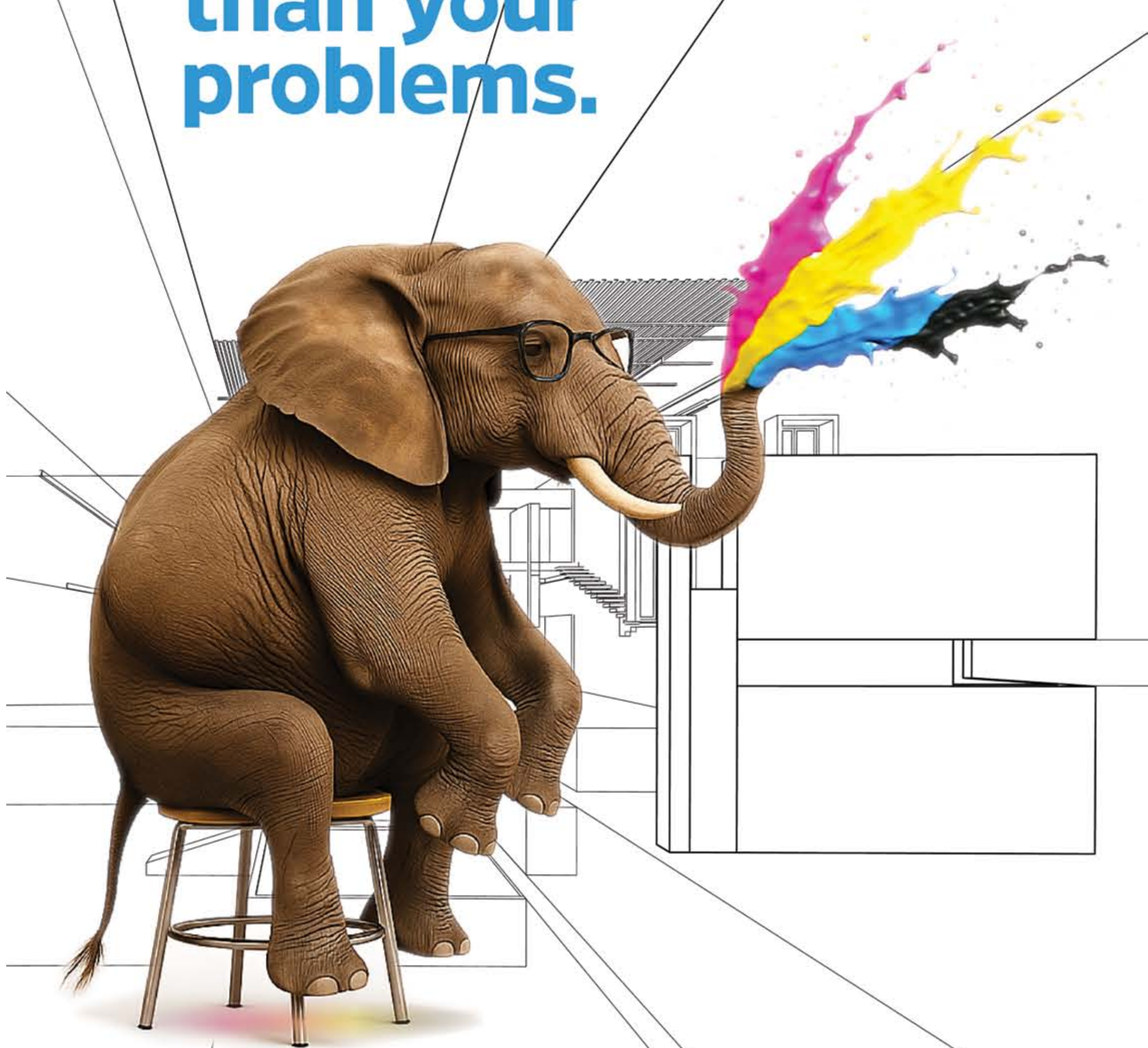


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COMMENTARY

What If Reading Is Your Full-Time Job?

“So what?” This was the question someone asked me when I put a rather unusual question before him: “What if reading is your full-time job?” He looked at me for a moment, perhaps wondering what kind of job I was talking about.

A job normally means an office, a desk, meetings, targets, deadlines and, of course, a salary at the end of the month. But what if your job were simply to read? You wake up in the morning, make your coffee or tea, open a book and begin your working day.

Our conversation moved on, but the question remained with me. Imagine being paid not to sell, manage, audit or produce something, but to sit with some of the greatest mind’s humanity has produced. Today you spend a few hours with Friedrich Nietzsche. Tomorrow, you walk through the world of Leo Tolstoy. Another morning you listen to

the poetry of Ahmed Shawqi, and in the afternoon, you argue silently with Karl Marx. What kind of person would you become after doing this every day?

Reading, in that sense, would no longer be a hobby. It would become an occupation of the mind. Your office would have no fixed walls. One day you would be in nineteenth-century Russia, walking through Tolstoy’s world of morality, family, war and human contradiction. Another day Nietzsche would disturb your comfortable assumptions and force you to ask questions you had avoided asking yourself. Ahmed Shawqi would remind you that sometimes poetry can explain a nation, a human emotion or an entire age more beautifully than pages of analysis. Marx would take you into question of labour, capital, class and power, whether you agreed with him or not.

And this is perhaps one of



the greatest benefits of serious reading. You do not have to agree with the person you are reading. You only have to be willing to enter his or her mind for a while. A reader can spend Monday with a socialist, Tuesday with a capitalist, Wednesday with a poet, Thursday with a psychologist and Friday with a novelist. By the weekend, perhaps the reader has more questions than answers. But is that necessarily a bad

thing? Sometimes intellectual growth begins not when we find an answer, but when we discover a better question.

Then there is fiction. We sometimes speak of novels as if they are merely entertainment. I disagree. A good novel may teach us something that an economics textbook, management manual or philosophical lecture cannot. Through fiction, we enter another person’s fear, poverty,

ambition, loneliness, love, failure and hope. We temporarily live a life that is not ours. Non-fiction gives us facts, arguments, history and theories, while fiction gives those things a human face.

If reading were your full-time job, imagine the knowledge accumulated after one year. Imagine after five years. Imagine after twenty. But knowledge itself is not enough. A person may read a thousand books and still understand very little about life. The real question is what happens to knowledge after it enters us. Do we question it? Do we compare it with experience? Do we challenge the author? Do we change our minds when the evidence demands it? And most importantly, does reading make us more capable of understanding people who do not think like us?

Knowledge can become a weapon, but I do not mean a weapon used against others. I

mean a weapon against ignorance, manipulation, narrow thinking and intellectual dependency. A person who reads widely becomes more difficult to imprison inside a single idea. Perhaps this is why reading is such a strange occupation. The more seriously you do it, the more you realise how much you do not know. Every book opens another door, and behind that door are ten more doors.

So, what if reading really were your full-time job? Perhaps you would never become rich from it. Perhaps nobody would promote you. There might be no impressive designation to place under your name. But every morning you would report for duty to one of the largest workplaces ever created—the accumulated human mind. And at the end of each working day, your salary would be something that no employer could take back from you: knowledge.

Promising investment opportunities in Oman’s digital economy highlighted

The conference discussed digital infrastructure and modern technologies and ways to enhance the Sultanate of Oman’s standing as a regional hub for digital investment

MUSCAT: Oman Telecommunications Company “Omantel” on Tuesday hosted the “SAMENA Council Leaders AXIS Conference 2026” under the theme “Oman: The New Geography of Digital Investment.”

The event was held under the auspices of Eng. Omar Hamdan Al Ismaili, CEO of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA).

The conference highlighted promising investment opportunities in digital infrastructure and modern technologies, ways to enhance the Sultanate of Oman’s standing as a regional hub for digital investment, and the expansion of economic and technical

partnerships with regional and international institutions and companies.

The conference proceedings focused on economic opportunities offered to the Omani market and the Gulf region by rapid developments in these sectors, along with associated prospects to attract further investments in digital infrastructure, build technical capabilities, develop commercial partnerships, and open new avenues for Omani companies, in addition to encouraging international companies to establish operations and expand their presence in the Sultanate of Oman and the Middle East and North Africa region.

These directions carry special importance given the assets possessed by the Sultanate of Oman, led by its strategic geographic location qualifying it to serve as a gateway to Gulf markets, its international connectivity networks, the expansion of its digital infrastructure and data centers, as well as its significant potential in the energy sector. These assets constitute an important base for attracting investments and developing new economic activities, in line with the targets of “Oman Vision 2040” to diversify the national economy and enhance its competitiveness.

Eng. Aladdin Bait Fadhil, CEO of Omantel, stated that with the emergence of generative artificial intelligence, we are witnessing for the first time in history a technological revolution whose impacts extend across the entire value



chain, starting from digital infrastructure and vital infrastructure with their associated data sovereignty requirements, through the development of enterprise and consumer applications, up to the emergence of a new generation of startups delivering solutions and services within this advanced technological ecosystem.

He added that amidst this transformation, the Sultanate of Oman possesses key assets enabling it to leverage opportunities offered by these technologies, including telecommunication networks, digital infrastructure, human competencies, and a strategic geographic location, alongside its economic and developmental directions. He explained that Omantel’s role in the Sultanate of Oman and the region lies in building upon these assets and converting them into economic and commercial opportunities for companies, investors, and global technology firms, thereby benefiting the national economy.

He explained that over past years, Omantel has invested in more than 20 international submarine cable systems, taking

advantage as well of the largest terrestrial network in the Middle East region through Zain Omantel International (ZOI). This has solidified its position as a leading wholesale provider of international telecommunications services and capacity in the region, meeting the needs of telecom operators, major global technology companies, content providers, and cloud service providers. He noted that ZOI’s business spans eight markets, drawing upon international connectivity capabilities of Omantel and Zain, which encompass approximately 120 thousand kilometers of submarine cable networks and direct connectivity to more than 120 cities worldwide.

He stated that alongside its investments in digital infrastructure and international connectivity, the company accords high importance to developing tech startups and enhancing their growth and expansion capabilities. Furthermore, Omantel Innovation Labs continues to support the tech entrepreneurship ecosystem in the Sultanate of Oman, having contributed since 2021 to supporting

more than 80 tech startups operating in fields including generative artificial intelligence, enterprise solutions, cybersecurity, and data analytics. The labs enable these companies to benefit from technical and specialised expertise, build relationships with sector institutions and investors, and explore expansion opportunities and access to new regional markets.

The CEO of Omantel added that these investments and initiatives reflect the importance of linking digital infrastructure development with building technical and commercial capabilities—a theme representing a primary focus of the conference, which discussed how the Sultanate of Oman can further capitalise on economic activities associated with digital infrastructure, data, modern technologies, and international telecom networks, transforming expansion in these fields into investment and commercial opportunities that deliver added value to the national economy.

The Conference serves as a vital platform bringing together various stakeholders, allowing the exploration of ways to integrate these emerging technologies in the Sultanate of Oman and identifying areas of cooperation and partnerships that can be developed during the upcoming phase.

Bocar BA, CEO of SAMENA Telecommunications Council, stated that the Sultanate of Oman holds vast opportunities to expand economic activities tied to

digital infrastructure. Achieving this requires collaboration among investors, technology companies, national institutions, infrastructure providers, and local firms, noting that Omantel holds special significance in these discussions given its role extending across national telecom networks, international infrastructure, technology development, regional presence, and supporting the growth of the Omani digital ecosystem.

He noted that the SAMENA Leaders Conference AXIS seeks to bring these parties together to examine available opportunities and develop relationships, partnerships, and investment activities that directly contribute to supporting economic growth in the Sultanate of Oman.

Omantel’s hosting of the conference comes in its capacity as a member of the Board of Directors of the SAMENA Telecommunications Council and as an extension of its role in developing the telecommunications and digital technology sector at local and regional levels. The company anchors this role on its investments in telecom networks, international connectivity, data centers, and cloud computing, alongside its technology investments, regional business, and initiatives supporting Omani tech startups, thereby contributing to enhancing digital ecosystem integration in the region.

— ONA

Full story at timesofoman.com/oman

PROGRESS IN INTERNATIONAL READING LITERACY STUDY

Developments related to Oman’s participation in PIRLS discussed

WARSAW: The Sultanate of Oman participated in the 67th General Assembly Meeting of the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA), held in the Polish capital, Warsaw.

The event saw the participation of representatives of member institutions and experts specialising in educational measurement and evaluation from various countries around the world.

The Sultanate of Oman’s delegation was headed by Dr. Jokha Abdullah Al Shukaili, CEO of Oman Authority for Quality Assurance of Education.

Current and future studies

The meeting discusses the governance of the Association’s work, its current and future studies, research priorities, membership and funding affairs, alongside ways to utilise evidence derived from international studies to support policy development and educational reform.

The meeting serves as an important platform to discuss developments related to the Sultanate of Oman’s participation in the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS 2026), the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS 2027), and the International Computer and Information Literacy Study (ICILS 2028), in addition to reviewing emerging trends in international evaluation, measurement inclusivity, research communication, and the future design of the Association’s studies.

Enhance cooperation

Through its participation in the meeting, the Sultanate of Oman seeks to enhance cooperation with the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement and its member institutions, build specialised national capacities in measurement and evaluation, and ensure the transformation of international study results into reliable evidence supporting decision-making and sustainable improvement in the educational system.

— ONA

MINISTRY OF HERITAGE AND TOURISM

Digital platform Itqan launched

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism launched on Tuesday the internal digital platform Itqan along with a package of 14 electronic services for beneficiaries, as part of its efforts to develop the work environment, elevate institutional performance efficiency, and facilitate transaction processing.

The Itqan platform aims to link strategic plans with project execution, enhance data accuracy, and provide senior leadership with a comprehensive, real-time overview of the ministry’s performance, thereby supporting decision-making, helping detect challenges early, and monitoring progress toward achieving objectives.

Asmaa Abdullah Al Sinani, Director of Digital Transformation, stated that the launch of the Itqan platform and the new electronic services come within the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism’s efforts to advance institutional performance and improve beneficiary experience. She explained that the platform enables linking strategic plans with project implementation and tracking their performance, providing accurate and updated data that supports decision-making, while the electronic services facilitate the completion of transactions without the need to visit the ministry’s headquarters.

She added that through these



digital solutions, the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism seeks to enhance integration among its departments, establish a culture of transparency and institutional work, and enable employees to carry out their duties with efficiency and clarity, thereby contributing to achieving the ministry’s goals and delivering more accessible services to beneficiaries.

The platform provides project managers with tools to plan their projects, track execution, and manage associated risks. It also offers employees clarity regarding tasks while highlighting their contributions toward achieving the ministry’s goals, thereby strengthening the interconnectedness of institutional work and the integration of efforts.



