

Times

GOLDEN JUBILEE

OF OMAN



51

YEARS OF
LEGACY

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HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN ACCORDED OFFICIAL RECEPTION CEREMONY AT WINDSOR CASTLE

His Majesty King Charles III welcomed His Majesty the Sultan, expressing the utmost pride in this gracious visit, which affirms the depth of the firmly rooted historical relations between the two friendly countries

WINDSOR: An official reception ceremony was held in honour of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, at Windsor Castle yesterday on the occasion of His Majesty's state visit to the friendly United Kingdom (UK).

Ahead of the official reception ceremony, His Royal Highness Prince William of Wales greeted His Majesty the Sultan at His Majesty's residence. Prince of Wales expressed his delight at this gracious visit.

The royal procession, accompanied by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, then proceeded to Datchet road, where a squadron of British Royal Cavalcade lined both sides of the road in welcome of the auspicious arrival of His Majesty the Sultan.

Upon the arrival of the royal procession at the Dais of Honour, His Majesty King Charles III of the United Kingdom and Her Majesty Queen Camilla stood at the forefront of those receiving His Majesty the Sultan.

His Majesty King Charles III welcomed His Majesty the Sultan, expressing the utmost pride in this gracious visit, which affirms the depth of the firmly rooted historical



relations between the two friendly countries and the close bonds that unite them. He wished His Majesty the Sultan and his accompanying delegation a visit crowned with success and prosperity.

In welcome of His Majesty the Sultan, the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery fired forty-one-gun salute from the inner courtyard of Windsor Castle, while the Honourable Artillery Company fired forty-one-gun salute.

His Majesty the Sultan then shook hands with senior British officials receiving him, namely Andrew Try, Lord-Lieutenant of His Majesty the King in the Royal County of Berkshire; Councillor Sian Martin, Mayor of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and a number of British officials.

The Royal Horse Guards then

rendered the royal salute to His Majesty the Sultan, and the Omani Royal Anthem was played.

Thereafter, Lord Ashton of Hyde, Master of the Horse, accompanied His Majesty the Sultan and His Majesty King Charles III to the principal royal carriage, while members of the official delegation boarded the carriages designated for them. Then, the royal procession set off in a celebratory march toward Windsor Castle.

Upon the arrival of the royal carriage at the outer courtyard of Windsor Castle, a number of Omani students in the United Kingdom lined up, expressing their joy at the visit of His Majesty the Sultan.

As the principal royal carriage entered Windsor Castle, the Guard of Honour rendered the royal salute, and the Omani Royal Anthem



and the British Royal Anthem were played.

His Majesty the Sultan then inspected the Guard of Honour, accompanied by His Majesty the King. The two monarchs witnessed military parade formations staged by the Royal Horse Artillery and the King's Life Guard.

A reception was also held for His Majesty the Sultan at Windsor Castle, where His Majesty shook hands with His Royal Highness Prince Richard, Duke of Gloucester and His Royal Highness Prince Edward and his spouse Her Royal Highness Princess Sophie, Duchess of Edinburgh.

His Majesty the King then shook hands with members of the official delegation accompanying His Majesty the Sultan. -ONA

See also >A4, A6

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Child population in Oman reaches 1.5mn

1 The total number of children in Oman, aged 0-17, reached 1.5mn in 2025. Omani children accounted for 84% of the total, while the gender ratio among Omani children stood at 104 males per 100 females. >A5



OMAN Oman, Spain discuss organ donation system

2 Oman and Spain discussed ways to develop organ donation services in Oman following brain death. >A3

WORLD Japanese spacecraft begins Mars journey

3 A Japanese spacecraft successfully set off on a journey to one of Mars' moons on Monday. >B4

EXTRAORDINARY EXPEDITION

60-year-old Indian biker reaches Oman after 39,000km journey across 38 countries

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A 60-year-old motorcyclist from Karnataka state of India has reached Oman after travelling approximately 39,000 kilometres across 38 countries on a Royal Enfield Super Meteor 650, completing an extraordinary international expedition spanning Asia, Europe and the Gulf.

Sharath Kumar Ozias Gabriel, an entrepreneur from Mangaluru, undertook the journey under the banner of the Great Overland Expedition, which began in his hometown on May 31, 2026.

The Embassy of India in Muscat acknowledged Gabriel's achieve-



ment, noting that he had braved temperatures ranging from -10°C to 53°C during the journey.

