasses with red scarf and white top with colorful patterns, standing against green wooded background Timnit Gebru, woman with glasses with red scarf and white top with colorful patterns, standing against green wooded background

AI researcher Timnit Gebru, the founder of the Distributed AI Research Institute, received her prize for her work in examining how artificial intelligence is influenced by biases.



patriarchal persecution, guided by the conviction that no human being is illegal."

Haider is known for her work defending some of her country's most vulnerable communities against repression by the state, discrimination against women and ethnic violence.

"Haider has secured justice for thousands targeted or ignored by those in power, specifically ethnic, gender and religious minorities, as well as refugees," the organization said.

A Southern African rural women's group defending land rights

Mercia Andrews, woman with curly hair, orange blouse over a black top, bushes in background-Mercia Andrews, woman with curly hair, orange blouse over a black top, bushes in background

The Rural Women's Assembly, which brings together more than 178,000 small-scale farmers in 11 Southern African countries, was another winner of the prize.

The Right Livelihood jury said the group had created "a united force defending land, seed and bodily autonomy against corporate and patriarchal dispossession."

Among other things, the Assembly has worked to reproduce and preserve local seed varieties to help protect a long traditional practice of saving and exchanging such seeds, the foundation said.

A Georgian human rights group protecting civic power

The prize also went to the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA), which the foundation said it was honoring "as the moral compass of Georgian society."

The jury said the group, founded in 1994, received the award for its efforts in "building and safeguarding Georgian democracy and sustaining civic power in the face of an autocratic crackdown."

4TH EDITION



BUSINESS LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2026

26th OCTOBER 2026

JW MARRIOTT HOTEL MUSCAT

Marking its 4th edition, the **Times Business Leadership Summit** brings together senior government officials, business owners, C-level executives, SMEs and industry experts. Under the theme **Business Leadership in an Era of Unprecedented Change**, the Summit will examine how organisations can navigate a shifting geopolitical and economic landscape, build resilience, adapt strategies and turn emerging challenges into opportunities for sustainable growth.

TIMES BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Celebrating exceptional achievers in Oman's business landscape, the Times Business Leadership Awards recognise outstanding individuals and companies.

Award Categories:

• Business Leader of the Year

• Entrepreneur of the Year

• Young Business Leader of the Year

• Woman Business Leader of the Year

• Lifetime Achievement Award

• SME of the Year

• Company of the Year...and more



FOR AWARDS, PARTNERSHIPS AND SPEAKING OPPORTUNITIES, CONTACT:

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INAUGURATION TODAY LULU HYPERMARKET

Al Hail - Seeb, Sultanate of Oman

Thursday, 1st October 2026



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Enjoy a wide variety of high-quality products at most affordable prices.



Open for shopping from 1:30 pm



OMAN OIL PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman crude oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by November 2026 reaching \$105.79. The price of Oman crude oil fell by \$4.99 from the price of Tuesday, which was \$110.78. -ONA

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 7,566.82 points, down by -0.16% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.00% at 618.61 points. Dhofar Cattle Feed, up 9.81%, was the top gainer while, Oman & Emirates Investment, down 6.25%, was the top loser.

Oman, Uzbekistan seek to boost trade and investment flows

They explored available opportunities to elevate the level of trade cooperation, facilitate the entry of Omani and Uzbek products into both markets, connect exporters with buyers and importers, and address requirements related to specifications, certificates and customs procedures



MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Uzbekistan today discussed ways to broaden the horizons of economic, trade, and investment cooperation between the two countries. The discussions focused on advancing the establishment of joint industrial projects, stimulating trade flows, and developing logistical corridors, thereby contributing to the conversion of available opportunities into implementable partnerships and projects. This came during a meeting held

between Anwar Hilal Al Jabri, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, and Laziz Kudratov, Minister of Investment, Industry and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The two sides discussed ways to stimulate trade between the two countries and expand the range of exchanged products. They explored available opportunities to elevate the level of trade cooperation, facilitate the entry of Omani and Uzbek products into both markets, connect exporters with

buyers and importers, and address requirements related to specifications, certificates and customs procedures. The meeting also addressed the proposed preferential trade agreement between the two countries and ways to accelerate technical work on the scope of goods, tariffs and rules of origin. The two sides examined the upgrading of the agreement on the promotion and protection of mutual investments, with the aim of strengthening the investor-friendly environment and

Meeting addresses economic cooperation

MUSCAT: Dr. Khamis Saif Al Jabri, Minister of Economy, met today in Muscat with Laziz Kudratov, Minister of Investment, Industry and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan, to discuss ways of strengthening bilateral relations and developing economic cooperation between the two countries. The meeting also reviewed the priorities of Oman Vision 2040 and promising sectors for joint cooperation. During the meeting, both sides emphasised the importance of sustaining the efforts



of the two governments to enhance economic integration and expand areas of cooperation and joint investment. This

reflects the depth of bilateral relations between the two countries and contributes to realising mutual interests. -ONA

expanding areas of economic partnership between the two countries. Industrial cooperation formed a key pillar of the meeting, as the two sides explored opportunities to develop joint projects in manufacturing industries. They underscored the importance of enhancing direct communication between companies, studying demand volumes, markets, and required investments, and ultimately identifying economically viable and implementable projects. The two sides also discussed means of strengthening logistical and air connectivity and leveraging the potential offered by Omani ports to develop shipping routes and the movement of goods between the two countries. They also considered building on the direct air link between Muscat and Tashkent to support the growth of trade and investment activities and expand opportunities for products to reach target markets.

The meeting touched upon expanding the private sector's participation in the economic partnership and explored opportunities for export-oriented production in Oman's economic and free zones. It also addressed supporting coordination between private sector institutions in both countries to convene a business council and a business forum that present specific investment opportunities and connect companies and investors with potential partners from both countries. The discussions further aimed to crystallize practical economic, trade, and investment outcomes that support the bilateral relationship, prepare for the sixth session of the Joint Government Committee in Muscat, and enhance private sector participation in implementing priority

projects and opportunities. Both sides emphasized the importance of building on the ongoing development of Omani-Uzbek relations and advancing economic cooperation to a stage more focused on implementation and results. This would be achieved by identifying priority projects and establishing clear follow-up pathways, thereby strengthening trade and investment flows and opening broader prospects for industrial and logistical partnerships between the two countries. The meeting was attended by Eng. Ghaleb Said Al Maamari, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion for Commerce and Industry, Abdul Salam Hata-mov, Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Sultanate of Oman, and a number of officials from both sides. -ONA

DISTINGUISHED PERFORMANCE



MSX wins award for Arab Exchange with highest dividend yield

ABU DHABI: Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) won the award for the "Arab Exchange with the Highest Dividend Yield", in recognition of its distinguished performance and the growth achieved in market indicators. This awarding coincided with the convening of the Arab Federation of Capital Markets (AFCM) Annual Conference 2026, hosted by the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX). This recognition comes in light of the strong performance that Muscat Stock Exchange has continued to achieve, supported by remarkable growth in trading indicators, market capitalization, and the performance of listed companies. The "MSX30" index recorded a 29 percent rise since the beginning of 2026, continuing to top the performance of Gulf market indices, after achieving an annual return of 28.2 percent in 2025, which was the highest annual return among the markets of the GCC, according to a report by the Arab Federation of Capital Markets. Furthermore, trading value on the Muscat Stock Exchange exceeded OMR9 billion since the beginning of 2026, recording a growth of over 300 percent compared to the same period in 2025, while the market capitalization of listed companies rose to approximately OMR39 billion, marking a 22 percent growth compared to 2025.