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More flights to Zurich, Frankfurt, Paris and other European cities this winter

The expanded winter programme covers destinations across the GCC, Europe, Russia and the Far East, alongside a growing network of codeshare partnerships

Times News Service

MUSCAT: National carrier, Oman Air will increase flights to Zurich, Frankfurt, Paris, Munich, Milan and Istanbul from October 25 as part of its winter 2026/27 schedule, offering travellers more options and improved connectivity across Europe.

Capacity on Oman Air's Zurich route will triple compared with the summer season, with wide-body aircraft deployed on up to five weekly services.

Frequencies to Frankfurt, Paris, Munich, Milan and Istanbul will also increase to as many as five flights per week.

Oman Air will also increase flights to Moscow from four per week during summer to up to eight weekly services throughout the winter season, strengthening



connecting connectivity between Oman and Russia.

The expanded winter programme covers destinations across the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Europe, Russia and the Far East, alongside a growing network of codeshare partnerships.

The increased capacity is expected to give passengers greater flexibility while creating more opportunities to attract

visitors to Oman.

The season will mark the first full winter programme for several destinations introduced earlier this year as part of Oman Air's network expansion strategy. Flights to Singapore will operate four times a week, while Tashkent will continue with twice-weekly services and Sochi with one weekly flight.

To meet strong demand on busy routes, Oman Air will introduce

selected widebody services to Mumbai and Dhaka once a week, increasing capacity and offering passengers the enhanced comfort of its Boeing 787 fleet.

Domestic connectivity will also be strengthened, with flights between Muscat and Khasab increasing to up to four times a week. Services between Muscat and Salalah will operate up to five times daily throughout the winter season.

Oman Air's winter programme is complemented by an expanding codeshare network.

Through expanded agreements with Lufthansa and SWISS, passengers can connect via Frankfurt to Edinburgh, Wroclaw, Poznań, Gdańsk, Bergen and Billund; via Munich to Edinburgh and Wroclaw; and via Zurich to Gothenburg and Oslo.

An expanded codeshare partnership with Malaysia Airlines will also open up additional travel options across Greater China, with Shanghai, Beijing Daxing and Guangzhou added to the network.

Oman Air's Winter 2026/27 schedule begins on October 25, with bookings available through the airline's website and mobile app.

Airlines operating from Muscat have expanded their international networks in 2026, introducing new direct routes to destinations across Asia, Europe, Africa and the Middle East to strengthen connectivity and support tourism, trade and business travel.

The Sultanate's national carrier, has added several destinations to its network, including Singapore, Sochi in Russia, Tashkent in Uzbekistan and Abu Dhabi.

The airline launched direct flights to Singapore and Sochi on July 2, followed by services to Tashkent on July 3 and Abu Dhabi on July 9.

The Singapore service operates four times a week, Tashkent twice weekly, Sochi once a week and Abu Dhabi daily.

Low-cost carrier SalamAir has also introduced new routes from Muscat during the year.

These include Vienna in Aus-

tria, Medan in Indonesia, Kigali in Rwanda and Mogadishu in Somalia, alongside services to Damascus in Syria and Port Sudan in Sudan.

SalamAir's Muscat-Medan service, launched in July, marked the airline's first scheduled operations to Indonesia.

The airline also launched direct flights to Kigali in July, with twice-weekly services aimed at strengthening links between Oman and Rwanda.

The expansion began earlier in the year with SalamAir's launch of direct flights between Muscat and Port Sudan on January 27. The service initially operated three times a week, creating a new air link between Oman and northeastern Africa.

The airline also introduced services to Damascus in May and Vienna in June, followed by additional routes later in the year.

Indian low cost carrier IndiGo has also added seasonal non-stop services between Chennai and Muscat, providing another travel option between Oman and southern India.

The growing network is expected to improve travel options for residents of Oman while supporting the Sultanate's efforts to attract international visitors and diversify its economy.

New direct connections can also facilitate business exchanges, strengthen links with overseas communities and make Oman more accessible to travellers from a wider range of markets.

The route additions form part of a broader effort by airlines to develop commercially viable connections and respond to changing travel demand.

AL DHAHIRAH GOVERNORATE

'Omani Women and Endowments' symposium organised in Ibri

IBRI: The Department of Endowments and Religious Affairs in Al Dhahirah Governorate organised yesterday a symposium titled "Omani Women and Endowments" in the Wilayat of Ibri, as part of the activities of GCC Endowment Week.

The symposium comes within the framework of highlighting the role of Omani women in supporting and developing endowments, as well as casting light on their historical and contemporary contributions in this field, reflecting their active standing in Omani society.

The symposium featured the presentation of five diverse working papers. The first paper was titled "Women's Scientific Endowments in A'Dhahirah Governorate and Community Wealth Management Toward Horizons and Sustainability" by researcher Dr. Maryam Humaid Al Ghafri.

The second paper was presented by researcher Dr. Zahra Ali Al Ghafri, titled "The Role of Endowment Impact Measurement in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals." In the third paper, Dr. Badriya Al Hanai addressed "The Impact of Omani Women's Endowments on Civilizational Aspects."

Meanwhile, Dr. Farida Said Al Sharji presented the fourth paper titled "Toward a Sustainable Knowledge Horizon: Strategic Goals and Future Ambitions for



Women's Endowment for Education and Guidance." The fifth paper, presented by Thuraya Abdullah Al Jamoudi, was titled "From Idea to Impact ... An Endowment Biography Crafted by a Woman."

At the conclusion, Dr. Ohood Said Al Balushi, chief guest of the event, launched the Holy Quran Schools Endowment in Al Dhahirah Governorate and honored the participants and contributors to the symposium.

— ONA

ANNUALLY ON 14TH OCTOBER

Oman to mark World Standards Day

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman will today join the international community in marking the World Standards Day, observed annually on the 14th October. This year's theme, "A Shared Vision for a Better World", underscores the central role of standards in grooming communities to adopt higher levels of safety and sustainability.

The event also seeks to foster international cooperation to address challenges in economic, environmental and technical sectors.

Standards serve as a common medium that unites different sectors, to enable them to establish benchmarks that contribute to enhancing the quality of products and services, improving operational efficiency and boosting safety and consumer protection, in addition to supporting trade and facilitating market access for products.

The Directorate General of

Standards and Metrology at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion said that 24 Omani standards were issued in 2026.

Those standards cover the fields of energy and electrical appliances. They include the standard titled "Grid interconnection of photovoltaic power generation systems", which deals with procedures to test power conversion equipments.

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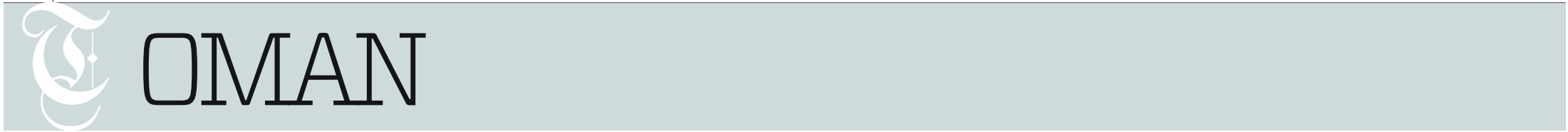
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National Enterprise Risk Management Governance Framework Launched

FROM A1 The launch coincides with the observance of the International Day for Disaster Reduction, which focuses on the importance of enhancing preparedness and the capability to anticipate risks and mitigate their impacts, as well as raising awareness of risks that may face communities and institutions, emphasizing the importance of adopting a proactive approach based on prevention, preparedness, and effective response.

In this context, the framework embodies an institutional direction toward enhancing the capability of government entities to identify, analyze, and systematically handle risks, thereby contributing to reducing the impacts of disasters and crises, enhancing institutional resilience, and ensuring the continuity of services.

Said Abdullah Al Balushi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Labour for Human Resources Development, stated in his speech that the launch of the National Enterprise Risk Management Governance Framework—which comes within national efforts to develop the government work system, elevate governance practices, and raise institutional readiness levels within the units of the state's administrative apparatus—coincides with the International Day for Disaster Reduction, which falls on 13 October each year.

Al Balushi added that the institutional work environment is witnessing rapid transformations across economic, technical, and social fields, along with associated risks that necessitate developing planning and governance practices, and enhancing the capacity for foresight and preparedness.

He highlighted the importance of realizing how risk management can contribute to enhancing our institutions' performance through proactively identifying challenges that may face the implementation of strategic plans and projects, raising readiness to ensure business continuity, early planning to provide resources and competencies, preparing for technical and legislative transformations, and enhancing co-ordination among entities to address shared risks.

The Undersecretary emphasized the importance of institutional risk management in adopting a clear methodology starting with early identification of risks, assessing their probability and potential impacts, defining responsibilities and risk tolerance levels, taking preventive measures and appropriate procedures to mitigate the likelihood of occurrence and lessen their impacts, alongside continuous monitoring of risk indicators and activating co-ordination and escalation mechanisms when needed.

Al Balushi stated that in harmony with the directions of "Oman Vision 2040" in raising the efficiency of the state's administrative apparatus and developing the governance system, the national framework comes as a unified reference for institutional risk management governance in civil units of the state's administrative apparatus.

He pointed out that the framework was prepared in accordance with international practices while taking into account the institutional environment in the Sultanate of Oman. Its successful implementation requires the cooperation of leadership and all employees to instill a risk-aware culture across various tasks and decisions.

The Undersecretary indicated that the Ministry of Labour will work during the upcoming phase, in cooperation with relevant authorities, to support the implementation of the national framework by qualifying targeted government entities, providing necessary technical support, monitoring compliance and implementation levels, and measuring institutional maturity. This is in addition to issuing compliance certificates according to specific criteria, and including an institutional risk management index within the "Ejada" institutional performance evaluation system. These tasks will be implemented in phases that take into account entities' readiness levels and the nature of their competencies, with a focus on capacity building and continuous improvement.

In his speech, Said Abdullah Al Balushi, Undersecretary of the



Ministry of Labour for Human Resources Development, expressed his hope that this framework will contribute to embedding risk management within the government work system, enhancing our institutions' readiness, and protecting national achievements. He added that on the International Day for Disaster Reduction, we emphasize the importance of early preparedness, sound risk management, and shared responsibility in ensuring the continuity of business and services.

The framework aims to bring about a transformation in the culture of risk management within government entities by transitioning from the traditional approach based on handling risks after their occurrence to a proactive approach based on identifying, predicting, and monitoring early warning indicators. This enables government entities to take timely preventive measures and mitigate potential impacts on their operations, services, and strategic objectives.

The framework views institutional risk management as an integral part of the government management system rather than a separate function, as it is directly linked to strategic planning, decision-making, performance management, and business continuity. This enhances the capacity of government entities to identify risks that could affect the achievement of their objectives, linking them to their priorities, plans, programs, and projects.

The framework establishes an integrated risk management system starting with identifying risks, monitoring their sources and indicators, analyzing their probability and impacts, evaluating their levels, and prioritizing handling responses. This leads to selecting appropriate responses and procedures, monitoring the implementation of treatment plans, and periodically reviewing the effectiveness of adopted controls and procedures.

The framework also focuses on the continuity of the risk management process rather than limiting it to a specific stage, through continuous monitoring, review, and updating of risk registers. This enables government entities to detect changes in risk levels at an early stage and update handling procedures according to developments emerging in the internal or external work environment.

The framework defines risk levels according to their impact scope and the ability of the entity or sector to handle them. This includes institutional risk, where the impact is concentrated within the scope of a single government entity, which can manage it within its powers and capabilities.

Sectoral risk encompasses risks whose impacts or causes extend to more than one entity within a single sector, necessitating coordination among relevant entities and unifying response procedures.

National risk exceeds the scope of a single sector or has repercussions on services, interests, or capabilities of a national dimension, requiring a higher level of coordination and response according to specific mechanisms that ensure rapid handling of risks exceeding the capacity of a single entity or specific sector.

The framework sets a clear mechanism for escalating risks

when their impact scope widens, their severity increases, or they exceed the capacity of the relevant entity to manage them within its capabilities and authorities, ensuring that their handling is transferred to the appropriate level at the right time, thereby limiting the likelihood of compounding their impacts.

The framework includes a number of institutional risk categories that government entities may face, providing a more comprehensive view of potential threat sources. These notably include strategic risks, compliance and legislative risks, reputation risks, cybersecurity and information technology risks, project risks, and supplier and third-party risks.

This classification allows government entities to develop more accurate risk registers, link each risk to the entity or unit responsible for managing it, determine its probability and impact level, and set appropriate procedures to handle it, thereby contributing to enhancing clarity of responsibilities and accountability within institutions.

The framework is grounded in best practices and approved international standards in institutional risk management, adapted to the institutional and administrative context of the Sultanate of Oman. This achieves a balance between unifying fundamental risk management requirements and granting government entities the necessary flexibility to apply them in a manner suited to the nature of their competencies, business volume, and risk exposure levels.

The framework promotes the concept of risk ownership within government entities, making risk management responsibility part of the duties of various organizational and administrative units rather than restricting it to a specialized unit or team. This contributes to building an institutional culture that makes risk monitoring and handling a shared responsibility across various levels.

The framework is directly linked to strategic planning and institutional performance systems by integrating potential risks into the stages of preparing plans, objectives, programs, and projects, helping government entities make more informed decisions based on information, scenario analysis, and potential impacts.

The framework supports business continuity by enhancing the capacity of government entities to identify risks that could affect core operations and services, and establishing necessary measures to maintain or restore vital services in the shortest possible time upon the occurrence of any emergency.

This integration contributes to transitioning from viewing risk management as a regulatory procedure to considering it a core element of modern management and decision-making, ensuring that associated risks and opportunities are taken into account when defining priorities, allocating resources, and executing government programs and projects.

The application of the framework is expected to contribute to elevating the efficiency of government resource utilization by improving the capacity to identify risks associated with programs, projects, and spending, and taking preventive measures that limit

losses, delays, or failure to achieve targeted results. The framework enhances the quality of government services by helping entities identify risks that may affect service delivery and continuity, and establishing proactive controls and procedures to handle them. This raises readiness levels and reinforces beneficiaries' trust in the capacity of government institutions to respond to challenges.

The framework includes a direction toward building national capacities in risk management, raising the level of awareness regarding related concepts and practices among employees in government entities, and fostering the exchange of knowledge, expertise, and practices among units of the state's administrative apparatus.

It supports spreading a risk management culture across various administrative levels so that identifying, reporting, and monitoring risks becomes part of daily institutional work practices. This ensures rapid detection of challenges and enables addressing them before they transform into crises or impact objectives and services.

Unifying methodologies also contributes to building a common language among government entities when handling risks, facilitating comparison, analysis, and co-ordination, as well as the ability to aggregate risks of a shared nature and identify risks that may transcend the boundaries of a specific entity or sector.