Beyond the adventure, the expedition aimed to promote healthy living, physical fitness

and active ageing, highlighting that age need not be a barrier to pursuing ambitious goals.

Gabriel's latest journey builds on his earlier international motorcycling experience.

In 2024, he completed a ride through Gulf countries while spreading the message "Say No to Drugs".

During the expedition, he carried both the Indian national flag and the Tulunadu flag, reflecting his national pride and connection to his cultural roots.

Oman was planned as the final destination of the long-distance ride, with his motorcycle to be shipped back to India after the expedition.

His arrival in Muscat marks the culmination of a journey that combined adventure, endurance and a message encouraging people to remain active and pursue their ambitions regardless of age.

The expedition also highlighted the challenges of long-distance motorcycling, requiring him to navigate diverse terrains, changing weather conditions and the demands of travelling across multiple international borders.

His arrival in Oman marks a significant milestone in his journey, which sought to combine a passion for exploration with a wider message on fitness, perseverance and active ageing.

COMMENTARY

Youth in Mind: Oman Makers Centre: A hub for Nurturing Innovators and Entrepreneurs

Every innovation begins with an idea. But an idea alone does not create a product, launch a business, or generate an economic opportunity. Between imagination and the marketplace lies a journey of designing, experimenting, prototyping, testing, refining, and eventually manufacturing. For young entrepreneurs and innovators, that journey can be challenging. Access to specialised equipment, technical expertise, materials, and suitable spaces for experimentation may not always be within their reach.

This is where Oman Makers Centre plays an important role as an environment where ideas can be explored, tested, developed, and transformed into tangible products.

The Centre aims to build a community of makers while empowering young innovators and entrepreneurs to move from concept to prototype, prototype to product, and product to business. Its significance lies in connecting innovation with entrepreneurship and helping young people see their ideas not only as creative solutions, but also as potential economic opportunities that can create jobs and contribute to Oman's innovation ecosystem. With facilities covering 3D printing, wood and metal prototyping, and advanced technologies, alongside training and technical support, Oman Makers Centre offers young people an opportunity to learn by doing, to turn imagination into



something they can build, touch, test, and improve. To explore the Centre's vision, its role in supporting young entrepreneurs, and how it is helping transform Omani ideas into products and businesses. I spoke with Dr. Mulkie Alhashemi, Director of Oman Makers Centre. The conversation set the stage for her to shed light on how the Center is helping shape a new generation of Omani makers, innovators, and entrepreneurs. Our talk delved into the following directions:

Why is Oman Makers Centre important for young entrepreneurs?
Oman Makers Centre gives young entrepreneurs a place where they can turn ideas into



reality. Instead of allowing an innovative idea to remain on paper, young people can design, experiment, build prototypes, test them, and improve them before making significant investments in commercial production.

How does the Centre help a young person move from an idea to a product?
The Centre supports the journey from idea to design, prototype, testing, development, and eventually manufacturing. It provides access to equipment, materials, technical support, and training, enabling young innovators to take practical steps towards creating products that have the potential to enter the market.

Why is prototyping such an important stage for young entrepreneurs?
A prototype allows an entrepreneur to test whether an idea actually works before committing significant resources to production. It helps iden-



tify weaknesses, improve the design, and make necessary changes before taking the product to the market.

In this way, prototyping reduces uncertainty and helps entrepreneurs make better decisions.

What facilities and technologies are available to young innovators?
The Centre has four main units covering Rapid prototyping unit, wood shop, metal shop, and advanced technologies unit. These facilities allow young entrepreneurs to develop a wide range of products, including plastic, metal, and wooden products, as well as technology-based solutions.

Does the Centre provide equipment only, or does it also provide guidance and support?
The Centre goes beyond providing equipment. It offers training, technical assistance, and guidance on how to use the available

technologies and develop products. This is particularly valuable for young entrepreneurs who may have a promising idea but lack access to expensive equipment, technical expertise, or the knowledge needed to develop their ideas further.

How does the Centre help connect innovation with real business opportunities?
The Centre works to connect innovators and incubated companies with the industrial sector and industrial cities. This gives entrepreneurs an opportunity to understand real market and industry needs and develop products and services that respond to those needs. Such connections can help move innovations beyond the prototype stage and towards commercial applications.