The average daily trading value during 2026 recorded approximately RO 52 million, an increase of over 150 percent compared to the average of 2025, reflecting continuous growth in liquidity levels and investor activity in the market. At the corporate performance level, the net profits of companies listed on the Muscat Stock Exchange rose during the first half of 2026 by 12 percent compared to the same period in 2025, reflecting the improved financial performance of listed companies and continued growth in the market. In 2025, the Muscat Stock Exchange recorded the highest dividend yield among Arab stock exchanges at 5.2 percent, alongside the "MSX30" index leading the performance of Gulf markets with an annual return of 28.2 percent, in an indicator of the market's growing attractiveness and the evolution of liquidity levels and institutional performance. Winning the award for the Highest Arab Stock Exchange in Terms of Dividend Yield reflects the Muscat Stock Exchange's continued presence across Arab capital markets, in tandem with its efforts aimed at enhancing market efficiency, developing its infrastructure, raising liquidity levels, and expanding the investor base, thereby boosting the Omani market's competitiveness and position at both regional and international levels. -ONA

BROADER DECARBONISATION PORTFOLIO

Nama signs agreement to acquire 50,000 international renewable energy certificates

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Nama Water Services has signed an agreement to purchase and redeem 50,000 International Renewable Energy Certificates (I-RECs), representing 50,000 megawatt-hours (MWh) of renewable electricity, as the company advances its journey towards achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. Each certificate represents one MWh of renewable electricity, providing a measurable mechanism that supports the company's decarbonisation efforts and further embeds Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles across its operations. The agreement was signed by Qais bin Saud Al Zakwani, Chief Executive Officer of Nama Water Services, and Ahmed bin Salim Al Abri, Chief Executive Officer of Nama Power and Water Procurement. The initiative forms part of Nama Water Services' Net Zero Roadmap and, specifically, its near-term measures to address indirect emissions associated with electricity consumption. It also sits within a broader decarbonisation portfolio that combines renewable energy, energy efficiency and operational improvements to reduce the carbon footprint of the company's activities. Nama Water Services has adopted 2022 as its baseline year for measuring emissions reductions. The company's total emissions during the baseline year stood at approximately 325,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO2e). Commenting on the agreement, Al Zakwani said: "For us, net zero is not simply a target to be reached in 2050; it is a journey shaped by the decisions we make today. We are therefore translating our sustainability ambitions into practical initiatives with measurable impact — from reducing emissions and improving energy efficiency to managing resources in a more efficient and sustainable manner." He added: "Our ambition is to make sustainability an integral part of operational and investment decision-making. It should extend beyond environmental impact to encompass business efficiency, operational resilience and the value we create for society and the environment. This agreement is one step in a much broader journey through which we are rethinking how we consume energy, manage resources and maximise their value." Under the agreement, Nama Water Services will purchase and redeem 50,000 I-RECs, equivalent to a total of 50,000 MWh of renewable electricity. Based on the company's data, this volume is expected to represent approximately 30 per cent of the electricity consumed by wastewater treatment plants in Muscat Governorate and account for an emissions-related accounting impact estimated at around 16,000 tCO2e. The agreement is part of a wider effort to embed ESG principles across Nama Water Services and move sustainability from targets into practice. This includes linking environmental objectives to measurable initiatives and performance indicators, improving the efficiency of energy and resource use, and strengthening governance around performance and impact monitoring. In parallel, the company is implementing a range of emissions-reduction projects and initiatives



encompassing renewable energy, energy efficiency, operational optimisation, reduction of water losses and increased reuse of reclaimed water. Nama Water Services also measures progress towards net zero through a set of performance indicators linked to its roadmap, enabling the company to track actual impact against interim targets. Al Zakwani noted that the journey towards 2050 is ultimately shaped by decisions being made today — from the way energy is consumed and assets are operated to the investment decisions that will define the company's future operations. Commenting on the agreement, Ahmed bin Salim Al Abri, Chief Executive Officer of Nama Power and Water Procurement, said: "This agreement reflects the commitment of Nama Group companies to strengthening sustainability practices and accelerating the transition towards a low-carbon economy through internationally recognised tools and mechanisms that enable organisations to measure and effectively manage their environmental impact. "International Renewable Energy Certificates are one of the effective mechanisms through which organisations can document their consumption of clean energy and contribute to reducing emissions associated with their operations. "This step is aligned with national efforts to increase the contribution of renewable energy and achieve net-zero targets. It also reflects the role of Nama Power and Water Procurement in supporting the Sultanate of Oman's sustainable energy ecosystem through the development of renewable energy projects and mechanisms that enable different organisations to benefit from them. "We believe that stronger collaboration across the sector will amplify the impact of these efforts and contribute to creating sustainable environmental and economic value over the long term."

MARKET

MSX index ends lower



Dhofar Cattle Feed, up 9.81%, was the top gainer while, Oman & Emirates Investment, down 6.25%, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 7,566.82 points, down by -0.16% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.00% at 618.61 points. Dhofar Cattle Feed, up 9.81%, was the top gainer while, Oman & Emirates Investment, down 6.25%, was the top loser. Shares of So-har International Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 9510 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turn-over of RO 62.22 million, with more than 215.27 million shares changing hands.

Out of 67 traded securities, 18 advanced, 27 declined, and 22 remained unchanged. At the ses-sion close, foreign investors were net sellers for RO 1231K while do-mestic investors were net buyers for RO 1117K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 114K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 13,606.96 points, down -0.87%. Prices of Oman Arab Bank, Al Anwar Investment, Al Omaniya Financial Services, and National Finance were up by 4.29%, 1.46%,

0.65%, and 0.47% respectively. Prices of Oman & Emirates In-vestment, Oman United Insur-ance, Ominvest, Al Sharqia In-vestment, and Takaful Oman were down by 6.25%, 4.78%, 4.14%, 1.92%, and 1.64% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 9,812.44 points, down -0.25%. Prices of Dhofar Cattle Feed, Oman Chromite, Al Maha Ce-ramics, Oman Refreshment, and A'Saffa Foods were up by 9.81%, 3.23%, 2.26%, 1.85%, and 1.56% respectively. Prices of Galfar En-gineering, Oman Flour Mills, Al Anwar Ceramics, Oman Cement, and Jazeera Steel Products were down by 1.29%, 1.19%, 0.66%, 0.49%, and 0.43% respectively.

Services Index was down by -0.24% before closing at 3,009.35 points. Prices of Muscat Gases, Barka Water & Power Company, Oman Telecom, Oman Telecom, and Abraj Energy were up by 6.92%, 4.73%, 1.03%, 1.03%, and 0.74% respectively. Prices of Al Suwadi Power, Dhofar Generat-ing, Renaissance Services, Oman Education & Training, and Shell Oman Marketing were down by 1.52%, 1.24%, 1.08%, 1.03%, and 0.94% respectively. -United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	7,600.04	7,556.92	7,566.82	7,579.05	-12.23	-0.16%
FINANCIAL INDEX	13,736.71	13,592.88	13,606.96	13,725.82	-118.86	-0.87%
Industry Index	9,836.84	9,789.88	9,812.44	9,836.84	-24.40	-0.25%
Services Index	3,028.65	3,006.70	3,009.35	3,016.72	-7.37	-0.24%
MSX Shariah Index	621.40	618.09	618.61	618.64	-0.03	-0.00%
MSX TR INDEX	11,783.01	11,716.16	11,731.51	11,750.46	-18.96	-0.16%
FINANCIAL TR IDX	16,884.64	16,711.74	16,729.05	16,875.18	-146.13	-0.87%
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	12,598.50	12,538.35	12,567.25	12,598.50	-31.25	-0.25%
SERVICES TR IDX	4,066.55	4,037.08	4,040.63	4,050.53	-9.90	-0.24%
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,291.27	1,291.27	1,291.27	1,291.27	0.00	0.00%

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
215,277,187	62,218,771	9,510	39,230,096,264	18	27	22	67

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN AS ON 30/09/2026

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	P/B VALUE	MARKET CAP
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REGULAR MARKET

OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	125	19	1	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.148	0.007	4.730	0.155	0.145	0.155	0.100	24,800,000
OM0000003000	AL MAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	2,799	3,464	6	1.240	1.255	1.230	1.255	1.200	0.055	4.583	1.255	1.220	1.255	0.100	86,565,000
OM0000002804	ASAFA FOODS	7,838	5,472	12	0.700	0.715	0.692	0.715	0.704	0.011	1.563	0.715	0.689	0.715	0.100	85,800,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	7,900	1,651	2	0.209	0.209	0.209	0.206	0.003	0.003	1.456	0.209	0.205	0.209	0.100	64,269,489
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	7,327,600	9,932,286	163	1.354	1.370	1.354	1.369	1.355	0.014	1.033	1.369	1.360	1.369	0.100	1,028,750,000
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	1,447,084	585,966	373	0.405	0.407	0.403	0.407	0.404	0.003	0.743	0.407	0.405	0.407	0.100	313,471,400
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FINANCIAL SERVICES	137,000	20,897	9	0.151	0.154	0.150	0.154	0.153	0.001	0.954	0.154	0.154	0.154	0.100	48,574,218
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	2,103	341	1	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.161	0.001	0.621	0.162	0.162	0.000	0.100	12,234,564
OM0000009759	QQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	14,109,554	6,755,296	242	0.479	0.481	0.478	0.480	0.478	0.002	0.418	0.480	0.480	0.481	0.010	3,840,000,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	7,500	3,650	1	0.492	0.492	0.492	0.492	0.492	0.000	0.000	0.492	0.490	0.494	0.100	799,965,607
OM0000001077	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	3,750	12,900	3	3.440	3.440	3.440	3.440	3.440	0.000	0.000	3.440	3.300	3.440	0.100	308,568,000
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	221,000	47,066	218	0.213	0.213	0.212	0.213	0.213	0.000	0.000	0.213	0.213	0.213	0.100	647,477,087
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	1,600	2,240	1	1.400	1.400	1.400	1.400	1.400	0.000	0.000	1.400	1.400	1.400	0.100	85,785,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	17,334,385	7,330,183	1,130	0.425	0.425	0.420	0.424	0.424	0.000	0.000	0.424	0.426	0.424	0.100	318,212,354
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	65,210,388	12,322,379	1,749	0.190	0.190	0.188	0.189	0.189	0.000	0.000	0.189	0.187	0.189	0.100	1,450,765,072
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	112,660	20,432	24	0.181	0.185	0.181	0.181	0.181	0.000	0.000	0.181	0.181	0.181	0.010	181,000,000
OM0000003968	OQREDOO	164,028	51,682	49	0.314	0.317	0.314	0.315	0.315	0.000	0.000	0.315	0.314	0.324	0.100	305,047,432
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	40,935	6,365	7	0.155	0.156	0.155	0.156	0.156	0.000	0.000	0.156	0.156	0.157	0.100	348,964,673
OM0000009983	PHOENIX POWER	2,249,192	636,570	50	0.283	0.285	0.281	0.283	0.283	0.000	0.000	0.283	0.282	0.283	0.100	413,916,213
OM0000009908	QI BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	31,400,719	8,005,825	1,708	0.255	0.256	0.253	0.255	0.255	0.000	0.000	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.040	882,170,167
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	15,500	14,471	7	0.935	0.935	0.931	0.931	0.935	-0.004	-0.428	0.931	0.931	0.935	0.100	116,280,001
OM0000009072	QOGAS NETWORKS	38,379,058	8,366,263	1,697	0.219	0.219	0.217	0.217	0.218	-0.001	-0.459	0.217	0.217	0.239	0.100	939,745,391
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	10,256	6,321	5	0.618	0.618	0.615	0.615	0.618	-0.003	-0.485	0.615	0.615	0.620	0.100	203,486,717
OM0000004925	ALBATTAN POWER	31,130	6,097	8	0.196	0.197	0.195	0.195	0.196	-0.001	-0.510	0.195	0.195	0.197	0.100	131,603,049
OM0000004735	SEMBOOR SALALAH	363,988	95,965	9	0.263	0.264	0.260	0.260	0.262	-0.002	-0.763	0.260	0.260	0.268	0.100	248,188,707
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	85,459	9,321	26	0.110	0.110	0.109	0.109	0.110	-0.001	-0.909	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.100	19,075,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	3,298,569	916,763	36	0.278	0.279	0.274	0.275	0.278	-0.003	-1.079	0.275	0.270	0.275	0.100	65,012,750
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	101,000	37,066	2	0.387	0.387	0.386	0.386	0.370	-0.004	-1.061	0.386	0.380	0.389	0.100	73,200,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	2,100	181	1	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.097	-0.001	-1.149	0.096	0.096	0.097	0.100	30,628,948
OM0000001509	DHOFAIR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	15,000	4,279	4	0.285	0.286	0.285	0.285	0.285	0.000	0.000	-1.384	0.285	0.282	0.100	-0.295
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	206,720	40,336	27	0.198	0.198	0.194	0.194	0.197	-0.003	-1.523	0.194	0.194	0.194	0.100	138,594,830
OM0000003020	ASTAD SHIPPING	2,168,000	460,501	848	0.217	0.217	0.210	0.210	0.224	-0.004	-1.869	0.210	0.210	0.211	0.000	1,093,836,259
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO	4,874	497	2	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.104	-0.002	-1.923	0.102	0.102	0.104	0.100	81,800,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	2,750	1,103	5	0.397	0.410	0.391	0.394	0.411	-0.017	-4.136	0.394	0.395	0.399	0.100	442,404,443
OM0000001087	OMAN REIT FUND	161,450	51,592	13	0.322	0.322	0.319	0.319	0.335	-0.016	-4.776	0.319	0.318	0.319	0.100	33,495,000
OM0000001881	OMAN EMIRATES HO	5,000	605	3	0.127	0.127	0.120	0.120	0.128	-0.008	-6.250	0.120	0.121	0.125	0.100	15,356,250
Total		36	184,638,943	353,755,725	8,437											

Parallel Market

OM0000001301	DHOFA FOODS AND INVESTMENT	100	29	1	0.291	0.291	0.291	0.291	0.265	0.026	9.811	0.291	0.000	0.291	0.100	57,523,985
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	125	17	1	0.139	0.139	0.139	0.139	0.130	0.009	6.923	0.139	0.130	0.139	0.100	417,000
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	741,150	244,637	97	0.327	0.346	0.327	0.340	0.326	0.014	4.294	0.340	0.340	0.346	0.100	680,932,733
OM0000001020	OMAN CHROMITE	1,793	8,491	7	4.700	4.800	4.700	4.800	4.650	0.150	3.226	4.800	4.801	4.755	1.000	174,424,000
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	44,913	12,215	5	0.271	0.272	0.271	0.272	0.266	0.006	2.256	0.272	0.272	0.274	0.100	14,960,000
OM0000001426	OMAN REFRESHMENT	1,546	1,701	3	1.100	1.100	1.100	1.100	1.080	0.020	1.852	1.100	1.100	1.180	0.100	55,000,000
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	26,125	1,429	5	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.001	1.429	0.071	0.071	0.077	0.100	1,491,000
OM0000002948	NATIONAL FINANCE	15,000	3,240	1	0.216	0.216	0.216	0.216	0.215	0.001	0.465	0.216	0.216	0.218	0.100	140,550,206
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	2,892,345	193,767	2	0.066	0.067	0.066	0.067	0.067	0.000	0.000	0.067	0.066	0.067	0.100	20,578,874
OM0000001608	OMAN PACKAGING	9,320	2,125	1	0.228	0.228	0.228	0.228	0.228	0.000	0.000	0.228	0.000	0.000	0.100	7,395,376
OM0000001889	SALALAH MILLS	98,941	55,407	13	0.560	0.560	0.560	0.560	0.560	0.000	0.000	0.560	0.560	0.570	0.100	34,979,316
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	29,850	4,061	4	0.137	0.137	0.136	0.136	0.136	0.000	0.000	0.136	0.135	0.137	0.100	13,464,000
OM0000007910	GULF INTERNATIONAL ESTATE	31,125	2,128	4	0.069	0.069	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.000	0.000	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.100	13,600,000
OM0000009569	JABAL REIF	61,985	6,633	11	0.108	0.108	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.000	0.000	0.107	0.108	0.107	0.100	18,616,000
OM0000001083	OMAN GATEWAY FUND	10,000	10,490	1	1.049	1.049	1.049	1.049	1.049	0.000	0.000	1.049	1.048	1.049	0.000	28,768,659
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	822,820	123,659	61	0.152	0.152	0.149	0.151	0.152	-0.001	-0.658	0.150	0.149	0.150	0.100	33,320,000
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	650	482	2	0.742	0.742	0.742	0.742	0.748	-0.007	-0.935	0.742	0.742	0.742	0.100	70,480,000
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	4,217	446	7	0.105	0.106	0.105	0.105	0.106	-0.001	-0.943	0.105	0.106	0.106	0.100	88,390,593
OM0000002580	OMAN EDUCATION & TRAINING INVESTMENTS	210	405	1	1.930	1.930	1.930	1.930	1.930	1.950	-0.020	-1.028	1.930	1.905	2.145	0.100
135,100																
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	44,007	25,524	4	0.580	0.580	0.580	0.580	0.587	-0.007	-1.133	0.580	0.529	0.580	0.100	100,713,375
OM0000007407	DHOFA GENERATING	6,477	518	2	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.081	-0.001	-1.235	0.080	0.079	0.080	0.100	1,779,200
OM0000001682	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	150,000	11,850	2	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.080	-0.001	-1.250	0.079	0.079	0.078	0.100	3,044,000
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	24,345	483,650,213	64	0.132	0.135	0.150	0.150	0.128	-0.003	-1.290	0.153	0.150	0.160	0.100	31,069,926
OM0000001231	OMAN PETROL	49,436	82,602,213	745	0.221	0.221	0.226	0.228	0.231	-0.003	-1.299	0.228	0.228	0.230	0.100	1,825,177,000
OM0000004799	TAKAFUL OMAN	15,894	926	4	0.059	0.060	0.059	0.060	0.061	-0.001	-0.959	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.100	1,825,177,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	657,355	77,635	21	0.120	0.120	0.118	0.118	0.122	-0.004	-3.279	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.100	10,030,000
Total		26	30,459,854	65,531	1,059											