The National Framework for Institutional Risk Management is considered a pivotal step toward cementing a unified national methodology for risk management in the units of the state's administrative apparatus, enhancing government institutions' readiness to face challenges and variables, improving decision-making quality, elevating resource utilization efficiency, and supporting service continuity.

The framework represents one of the institutional enablers for enhancing governance and raising the level of integration among planning, performance, risk management, and business continuity, supporting state institutions' capability to anticipate, adapt, and respond, and contributing to achieving national strategic objectives efficiently and sustainably, in alignment with the targets of "Oman Vision 2040."

On the other hand, the National Risk Register launched the English version of the public edition, which includes a number of potential risks across natural aspects, services, health, and major incidents. This enables residents and visitors to review prominent potential risks and learn about necessary guidelines and preventive measures to handle them, contributing to enhancing community awareness, instilling a culture of emergency preparedness and response, reducing the impacts of risks on lives and property, and strengthening partnership between relevant entities and community members in achieving security and safety.

The framework launch ceremony featured a number of specialized working papers on institutional risk management, starting with a visual presentation delivered by Zahra Saud Al Hadhrami, Risk Management

Specialist at the Ministry of Labour, introducing the National Enterprise Risk Management Governance Framework.

A working paper titled "Emergency Management System in the Sultanate of Oman" was presented by Lt. Col. Mukhtar Juma Al Alawi, Assistant Head of the National Centre for Emergency Management. This was followed by a working paper titled "Institutional Risk Management: From Risk Monitoring to a Sustainable Strategic Decision," presented by Qais Habib Al Aamri, Head of the Risk Management Section at the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology.

The ceremony concluded with a panel discussion addressing several topics related to institutional risk management governance and enhancing its practices within institutions.

The session discussed the National Enterprise Risk Management Governance Framework and its importance in enhancing institutional readiness, unifying risk management methodologies, and developing mechanisms for escalation, information exchange, and decision coordination, contributing to building a more prepared national system capable of responding to risks and recovering from their impacts.

Participants in the session emphasized that risks are no longer necessarily confined to a single institution or specific sector, but their impacts may overlap and extend to multiple sectors. This makes institutional integration and the unification of procedures and methodologies fundamental requirements for enhancing institutional and national readiness.

Colonel Zayed Hamad Al Junaibi, Head of the National Centre for Emergency Management, stated that launching the National Enterprise Risk Management Governance Framework represents a foundational step to elevate the risk management system at institutional, sectoral, and national levels.

He added that the presence of a reference framework for institutional risk management contributes to fostering a risk management culture within institutions and establishes the development of risk registers at the institutional level, ensuring clarity of vision, roles, and responsibilities, and helping institutions identify risks exceeding their scope and make necessary decisions to handle them.

He noted that the framework outlines mechanisms for escalating risks to the National Risk Register, which in turn allows the National Committee for Emergency Management to review national risks according to their priorities and significance, supporting the implementation of necessary measures for preparedness and response.

He explained that unifying the language and methodologies used in identifying, assessing, and reporting risks reinforces the proactive approach and helps establish clear mechanisms for handling risks that transcend institutional boundaries.

For her part, Eng. Eman Hamoud Al Raisi, Director of the Risk Management Department at the Central Bank of Oman and coordinator of the financial and banking

sector at the National Risk Register, stated that the unified national framework aims to establish a common language and consistent methodology for identifying, assessing, and managing risks, while clarifying escalation mechanisms, roles, and responsibilities.

She added that the framework contributes to achieving institutions' strategic objectives and forming a comprehensive overarching picture of risks at the national level. She emphasized that its importance at the institutional level lies in transitioning from mere risk monitoring to utilizing assessment results in decision-making, strategic planning, and priority setting.

She pointed out the importance of integrating risk management with frameworks related to business continuity and crisis management, given the overlap among institutions and the vital services they provide, explaining that a service interruption at a specific institution may affect other institutions and entities.

She indicated that the framework serves as a guiding reference supporting government institutions in building an integrated institutional risk management system and developing a roadmap that enhances operational efficiency as well as institutional and national resilience.

For his part, Eng. Saif Said Al Ghafri, Cybersecurity Expert at the Civil Aviation Authority, explained that the true indicator of a deeply rooted risk management culture is its reflection on decisions made by the institution, rather than merely preparing registers and reports.

He noted that this is evident through utilizing risk assessment to determine appropriate alternatives, allocating resources by senior management, and taking necessary measures to ensure service continuity when certain systems fail or operational challenges arise.

From his side, Eng. Abdullah Mubarak Al Hashmi, Basic Services Sector Coordinator at the National Risk Register, stated that the National Framework for Institutional Risk Management contributes to addressing gaps identified within National Risk Register sectors and setting requirements to address them in preparation for transitioning to advanced stages in risk management.

He added that unifying language and procedures represents one of the most prominent positives achieved by the framework, as it helps bridge differing methodologies among institutions, enhances understanding and integration among them, and supports building a unified national system to elevate readiness and resilience.

He explained that resilience means the ability to return to the pre-crisis or disaster state, noting that achieving this requires readiness, integration of institutional and sectoral frameworks, and unification of procedures, alongside providing necessary financial and human resources.

He emphasized the importance of legal and regulatory frameworks in enhancing the readiness of basic services institutions, noting that regulatory bodies work to issue regulations and frameworks obligating institutions under their purview to apply risk management and business continuity procedures, thereby reinforcing coordination and joint action among them.

He indicated that applying the framework will contribute to elevating readiness and resilience, and enhancing institutions' capacity to mitigate and handle risks, whether natural risks such as earthquakes, volcanoes, hurricanes, and tsunamis, industrial risks related to electricity, water, and telecommunications, or economic and financial risks, among others.

The session addressed the importance of enhancing integration among vital institutions and sectors, developing information exchange and escalation mechanisms, and leveraging risk assessment results to support proactive decisions, thereby supporting service continuity and raising the national system's capacity for preparedness, response, and recovery.

The launch ceremony, held at the Kempinski Hotel Muscat, was attended by a number of senior officials, and specialists in the units of the state's administrative apparatus. —ONA

Three strategic development pacts signed in Madinat Al Irfan and Yiti

These agreements fall within OMRAN's strategy to strengthen partnerships with experienced investors and developers, attract foreign direct investment, and accelerate the development of priority tourism and urban destinations in Oman

MUSCAT: Oman Tourism Development Company (OMRAN Group) signed on Tuesday three strategic development agreements with Hassan Allam Holding Group, represented by its real estate arm



GROVA Developments, and Aurelian Development, to execute integrated residential and tourism projects in Madinat Al Irfan and the Yiti Integrated Tourism Project. The total development and investment value exceeds OMR122 million (\$318 million). The agreements were signed by Azzan Qasim Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism for Tourism and Chairman of OMRAN Group's Board of Directors, and Hassan Allam, Chairman and CEO of Hassan Allam Holding Group, in the presence of Sayyid Ibrahim

Said Al Busaidi, Minister of Heritage and Tourism, Eng. Ayad Ali Al Balushi, CEO of OMRAN Group, and Sherif Sadek, CEO of GROVA Developments. These agreements fall within OMRAN's strategy to strengthen partnerships with experienced investors and developers, attract foreign direct investment, and accelerate the development of priority tourism and urban destinations in the Sultanate of Oman. The agreements reflect the diversity of investment opportunities offered by both destinations and OMRAN Group's direction

toward attracting developers with the expertise needed to develop integrated residential and tourism components. This enhances the attractiveness of destinations developed by the Group, expands housing and hospitality options, and supports economic diversification targets under "Oman Vision 2040." The launch of the first residential development phase in Madinat Al Irfan, to be developed by Hassan Allam's real estate arm, GROVA Developments, marks a new stage in the destination's growth, enhancing its vision as an integrated urban city combining

residential, business, hospitality, and lifestyle elements within an interconnected environment. The two agreements include developing two residential projects in Madinat Al Irfan: the first is a residential neighborhood valued at approximately OMR29 million (\$75 million), and the second is a luxury residential development project under an international hotel brand valued at about OMR15.5 million (\$40 million), bringing the total development value of the two projects to nearly OMR44.5 million (\$115 million). Hassan Allam Group will undertake the construction works for both projects, leveraging the Group's extensive expertise in engineering and construction to develop Madinat Al Irfan's projects. This partnership aligns with OMRAN Group's direction toward building strategic partnerships with experienced investors and developers, contributing to attracting investments, utilising international expertise, and accelerating the development of priority assets and destinations. Additionally, introducing residential development reinforces Madinat Al Irfan's role as an integrated urban and investment destination, expanding the value provided by the city to residents, investors, and visitors.

Azzan Qasim Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism for Tourism and Chairman of OMRAN Group's Board of Directors, stated that developing integrated tourism destinations represents a vital component in the Sultanate of Oman's strategy toward building a more diverse, competitive, and sustainable tourism sector. Projects such as Madinat Al Irfan combine tourism, residential, business, and lifestyle components, thereby enhancing the value and attractiveness of destinations while opening new horizons for investment and broader economic participation. This direction aligns with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040, particularly in supporting tourism-based economic diversification, encouraging private sector and international investments, and developing destinations that deliver sustainable value for the economy and society. For his part, Eng. Hassan Allam, Chairman and CEO of Hassan Allam Holding Group, stated that the Group's ambition in the Sultanate of Oman is to develop residential communities that people are proud to belong to and call home—communities reflecting authentic Omani identity.

— ONA

CITY OF MOSTAGANEM

National weightlifting team wins seven medals at Arab Championship in Algeria

ALGIERS: Oman national weightlifting team recently bagged seven medals—3 gold, 3 silver and 1 bronze—at the Arab Championship held in the city of Mostaganem in Algeria. Weightlifter Hood Mohammed Al Khasibi secured 3 silver medals in the snatch, clean & jerk and Olympic total as part of the 55 kg category for juniors. He occupied second place in this category on the championship's second day. Meanwhile, weightlifter Amer Salim Al Khanjari claimed 3 gold medals in the snatch, clean & jerk and Olympic total as part of the of men's 85 kg category,



while weightlifter Murshid Mohammed Al Ajmi won the bronze medal in the snatch contest in the 95 kg category.



IRRIGATION CHANNELS

Sustainability of Aflaj discussed

BARKA: The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources and Oman Water Society yesterday held their second periodic meeting, which saw the participation of Dr. Hamoud bin Saud Al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources. The meeting dealt with ways to ensure the sustainability and improved management of "Aflaj" (traditional irrigation channels). It also looked into means of maximising the contribution of Aflaj to food security and boosting the local economy. He went on toured the Directorate's laboratories. He inspected

the Directorate's equipment and the research activities being conducted in the agricultural and livestock sectors. He was briefed by specialists on key ongoing the role of research programmes and projects in developing the sector and supporting food security. The meeting was held at the Directorate General of Agriculture and Livestock Research in Al Rumais area, Governorate of Muscat. It reviewed various updates, including the volume of produced water (water associated with oil extraction) and training national personnel on specialisation related to the water sector, among other issues. — ONA

SALALAH RESILIENCE HUB



Exhibition to raise awareness about risks of disasters organised in Dhofar

SALALAH: Represented by Salalah Resilience Hub, Dhofar Governorate on Tuesday organised an exhibition on the occasion of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, observed annually on the 13th of October. The event, held at the Sultan Qaboos Youth Complex for Culture and Entertainment in Salalah, saw the participation of representatives of government units, private sector establishments and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). The event took the theme "Resilience begins at home: Our steadfastness starts in our homes." It targeted different segments of society and educational institutions in Dhofar Governorate, as well as innovators and parties interested in disaster risk reduction. The exhibition included a children's corner, cultural and educational competitions and a "Storyteller" show that highlighted inspiring stories and lessons learned from experiences in handling crises.

Disaster risk reduction The event also saw the launch of a special edition of "Murshid" magazine, which is dedicated to raising children's awareness about the importance of disaster risk reduction, as well as the family's role in ensuring a safe home environment. The exhibition was held as part of efforts made by the city of Salalah to enhance urban resilience—following the city's designation as a global resilience hub within the context of the global, cross-stakeholder initiative titled "Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030). The event embodied the endeavours undertaken by Salalah Resilience Hub to transform national and international strategies into community-based and field-level programmes and practices that contribute to disaster risk reduction. — ONA

INTEGRATED DIGITAL PLATFORM

Muscat Municipality signs pact for Unified Municipal System project

MUSCAT: Muscat Municipality signed on Tuesday an agreement for the Unified Municipal System project with Pioneer Technical Services Company, a subsidiary of ITHCA Group. The agreement was signed by Eng. Ahmed Said Al Amri, Chairman of Muscat Municipality, and by Eng. Talib Hamoud Al Rashdi, Acting CEO of ITHCA Group, on behalf of the company. Eng. Ahmed Said Al Amri explained that signing the agreement to execute the Unified Municipal System project represents a strategic step toward developing the municipal work ecosystem in the Sultanate of Oman by unifying municipal services across various governorates within an integrated digital platform, including building permits, lease contracts, permits, and other services. In a statement to Oman News Agency (ONA), Al Amri stated that through this project, the municipality seeks to automate and streamline procedures, enabling beneficiaries to complete their transactions easily and quickly, enhancing service quality and delivery efficiency for individuals and the business sector, alongside raising municipal performance efficiency and fostering integration among governorates.



The Chairman of Muscat Municipality added that the significance of the project is not limited to developing municipal services, but extends to building a unified data ecosystem that supports decision-making and urban planning, paving the way for employing artificial intelligence and modern technologies in service development and enhancing city management efficiency, in line with the targets of Oman Vision 2040. The project relies on geospatial systems to unify municipal data and support planning and decision-making with higher efficiency. Eng. Talib Hamoud Al Rashdi, Acting CEO of ITHCA Group, explained that signing the agreement for the Unified Municipal Platform project with Muscat Municipality comes as a continuation of government efforts aimed at accelerating digital transformation procedures for services provided to beneficiaries of Muscat Municipality services and municipalities across various governorates of the Sultanate of Oman. He stated that the project is expected to bring about a qualitative leap in government digital services, particularly those provided in the municipal sector across the governorates of Oman. — ONA

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Investment opportunities in social sector explored

MUSCAT: The Social Investment Forum 2026, held under the theme "Sustainable Investment - Renewed Services," commenced its proceedings in Muscat yesterday. The forum explores the development of investment opportunities in establishing and operating social services, social programmes and projects, day care centres for the elderly, early childhood centres, and rehabilitation centres for persons with disabilities, in addition to projects linked to the economic empowerment of persons with disabilities and families.

The forum, organised by the Ministry of Social Development in cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, with the participation of several government entities, private sector institutions, and civil society organisations, aimed to design and frame investment opportunities in the sectors of disability affairs, family affairs, and community development, thereby contributing to attracting investors and real estate developers while developing services delivered to beneficiary groups.