What can a young entrepreneur gain from Oman Makers Centre?
The ultimate goal is not simply to create a prototype, but to help young people turn innovation into an economic opportunity. The journey can begin with an idea, develop into a product, and eventually become a business capable of creating employment opportunities for the entrepreneur and others. In this sense, Oman Makers Centre serves as a bridge between innovation and entrepreneurship helping young people move from "I have an idea" to "I have a product," and ultimately to "I have a business".

My message to every young innovator and entrepreneur is simple: do not let your idea remain only an idea. If you have a solution, a design, or even a small idea that you believe can make a difference, come and explore what Oman Makers Centre can offer. You do not need to have everything figured out before you begin. We can help you take the first step, to develop your idea, build a prototype, test it, improve it, and explore its potential for commercialization. We want to see more ideas that are born in Oman, developed in Oman, manufactured in Oman, and eventually reach the market through Omani capabilities. The journey of innovation is not always straightforward. It requires curiosity, experimentation, persistence, and a willingness to learn from failure and improve. What matters is having the courage to begin. So, bring us your idea. Let us help you turn it into something real.

As we conclude, allow me to thank you and extend my appreciation to the entire editorial team at the Times of Oman. We deeply appreciate your dedicated efforts to keep readers informed and connected with current developments, while empowering our youth to seize the valuable opportunities provided by our government to showcase their talents

An Omani writer focusing on youth development and cultural issues. Can be reached through

DUQM UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Work-based learning system launched to meet market needs

DUQM: Duqm University College organised on Tuesday at the Special Economic Zone at Duqm a partnership forum with work sectors under the title "Work-Based Learning," aiming to enhance cooperation between academic institutions and economic and industrial sectors, and to introduce an innovative educational model linking academic study with practical application in actual work environments.

The organisation of the forum coincides with the launch of operations at Duqm University College, which is the first higher education institution in Al Wusta Governorate, in a step aimed at supporting the higher education system in the region, preparing qualified national competencies to meet job mar-



ket needs, and keeping pace with the accelerated economic and investment growth witnessed in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm. The forum highlighted the work-based learning model adopted by the college as one of the leading educational models, and the first of its kind at the level of the GCC

countries in bachelor's degree programmes that adopt training and learning within actual work environments as the primary path of study, alongside academic education within the campus. This model aims to develop an integrated educational system in partnership with institutions and

companies operating across various economic sectors, enabling students to acquire professional experiences during their study period, apply theoretical knowledge in addressing practical challenges, develop innovation and problem-solving skills, and enhance their readiness to enter the job market after graduation. The forum sought to strengthen the partnership between the college and public and private sector institutions, explore cooperation opportunities in providing educational and training environments for students, and link academic programs to the actual needs of economic sectors, particularly the industrial, logistical, and service sectors witnessing continuous growth in the Special

Economic Zone at Duqm. In its first phase, Duqm University College is offering two academic programs in partnership with Coventry University in the United Kingdom: a Bachelor of Science with Honours in Digital and Technology Solutions, and a Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Business Administration and Leadership, as part of its endeavor to provide specializations compatible with the requirements of economic development, technological transformations, and job market needs. The establishment of Duqm University College constitutes a qualitative addition to the system of educational services in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, in light of the expansion in industrial,

logistical, and investment projects it is witnessing, and the growing need for specialized human competencies, thereby enhancing the integration of economic and social development in Al Wusta. The organisation of the forum comes within the framework of the college's orientation toward building sustainable partnerships with institutions and companies operating within the Special Economic Zone at Duqm and beyond, in alignment with the targets of "Oman Vision 2040" in developing education, empowering youth, enhancing the alignment of educational outputs with job market requirements, and supplying the national economy with qualified competencies possessing knowledge and practical experience. -ONA

SUSTAINABLE VENTURES

Youth projects turn local resources into investment opportunities

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's diverse governorates offer promising investment opportunities for young entrepreneurs, with local cultural heritage, natural landscapes, agricultural resources and seasonal tourism providing a foundation for innovative businesses that support economic diversification and job creation.

Entrepreneurs and business leaders say young Omanis can transform these local advantages into sustainable ventures by identifying market needs, making effective use of government support programmes and building strong business models capable of long-term growth.

Shatha bint Nasser Al-Subhi, CEO of Manfath Design and Programming, said Oman's geographical and cultural diversity creates favourable conditions for youth-led investment projects tailored to the characteristics of individual governorates.