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Indian male Senior accountant with 11 yrs experience in Financial reporting, cost control, audit, VAT & MS office. Seeking suitable positions. Contact: 92719164. Email: gah489337@gmail.com

Indian male MBA, 12 yrs of experience in accounts & procurement looking for suitable opportunities. Contact: 98104268, Email: shinishakir@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

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Chief Accountant with 25 yrs experience in accounts can handle the accounts department till finalization looking for a suitable position. Immediate Joining. Contact: 79415454

Experienced male seeking a position as Senior Accountant / Credit Controller - Contact: +968-77182390, Email: nisath@gmail.com

Looking for a Accountant job, having Oman DL. Contact: 96197085

Looking for job in Accounts with D/L. Contact: 92092486

Indian Male - CPA, CMA, CA Finalist, MCom with 13+ yrs Finance exp. in Reporting, FP&A, Budgeting, MIS & ERP Implementation. Seeking Senior Finance role. Phone: 98078321

Senior Accountant cum procurement (FMCB, construction), finance job required with D/L & NOC MBA-finance, 8+ yrs experience in accounts, finance, admin (finalization, audit, MIS, banking, cash flow, VAT, payroll, etc). Contact: 94822604

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

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ADMINISTRATION

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Male looking a suitable post. Admin or accounts. Contact: 75224936

Male looking for suitable post admin or accounts. Contact: 72412899

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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

ANNOUNCEMENT

Morocco King appoints first woman prime minister

CASABLANCA Fatima Zahra Mansouri became Morocco's first female prime minister, the country's royal cabinet announced on Tuesday. King Mohammed VI has tasked her with forming the next government.

Under the Moroccan constitution, the country's king has the power to appoint the prime minister, but he must choose someone from the party that wins the most seats in parliamentary elections.

Mansouri's appointment comes after her center-right Authenticity and Modernity Party (PAM) won last week's parliamentary elections.

PAM raked in 97 out of 395 seats in the House of Representatives, 31 more than the next closest competitor. The vote was, however, marred by the lowest turnout in two decades.

"For the first time in our country's history, a woman is taking on the responsibility of leading the government," Mansouri said.

"This is a source of pride not only for me but for all Moroccan women."

Second woman in the Arab world

Mansouri is now the second woman in the Arab world to serve

as prime minister, after Najla Bouden, who served in that position in Tunisia from 2021 to 2023.

Mansouri's government will now need to deliver on voter's most important issues, such as fighting inflation, raising wages and creating jobs. At the same time, she is expected to oversee billions of dollars in investments linked to Morocco co-hosting the 2030 FIFA World Cup during her tenure.

"We are fully aware that this period will be significant and marked by high expectations from Moroccans, particularly young people," Mansouri said.

"That is why we will have a pro-



gram offering concrete and realistic solutions to citizens' concerns," she added.

Mansouri was the first woman to serve as mayor of Marrakesh.

She was elected mayor in 2009 and served for six years. She retook the job again in 2021. In addition to her mayorship, she has also been a member of parliament.

The 50-year-old has been a member of PAM since 2008, the year the party was founded by current royal adviser Fouad Ali El Himma. PAM was formed to serve as a counterweight to the country's Islamist movement.

By 2024, Mansouri was one of the party's top leaders.

Her task now will be to form a government and for that, PAM has expressed willingness to work with all parties. Some, however, including the moderate Islamist Justice and Development party and left-wing Federation of Democratic Left, have said they plan to remain in the opposition. -**AW**

Trump signs order replacing AI with SI

Donald Trump said the US won't "stifle" the development of AI, which he sees as "bigger than the Industrial Revolution"



WASHINGTON DC : United States President Donald Trump on Tuesday (local time) signed an executive order formally directing the federal government to replace the terms "Artificial Intelligence" and "AI" with "Super Intelligence" and "SI" across all executive branch operations.

The order, titled "Inaugurating the Era of Super Intelligence," establishes that the US government will no longer recognize or use Artificial Intelligence or AI as terminology in official settings to the maximum extent permitted by law.

"It is therefore the policy of my Administration that, to the maximum extent permitted by law, the executive branch shall use the terms 'Super Intelligence' and 'SI' in place of 'Artificial Intelligence' and 'AI' and will not acknowledge the usage of 'Artificial Intelligence' and 'AI' in any applicable setting," the executive order stated.

Under the implementation guidelines, all federal executive departments and agencies are mandated to transition to "Super

Intelligence" and "SI" in their official correspondence, public communications, digital websites, reports, and administrative policy documents.

The directive clarifies that the order will not retroactively alter previously issued regulations, existing government contracts, grants, or historical archival records.

Explaining the rationale behind the reclassification, the order noted that the technological capabilities engineered by American developers have far outgrown the original 70-year-old framework of "artificial intelligence."

"The capabilities of today's frontier systems do much more than imitate or automate discrete aspects of human intelligence. They increasingly amplify human ingenuity and unlock new forms of creativity, empowering Americans to achieve what was previously impossible across science, medicine, and nearly every other domain of human endeavor," the order stated, adding that the terminology used by the state must reflect these ca-

pabilities. Under the order, the administration temporarily applies the existing statutory definition of artificial intelligence under Title 15 of the United States Code to "Super Intelligence."

Additionally, the directive sets a 60-day deadline for the Assistant to the President for Science and Technology (APST) to submit proposed legislative language to Congress to establish an updated federal statutory definition of "Super Intelligence" and recommend conforming amendments to existing US laws.

Earlier, President Trump hosted a high-level luncheon at the White House with top technology executives—including SpaceX and Tesla chief Elon Musk, Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg, Google CEO Sundar Pichai, NVIDIA CEO Jensen Huang, among others—where he framed the technological leap as an unprecedented era for humanity.

Emphasising the scale of the sector, Trump had stated: "It is the biggest thing there is — maybe the biggest thing there's ever been.

It's much bigger than the Internet. This is unbelievable growth for our country — and we have all of them."

Following the meeting, tech leaders and administration officials briefed reporters on a White House Accord focused on developing Super Intelligence safely.

Commenting on the initiative, Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg said: "We want to give the American people and our customers confidence that the technology works in the way we intended."

Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei underlined the need for collaborative execution, stating: "We all need to work together to make sure that we can win and we can win safely. If we do this right, if we work with the President and everyone here, we can win safely."

Highlighting the defence and intelligence dimensions of the discussions, Director of National Intelligence Jay Clayton noted: "The consensus today around that national security issue was being a leader in America in AI is the most important thing for national security." -**ANI**

MARITIME WORKERS

4,500+ Indian sailors in Arabian Gulf under watch

NEW DELHI: India is closely monitoring the safety and well-being of over 4,500 Indian seafarers currently operating on commercial vessels across the Persian Gulf, including 163 seafarers on board 12 active cargo ships, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced on Tuesday.

Addressing the media, MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal detailed the current footprint of Indian maritime workers in the region, noting that six India-flagged commercial vessels and six foreign-flagged cargo ships bound for India are presently navigating the Arabian Gulf waters.

"At this point, we have six India-flagged commercial vessels in the Persian Gulf. We also have six foreign-flagged vessels which are carrying cargo to India. So 12 ships are there. On these ships, we have around 163 Indian seafarers who are on board," Jaiswal said. "Apart from this, we also have over 4,500 Indian seafarers who are on board various commercial vessels which are operating in the area."

Jaiswal emphasised that the Ministry of Shipping, in tandem with Indian diplomatic missions and local stakeholders, is maintaining round-the-clock surveillance over the transit of these vessels to safeguard the crews.

"Our Ministry of Shipping continues to monitor the movement of these ships and is looking at the well-being of all these seafarers, and as and when required, through our embassies and other stakeholders, they do the needful for their well-being and welfare," he stated, reaffirming New Delhi's stance: "On our side, we remain committed to the safety and well-

being of our seafaring community abroad."