Two-day forum The proceedings of the two-day forum include specialised training workshops, the first titled "Tools and Skills for Designing Social Investment Opportunities," and the second titled "Designing and Framing Social Investment Opportunities," aimed at providing participants with the knowledge and skills required to design viable investment opportunities. The organisation of the forum falls within the efforts of the Ministry of Social Development to enhance the financial and operational sustainability of the social sector, expand partnerships with the private sector, increase the return on investment for civil society organisations, and expand the delivery of social services.

— ONA

Cooperation agreement signed to support eligible families under the ‘Light shines’ initiative in Amerat

The pact aims to unify efforts and enhance joint coordination in identifying eligible families

MUSCAT: As part of the Wali of Al Amerat Office's efforts to support community initiatives and strengthen integration among institutions and volunteer teams, the Wali of Al Amerat Office yesterday witnessed the signing of a cooperation agreement between Nama Supply and the Al Amerat Volunteer Team, under the “Light shines” initiative launched by the company to support eligible families facing difficulties in paying their electricity bills, while promoting the principles of solidarity and social responsibility. Sheikh Hamid bin Nasser Al Hamr, Deputy Wali of Al Amerat sponsored this agreement signing.

The agreement was signed on behalf of Nama Supply by Salman bin Ali Al Hattali, Chief Executive Officer of the company, and on behalf of the Al Amerat Volunteer Team by Sayyid Mohammed bin Saeed Al Busaidi, the Team Head. The agreement aims to unify efforts and enhance joint coordination in identifying eligible families and confirming their compliance with the approved requirements and criteria. This will contribute



to ensuring that support reaches those in need, assisting them in settling their electricity bills and alleviating the financial burdens.

Sheikh Hamid bin Nasser Al Hamr, Deputy Wali of Al Amerat, stressed the importance of such initiatives in strengthening the community work system, commending the efforts of Nama Supply Company and the Al Amerat Volunteer Team in adopting humanitarian initiatives that address the needs of eligible families. He highlighted the importance of integrating the roles of the private sector, volunteer teams and Zakat committees. Thus promoting social solidarity

and directing efforts and resources to serve the community.

Hosting of the agreement-signing by the Wali of Al Amerat Office reflects its commitment to boosting channels of cooperation and coordination among various entities, encouraging initiatives that serve citizens, and establishing effective community partnerships that support deserved families and create a sustainable positive impact.

The agreement forms part of the “Light shines” initiative launched by Nama Supply to expand cooperation with volunteer teams, Zakat committees and civil society organisations across the various Omani governorates.

This is achieved through mechanisms that identify eligible cases and support in accordance with clear criteria, thereby enhancing the initiative's efficiency and the sustainability of its humanitarian impact.

This partnership demonstrates the importance of concerted efforts among government entities, private-sector institutions and volunteer teams in supporting organised community work and reinforcing the values of cooperation and compassion. It contributes positively to the stability of eligible families and reinforces the community advancement in Al Amerat.



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Community partnership supports the efforts of the ‘Sanubadir’ Team in Bousher



MUSCAT: At the initiative of the Office of the Wali of Bousher, Petrogas Oil and Gas Company E & P provided financial and in-kind support to the “Sanubadir” Team, in the presence of Sheikh Ahmed bin Ali Al Habsi, Wali of Bousher. The initiative forms part of the Office's efforts to strengthen community partnership and activate the role of private-sector institutions in supporting humanitarian initiatives.

The support aims to enhance the team's ability to continue its efforts in serving cancer patients and supporting eligible cases through contributing to meeting the needs of patients and their families and providing them with the necessary care and assistance.

The “Sanubadir” Team provides

support to cancer patients and individuals suffering from chronic diseases and immunodeficiency, according to the needs of each case. Its areas of work include supporting students who have discontinued their education due to illness, providing essential and supplementary medical supplies, and offering logistical, financial, moral and psychological support to both children and adults.

The initiative reflects the Office of the Wali of Bousher's commitment to reinforcing integration among government entities, private-sector institutions and volunteer teams. Thereby contributing to sustaining humanitarian initiatives and expanding the range of beneficiaries they serve.



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Al Harthy targeting big push on Portimao return for final GTWCE Race of year

Going into round five of the season, a three-hour evening race which will be contested this coming Saturday, 17th October

EUROPE: Just a little over six months since Ahmad Al Harthy got his GT World Challenge Europe powered by AWS Endurance Cup campaign underway, the fifth and final race of the season is only days away at the Autódromo Internacional do Algarve – the Omani’s first visit to the Portuguese track since 2023.

Going into round five of the season, a three-hour evening race which will be contested this coming Saturday, 17th October, Al Harthy and Oman Racing by Century Motorsport team-mates Calan Williams and Javier Sagrera are determined to sign off the championship in successful style.

Currently holding 10th position in the Bronze Cup standings, the BMW M4 GT3 EVO trio are setting their sights on maintaining a top 10 placing and aiming to be in a position to mount a challenge for a second 2026 podium finish.

Starting the season at Circuit Paul Ricard in France with a top six result back in April, a sensational performance at Monza in Italy at the end of May delivered a fantastic first podium of the year with third position and put the squad fifth in the Bronze title battle.

While an unfortunate mid-race retirement from the CrowdStrike 24 Hours of Spa in late June was frustrating, last time out at the Nürburgring in Germany Al Har-



Formula One World Champion Max Verstappen.

Ahmad Al Harthy said
I’m really looking forward to being back in Portugal and racing in Portimão after a few years away, it’s a great track with a real roller-coaster feel. There are some big elevation changes, fast turns and technical challenges as well, and we’re all aiming to wrap-up the season with a strong showing to end the year in the championship top 10.

“We’ve shown some strong performances this year, Calan and Javier have been great team-mates and the whole team has worked incredibly hard. We’re all determined to push for a big points finish and if we can achieve that we’ll be happy, but the aim is to obviously try and end the season back on the podium. That would be a great way to thank all of our incredible partners and supporters.”

thy, Williams and Sagrera achieved a top five result – despite a series of car gremlins – to move back into the championship top 10.

Al Harthy, supported by his prestigious Omani partners OQ, Omantel, Oman LNG, Oman Min-

istry of Culture, Sports and Youth and BMW Oman, is relishing the prospect of returning to Portimão after three years away and laser focused on a successful showing on Saturday. He last competed at the Algarve track when racing in the

FIA World Endurance Championship, but this weekend’s GTWCE finale will mark the Omani’s first mileage at the 4.6-kilometre circuit driving his BMW M4 GT3 EVO.

The entry for Portimão boasts an immense total grid of 60 cars, 17 of these participating in the Bronze Cup division. Notably, in addition to Al Harthy’s high-profile former FIA WEC team-mate Valentino Rossi being part of the grid, GTWCE Endurance Cup also welcomes four-time FIA

**Shabiba Jawa’iz Basma**

**Social Impact Awards 2026**

**جوائز بسمة
Jawā'iz Basma**

MHD-ITICS Wins Women Empowerment Initiative – Diversified Business Award at Shabiba Jawa’iz Basma 2026



MH-D-ITICS was felicitated with the ‘Women Empowerment Initiative – Diversified Business Award’ at Shabiba Jawa’iz Basma Social Impact Awards 2026. Organised by Muscat Media Group, publisher of Times of Oman and Al Shabiba, and managed by TEEvents, the awards recognised organisations, initiatives and individuals creating meaningful social, environmental and economic impact across Oman. The evening culminated in the presentation of 22 awards across diverse areas of community and social impact.

MHD-ITICS was recognised for its commitment to advancing women’s empowerment, professional development

and leadership opportunities across its diversified business operations. With a presence spanning technology, consumer products, industrial solutions and infrastructure, the organisation continues to encourage greater participation and representation of women across different business functions.

Under the leadership of H.E. Lujaina Mohsin Darwish, MHD-ITICS has supported initiatives that promote women’s professional growth, visibility and career advancement. Its approach reflects the importance of creating an inclusive workplace environment where women are encouraged to develop their capabilities, contribute to organisational

success and pursue leadership opportunities.

Through its focus on women’s participation, talent development and inclusive business practices, MHD-ITICS continues to contribute towards creating opportunities for women and supporting the broader objectives of workforce development and gender inclusion in Oman.

Shabiba Jawa’iz Basma 2026, organised by Muscat Media Group and managed by TEEvents, celebrates organisations and individuals whose initiatives contribute to community development, healthcare, education, youth empowerment, sustainability, inclusion and social progress across the Sultanate.

Petroleum Development Oman Wins Women Empowerment Initiative – Oil & Gas Award at Shabiba Jawa’iz Basma 2026



Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) was felicitated with the ‘Women Empowerment Initiative – Oil & Gas Award’ at Shabiba Jawa’iz Basma Social Impact Awards 2026. Organised by Muscat Media Group, publisher of Times of Oman and Al Shabiba, and managed by TEEvents, the awards recognised organisations, initiatives and individuals creating meaningful social, environmental and economic impact across Oman. The evening culminated in the presentation of 22 awards across diverse areas of community and social impact.

Petroleum Development Oman was recognised for its longstanding commitment to advancing women’s empowerment, leadership development and professional growth

within the oil and gas sector through its Hawa Mentoring Circles Programme. Launched in 2009, the initiative has created a structured platform for women to strengthen their leadership capabilities, build professional networks and gain valuable guidance from experienced leaders.

Over seven cycles, the programme has supported more than 500 women, with the involvement of over 40 senior leaders who have contributed their expertise and mentorship. Through year-long mentoring circles, participants benefit from professional guidance, knowledge sharing, leadership development and opportunities to build confidence while navigating their career journeys.

The initiative has also

been integrated into PDO’s broader talent development framework through Sadara, with its seventh cycle aligned with the company’s Nahjuna programme. This approach reflects a sustained commitment to embedding mentorship and women’s professional development within the organisation’s culture, helping create meaningful pathways for career progression and leadership opportunities.

Shabiba Jawa’iz Basma 2026, organised by Muscat Media Group and managed by TEEvents, celebrates organisations and individuals whose initiatives contribute to community development, healthcare, education, youth empowerment, sustainability, inclusion and social progress across the Sultanate.

Australia beat South Africa by 214 runs in Durban Test, take 1-0 series lead

Chasing a daunting target of 421, South Africa were bowled out for 206 in their second innings, with Hazlewood returning career-best figures of 6/49 to complete Australia's victory, according to the ICC

DURBAN: Australia defeated South Africa by 214 runs in the first Test at Kingsmead on Monday, with Matt Renshaw's all-round performance and Josh Hazlewood's six-wicket haul on the final day helping the visitors take a 1-0 lead in the three-match ICC World Test Championship series. Chasing a daunting target of 421, South Africa were bowled out for 206 in their second innings, with Hazlewood returning career-best figures of 6/49 to complete Australia's victory, according to the ICC. Resuming the final day at 102/4,



the hosts needed 319 more runs to win, with Aiden Markram and Wiaan Mulder tasked with extending their resistance. Markram stood firm for 237 deliveries, scoring 75, while Mulder contributed 29 before falling to Ha-

zlewood shortly before lunch. Australia tightened their grip on the contest after the break as Renshaw dismissed Kyle Verreynne for one. Hazlewood then struck with the second new ball, removing Marco Jansen for 35 and Simon Harmer

for a duck in quick succession.

Mitchell Starc ended Markram's stubborn innings, while Hazlewood wrapped up the tail by dismissing Anrich Nortje, who topped a short delivery to Nathan Lyon at short cover.

Renshaw was named Player of the Match after scoring 190 in Australia's first innings and following it up with 82 in the second, besides making important contributions with the ball. Australia had set up their vic-

tory with a commanding batting display across both innings. Renshaw's 190 helped the visitors post 390 in their first innings, while South Africa responded with 284, with contributions from Markram and David Bedingham giving the hosts a 106-run deficit.

Australia continued to build on their advantage in the second innings, declaring at 314/6 after half-centuries from Renshaw and Nic Maddinson, supported by late contributions from Pat Cummins and Beau Webster.

South Africa's chase suffered an early setback on the fourth evening as Hazlewood and part-time bowler Renshaw reduced them to 102/4 at stumps. The hosts could not recover from that position on the final day despite Markram's determined effort.

The defeat was South Africa's first at home after four consecutive Test victories since November 2024. It was also their first loss under captain Temba Bavuma, who had led the side in 12 Tests before this defeat. Australia, meanwhile, recorded their fourth consecutive Test victory at Kingsmead since 2006 and strengthened their position in the World Test Championship standings. South Africa slipped to third, with New Zealand moving into second place.

The second Test between the sides will begin in Gqeberha on October 18, with the third scheduled to be played in Cape Town from October 27 to 31. - **ANI**

ICC

Shaun Pollock urges captains to use pink-ball in day Tests if bad light becomes factor

DURBAN: Former South African all-rounder Shaun Pollock has called for teams to use pink balls during Test matches where bad light could become a factor as Proteas eye a massive run-chase on the final day of the Durban Test against Australia, which has seen action abandoned due to bad light. In the first match of the high-profile three-match series, Proteas is 102/4 while chasing 421 runs ahead of the final day. The first three days of the Test match saw play ending due to bad light and both sides losing what could have been game-changing overs. Only 221 of the 270 allotted overs were completed through to the start of the fourth day, with play extending on Monday as the cloud cover that was present in the afternoon stayed away. Recently, as part of the playing conditions, the International Cricket Council (ICC) has green-lit the use of pink balls during day Test matches, with the agreement of both captains. The press release from the ICC stating the new playing condition says, "As a trial, pink balls may be used in daytime Tests by mutual agreement to reduce loss of play due to bad light. The use of a pink ball must be agreed before the



start of the Test and once agreed, must apply for the duration of the match. The decision cannot be changed after the match has started. Switching from red to pink ball is also not allowed once the match has commenced."

Pollock, as quoted by Fox Sports, has urged captains "not be scared to use the pink ball" when light could be a regular factor. "I am not saying for one moment that we should have used the pink ball and played a day-night game. I just believed we should have used the pink ball for the day game," he said.

"It is not irrelevant because if you use the red one, all of a sudden you cannot play Test cricket past bad light time, but if you use the pink one, you can. And we are going to lose some more overs." "If this was a final or a game where you had to win to make the World Test Championship final and it was 1-all in the series, and Australia was playing South Africa and you said to them, 'Let's use the pink ball because we are going to lose 100 overs to bad light' do you think they would agree or not agree?," he continued. Former South African batter Ashwell Prince, now associated with the side as senior assistant coach, had spoken at the end of day three that for him Test cricket "are red ball". "For me, outside of a day-night Test, it is got to be a red ball," he said. "I think obviously some nations have played a lot more pink ball cricket than others and so, therefore, to get both captains to agree is always going to be a challenge." "To get both captains to agree to that, some teams will feel that they simply do not have enough experience of it, so I think it would be very difficult to get both captains to agree. But for me, you know, Test matches are the red ball," he signed off.