She cited the development of the Al-Aqr neighbourhood in Niwza under the World Heritage project as an example of transforming traditional buildings into modern tourist destinations while preserving their architectural identity.

Such initiatives can create opportunities for young people to establish businesses in tourism, hospitality and related services. Desert tourism also offers potential through campsites and rest areas that showcase Oman's sand dunes and provide visitors with distinctive winter experiences.

Al-Subhi highlighted the potential of mountain and rural tourism, particularly through



combining agricultural activities with visitor experiences. Rose and pomegranate harvest seasons in the mountainous areas can be linked to fruit-picking activities, local product marketing and accommodation overlooking scenic landscapes.

Seasonal tourism remains another promising area for investment, with events and attractions such as Khareef Dhofar, the rose harvest in Jabal Akhdar, desert tourism in Bidiyah and mountain tourism in Al Hamra creating opportunities for accommodation providers, caravan rentals and other hospitality services.

She also identified leisure tourism as an area for development, including mountain resorts, hiking trails, restaurants and cafes that capitalise on Oman's varied natural environment. Agriculture presents further opportunities through cultivating crops with seasonal and year-round demand and marketing products directly to consumers.

Government support and market awareness

Mohammed bin Nasser Al-Mundhiri, founder and CEO of

Ruwad Al-Itqan, stressed the importance of making effective use of the support available to entrepreneurs through government institutions and business development programmes.

He highlighted financing opportunities offered by the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Fund and Oman Development Bank, alongside training and consultancy services provided by the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (Riyada).

Business incubators and accelerators also help entrepreneurs access technical and administrative guidance, connect with investors and experts, and strengthen their capacity to develop viable businesses.

Simplified licensing procedures and government procurement opportunities can further support small and medium enterprises in securing contracts and expanding their operations.

Al-Mundhiri emphasised that government support should serve as a catalyst for business growth rather than a substitute for understanding market conditions.



REF:OFM/TD-39/2026

Tender for Construction of Hay Al Mina New Storage Facility -Contract Works

Oman Flour Mills SAOG (OFM) intends to undertake the construction of a new storage facility at Hay Al Mina, Muttrah, Muscat, to enhance storage capacity and ensure operational continuity. It involves comprehensive civil, structural, architectural, mechanical, electrical, fire and life-safety systems, associated infrastructure, testing, commissioning and final handover. Oman Flour Mills SAOG, (OFM) invites specialized vendors to participate in "Tender for Construction of Hay Al Mina New Storage Facility - Contract Works " tender as per the scope of work.

Tender Documents:

Interested bidders are requested to send an email to tender-civil@omanflourmills.com to obtain the tender documents. Tender documents will be shared upon receipt of the tender fee deposit slip via email.

Tender Fee Details:

Tender fee shall be deposited directly to the following bank account:

Account Name: Oman Flour Mills Company SAOG

Bank: Sohar International

Account Number: 001020032407

Swift Code: BSHROMXXXX

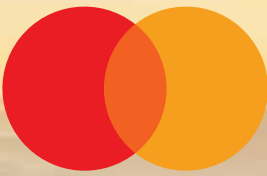
Tender Ref no	OFM/TD-39/2026
Tender subject	Tender for Construction of Hay Al Mina New Storage Facility - Contract Works
Tender fee	1500 OMR, Exempted for SMEs
Bid Bond	1% of Proposed Bid Value
Start date for tender collection	20/10/2026
Last date for tender collection	27/10/2026
Last date for receiving the technical queries	17/11/2026
Closing date of the tender	1/12/2026
Mode of payment of tender fee	By Bank Transfer
Email address for clarifications and communication	tender-civil@omanflourmills.com
Mode of submission	All bidders are required to submit their proposals through email:bid-ofm@omanflourmills.com

Vendor selection will be based on "best and final offer". OFM is not bound to select the lowest bidder.

Notwithstanding the specific terms in the Tender Documents, Tender fee is not refundable.

Bids submittal shall consist of 2 separate PDF files (Technical) & (Commercial), with bidder name on each and tender reference number OFM/TD-39/2026.