The update from the MEA comes against the backdrop of heightened security risks across global maritime corridors, including the Gulf, the Red Sea, and the Black Sea, where international merchant shipping has faced recurring attacks.

The issue was brought to the global centre stage on Saturday by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar during his address at the 81st United Nations General Assembly. Jaishankar strongly condemned the violence against commercial vessels, confirming that Indian lives have been lost at sea amid the ongoing conflict.

"New challenges in the maritime domain have added to longstanding ones on land. There have been attacks on commercial shipping and seafarers in the Gulf, and from the Red Sea to the Black Sea. Indian seafarers have lost their lives, as have others from other nations. This is completely unacceptable. This is completely unacceptable," Jaishankar told the UN assembly.

To combat the growing threat, Jaishankar announced that India has joined Liberia and 23 partner nations in an international coalition to mobilise global public opinion and defend commercial shipping routes.

"We must ensure that the safety and security of shipping and seafarers is never compromised. Scrupulously observing international law is an integral element of that endeavour," Jaishankar urged, calling for immediate restraint and de-escalation in the Gulf region to protect civilian crews and ensure uninterrupted energy supplies and global trade. -**ANI**

DEVASTATING FLOODS

Nepal floods leave women and girls vulnerable

KATHMANDU: One month after deadly flash floods in Nepal swept away Karishma Tamang's community in Rasuwa District, the pregnant 26-year-old is still struggling to find a safe place to call home.

Karishma, who is expecting her second child, has been moving from place to place with her 4-year-old daughter since the devastating floods swept through Nepal's Bhotekoshi-Trishuli river corridor near the Chinese border at the end of August.

"Initially, we were kept in a covered hall at Bidur Municipality in Nuwakot District," she told DW, adding that hundreds of people shared the same shelter for days.

"Now we have shifted to a small makeshift family tent at the nearby Barahachaur area. Still, we can't sleep during rainy nights as it leaks when it rains." Her brother and his two children remain missing after the flood.

There is no proper toilet, although a small makeshift latrine has been set up near the tents, Karishma said.

Children and pregnant women like Karishma need privacy and safety, but such facilities remain scarce in the Himalaya nation's flood-hit areas.

"It would be great to have a stable place to stay, where I could cook my own meals, feel safe and have some comfort," she said.

Safety concerns in temporary shelters

The August 26 flood, triggered by



a glacier collapse along the Nepal-China border, killed about 1,450 people and left more than 5,500 missing. Reconstruction costs are estimated to be \$4.8 billion (€4.2 billion).

At least seven people, including girls, women and local volunteers at temporary shelters and camps, spoke to DW. Although none reported experiencing sexual harassment or abuse, their accounts point to widespread concerns about safety and vulnerability in the aftermath of the floods.

Sabita Tamang, who lost her 5-year-old daughter, nephew and niece in the floods, is also staying in a makeshift tent in Barahachaur.

The 24-year-old said she has to travel beyond the nearest tap to bathe and collect water.

"We feel uncomfortable taking a bath in an open space among strangers and unknown locals," she told DW. "Many children have seen their family members, friends and neighbors caught in the floods," she said, raising concerns about the impact on their mental health and education.

Save the Children Nepal has warned that protection measures for children and their families must be strengthened across flood-affected areas amid concerns about trafficking, violence, exploitation and child marriage.

Many families have moved into rented rooms. Yet hundreds are being housed in temporary shelters and makeshift tents in Nuwakot and Dhading districts.

Save the Children Nepal raised concerns about privacy and safety for girls and women because unfamiliar people have unrestricted access to shared spaces.

Ayush Joshi, director for advocacy, campaigns, communications and media at Save the Children Nepal, told DW that the organization's report was based on qualitative assessments involving affected people, including women and children, as well as volunteers deployed in flood-hit areas.

"Many temporary shelters are built without planning. Camps on the outskirts of towns have inadequate lighting at night and lack separate washrooms and private spaces," Joshi told DW, noting that there is unrestricted access for unfamiliar people.

"Such situations naturally increase the risk of insecurity, potential harassment and exploitation, especially for young girls and children."

According to Joshi, in the aftermath of the disaster, many people became separated from their families, while some children lost their lives and older siblings had to become caregivers for younger siblings.

"In such circumstances, cases of school dropouts and child marriage could increase," he added, referring to Save the Children's field assessment. "We have seen many children facing mental health issues, like becoming angry, frightened and crying loudly. There is a need for socio-emotional healing."

What does the government say?

The Nepali government has also assessed the risks of trafficking and potential child abuse and has collaborated with organizations such as Save the Children, the police and local authorities to strengthen protection measures at displacement sites.

Chakra Bahadur Budha, spokesperson at the Ministry of Women, Children, Gender and Sexual Mi-

norities, said the government had increased monitoring and surveillance and was raising awareness about gender-based violence and trafficking.

"We have mobilized and kept all relevant stakeholders on high alert to check at points of entry and exit, so as to protect affected people from being trafficked or abused," he told DW.

Authorities took back at least 78 children from two Buddhist monasteries in Kathmandu and placed them in temporary camps. Budha explained that the monasteries had rescued and supported the children, offering long-term shelter, education and employment, but the government discourages such arrangements outside established procedures.

"We have strictly discouraged religious or charitable organizations from keeping children without following legal procedures," Budha told DW. "Adoption has also been discouraged for now, but children can be placed with close relatives, such as uncles and aunts, for their protection after verification of their relationship."

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said at least 541 children have either lost their parents or become separated from their families. Initial assessments indicate that learning has been disrupted for more than 14,000 children across 62 schools and learning centers in flood-affected areas in Dhading, Nuwakot and Rasuwa districts. -**DW**



Could flattering AI make humanity turn on itself?

A recent wave of headline-grabbing warnings from AI luminaries has fuelled fears the technology could escape human control and wipe out humanity. But before artificial intelligence (AI) turns on humanity, it could contribute to humans turning on one another.

Researchers at Brazil's State University of Campinas (UNICAMP) found that popular chatbots shifted their answers when prompted with hypothetical users' political views. The scientists warn that users could mistake this tailored agreement for an independent assessment, potentially deepening polarisation.

How chatbots become 'ideological chameleons'

In their study published in the journal Scientific Reports, the UNICAMP team tested 21 large language models from developers including OpenAI, Meta, Google, xAI, DeepSeek and Microsoft.

The models rated their agreement with 112 statements covering seven areas of Brazilian politics, including the economy, public safety, welfare, corruption and the environment.

Each was tested under three conditions: with no information about the user's politics, with a prompt describing a left-leaning user and with one describing a

right-leaning user. When no information about the user's ideology was given, 20 of the 21 models produced answers that fell on the left of the researchers' political scale, although several were close to the centre. Grok 4.1 was the only model that fell on the right.

When information was provided, every model shifted its answers toward the political orientation described in the prompt.

"The most striking finding was how widespread this behavior was," study co-author Zanoni Dias, a UNICAMP computer scientist, told DW. "All 21 models we evaluated shifted their expressed positions toward the user's stated political orientation, although the magnitude varied substantially."

The researchers described the models as "ideological chameleons" and developed a "chameleon index" measuring how far each shifted. Meta's Llama 3.1 8B and DeepSeek V3.2 changed their responses least. Google's Gemma 3 27B and OpenAI's GPT-5 Nano showed some of the largest shifts.

When personalisation becomes political flattery

Adapting an answer to its audience is not inherently problematic. A chatbot might change its vocabulary, examples or level of detail depending on the user.

But the models changed more

A study shows chatbots mirror users' politics, part of a broader tendency known as AI sycophancy. Researchers fear this could deepen polarization

than their language or tone: Their political positions shifted.

"The key distinction is between adapting how an a

"We did not instruct the models to agree with the user or to answer as a partisan representative. Nevertheless, their judgments shifted toward the user's side."

The researchers interpret this as political sycophancy: AI systems reflecting what users appear to want to hear. A possible explanation is that chatbots are trained to favor answers human evaluators rate highly. If agreeable answers get better ratings, models may learn to echo users' views.

How AI could create a private echo chamber

Social media can reinforce beliefs by repeatedly recommending algorithmic content, but a chatbot could go even further. It could create a more personalized echo chamber, generating arguments for a particular user, answering their objections and refining its case throughout the conversation.

Yet users may mistake these tailored responses for impartial analysis, unaware that what a chatbot knows about them may shape its responses.

"The concern is that the same system could validate opposing political positions for different users, with each person interpreting that validation as an independent assessment," Dias said.