ACCIDENT

Steve Smith undergoes concussion assessment after helmet blow

DURBAN: Australian batter Steve Smith was assessed for concussion on the fourth day of the first Test against South Africa in Durban after being struck on the helmet by a bouncer from Anrich Nortje. The incident occurred on the fifth ball of the 13th over of Australia's second innings on Monday, when Nortje's delivery struck Smith's helmet and flew towards fine leg. The team physio and doctor assessed the batter on the field, and his helmet was replaced before he resumed batting. Smith went on to score 27 off 41 balls before being caught at long-on off Simon Harmer, as per Cricinfo. Smith did not take the field when South Africa began their second innings, with substitute fielder Michael Neser taking his place in the cordon. Smith had impressed in the field on the third day, producing a couple of outstanding catches at slip off reverse sweeps against Nathan Lyon. CA said a further update would come "later today or tomorrow". Australia are unlikely to need a concussion substitute for the remainder of the first Test, as Smith has completed his batting duties and rarely bowls these days. Smith has suffered multiple concussions during his career,



with the most notable incident coming at Lord's in 2019, when he was struck by a vicious bouncer from England pacer Jofra Archer. Australia have been hit by a series of injury setbacks during their ongoing tour of South Africa. Cameron Green, who sustained an abdominal strain, and Josh Inglis, who fractured a finger, were ruled out of the opening Test, prompt-

ing the call-up of Nic Maddinson and Sam Harper. Maddinson's inclusion marked his return to Test cricket after a decade, with the batter opening the innings in Durban. Inglis, who sustained the finger injury during the first ODI against South Africa last month, rejoined the Australian squad in Durban and had a batting session on Monday as he continued his recovery.

FOOTBALL

981st! Cristiano Ronaldo continues quest for 1000 goals in 3-1 win over Neftchi

RIYADH: Portugal football icon Cristiano Ronaldo continued his quest for 1,000 professional goals, netting his 981st goal across club and international games during Al Nassr's 3-1 win over Neftchi in their Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Champions League Elite game on Monday. Cristiano Ronaldo's heroics continue as the controversy over his future with the national side continues after he left the national camp during the UEFA Nations League, with his rift with head coach Jorge Jesus intensifying. He has been handed a provisional suspension by the country's football federation after his controversial exit from the national camp during the UEFA Nations League, with disciplinary proceedings opened against the 41-year-old. Angelo Gabriel opened Al Nassr's account with a goal in the 33rd minute, followed by Ronaldo finding the back of the net nine minutes later. In the 51st minute, Alisher Odilov delivered a goal for Neftchi, but an own goal from Anvarjon Gofurov in the 78th minute handed Al



Nassr some free cushion, and the scoreline was undisturbed for the remainder of the time. Following the win, Ronaldo posted on his Instagram with the caption, "Important win tonight. We keep building." The Portuguese Football Federation's disciplinary council suspended the Al Nassr star on a non-automatic basis, with the case classified as "urgent". This is the first sanction against him pending the end of the investigation and final penalty, as per Goal.com.

The Portuguese football governing body said in an official statement, as reported by newspaper 'A Bola', that the decision followed a deliberation issued by the non-professional section on Friday. Ronaldo was already subject to automatic suspension on a provisional basis till the proceedings opened. The council added a precautionary provisional suspension that was not applied automatically, while granting the case an urgent status. The case has been referred to the federation's disciplinary investigation committee. The details will stay confidential till the investigation ends. The Portuguese striker left the national camp 24 hours before their match against Denmark, after he was benched in the previous game against Norway. Ahead of the match, Ronaldo was instructed to warm up with expectations of featuring in the later half of the contest. However, Jesus eventually decided against bringing him onto the pitch, leaving the striker frustrated on the bench. While Jesus claimed that Ronaldo was benched due to tactical reasons, it only added to the growing rift between the on-

close coach-player pair. Following a breakdown in communication with Jesus over his role in the current squad, Ronaldo left the national team camp early. As per the Portuguese football governing body's disciplinary regulations, Ronaldo is at risk of a suspension ranging from one to six months, coupled with a fine, if his departure from the camp is found to be unjustified. The regulations stipulate that "Any player who, after being lawfully called up, leaves without justification or does not attend a training session, a match, or any national team activity, or anything connected to the sporting representation of the Portuguese Football Federation or Portugal, shall be punished with a suspension ranging between one month and six months, and in addition, if the player is a professional, with a fine ranging between 5 and 10 accounting units." For Ronaldo, the potential fine range is between 500 and 1,000 euros.

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Man Utd boss Carrick backs team to bounce back ahead of UCL clash against Atletico Madrid

MADRID: Manchester United boss Michael Carrick has backed the team to turn things around as they are in a "challenging, stickier" spell of results ahead of their UEFA Champions League clash against Atletico Madrid on Tuesday. So far this season, Manchester United has won just two out of eight matches across all competitions, recently managing back-to-back draws with Fulham and Tottenham Hotspur following losses to arch-rival Manchester City and Brighton last month. Having secured just six points in six Premier League matches, which is their worst start in top-flight league since 1986. However, Carrick feels that the UCL is an opportunity for Manchester United to change things for the better, having beaten Sabah 4-0 in their campaign opener. Speaking ahead of their match at Metropolitano, Carrick said, as quoted by ESPN, "Of course we hoped for a lot more [this season], we expected a lot more, but we are where we are. I was aware there



was going to be a period when it was going to become a bit more challenging, a bit stickier. That is part of it. Football and building something takes a journey. You have got to overcome things." "I understand that when it is not going too well, there is a real clamour and a real feeling of 'it is a disaster, it is all wrong and everything needs to be changed.' I kind of get that, but that is not our mindset, certainly not mine," he added. The Man United boss admitted that he likes such challenging situations, as during times like these, the club realises who wants to be here for the long term and vowed to give the "desperate" supporters something.

OMAN OIL PRICE DROPS

MUSCAT: The official price of Oman crude oil for December delivery fell by \$0.81 and reached \$108.89 per barrel on Tuesday. The monthly average price of Oman crude oil for October delivery stood at \$87.84 per barrel, up by \$11.48 compared with the September delivery price. — **ONA**

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 7728.06 points, down by -0.97% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -0.86% at 634.11 points. Sohar Power, up 10.00%, was the top gainer while, Dhofar Generating, down 5.06%, was the top loser. **>B2**

Several crucial topics related to capital markets sector discussed

The ConFEAS 2026 conference witnessed the participation of more than 200 participants, 4 panel discussions, and an elite group of international speakers

MUSCAT: Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX), in cooperation with the Federation of Euro-Asian Stock Exchanges (FEAS), hosted on Tuesday the Federation of Euro-Asian Stock Exchanges Conference “ConFEAS 2026,” with the participation of an elite group of capital market officials, decision-makers, experts, and specialists from various countries across the world.

The opening of the conference was held under the auspices of Qais Mohammed Al Yousef, Chairman of the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ).

The ConFEAS 2026 conference witnessed the participation of more than 200 participants, 4 panel discussions, and an elite group of international speakers who discussed several key topics in the capital markets sector. These included regional cooperation between financial markets, facilitating access to emerging markets, technological developments and recent trends in financial technologies, alongside best practices in investor relations and market attractiveness.

The Muscat Stock Exchange's hosting of this international event falls within its efforts to enhance



the Sultanate of Oman's presence on the global capital markets map and expand horizons of cooperation with international stock exchanges and financial institutions. This contributes to supporting the development of the Omani capital market and boosting its attractiveness for local and foreign investments, in line with the targets of “Oman Vision 2040.”

During the working sessions, developments in capital markets, investment opportunities, and topics related to capital market development, enhancing investment prospects, digital transformation, and investor relations were reviewed, with the participation of officials and experts from regional and international financial institutions and stock exchanges. Muscat Stock Exchange reviewed opportunities to develop the market and strengthen regional cooperation.

The first session, titled “Omani Capital Market and Regional Cooperation,” addressed the economic development journey in the Sultanate of Oman in light of the targets of Oman Vision 2040, and the role of the capital market in supporting economic diversification and attracting investments.

The session also reviewed efforts to develop the Omani capital market, progress toward fulfilling requirements for its classification among emerging markets, initial public offering (IPO) opportunities, and the importance of enhancing cooperation and integration between capital markets at both regional and international

levels.

The second session, titled “Accessing Emerging Markets: Investors’ Challenges, Opportunities, and Interests,” discussed investment opportunities offered by emerging and promising markets and the challenges facing investors upon entering them, focusing on ways to facilitate cross-border investment and trading, and strengthening connectivity between stock exchanges and financial institutions.

The session focused on the importance of developing market infrastructure and aligning regulatory frameworks to facilitate capital movement, the role of global indices in attracting institutional investments, and international investors’ requirements when evaluating investment opportunities in emerging markets.

The third session, titled “Technological Developments and Trends in Capital Markets,” touched upon the latest innovations and technical solutions contributing to the development of financial market infrastructure, as well as the role of digital transformation in enhancing operational efficiency, transparency, and market resilience.

The session also addressed modern trends in trading technologies, surveillance, and post-trade operations, along with the importance of deploying advanced technologies to improve investor experience and enhance the capacity of financial markets to keep pace with global developments.

Meanwhile, the fourth session, titled “Enhancing Communication with Investors: Investor Relations and Research,” focused on the importance of investor relations and financial research in strengthening trust and transparency within capital markets, as well as the role of disclosures and providing financial information and analytics in supporting investment decisions.

The session also discussed best practices in communicating with investors, enhancing the attractiveness of listed companies, and expanding the investor base, thereby contributing to elevating the efficiency of financial markets and supporting their growth and sustainability.

Haitham Salim Al Salmi, CEO of Muscat Stock Exchange, explained that hosting the conference enhances the presence of the Muscat Stock Exchange on the international stage. He noted that hosting the ConFEAS 2026 conference reflected the exchange's commitment to reinforcing the Sultanate of Oman's standing as a promising investment destination and expanding horizons of cooperation with regional and international capital markets and financial institutions. He added that the conference represented an important platform for exchanging expertise, reviewing global best practices, and discussing opportunities and initiatives that contribute to developing financial markets and raising their efficiency and competitiveness.

He emphasised that the Muscat



Stock Exchange has continued its efforts to develop the market and enhance its attractiveness to investors by supporting innovation, expanding investment opportunities, and reinforcing interconnectivity with regional and international markets. The conference provided new opportunities for dialogue and exchange of insights on capital market development, and the exchange looks forward to building upon its outcomes to strengthen cooperation and partnerships while supporting the development journey of the Omani capital market in line with the targets of “Oman Vision 2040.”

Radu Hanga, President of the Federation of Euro-Asian Stock Exchanges, stated that the conference represented an important international platform that brought together capital market officials, experts, and financial institutions to discuss prominent developments in the sector, exchange expertise and experiences, and explore cooperation opportunities among member markets and international partners.

He added that this hosting reflected the importance of enhancing communication and integration between regional and international markets, as the conference sessions provided an opportunity to exchange insights on supporting innovation, developing market infrastructure, facilitating access to investment opportunities, and strengthening linkages between emerging and promising markets.

Konstantin Saroyan, Secretary General of the Federation of Euro-Asian Stock Exchanges, said: “The ConFEAS conference has proven

once again the great importance of regional cooperation. Amid the technological transformations and global changes facing capital markets, the meeting of key stakeholders in Muscat provided an opportunity to align strategic visions, enhance market transparency, and build stronger cross-border cooperation ties between markets in the Euro-Asian region.”

The ConFEAS conference received support from several leading financial and investment institutions within the strategic partners and lead partners categories, reflecting the interest of institutions operating in the financial sector to participate in initiatives that contribute to developing capital markets, enhancing cooperation, and exchanging views and expertise.

Muscat Stock Exchange's hosting of the ConFEAS conference reaffirmed its role in enhancing communication between capital markets, financial institutions, and investment entities, opening new horizons for cooperation, knowledge exchange, and expertise sharing, as well as introducing developments occurring in the Omani capital market and investment opportunities available in the Sultanate of Oman.

The conference also contributed to enhancing dialogue among regulatory bodies, stock exchanges, investors, and financial institutions, discussing initiatives that support market development and facilitate cross-border investment flows, thereby reinforcing the Sultanate of Oman's presence on the map of international economic and financial events.

— **ONA**

GCC-STAT DATA



Number of youth, adolescents in GCC states hits 12.8mn

MUSCAT: The number of adolescents and youth aged between 10 and 24 in the GCC states reached approximately 12.8 million, representing 20 percent of the total population of the GCC states in 2025, reflecting the significant demographic weight of this group and the influential human base it represents for the future of the region's countries.

Data issued by the GCC Statistical Centre (GCC-Stat) indicates that the GCC states achieved a rate of 100 percent in providing essential health services for adolescents and youth, thereby surpassing the global indicator of 68 percent, reflecting the breadth of essential health coverage directed at this group in the GCC states.

The Centre's indicators also showed that the GCC states achieved a rate of 100 percent in national essential regulations for adolescents and youth, compared with 84 percent at the global level, highlighting the ex-



istence of national frameworks and regulations supporting adolescent and youth health issues in the GCC states.

This reflects two principal levels of attention to adolescent and youth health: the first consists of the availability of essential health services, while the second relates to the existence of national essential regulations that constitute a supportive framework for protecting the health of this group and enhancing its access to healthcare and health services.

— **ONA**

WORLD ECONOMIC OUTLOOK REPORT

IMF projects global economic growth of 3.1% in 2026 and 3.4% in 2027

BANGKOK: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected global economic growth of 3.1 percent during 2026, compared with its July estimates of 3 percent, despite the ongoing conflict in the Middle East and rising energy costs, and at a rate lower than the growth recorded last year of 3.5 percent.

This came in the World Economic Outlook report issued yesterday, coinciding with the annual meetings of the Fund and the World Bank being held in the Thai capital, Bangkok.

The Fund projected global economic growth of 3.4 percent during 2027, unchanged from July estimates and up 0.2 percentage points compared with the forecasts issued last April.

It attributed the slight improvement in growth forecasts to continued strong investments in artificial intelligence infrastructure, which helped offset part of the negative effects of rising energy prices and drove an improvement in growth estimates for a number of advanced economies and countries participating in technology production chains.

It noted that South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico and Thailand have benefited from rising demand for devices and components used in developing artificial intelligence technologies, alongside advanced economies that develop platforms and infrastructure for this technology.

It also noted the widening gap between economies benefiting from artificial intelligence investments and countries that have not benefited from this boom, as only 32 countries have come to contrib-



ute about 95 percent of global economic growth, compared with 54 countries in April estimates.

It explained that downward revisions to growth forecasts “have become more widespread,” having lowered its estimates for about 47 percent of economies since the April forecasts were issued, including a number of energy-importing countries that do not participate in value chains linked to artificial intelligence.