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Oman and Spain discuss organ donation system

The visit aimed to exchange international expertise, review applied practices, and develop key performance indicators to measure service quality



MUSCAT: The Omani Centre for Regulating Organ and Human Tissue Donation and Transplantation, in cooperation with experts from the Spanish Donation and Transplantation Institute, discussed ways to develop organ

donation services in the Sultanate of Oman following brain death, as well as enhancing performance efficiency and the quality of health services. The visit aimed to exchange international expertise, review applied practices and procedures, and develop and introduce key performance indicators to measure service quality and efficiency, alongside discussing challenges

and developmental opportunities with specialists and healthcare personnel. The visit comes within the framework of joint cooperation aimed at unifying practices, improving performance, and maximising the utilisation of donated organs, thereby contributing to the development of the organ donation and transplantation system in the Sultanate of Oman. -ONA

HERITAGE AND ARTS

Forum aims to boost the role of fine art in safeguarding heritage

MUSCAT: The activities of the “Sub-Regional Forum on Intangible Heritage and Art: Reality and Challenges” began in Muscat on Tuesday. The forum aims to enhance the role of fine art in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and to explore ways and measures that can contribute to preserving its elements.



The forum opened under the auspices of Sayyid Said Sultan Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth for Culture. The two-day forum targets academics, researchers, and specialists in the fields of intangible cultural heritage and the arts. It is organised by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, alongside the Ministry of Education represented by Oman National Commission for Education, Culture and Science, in cooperation with the German University of Technology in Oman (GUTech), represented by the UNESCO Chair on World Heritage Management and Sustainable Tourism in the Arab Region. Dr Mahmoud Abdullah Al Abri, Secretary-General of Oman National Commission for Education, Culture and Science, delivered a speech pointing to the launch by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) on 18 April 2025, of the theme “Emergency Response for Living Heritage in the Context of Crises and Disasters,” emphasising the importance of protecting tangible and intangible heritage from the impacts of crises and disasters. He stressed that art represents a creative medium for documenting historical landmarks, customs, traditions, knowledge, and cultural practices, as well as transmitting them to future generations. He highlighted the challenges facing this type of heritage and noted the presence of cultural elements inscribed on the lists of UNESCO’s 2003 Convention under the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent

Safeguarding. He also pointed out the role of male and female teachers in nurturing students’ talents and strengthening their connection to their cultural identity. Concluding his speech, he referred to the Sultanate of Oman’s efforts in safeguarding this heritage by inscribing 18 Omani cultural elements, both individual and joint, on UNESCO’s Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, in addition to establishing the UNESCO Sultan Haitham Prize for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2026. The opening ceremony of the forum included a series of scientific papers. The first paper was titled “The Role of Sultan Haitham Prize for Intangible Cultural Heritage in Enhancing the Sultanate of Oman’s Civilizational Standing,” presented by Maryam Nasser Al Kharboushi, Director of the Cultural Identity Department at the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth. In the second paper, Aseela Saif Al Manji from Sultan Qaboos University addressed the topic “The Funerary Dan Art in Mirbat Wilayat in Dhofar Governorate: An Ethnomusicological Reading and Miniature Archival Design,” while Dr. Awatif Said Al Ghafri presented the artistic pairing project between Muscat and North Al Batinah Governorates for emergency response to living heritage during crises and disasters. Sayyid Said Sultan Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth for Culture, toured the accompanying exhibition, which featured fine artwork by students partici-

pating in the artistic pairing initiative between UNESCO-affiliated schools in Muscat and North Al Batinah Governorates. The initiative aims to employ fine arts in safeguarding living heritage and promote the exchange of expertise among teachers and supervisors within professional learning communities. The exhibition also included photographs of the winners of the regional competition “Impact in the Neighbourhood,” organised by the UNESCO Chair on World Heritage Management and Sustainable Tourism in the Arab Region at the German University of Technology in Oman. The programme for the first day of the forum included a working session titled “The Role of Art in Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage at the Sub-Regional Level,” moderated by Dr. Younis Jamil Al Nu’amani, Director of the Heritage and Culture Department at the Omani National Commission for Education, Culture and Science. Academics, experts, and specialists in intangible cultural heritage from UNESCO, ALECSO, and the GCC participated in the session. Discussions centered on UNESCO’s vision regarding the sustainability of living heritage safeguarding within its spatial contexts, periodic reporting on intangible cultural heritage in the Arab region: reality and aspirations, employing art in safeguarding cultural heritage in the State of Qatar, and oral history: experiences and documentation on the International Day for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the United Arab Emirates.