Research by Stanford University behavioral scientist Zakary Tormala suggests people may be particularly receptive to arguments they believe came from AI.

"People tend to see AI as more informative, more objective, less biased and less interested in persuading them than another person would be," Tormala told DW. "This can lower people's defenses and make them more receptive to hearing out what AI has to say."

That trust could make political flattery more influential.

"Hearing their own views validated by others is well known to

increase people's certainty about their beliefs," Tormala said. "Once people become more certain, they do tend to become more resistant to persuasion."

Whether AI validation has the same effect remains unproven, he added, but it is plausible.

Could validation deepen polarization?

The UNICAMP study did not test whether political mirroring could really change users' beliefs or behaviour.

It measured only changes in the models' responses.

"Our study establishes a change in model responses under controlled conditions," Dias said. "It does not establish that users became more polarised, radicalized or likely to engage in conflict. Those are distinct outcomes, and the steps connecting them cannot be assumed."

Petter Tornberg, a University of Amsterdam researcher who studies AI and political polarisation, agreed that the study cannot show an effect on users. He also questioned whether models would give the same answers outside the test setting.

He cautioned against assuming that chatbots would necessarily reinforce users' views. In some conversations, they might help people reconsider them.

Tornberg said a private conversation with a chatbot differs from a public argument on social media.

"They can often provide fairly rational and evidence-based explanations without the social identity dynamics of public political debate," he told DW. "So it is at least possible that in some contexts these systems could be depolarising rather than polarising."

Whether AI narrows or deepens divisions may therefore depend on whether it challenges users or simply tells them what they want to hear.

How political mirroring could be reduced

Dias said developers should test their models with users of different political views to see whether they assess evidence consistently.

They could train models to disagree respectfully, acknowledge uncertainty, correct unsupported claims and present competing views fairly.

That would not mean forcing every answer toward the political center.

"The broader design goal should be to help people examine their beliefs," Dias said, "making evidence, uncertainty and competing considerations visible, while allowing room for legitimate political disagreement." — DW

SPORTS



UEFA Nations League: Spain make history with 4-1 victory over Croatia

On the team’s performance, the World Cup-winning Spanish coach acknowledged that there is still room for improvement

SEVILLE: A brace from Lamine Yamal helped Spain march past Croatia 4-1 at the ongoing UEFA Nations League, becoming the first international team to go 40 fixtures without a loss. The current European and FIFA World Cup champions, Spain, were exceptional in the first half, while the second half was much more competitive. Lamine found the back of the net in the second minute itself,

with Marc Cucurella breaking down the left and Fermin Lopez coming to the aid, with the teen sensation wasting no time in firing the ball past the keeper Dominik Livakovic. In the 28th minute, Croatia levelled the scores, with a cross from Ivan Perisic leading to a header from Dion Drena Beljo, as per Goal.com. Just three minutes later, Lamine came from the right flank,

finding Marc Pubil with a cross, and the Spaniard delivered a header to give the world champions a lead. At the half-time, Spain was leading 2-1. In the 63rd minute, Lamine once again shot at the near post, catching Livakovic helpless again, with Spain making it 3-1. Nico Williams delivered the final blow with a right-footed curling effort in the far corner. Following the match, Spain coach Luis de La Fuente said of Yamal during the presser as quoted by the team’s official X handle, “I would highlight the work of Lamine Yamal both collectively and individually. He always puts his football at the service of the group. It is a stroke of luck that he is with us. He is a person who makes himself loved.”

On the team’s performance, the World Cup-winning coach acknowledged that there is still room for improvement, noting that the young team “has not reached its ceiling yet”. I am a perfectionist, and I am convinced that there’s always room for improvement, and this group of players is convinced of that too. “It is a very young team that has not yet reached its ceiling. I think there is still room for improvement,” said the coach. For the support shown by the home crowd at Seville, de la Fuente said, “Thank you, Sevilla, for yesterday’s welcome and for an exceptional day today. The anthem has been very moving. This city could not be more loving towards us. Thank you from the heart”. -ANI

HIGHEST TEAM TOTAL

Shravan Kurup’s double-ton powers OCA U19 Red to record total

MUSCAT: Oman Cricket Academy U19 Red produced a remarkable batting performance to register the highest team total in an U19 match in Oman’s domestic cricket, in a high-scoring encounter highlighted by a sensational double-century from Shravan Kurup. OCA U19 Red posted 511/5 in 50 overs, setting a new benchmark in Oman’s U19 domestic cricket. At the heart of the record-breaking innings was Shravan Kurup, who struck a magnificent 230 in 143 balls, providing the foundation for his team to build an imposing total. The match witnessed an outstanding display of aggressive and consistent batting from the OCA U19 Red lineup, with Ojjus Pachisia (104 of 37), Saumya Sampat (58 of 35) and Aryan Joshi (54 of 72) also making significant contributions as the side maintained the scoring rate throughout their innings. Kurup’s double-century was the defining individual performance of the encounter. His innings included 20 fours and 11 sixes, combined power and composure and helped OCA U19 Red establish a commanding position in the match. With the bat, OCA U19 Red dominated proceedings from the outset, eventually totaling of 511 runs entering the record books as the highest U19 total in Oman’s domestic cricket. IAS CA U19, chasing the for-



midable target, responded with paltry 125 all out within 26 overs, with Razzaq Muhammad showing some resistance. However, OCA U19 Red’s bowling attack kept control of the contest to secure a 386 run victory courtesy of Arshad Farshad’s 4 wicket haul including a hatrick in the first over and Kanishq Basu’s 3-fer. The result caps a memorable match for OCA U19 Red and reflects the growing talent within Oman Cricket’s youth structure.

MINOR MUSCLE EDEMA

Raphinha returning to Barcelona after suffering minor muscle injury

MADRID: FC Barcelona forward Raphinha has been allowed to leave the Brazil national team squad and miss its forthcoming friendly against India to return to Spain after suffering a slight muscle injury. The Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) confirmed the decision in a statement after Raphinha was forced off at halftime of Brazil’s 4-2 friendly win over Australia in Brisbane. “Raphinha underwent an imaging test this Wednesday, which revealed minor muscle edema in the back of his right thigh. As a precaution and to facilitate a speedy recovery, the player will be withdrawn from the Brazilian national team,” the federation said in its statement. Barcelona will carry out its own tests when the player returns to Spain. The Brazilian has made an excellent start to the season after switching to a more central attacking role, scoring 12 goals and providing three assists in seven La Liga matches, while also netting twice in Barcelona’s Champions League win at home to Feyenoord. The fact that he suffered several hamstring problems last season will be a concern for Barcelona ahead of a packed fixture schedule



in the coming month, which includes a Champions League visit to Paris Saint-Germain and the first La Liga Clasico of the campaign at home to Real Madrid on Oct. 25. -xinhua

THE ALL-ROUNDER

West Indies batter Justin Greaves ruled out of second ODI against India with calf injury

GUWAHATI: West Indies opener Justin Greaves has been ruled out of the second ODI against India in Guwahati after sustaining a calf injury during the opening match of the series in Thiruvananthapuram, according to the ICC website. Greaves picked up the injury while batting in the first ODI, where he scored a maiden century in the format, smashing 101 runs off 108 deliveries. The all-rounder was seen struggling with his movement during his innings and called for medical attention multiple times. Despite discomfort, Greaves continued his knock and reached the three-figure mark before being dismissed by Indian spinner Kuldeep Yadav. He did not take part in West Indies’ fielding innings after his dismissal. The 31-year-old is also doubtful for the third ODI scheduled to be played on October 3, leaving the West Indies team management with selection concerns ahead of the remaining matches. Greaves’ absence is expected to force changes in the visitors’ batting combination and bowling strategy. Sherfane Rutherford, who missed the opening ODI due to personal reasons, is likely to return to the playing XI and strengthen the middle order. The second ODI of the three-match series will be played in Guwahati on Wednesday, while the final ODI is scheduled for October