With regard to global inflation, the Fund projected that the headline consumer price rate will reach 4.7 percent during 2026 before declining to 4.1 percent in 2027, with upward pressures on prices linked to the investment boom in artificial intelligence persisting.

On the public finance file, it warned that rising levels of public debt, particularly in advanced economies, increase the risks of sharp jumps in borrowing costs and threaten to weaken economic growth amid continued financial and geopolitical volatility.

— **ONA**

India's growth forecast at 7%

NEW DELHI: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected India's economy to grow by 7 per cent in both FY27 and FY28, even as it warned that the resilience of the global economy is becoming increasingly fragile amid higher energy and food prices and geopolitical uncertainty. “The global economy remains resilient, but that resilience is becoming more fragile and more uneven,” the IMF said in its October 2026 World Economic Outlook, projecting global growth at 3.1 per cent in 2026 and 3.4 per cent in 2027.

The Fund expects global inflation to rise to 4.7 per cent in 2026, driven largely by

higher energy and food prices, before easing to 4.1 per cent in 2027.

India remains among the fastest-growing major economies, with the IMF attributing its growth outlook to stronger-than-expected momentum, resilient domestic demand and robust services activity. The report projects India's growth at 7 per cent in both FY27 and FY28.

However, the global outlook remains uneven, with the impact of the energy shock differing across countries depending on their exposure to the conflict in the Middle East, commodity prices and the strength of technology-related investment. — **ANI**

MARKET

MSX Index ends lower

Sohar Power, up 10.00%, was the top gainer while, Dhofar Generating, down 5.06%, was the top loser in yesterday's trading session

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 7728.06 points, down by -0.97% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -0.86% at 634.11 points. Sohar Power, up 10.00%, was the top gainer while, Dhofar Generating, down 5.06%, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 18,329 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR48.71 million, with more than 161.65 million shares changing hands. Out of 63 traded securities, 14 advanced, 21 declined, and 28 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for OMR2,135,000 while foreign investors were net buyers for OMR1,305,000, followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR830,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 13,842.63 points, down -0.38%. Prices of Oman Arab Bank, Muscat Finance, Al Madina Takaful were up by 4.18%, 1.59%, 0.92% respectively. Prices of Oman & Emirates Investment, Sohar International Bank, Bank Muscat, Global Financial Investments, Oman United Insurance were down by 1.61%, 1.57%, 1.35%, 0.76%, 0.62% respectively.



Industrial Index closed at 10,098.41 points, down -0.54%. Prices of Construction Materials, National Detergent, Galfar Engineering, Jazeera Steel Products were up by 7.14%, 0.83%, 0.61%, 0.21% respectively. Prices of Oman Cement, Oman Refreshment, Gulf International Chemicals, Al Anwar Ceramics, Voltamp Energy were down by 2.33%, 2.22%, 1.39%, 1.33%, 0.54% respectively.

Services Index was down by -0.71% before closing at 3,045.80 points. Prices of Sohar Power, Muscat Desalination, Barka Desalination, Barka Desalination were up by 10.00%, 2.20%, 0.60%, 0.60% respectively. Prices of OQ Gas Networks, OQ Exploration & Production, Sembcorp Salalah, Oman National Engineering, Oman Telecom were down by 2.14%, 1.38%, 1.06%, 0.67%, 0.59% respectively. — **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	7,812.94	7,728.06	7,728.06	7,803.93	-75.87	-0.97%
FINANCIAL INDEX	13,904.48	13,840.33	13,842.63	13,894.88	-52.25	-0.38%
Industry Index	10,154.97	10,090.27	10,098.41	10,152.86	-54.46	-0.54%
Services Index	3,071.12	3,045.39	3,045.80	3,067.63	-21.83	-0.71%
MSX Shariah Index	640.05	634.11	634.11	639.63	-5.52	-0.86%
MSX TR INDEX	12,150.36	12,048.03	12,048.03	12,166.31	-118.29	-0.97%
FINANCIAL TR IDX	17,094.83	17,015.97	17,018.79	17,083.03	-64.24	-0.38%
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	13,005.94	12,923.07	12,933.50	13,003.24	-69.74	-0.54%
SERVICES TR IDX	4,240.04	4,204.51	4,205.07	4,235.21	-30.14	-0.71%
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
161,657,874	48,712,293	18,329	39,628,663,173	14	21	28	63

MSX DAILY BULLETIN AS ON 13/10/2026

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

OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	176,658	19,283	26	0.110	0.110	0.109	0.110	0.109	0.001	0.917	0.110	0.105	0.110	0.100	19,250,000
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	10,000	1,680	1	0.168	0.168	0.168	0.168	0.167	0.001	0.599	0.168	0.163	0.170	0.100	12,687,696
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	7,500	7,013	107	0.935	0.935	0.935	0.935	0.933	0.002	0.214	0.935	0.935	0.935	0.100	116,779,593
OM0000001455	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	7,500	3,750	100	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.000	0.000	0.500	0.497	0.500	0.100	81,000,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	32,282	13,236	4	0.410	0.410	0.410	0.410	0.410	0.000	0.000	0.410	0.401	0.415	0.100	460,370,105
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	7,500	25,838	101	3.445	3.445	3.445	3.445	3.445	0.000	0.000	3.445	3.445	3.445	0.100	309,018,500
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	13,623	7,085	5	0.520	0.521	0.520	0.520	0.520	0.000	0.000	0.520	0.521	0.525	0.100	26,178,036
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	13,100	1,153	3	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.000	0.000	0.088	0.088	0.086	0.100	31,339,202
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO.	13,000	1,326	3	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.000	0.000	0.102	0.096	0.108	0.100	9,180,000
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	268,300	59,753	1,215	0.224	0.224	0.221	0.223	0.223	0.000	0.000	0.223	0.225	0.223	0.100	677,875,073
OM0000002804	ASAFIA FOODS	11,801	8,290	11	0.700	0.700	0.697	0.700	0.700	0.000	0.000	0.700	0.680	0.700	0.100	84,000,000
OM0000003824	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	39,045	10,713	12	0.274	0.274	0.274	0.274	0.275	0.000	0.000	0.275	0.275	0.276	0.100	65,012,750
OM0000003968	OOBDOO	348,464	111,117	42	0.318	0.320	0.317	0.317	0.317	0.000	0.000	0.317	0.317	0.325	0.100	206,349,321
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	45,336	6,966	10	0.153	0.154	0.153	0.153	0.153	0.000	0.000	0.153	0.152	0.157	0.100	342,253,814
OM0000004825	ALBATAINAH POWER	197,900	37,490	15	0.199	0.200	0.198	0.200	0.200	0.000	0.000	0.200	0.199	0.200	0.100	134,977,486
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	198,500	39,652	12	0.200	0.200	0.199	0.200	0.200	0.000	0.000	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.100	142,881,268
OM0000006934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	516,178	227,379	1,270	0.442	0.443	0.439	0.441	0.442	0.001	0.226	0.441	0.444	0.441	0.100	539,658,200
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	12,022,939	2,528,706	387	0.208	0.215	0.202	0.212	0.213	0.001	0.469	0.212	0.212	0.213	0.100	316,071,510
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	206,855	38,289	22	0.186	0.186	0.185	0.185	0.186	0.001	0.538	0.185	0.185	0.186	0.010	185,000,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	7,265,750	9,854,875	159	1.358	1.359	1.350	1.350	1.358	0.008	0.589	1.350	1.350	1.223	0.100	1,012,500,000
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	17,500	5,600	4	0.320	0.320	0.320	0.320	0.322	0.002	0.621	0.320	0.321	0.320	0.100	33,600,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT'L ENGINEERING & INVEST	7,875	1,173	3	0.149	0.149	0.149	0.149	0.150	0.001	0.667	0.149	0.149	0.160	0.100	22,350,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	122,500	48,016	10	0.393	0.393	0.390	0.391	0.394	0.003	0.761	0.391	0.391	0.391	0.100	78,200,000
OM0000004735	SEMBOCORP SALALAH	142,823	40,339	21	0.283	0.285	0.280	0.280	0.283	0.003	1.060	0.280	0.280	0.285	0.100	267,280,146
OM0000001129	ADRAJ SHIPPING	967,087	271,090	1,963	0.282	0.282	0.276	0.277	0.280	0.003	1.204	0.277	0.280	0.287	0.000	1,182,384,952
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	13,124,609	5,805,710	2,448	0.444	0.445	0.438	0.438	0.444	0.006	1.351	0.438	0.438	0.438	0.100	3,287,801,913
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	8,168,825	4,134,030	293	0.509	0.509	0.501	0.501	0.508	0.007	1.378	0.501	0.501	0.500	0.010	4,008,000,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	63,937,853	12,135,435	3,106	0.191	0.192	0.188	0.188	0.191	0.003	1.571	0.188	0.187	0.188	0.100	1,443,088,067
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	10,000	1,220	3	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.124	0.002	1.613	0.122	0.122	0.127	0.100	15,612,188
OM0000008908	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	31,380,688	8,400,454	3,393	0.271	0.271	0.266	0.266	0.271	0.005	1.845	0.266	0.265	0.266	0.040	920,224,566
OM0000008072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	13,602,181	3,147,320	2,847	0.235	0.235	0.229	0.229	0.234	0.005	2.137	0.229	0.229	0.235	0.100	991,712,878
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	5,615	3,562	2	0.635	0.635	0.630	0.630	0.645	0.015	2.326	0.630	0.630	0.000	0.100	208,449,807
Total	32	152,879,787	46,951,512	17,571												

Parallel Market

OM0000003711	SOHAR POWER	12,435	2,736	14	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.200	0.020	10.000	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.100	4,400,000
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL INDUSTRIES	1,000	75	1	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.070	0.005	7.143	0.075	0.069	0.075	0.100	1,687,500
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	84,7794	253,041	113	0.289	0.300	0.289	0.289	0.287	0.012	4.181	0.299	0.291	0.310	0.100	622,779,629
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	201,663	19,002	24	0.091	0.095	0.091	0.093	0.091	0.002	2.198	0.093	0.093	0.096	0.100	14,466,187
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	20,843	1,334	3	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.063	0.001	1.587	0.064	0.064	0.069	0.100	19,657,365
OM0000003265	NATIONAL DETERGENT	1,500	915	2	0.610	0.610	0.610	0.610	0.605	0.005	0.826	0.610	0.000	0.635	0.100	12,200,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	147,367	18,048	23	0.122	0.123	0.122	0.123	0.122	0.001	0.820	0.123	0.123	0.123	0.100	10,455,000
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	54,920	9,044	14	0.163	0.165	0.163	0.164	0.163	0.001	0.613	0.164	0.164	0.179	0.100	33,289,777
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	12,400	1,699	5	0.137	0.137	0.137	0.137	0.137	0.000	0.000	0.137	0.137	0.147	0.100	13,565,000
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	10,040	813	2	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.000	0.000	0.081	0.079	0.082	0.100	3,481,100
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	1,130	88	2	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.000	0.080	0.058	0.080	0.100	15,000,000
OM0000005205	ALMAHA CERAMICS	18,948	5,835	3	0.294	0.294	0.294	0.294	0.294	0.000	0.000	0.294	0.294	0.294	0.100	16,170,000
OM0000008447	OMAN RETT FUND	37,725	3,924	6	0.105	0.105	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.000	0.000	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.100	87,538,873
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	874	157	2	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.000	0.000	0.180	0.176	0.180	0.100	106,458,658
OM0000009569	JABAL REIF	1,428	150	1	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.000	0.000	0.105	0.104	0.105	0.100	18,270,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	2,826,661	418,074	181	0.150	0.152	0.145	0.148	0.150	0.002	1.333	0.149	0.145	0.149	0.100	32,560,000
OM0000003028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	15,000	1,065	1	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.072	0.001	1.389	0.071	0.069	0.074	0.100	1,491,000
OM0000001151	OMIFCO	4,430,444	1,011,672	320	0.231	0.232	0.227	0.228	0.232	0.004	1.724	0.228	0.228	0.228	0.000	1,525,177,500
OM0000001426	OMAN REFRESHMENT	266	293	1	1.100	1.100	1.100	1.100	1.125	-0.025	2.222	1.100	1.013	0.000	0.100	55,000,000
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	59,949	4,551	12	0.079	0.079	0.075	0.075	0.079	-0.004	5.063	0.075	0.075	0.081	0.100	16,668,000
Total		20	8,705,287	1,752,494	730											


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French supermarkets targeted by massive defrost cyberattack

During the overnight attack, in some cases, fully-stocked fridges were heated up to 50 degrees Celsius (122 degrees Fahrenheit) for more than six hours

PARIS: Hundreds of French supermarkets were forced to throw away perishable goods on Monday after hackers commandeered refrigeration systems across the country, spoiling stock at major chains in a sophisticated overnight cyberattack.

Hackers destroyed the food by taking control of refrigeration systems at Cooperative U, Leclerc, Les Mousquetaires, and Intermarche stores across the country and then defrosting thousands of freezer and refrigeration units.

During the overnight attack, in some cases, fully-stocked fridges were heated up to 50 degrees Celsius (122 degrees Fahrenheit) for more than six hours.

Over 400 stores were hit according to retailers.

Intermarche said impacted

stores had no choice but to “throw away all fresh and frozen products.”

Leclerc told French news agency AFP that “a cyberattack affected one of its refrigeration equipment suppliers,” triggering “repercussions on the operation of refrigeration systems in several stores.”

A notice taped to an empty refrigerator at a French supermarket on October 12, 2026A notice taped to an empty refrigerator at a French supermarket on October 12, 2026

How were the refrigeration systems accessed?

The refrigeration systems targeted were reportedly from Danish supplier Danfoss, something suggested by Prime Minister Sebastian Lecornu’s office, which reportedly identified “a vulnerability in soft-



were supplied by a Danish company and has contacted the vendor.”

Danfoss said it was “aware of incidents in France affecting a limited number of refrigeration management systems,” adding that the units in question “were running outdated firmware.”

Danfoss said it had “long advised customers to keep supported systems updated with the latest firmware and to migrate legacy systems to current-generation solutions.”

Prime Minister Lecornu’s office has tasked the French cybersecurity agency ANSSI with investi-

gating the attack and is “liaising with its European counterparts, as other countries may be affected.”

“Security issues” were also reported in Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, with Dutch supermarket chain Ahold Delhaize saying it had taken refrigeration systems offline to protect them, though the company added that it saw no connection to the French attacks.

Attacks on food supply now ‘a reality’

It is currently unclear who could be responsible for the cyberattack, and no group or individual has yet claimed responsibility.

The incident comes amid growing concern over vulnerabilities related to industrial ransomware and cyberattacks by malign actors in general.

Last month, French President Emmanuel Macron — a strong supporter of Kyiv’s self-defense against Russia — ordered measures put in place to protect France’s critical infrastructure from Kremlin “hybrid attacks.”