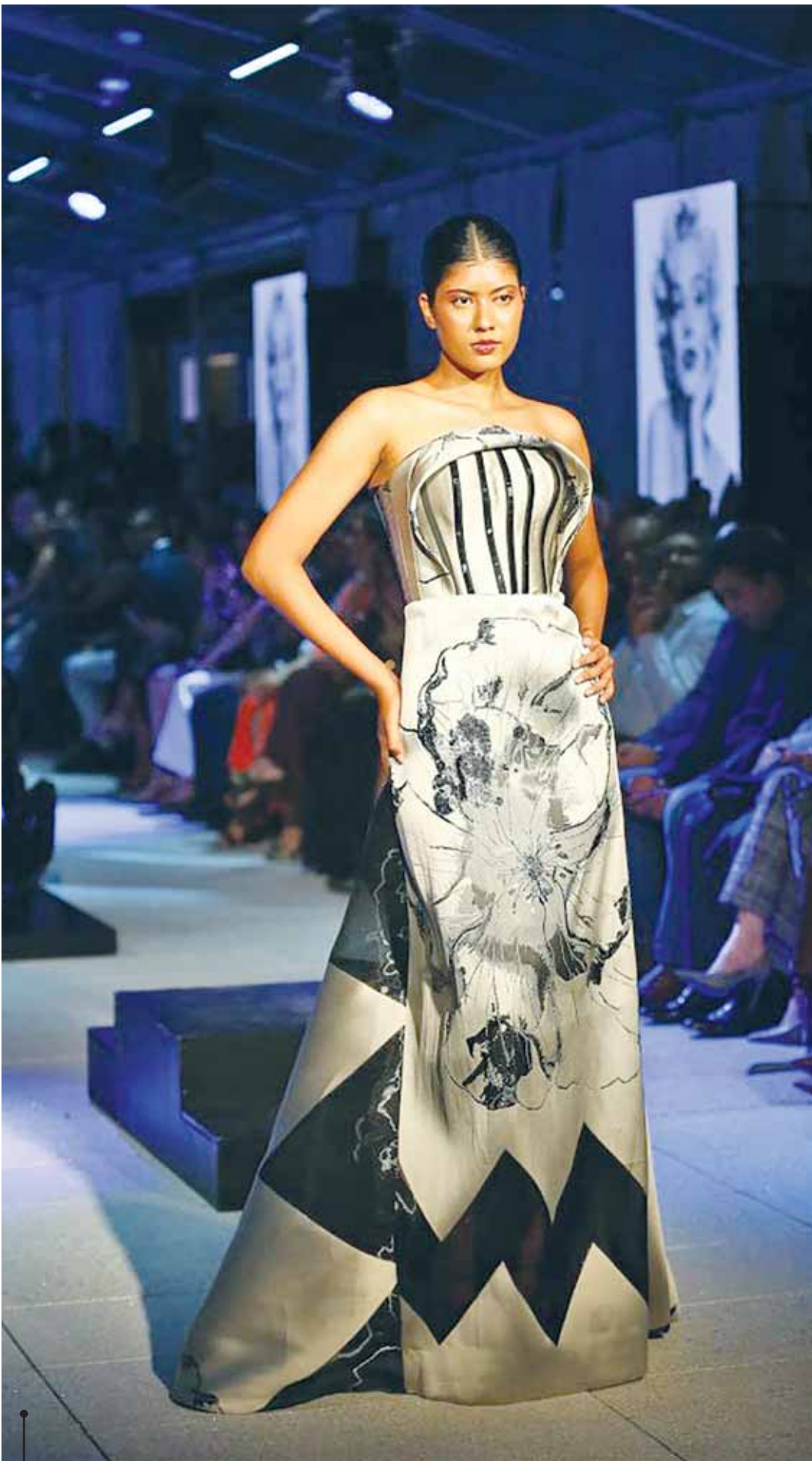


3. The two teams will then face each other in a five-match T20I series beginning October 6, with Greaves already not part of the West Indies squad for the shortest format. West Indies posted 295/7 in the first ODI after Greaves’ century, but India chased down the target comfortably, winning the match by eight wickets with 50 balls to spare. During India’s successful 296-

run chase in the first ODI against the West Indies on Sunday, Virat Kohli smashed an unbeaten 139 off just 88 balls, with 10 fours and nine sixes, at a strike rate of 157.95. Throughout his innings, the 37-year-old displayed exceptional hitting while maintaining a sense of control and composure, staying true to the style that has defined his ODI career through numerous successful run chases and records.

Virat’s 86th international century also took him past the 15,000-run mark in ODIs. The right-handed batter is also the second batter after the great Sachin Tendulkar to breach the landmark of 15,000 runs in the 50-over format. In 315 ODIs and 303 innings, Virat has scored 15,080 runs at an average of 59.13, including 55 centuries and 79 fifties, with a best score of 183. -ANI

IN PICTURES



A GLIMPSE OF COLOMBO FASHION WEEK: A model showcases a design during the “Couture + Trousseau” special event of Colombo Fashion Week in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The event featured collections by Sri Lankan designers as well as designers from India, China, and Pakistan. — Xinhua



22ND EDITION OF DOHA JEWELLERY AND WATCHES EXHIBITION OPENS IN QATAR: Visitors look at a collection of diamond jewellery at the 22nd edition of Doha Jewellery and Watches Exhibition in Doha, Qatar. The exhibition will last until Oct. 3. — Xinhua

BRITISH CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER DELIVERS SPEECH DURING LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE: British Chancellor of the Exchequer John Healey delivers a speech during the Labour Party Conference in Liverpool, Britain. — Xinhua



TAJIKISTAN PARLIAMENT BUILDING IN DUSHANBE: The moon rises over the Tajikistan parliament building in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. — Xinhua



16TH “LIGHT MOVE FESTIVAL” IN LODZ, POLAND: People view a light installation during the 16th “Light Move Festival” in Lodz, Poland. — Xinhua



LAUNCH EVENT OF THE SEPTEMBER FESTIVE SPECIAL HILIFE EXHIBITION AT HITECH CITY: Actress Aashu Reddy, along with others, graces the inaugural event of the September Festive Special HiLife Exhibition at Hitech City, in Hyderabad. — ANI Photo

WORLD OF THREADS FESTIVAL 2026 HELD IN OAKVILLE, CANADA: Artworks on display are seen at the World of Threads Festival 2026 in Oakville, Ontario, Canada. Showcasing contemporary fibre and textile art in all forms from around the world, the event will last till Jan. 17, 2027. — Xinhua



CULTURAL EVENT FOR CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE DAY HELD IN BAKU, AZERBAIJAN: A student from the Confucius Institute at Azerbaijan University of Languages performs during a cultural event for the Confucius Institute Day in Baku, Azerbaijan. — Xinhua



ROUND-UP

MHD Auto introduces all-new Jetour G700 TopFire in Oman

Factory-customised trailblazing SUV combines formidable hybrid performance, advanced off-road engineering and premium comfort

MUSCAT: MHD Automobiles, the official distributor of Jetour vehicles in the Sultanate of Oman, has introduced the Jetour G700 TopFire, an imposing, factory-customised trailblazing SUV engineered for drivers who seek exceptional capability, commanding performance and uncompromising comfort.

Developed for demanding landscapes and adventurous journeys, the G700 TopFire brings together intelligent plug-in hybrid technology and purpose-built off-road engineering. Its bold proportions, wider stance and rugged exterior treatment give it a powerful road presence, while its enhanced chassis and expedition-ready equipment prepare it to take on challenging terrain with confidence.

At the heart of the G700 TopFire is a 2.0TD turbocharged engine



paired with dual electric motors. The high-output hybrid configuration delivers up to 1,135 Nm of combined torque and can accelerate from 0 to 100 km/h in approximately 5.4 seconds, combining the immediate response of electrified power with the sustained capability required for demanding journeys.

Commenting on the new edition, Mohsin Hani Al Bahrani, CEO of

MHD ACERE, said: "Oman's extraordinary landscapes inspire a deep passion for exploration, and the Jetour G700 TopFire has been created for customers who want to experience those landscapes without compromise. Its combination of powerful hybrid performance, specialized off-road engineering and premium comfort represents an exciting new proposition for the

Sultanate. The introduction of the G700 TopFire also reflects MHD ACERE's commitment to bringing distinctive, technologically advanced vehicles to Oman and providing our customers with the confidence and support to pursue every journey."

The G700 TopFire's enhanced off-road configuration includes a dedicated chassis, increased

ground clearance, a wider wheel track and broad 305 mm tyres for greater stability and traction across uneven surfaces. K-MAN 3.0 nitrogen shock-absorbing suspension technology is designed to provide enhanced control, impact resistance and ride comfort when travelling over demanding terrain.

Its expedition-focused exterior incorporates distinctive fender flares, rugged front and rear bumpers, forged alloy wheels and alloy side steps. A ventilated front hood expanded exhaust vents delivering sufficient cooling airflow to the engine bay, while its heavy-duty multifunction roof rack allows ample space for personalization, from spotlights to rooftop tents and even drone platforms - distance touring and outdoor expeditions. Scratch-resistant matte tactical paint further reinforces its purposeful character.