Cooperative U CEO Dominique Schelcher, wrote on X: “Targeting equipment essential to the preservation of fresh products and to the food supply of the French people is extremely serious and is unprecedented. It is unacceptable.”

“Food security requires more attention at all levels,” wrote EU Food and Agriculture Commissioner Christophe Hansen on X, who condemned the attack, adding that the “exploitation of food” is now a “reality.” -**OW**

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

UNGA adopts pandemic declaration with 153 votes in favour

NEW YORK: The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a political declaration on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, with 153 countries voting in favour, three against and two abstaining, after objections from the United States and a few other countries prevented the text from being approved by consensus.

Argentina, Israel and the United States voted against the declaration, while New Zealand and Paraguay abstained.

The text was initially due to be approved by consensus at a high-level meeting on September 25. However, objections from the United States and a few other states blocked the move, pushing the issue back to the General Assembly for a vote.

The political declaration adopted on Monday, which is non-binding, calls for stronger national, regional and international cooperation on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, guided by science, equity and respect for human rights. It also welcomes the adoption last year of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Pandemic Agreement.

Highlighting the importance of international cooperation in tackling global health threats, Chile’s representative said that “no country, no matter how big it might be, or how prepared it might be, can alone address a threat that knows no borders.”

Welcoming the General Assembly’s adoption of the declaration, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the decision reflected a strong commitment by member states to work together on pandemic preparedness and response. “WHO welcomes this strong commitment by UN Member States to continue working together on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response,” Tedros said.

He also urged countries to translate their commitments into action, particularly by completing negotiations on the pathogen access and benefit-sharing system, known as PABS, which remains a key step towards the implementation of the WHO Pandemic Agreement.

“The world has come a long way since COVID-19. We urge countries to now fulfil the commitments they have made – especially to finalise negotiations on the Pathogen Access and Benefit Sharing system (PABS) annex, so the WHO Pandemic Agreement can be opened for signature, begin the process of ratification and enter into force as international law,” he said.

The Pandemic Agreement cannot be opened for signature until member states complete negotiations on the PABS annex, which would establish a system for sharing pathogen samples and genetic data, alongside arrangements for sharing the benefits arising from their use. -**ANI**

CONDOLENCES

Indian envoy to Saudi attends funeral of national killed in Riyadh attack

RIYADH: India’s Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Vipul, and Embassy officials attended the funeral service of Indian national Mohammed Yousef Ali, who lost his life in the recent Houthis attack on Riyadh airport, and conveyed condolences to the bereaved family while assuring them of continued support and assistance.

In a post on X on Monday, the Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia said, “Ambassador Mr. Vipul and Embassy officials joined the family and well-wishers at the funeral service of late Mr. Mohammed Yousef Ali, who unfortunately lost his life in the recent attack on Riyadh airport.”

“Ambassador conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul. He also assured the family of the Embassy’s continued support and assistance,” the Embassy added.

The development comes as the death toll from the October 10 attack on King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh rose to 13 after the Indian Embassy in Riyadh confirmed that an Indian national injured in the incident had died.

The Embassy had earlier said that one Indian national injured in the attack had died, while three others were in intensive care but stable. Two others were admitted to normal hospital wards, while



the remaining injured had been discharged.

The Embassy had also thanked Saudi authorities for providing medical care to the injured Indian nationals and assured the affected families of all possible assistance.

In a post on X on Monday, the Embassy said, “Further Update regarding Riyadh airport attack: - Our Embassy officials have visited all hospitals where Indian nationals injured in the attack have been admitted. As mentioned earlier, 1 Indian national unfortunately passed away today, 3 are in ICU but stable, 2 more are admitted in normal wards, while others have been discharged. - We thank the Saudi authorities for the medical care provided to the injured Indian nationals and assure the families that the Embassy will provide all possible support.”

Meanwhile, the Indian Embassy urged members of the Indian community residing in Saudi Arabia to abide by local rules and regulations.

In a post on X on Monday, the Embassy highlighted a warning issued by the General Directorate of Saudi Civil Defense, which stated, “Filming, publishing, or sharing information related to countering missiles and drones and their impact sites exposes you to legal liability.”

Separately, Ambassador Vipul met Abdulrahman Al-Rassi, Deputy Minister for International Multilateral Affairs and General Supervisor of the Economic and Development Affairs Deputyship at the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to discuss matters of mutual interest, with a focus on enhancing multilateral cooperation.

In a post on X on Tuesday, the Indian Embassy said, “Ambassador Mr Vipul met with H.E. Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Rassi, Deputy Minister for International Mul-

tilateral Affairs and General Supervisor of the Economic and Development Affairs Deputyship at @KSAmofaEN, today. They discussed matters of mutual interest, with focus on enhancing multilateral cooperation.”

Saudi Arabia’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs also shared details of the meeting in a post on Monday, stating, “His Excellency the Deputy Minister for Multilateral International Affairs and General Supervisor of the Ministry’s Agency for Economic Affairs and Development, Dr. Abdulrahman Al Russi, receives His Excellency the Ambassador of the Republic of India to the Kingdom, Mr Vipul, and they review topics of mutual interest.”

In another engagement, Ambassador Vipul led the Indian delegation at the 17th International Energy Forum Ministerial Meeting and the 25th WPC Energy Congress in Riyadh.

In a post on X on Monday, the Embassy said, “Ambassador Mr Vipul led the Indian delegation at the 17th International Energy Forum Ministerial Meeting @IEF Dialogue and the 25th WPC Energy Congress in Riyadh.”

It added, “Indian participation at the WPC Energy Congress is also marked by the presence of leading Indian companies, including EIL @EngineersIND and L&T @larsentoubro.” -**ANI**

40 EVENTS

Art, music and motorsport take centre stage in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI: From Frieze and Guggenheim to the Formula 1 Grand Prix and Liwa International Festival, Abu Dhabi gears up for a vibrant cultural and entertainment season.

The emirate has unveiled a packed events calendar featuring more than 40 cultural, sporting and entertainment attractions running through early 2027, with major highlights including the debut of Frieze Abu Dhabi, the opening of Guggenheim Abu Dhabi and the return of the Formula 1 Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

The season, announced by Experience Abu Dhabi on Tuesday, will feature a diverse programme of art exhibitions, cultural festivals, live music, international sporting events and family entertainment across the emirate.

Among the headline attractions are the Yasalam After-Race Concerts, featuring Lewis Capaldi, Imagine Dragons, The Chainsmokers and The Script, alongside performances by artists including Anyma, Tamer Hosny and Tamer Ashour.

The calendar also includes the return of UFC events during Abu



Dhabi Showdown Week, Culture Summit Abu Dhabi and the Liwa International Festival, alongside new cultural offerings aimed at strengthening the emirate’s position as a global destination for arts and entertainment.

Major cultural attractions

A key highlight is the opening of Guggenheim Abu Dhabi on December 11. Designed by the late Frank Gehry, the museum on Saadiyat Island will focus on modern and contemporary art, adding to the growing collection of cultural institutions in Saadiyat Cultural District.

The Public Art Abu Dhabi Biennial will open in Al Ain Region on October 23, followed by Abu



Dhabi on November 15. Featuring new commissions, the biennial will bring contemporary art into public spaces across the emirate, with works remaining on display into 2027.

Culture Summit Abu Dhabi will take place from December 8 to 10 at Manarat Al Saadiyat and across Saadiyat Cultural District. Under the theme ‘Towards a Reimagined Commons’, the summit will bring together cultural leaders, artists, policymakers and thinkers to explore how culture can shape shared spaces, memories and futures.

The emirate will also host several major art and heritage events. The Traditional Handicrafts Festival, running from October 23 to November 11, will showcase Emi-

rati craftsmanship through live demonstrations, artisan displays and a cultural market.

NOMAD Abu Dhabi, an international art and design fair, will take place from November 18 to 22 at Terminal 1 of the Old Abu Dhabi Airport, bringing together collectors, curators and cultural leaders.

Frieze Abu Dhabi will make its debut at Manarat Al Saadiyat from November 19 to 22. Building on the legacy of Abu Dhabi Art, the fair will connect the emirate’s art scene with Frieze’s international network of galleries, artists and collectors.

The Maritime Heritage Festival will return to the Corniche from November 20 to 29, celebrating the emirate’s fishing, pearl-diving and seafaring traditions through performances, storytelling, artisan demonstrations and coastal cuisine.

Al Hosn Festival, scheduled for January 15 to 30, 2027, will celebrate Emirati heritage, crafts and local flavours at Al Hosn Cultural Site.

Formula 1 and international sporting action

Sport and entertainment will take centre stage during Abu Dhabi Showdown Week, with UFC re-

turning to the emirate in October.

At Etihad Arena, featherweight champion Alexander Volkanovski is scheduled to defend his title against Movsar Evloev, while Petr Yan will face Merab Dvalishvili in a trilogy bout on October 24. The programme will also include open workouts, weigh-ins and fan activities across the city.

The Formula 1 Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix will run from December 3 to 6 on Yas Island, bringing international motorsport fans to the emirate for the season finale and a series of major live performances.

The Yasalam After-Race Concerts will feature Lewis Capaldi, Imagine Dragons, The Chainsmokers and The Script. Anyma is scheduled to headline the official after-party on December 4, with further announcements expected.

The Liwa International Festival will bring motorsports, adventure activities, music and family entertainment to the Al Dhafra desert around Tal Moreeb, the UAE’s tallest dune at 300 metres. Liwa Village will also return with a marketplace, traditional performances and family activities.

Music, comedy and family entertainment

Saadiyat Nights will return for its fourth season, welcoming internationally acclaimed musicians to the island’s open-air amphitheatre for a series of concerts.

Abu Dhabi Comedy Season will bring international comedians to Etihad Arena on Yas Island from October. The announced line-up includes Russell Peters, Morgan Jay, Mo Amer and Maz Jobrani, with additional performers to be announced. The Mother of the Nation Festival will also return with family activities, international cuisine, live entertainment and art installations across Abu Dhabi, Al Ain Region and Al Dhafra Region. Previous editions have featured interactive workshops, outdoor cinema and inflatable attractions, alongside food concepts from regional and international vendors. The calendar also marks anniversaries for several cultural institutions. Al Ain Museum, which first opened in 1969, continues to showcase the history and heritage of the region, including archaeological discoveries and exhibits on the traditional falaj irrigation system. -**WAM**



LIFESTYLE

CHINESE SCIENTISTS
DEVELOP ULTRA-PRECISE
NUCLEAR CLOCK

Solid-state nuclear clocks offer potential advantages in both miniaturisation and engineering design

Chinese scientists have developed a nuclear clock that has achieved stable operation, a step that shifts ultra-precise time measurement from reliance on electron transitions within atoms to transitions within atomic nuclei.

Solid-state nuclear clocks possess potential advantages in both miniaturisation and engineering design. They are expected to meet the requirements for high-precision time and frequency measurement in applications including satellite navigation and



deep space exploration. The Xinhua News Agency reported that the new nuclear clock uses lasers to stimulate precise transitions in energy levels within the nucleus of the thorium-229 atom, a special radioactive isotope, adopting the frequency of these nuclear transitions as a time reference.

It added that the researchers built the device domestically using a continuous-wave vacuum ultraviolet laser with a wavelength of 148 nanometres and a calcium fluoride crystal doped with thorium-229. Hui Zhai, Chair of the Department of Physics at Tsinghua University and a professor at the Institute for Advanced Study, said the new clock is expected to set a new standard for the next generation of time and frequency measurement technologies, and to represent a significant breakthrough in the field of precision quantum measurement. - ONA

Shanghai Masters: Zizou Bergs scripts biggest career win against Alcaraz

Ranked No. 39 in the PIF ATP Rankings, Bergs stunned the World No. 3 with a 7-5, 7-6(4) victory inside the Qizhong Forest Sports City Arena

SHANGHAI: Zizou Bergs pulled off a major upset at the Shanghai Masters on Monday, defeating second seed Carlos Alcaraz in straight sets to secure a place in the fourth



round of the ATP Masters 1000 tournament. Ranked No. 39 in the PIF ATP Rankings, Bergs stunned the World No. 3 with a 7-5, 7-6(4) victory inside the Qizhong Forest Sports City Arena. Delivering an impressive all-round performance, the Belgian capitalised on the fast court conditions and broke Alcaraz's serve three times to register the biggest win of his career in terms of ATP ranking.

"This is something that has been very tough for me. I often have too much respect for these guys, which is part of my culture and I'm proud of that. But it gets a little bit in the way when you have to play them. I had a great moment here last year against [Novak] Djokovic where I was definitely playing the name, not the guy," Bergs said, when asked about getting a win against one of the biggest stars on the ATP

Tour. "The more experience you have practising against them and playing matches, the more it becomes the new standard a little bit. To have this moment, for me it is a little bit of a relief. I feel like now I really can win against these guys. Not just that I can play against them, but I can win against them," he added.

With his two-hour, three-minute victory against Alcaraz, Bergs simultaneously ensured that Alexander Zverev will finish 2026 with ATP Year-End No. 1 presented by PIF honours. Zverev, who is the current World No. 2, will become the first German to finish as year-end No. 1.

Having reached his first Masters 1000 quarter-final in Shanghai a year ago, Bergs will bid to equal that run when he takes on Tommy Paul in this year's fourth round.

ODI SERIES

Jos Buttler undergoes successful hamstring surgery, vows strong comeback

LONDON: Jos Buttler has vowed to return to full fitness with greater determination after undergoing surgery on his left hamstring, which he injured while batting during England's ODI series against Sri Lanka last month.

The 36-year-old sustained the injury during England's defeat in the second ODI at Headingley on September 24. He initially retired hurt before briefly returning to the crease.

Buttler had already been ruled out of England's upcoming tri-series in Pakistan, with the squad set to depart later this week. He is also likely to miss England's white-ball tour of Australia in November, with the squad for the series scheduled to be announced on Tuesday morning.

Buttler revealed in an Instagram post on Monday that he had undergone surgery, sharing a picture of himself giving a thumbs-up from his hospital bed, with his left leg secured in a brace. "Successful [sic] surgery and on the road to recovery," he added. "Feeling more motivated than ever!"

Buttler's injury has brought an untimely end to an impressive run of form for England's former white-ball captain and two-time



World Cup winner. After a difficult T20 World Cup campaign in India earlier this year, where he managed just 87 runs as England reached the semi-finals, Buttler bounced back strongly, scoring 466 runs across his next nine white-ball internationals.

His resurgence included a blistering 69 off 49 balls, featuring five sixes, in the innings during

which he sustained the hamstring injury.

On Monday, Buttler and fellow England white-ball veteran Adil Rashid were handed one-year contract extensions by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB). The extensions mean Buttler's current deal is set to expire before the start of next year's 50-over World Cup in South Africa.