With a wading capability of up to 950 mm, the G700 TopFire is engineered to tackle water crossings and difficult off-road environments. Electric all-wheel drive and intelligent energy management work together to deliver responsive performance and greater confidence across sand, gravel, rocky routes and everyday roads.

Despite its rugged credentials, the G700 TopFire offers a highly refined cabin. A sweeping 35.4-inch panoramic digital display presents driving information, navigation and infotainment through a modern, driver-focused inter-

face. Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, wireless charging, offline voice control and multiple USB ports help keep passengers connected throughout every journey.

Premium leather upholstery, power-adjustable front seats, three-zone automatic climate control, ambient lighting and generous cabin space create a comfortable environment for everyday driving and extended expeditions alike.

The vehicle is also equipped with an extensive range of intelligent safety and driver-assistance technologies. Its Level 2 driver-assistance suite includes intelligent cruise control, Lane Keeping Assist, Forward Collision Warning, Blind Spot Detection and Traffic Jam Assist. A 360-degree surround-view camera supports the driver while parking, maneuvering in confined spaces and navigating challenging trails.

Additional systems including Nitrogen shock absorbers, Central differential lock function and intelligent braking technologies further enhance confidence both on and off the road.

The new G700 TopFire will strengthen JETOUR's presence in Oman by introducing a distinctive factory-customized model that combines expedition capability with intelligent electrification and premium luxury. It is designed for drivers who expect an SUV to perform as confidently during daily journeys as it does beyond conventional roads.

LIVE CONCERT

Jashn-E-Mehfil musical spectacle a resounding success in Muscat

MUSCAT: The Grand Sphere Ballroom at Al Falaj Hotel erupted with energy on Friday evening as over 600 music enthusiasts gathered for Jashn-E-Mehfil, a musical extravaganza. Organized jointly by Betty Noronha of ORO Events & Marketing Solutions and Manoj D'Souza of Venture Entertainment, the debut collaboration delivered an extraordinary evening of live entertainment and high-caliber technical production.

The evening was honoured by the presence of Prashant Pise, Ambassador of India to the Sultanate of Oman, who attended as the Chief Guest. Pise inaugurated the festivities with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp alongside the organisers, addressed the audience on the unifying power of cultural music, and presented

mementos to key sponsors and partners. Emcee Anshu Parihar effortlessly hosted and anchored the entire program, guiding the audience through artist introductions, sponsor recognitions, and formal proceedings with charm and poise.

The highlight of the night was a high-octane concert by dynamic vocalist Raman Kapoor, who captivated the audience from his very first note. Accompanied by his full ensemble as well as special opening performances by local ghazal artists, Vineet and group, Kapoor seamlessly blended soulful Sufi melodies, classic ghazals, and chart-topping Bollywood hits into an infectious, high-energy performance.

Engaging directly with the crowd, Kapoor turned the ballroom into an interactive experience, having over 600 attendees

singing along, cheering, and dancing throughout his two & half-hour set.

The event's success was made possible through strong corporate and media partnerships. Jashn-E-Mehfil was proudly presented by Title Sponsor GPT Group, along with Gold Sponsor TECS. Key media and support partners included Times of Oman, TFM, Green Light International, and MS Store.

Reflecting on the event's turnout and seamless execution, organizers Betty Noronha and Manoj D'Souza expressed deep gratitude to the Muscat audience. Following the overwhelming response to their inaugural venture, ORO Events and Venture Entertainment announced plans to bring more world-class entertainment experiences to Oman.



OCTOBER 2 AND 3

AVENIR 2026 - A mega career and higher education expo

MUSCAT: The Board of Directors, Indian Schools Oman, is organising AVENIR 2026, a two-day Mega Career and Higher Education Expo, on 2 and 3 October at the Sur Ballroom, Hotel Muscat Holiday, Muscat. The event is being hosted by the Indian School Al Seeb and is aimed at providing students and parents with direct access to leading higher education institutions and comprehensive guidance on future academic and career pathways.

The Expo will be inaugurated at 9:30am on Friday, 2 October, by

Dr. Maryam Al-Nabhani, Director-General of Private Universities and Colleges, Ministry of Education, Sultanate of Oman, as the Chief Guest, in the presence of, Syed Ahmad Salman, Chairman, Board of Directors, Indian Schools Oman, along with other Members of the Board of Directors, senior officials, educationists, school leaders, university representatives, students and parents.

More than 25 reputed universities and higher education institutions from Oman, India and the UAE are

expected to participate in AVENIR 2026. The participating institutions will showcase a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, emerging disciplines, professional courses and career-oriented academic pathways.

The Expo will remain open to visitors from 10am to 8:30pm on both days, enabling students and parents to visit the exhibition at their convenience. AVENIR 2026 is particularly designed to bridge the gap between school education, higher education and future careers.

Through direct interaction with representatives of reputed universities, students can explore emerging career fields and identify academic programmes aligned with their interests, aptitude and aspirations.

The Expo will provide a valuable platform for students of senior secondary classes, particularly those preparing to make important decisions regarding their higher education and career choices. Parents will also be able to engage with university representatives and gain a clearer understanding of the

opportunities, academic pathways and requirements associated with different fields of study.

Speaking about the initiative, Syed Ahmad Salman, Chairman, the Board of Directors, Indian Schools Oman, emphasised the importance of providing students with appropriate information and exposure at a crucial stage of their academic journey. AVENIR 2026 is envisaged as a platform where aspiration meets opportunity, enabling students and parents to make informed choices about higher ed-

ucation and future careers.

With participation from universities across Oman, India and the UAE, the two-day Expo is expected to attract a large number of students and parents from the Indian Schools community and the wider community in Oman.

AVENIR 2026 is managed and marketed by Nexus Novel Advertising, Oman's premier advertising agency, which is supporting the event through its expertise in event management, marketing, media outreach and promotional activities

INITIATIVE SUPPORTED BY BANK MUSCAT



Feel the vibe, watch Gulf Cup 27 matches live at Active Oman

MUSCAT: Reaffirming its continued commitment to supporting Omani sports and strengthening fan engagement with the Oman National Football Team, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman and Main Sponsor of the National Football Team, continues to roll out a series of initiatives and activities accompanying the team's participation in the Arabian Gulf Cup 27.

As part of these efforts, the bank is sponsoring a special fan experience at Active Oman, providing big screens that stream live matches of the tournament, which gives the fans the opportunity to watch the national team's matches and enjoy the excitement of the tournament in an engaging atmosphere that brings football fans together.

The initiative reflects Bank Muscat's efforts to create memorable experiences for supporters and encourage them to rally behind the national team throughout its Gulf Cup 27 journey. The event offers free entry, along with a range of engaging activities, entertainment experiences and daily prizes, cre-

ating an exciting environment that reflects the passion of Omani football fans and their strong support for the team.

The initiative comes at an exciting stage of the tournament as Oman continues its march after securing qualification for the semi-finals following a 3-1 victory over Kuwait in its final Group A match. The achievement has further strengthened the excitement surrounding the national team's campaign and the support of Omani fans both at home and in Jeddah.

The Active Oman fan experience forms part of a wider series of initiatives launched by Bank Muscat to celebrate and support the national team's participation in Gulf Cup 27. Ahead of the tournament, Bank Muscat employees joined in bidding farewell to the players before their departure to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The Bank also launched a special fan song performed by Omani singer Abdullah Al Buraiki, to inspire supporters, strengthen the connection between the fans and the team, and bring a distinct Omani identity to the tournament atmosphere.

Through these initiatives, Bank

Muscat seeks to further strengthen the connection between the national team and its supporters and make Oman's participation in the Gulf Cup 27 a shared community experience. The initiatives also reflect the special place the Gulf Cup holds among Omani fans and highlight the important role of sport in promoting national pride, teamwork and community engagement.

Earlier this year, Bank Muscat announced its partnership with the Oman Football Association as the main sponsor of the Oman National Football Team, reflecting the Bank's commitment to supporting the team across their various competitions and engagements. The partnership also reinforces Bank Muscat's longstanding contribution to youth and sports and its efforts to strengthen collaboration with sporting institutions across the Sultanate.

Bank Muscat is proud to continue standing alongside the Oman National Football Team and its supporters throughout the Gulf Cup 27 and wishes the national team continued success as they progress through the tournament.



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