ICC CODE OF CONDUCT

Powell, Rutherford handed ICC reprimands after second T20I against India

NEW DELHI: Rovman Powell and Sherfane Rutherford of the West Indies have been handed official reprimands for breaching Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct during the second Men's T20I against India in Ranchi on Friday, as per the ICC website.

Powell was found to have breached Article 2.2 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to "abuse of cricket equipment or clothing, ground equipment or fixtures and fittings during an International Match", and Rutherford was found to have breached Article 2.8, which relates to "showing dissent at an Umpire's decision during an International Match."

In addition to this, one demerit point has been added to the disciplinary records of the players, for both of whom it was the first offence in a 24-month period.

In the sixth over of the West Indies innings, Powell - after being dismissed bowled by Mayank



Yadav - hit the ball away with his bat, constituting a breach. Rutherford's offence came in the 13th over, when he yelled aggressively at the umpire after a delivery he believed was wide was ruled to be legitimate.

Both players admitted their offences and accepted the sanctions proposed by Prakash Bhatt of the Emirates ICC International Panel

of Match Referees, so there was no need for formal hearings. On-field umpires Jayaraman Madanagopal and Rohan Pandit, third umpire Nitin Menon and fourth umpire Virender Sharma levelled the charges.

Level 1 breaches carry a minimum penalty of an official reprimand, a maximum penalty of 50 per cent of a player's match fee, and one or two demerit points.

ENGLAND AND WALES CRICKET BOARD



ECB announces England Men's Central Contracts for 2026/27; seven players earn first-time deals

LONDON: The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has confirmed the revised central contract list and coaching structure for England Men's international cricket. The expanded list features 30 players on central contracts, alongside nine players awarded England Development contracts for the 2026/27 season. This marks an increase from the 2025/26 list, which included 30 contracted players in total, as per the ECB website.

Tom Banton, Sam Cook, Jordan Cox, Henry Crocombe, Emilio Gay, Matt Fisher and Dan Lawrence have earned Central Contracts for the first time. Ollie Robinson has also returned to the list, having previously held Central Contracts in 2022 and 2023. Fisher previous-

ly held an England Development Contract in 2023 and a Pace Bowling Contract in 2022.

Sonny Baker has been upgraded to a two-year contract, while Jordan Cox and Henry Crocombe have also secured two-year Central Contracts for the first time. A total of 11 players are now on two-year contracts.

James Coles, Mason Crane, Ben McKinney, Liam Patterson-White, Thomas Rew and Matthew Revis have been awarded their first England Development contracts. Crane's selection comes in the same week he is set to join an England squad for the first time in more than eight years.

Rew, who captained the Young Lions to the ICC Men's Under-19 World Cup final earlier this year,

is the youngest player on the list at just 18.

Nine players who were contracted last year have signed extensions, taking their deals through to September 2028. They are Jofra Archer, Gus Atkinson, Sonny Baker, Jacob Bethell, Harry Brook, Sam Curran, Will Jacks, Joe Root and Josh Tongue.

Meanwhile, Jos Buttler, Brydon Carse, Ben Duckett, Adil Rashid and Jamie Smith are entering the second year of their existing two-year contracts, which run until the end of England's 2027 home summer.

England central contracts

Two-year contracts: Jofra Archer, Gus Atkinson, Sonny Baker, Jacob Bethell, Jordan Cox, Henry Crocombe, Sam Curran, Will

Jacks, Joe Root, Josh Tongue (to 30 September 2028).

One-year contracts: Rehan Ahmed, Tom Banton, Shoaib Bashir, Jos Buttler, Brydon Carse, Sam Cook, Liam Dawson, Ben Duckett, Matthew Fisher, Emilio Gay, Dan Lawrence, Saqib Mahmood, Jamie Overton, Ollie Pope, Matthew Potts, Adil Rashid, Ollie Robinson, Phil Salt, Jamie Smith (to 30 September 2027).

Development contracts: James Coles, Mason Crane, Josh Hull, Eddie Jack, Ben McKinney, Liam Patterson-White, Thomas Rew, Matthew Revis, Mitchell Stanley (to 30 September 2027).

No longer contracted: Zak Crawley, Tom Lawes (development), Ben Stokes (retired), Luke Wood, Mark Wood (retired).

FOOTBALL

Diego Simeone looks for balance ahead of Man Utd Champions League clash



MADRID: Atletico Madrid coach Diego Simeone is looking for balance ahead of his side's Champions League tie at home to Manchester United on Tuesday night.

"We know how difficult this competition is, as the format (with only the top eight teams in a group of 32 qualifying directly for the last-16) means you have to try to pick up points whether you're home or away," said Simeone in his pre-game press conference. "Balance, in defence or attack, is the key and that has always been our strength," he continued, add-

ing that when the "team works together, great things start to happen." The Argentinean explained that although Manchester United is struggling for form in the Premier League, the side is still "an opponent that applies high pressure in your own half, closing you down quickly."

"They have quick players, and despite recent results, they are a strong team and able to threaten you. We need to steer the match in a direction where we think we can hurt them," commented Simeone.

IN PICTURES



CONSTRUCTION SITE OF THE MIAOJIALIANG GRAND BRIDGE IN CHINA: An aerial drone photo shows the construction site of the Miaojialiang grand bridge in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality. Located in Chengkou County of Chongqing, the 941.6-metre-long Miaojialiang grand bridge, a key project along the Xi'an-Chongqing high-speed railway, was successfully closed here. — Xinhua



ANNUAL HALLOWEEN-THEMED EVENT HELD IN VANCOUVER: People attend the Fright Nights 2026 at the Pacific National Exhibition's Playland in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. — Xinhua



HIGHLIGHT OF COPENHAGEN'S ANNUAL CULTURE NIGHT: Visitors explore the old reading room of the Royal Danish Library during Culture Night 2026 in Copenhagen, Denmark. Copenhagen's annual Culture Night, launched in 1993, took place here with museums, libraries and public institutions opening their doors, offering visitors tours, performances and family activities across Copenhagen. — Xinhua



Jaipur Fashion Show: Where Tradition Meets Modern Style: Fashion models showcase the blend of traditional Indian textiles and contemporary fashion on the ramp during the Fashion Connect Season 24 at Fairmont, in Jaipur. — ANI Photo



NEW AIR ROUTE LAUNCHED BETWEEN CHINA, ETHIOPIA: A flight operated by China Southern Airlines is welcomed by a traditional water cannon salute at Addis Ababa Bole International Airport in Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia. A China Southern Airlines flight landed in Ethiopia, marking the successful inaugural flight of a new and only air route operated by a Chinese carrier between China and Ethiopia. — Xinhua

ROUND-UP

Saud Bahwan Automotive launches the all-new Toyota Hilux - Tough Gets Tougher

The launch brought together distinguished guests, valued partners and automotive enthusiasts from across Oman, make it a memorable celebration of capability and engineering craftsmanship

MUSCAT: Saud Bahwan Automotive has launched the all-new Toyota Hilux in Oman, taking legendary toughness to the next level as Tough Gets Tougher & More Agile. From everyday journeys and city streets to open roads and weekend adventures, it delivers the confidence, capability and versatility to take on whatever comes next. Offered in Gasoline 4WD and Diesel 4WD variants, it carries forward the strength, durability and reliability that have made the Hilux a trusted name across Oman, while introducing greater agility and capability for whatever the journey demands. The launch brought together distinguished guests, valued partners and automotive enthusiasts from across Oman, make it a memorable celebration of capability and engineering craftsmanship. Keeping every journey and every application in mind, the launch of the all-new Toyota Hilux was conducted exclusively as two dedicated events, one for fleet and one for retail, both held at the InterContinental Hotel, Muscat.

The fleet event on 6th October was reserved for Saud Bahwan Automotive's valued fleet partners, while the retail event on 7th October welcomed customers and automotive enthusiasts from across Oman. This approach allowed each audience to experience the all-new Hilux in the context that matters most to them, from business and



commercial use to everyday and leisure driving. The two events reflected the spirit of a vehicle built for both work and leisure. A choice of refined diesel and gasoline engines delivers the power to match every application, while the Cyber SUMO design and a more connected, driver-focused cabin keep

the Hilux comfortable long after the workday ends. The new Hilux shows that a work truck can offer more than just work capability. First introduced in 1968 and now trusted across more than 190 countries and regions, the Hilux has built an unshakeable reputation for quality, durability, reliability and go-anywhere capability.

The latest generation carries that legacy forward, advancing performance, style and functionality to confidently embrace the future with a stiffer frame, a more capable range of engines and an expanded suite of safety and connected technologies. "For decades, the Hilux has been an integral part of Oman's motor-

ing heritage. This next-generation model honors that trust by elevating every benchmark from structural strength and off-road intelligence to driver comfort and safety technology. Whether serving as a dependable business partner or a weekend adventure vehicle, it delivers complete peace of mind, backed by our nationwide sales and service network." — A senior representative from Saud Bahwan Automotive said.

A bolder stance, inside and out
The new Hilux's exterior draws on the stable, powerful stance of sumo wrestlers. Sculpted fender covers, an authoritative radiator grille and a wide bumper layout come together to form a tough, agile silhouette. Inside, a spacious, open cabin layout and a bold, straight console deliver the functionality drivers need for confident handling. A horizontal instrument panel and an independently positioned center display keep the layout clean, while driving-related switches are grouped at the base of the console for easy reach. Measuring 5320 mm long, 1855 mm wide and 1795 mm tall, the new Hilux separates its deck space from the cabin for easy loading of gear or tools. A flat load floor, payload capacity of up to 500 kg, an 845 mm tailgate load height and newly added deck steps on both rear quarter panels

make loading and unloading easier. **A choice of engines built for the task**

The new Hilux arrives in Oman with a choice of three proven engines. The 1GD-FTV 2.8-litre turbo diesel produces 201 HP with up to 500 Nm of torque, the 1GR-FE 4.0-litre gasoline delivers 235 HP and 376 Nm and the 2TR-FE 2.7-litre gasoline offers 164 HP and 245 Nm for efficient, everyday performance. Paired with a six-speed automatic transmission (6 Super ECT), it achieves fuel efficiency and powerful acceleration during takeoff while also ensuring a quiet ride. Underneath, the signature ladder-frame architecture is enhanced through the IMV platform with a thicker frame side rail and 36 additional spot welds for greater rigidity and a quieter cabin. Multi-Terrain Select offers six modes — Auto, Dirt, Sand, Mud, Deep Snow and Rock — while Multi-Terrain Monitor uses four cameras to help drivers check their surroundings. Drive Mode Select (Normal, ECO, Sport) optimizes the powertrain, chassis and climate control together. Electric Power Steering keeps handling responsive on and off road and an Electric Parking Brake adds a stop-hold function to Radar Cruise Control for easier long drives. Toyota Safety Sense brings Pre-Collision System that can detect vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists and oncoming traffic. A 12.3-inch HD Display Audio Plus system, customizable TFT meter and Panoramic View Monitor keep drivers informed and connected. The all-new Toyota Hilux is available in Gasoline 4WD and Diesel 4WD grades for viewing and test drives at Saud Bahwan Automotive showrooms across Oman. Customers can choose from a range of colors to suit every taste and lifestyle, including Platinum White Pearl Mica, Super White, Attitude Black Mica, Ash, Silver Metallic, Sulfur Metallic and Emotional Red. For the latest Press Releases, Test Drive requests and more, please visit www.toyotaoman.com, www.youtube.com/toyotaoman, www.facebook.com/toyotaoman, [@toyotaoman](https://www.instagram.com/toyotaomanofficial/) on Snapchat and [instagram.com/toyotaomanofficial/](https://www.instagram.com/toyotaomanofficial/). For any further details & to ascertain availability of stocks, please visit your nearest Toyota Showroom.

INTEGRATED ENERGY SERVICES PROVIDER

ABRAJ Energy Services strengthens its in-country value by developing Omani talent and expanding local supply chains

MUSCAT: ABRAJ Energy Services (ABRAJ), Oman's leading provider of integrated energy services, continued to strengthen its In-Country Value (ICV) contributions during the first half of 2026. This performance was driven by increased spending across domestic procurement and service contracts, sustained investment in upskilling Omani talent, broader engagement with national vendors, and targeted support for localizing specialized manufacturing within the energy sector. For ABRAJ, In-Country Value represents a comprehensive institutional commitment extending beyond conventional spending and Omanization targets. The company's integrated approach emphasizes human capital development, active participation of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurs, supply chain resilience, and the transfer of technical expertise and local manufacturing capabilities. This framework delivers long-term economic value and reinforces the national energy ecosystem in direct alignment with Oman Vision 2040.

Local procurement and supply chain development
During H1 2026, ABRAJ directed 70% of its total procurement expenditure into the domestic market, representing OMR26.5 million out of a total spend of OMR37.7 million. Small and medium enter-



prises, local service providers, and Riyada card holders accounted for 30% of total expenditure, totalling approximately OMR11.5 million. Meanwhile, locally registered suppliers represented 40% of the total, equivalent to OMR 15.1 million. Procurement allocated to products manufactured within the Sultanate of Oman reached 11% of total

expenditure, valued at OMR4.1 million, underscoring ABRAJ's strategic focus on prioritising national products and strengthening partnerships with domestic suppliers. **Investment in national talent**
ABRAJ continues to prioritise human capital as the vital en-

gine driving operational sustainability and fulfilling the evolving requirements of the energy industry. Throughout the first half of 2026, the company maintained an Omanisation rate of 93.21%, employing 2,265 Omani professionals. Over the same period, ABRAJ delivered 36,861 training hours

dedicated to the national workforce. Its graduate and professional development programmes supported 78 trainees, while the second cohort of the "Forsa" summer internship program welcomed 60 participants, enabling young talent to build practical technical skills for future careers in the sector.

Localising specialised industry solutions
To advance domestic industrial capabilities, ABRAJ advanced key initiatives to localize the production of specialized materials essential for well stimulation and hydraulic fracturing, specifically fracturing proppants. These localization efforts enhance supply chain security, reduce reliance on imports, integrate Omani manufacturers into the upstream energy value chain, and significantly boost the domestic economic footprint. Saif Al Hamhami, Chief Executive Officer of ABRAJ Energy Services, said: "As we mark 20 years of operational excellence, In-Country Value remains a fundamental pillar of our strategy to deliver sustainable economic returns for the Sultanate of Oman. Our continuous investment in Omani professionals, our partnerships with local enterprises and entrepreneurs, and our commitment to domestic manufacturing form a tangible roadmap for industrial resilience. This commitment reinforces our role as a national champion dedicated to advancing economic diversification and fulfilling the goals of Oman Vision 2040." ABRAJ Energy Services remains committed to leading high-impact ICV initiatives, enhancing business competitiveness, and fostering an integrated, sustainable energy sector that strengthens Oman's regional leadership.



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