OMAN UNIVERSITY PROGRAMMING CONTEST

Contest begins to tap national talent in programming field

A’SSEB: The activities of “Oman University Programming Contest 2026,” organised by the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, launched on Tuesday at Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) with the participation of 48 teams comprising 144 contestants, spanning two days. The inauguration of the contest took place under the auspices of Dr. Ali Amer Al Shidhani, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology for Communications and Information Technology. The contest aims to discover national talent in the field of programming, develop analytical thinking and problem-solving skills, and prepare national competencies capable of deploying modern technologies and innovating solutions that support digital economy requirements. Mahmoud Said Al Majeeni, General Supervisor of the Contest, emphasized the importance of developing digital skills among Omani youth, honing the technical capabilities of university students, and encouraging them to participate in regional and international competitions, noting that the top-winning teams will qualify for the international contest hosted by the Arab Republic of Egypt next December.



He added that the Ministry will organise specialised training camps for the winning teams prior to their international participation, aiming to develop programming skills, teamwork, and handling technical challenges, explaining that three Omani teams qualify annually to participate in these competitions. He pointed out that Omani teams achieved advanced results in previous participations, including fifth and seventh places in the newly introduced cybersecurity competition within the African and Arab Universities Contest, which witnessed the participation of 152 teams from various countries worldwide. Additionally, a team of school students achieved seventh place in the “Future Coder” competition in Jordan, with the participa-

tion of more than 57 teams from Arab world countries, alongside its members receiving academic scholarships. Dr. Sultan Salem Al Yahya’ei, Regional Director of the Oman University Programming Contest, explained that the contest focuses on fundamental skills for computer science and programming students in artificial intelligence, which provides powerful and reinforces the importance of formulating the right questions, understanding results, detecting errors, and making sound decisions. The contest is executed in co-operation with the “Programming Academy,” with strategic partnership from OQ, Sohar International as the official partner, OPAL as the technical partner, and the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority as the silver partner. -ONA

MEETING

Kuwaiti delegation received

MUSCAT: Maj. Gen Abdullah Ali Al Harthy, Assistant Inspector General of Police and Customs for Operations, received yesterday Colonel Mosa’ad Ahmed Al Shamroukh from the Ministry of Defence in the State of Kuwait and his accompanying delegation currently visiting Oman. During the meeting, the two

sides reviewed aspects of joint co-operation and discussed means of enhancing the exchange of expertise and experiences in security fields, emergency management and multi-hazard risk reduction. The delegation visited the National Centre for Emergency Management and several sectors of the National Committee for Emer-

gency Management, during which they were briefed on the working mechanism at the Centre, the integration of roles among various sectors, and advance preparedness to face climate developments, in addition to reviewing the Centre’s past experiences during handling exceptional weather conditions over recent years. -ONA



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HM tours Royal Collection exhibition at Windsor Castle after official reception

WINDSOR: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on Tuesday toured the Royal Collection exhibition at Windsor Castle accompanied by His Majesty King Charles III of the United Kingdom.

His Majesty the Sultan viewed the wealth of historical artefacts that reflect a facet of the heritage embodying the venerable relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the United Kingdom.

His Majesty the Sultan was accompanied during the tour by the official delegation accompanying His Majesty. -ONA



Oman’s child population reaches 1.5mn in 2025

The total number of live births to Omani parents reached 63,252 in 2025, compared with 63,187 in 2024. The crude birth rate among Omanis stood at 20.8 births per 1,000 population in 2025

MUSCAT: The total number of children in the Sultanate of Oman, aged 0–17, reached approximately 1.5 million in 2025. Omani children accounted for around 84% of the total, while the gender ratio among Omani children stood at 104



males per 100 females, according to data released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI). The data showed that the number of Omani children reached 1,294,206 in 2025, representing an increase of approximately 0.9% compared with the previous year. This figure is projected to reach around 1.5 million by 2040. Regarding health indicators, the total number of live births to Omani parents reached 63,252 in 2025, compared with 63,187

in 2024. The crude birth rate among Omanis stood at 20.8 births per 1,000 populations in 2025, compared with 21.2 in the previous year. In the education sector, the number of Omani children enrolled in nurseries increased by 20% compared with the previous year, reaching 8,044 in 2025. In terms of economic indicators, the number of employed Omani children aged 15–17 reached 2,637 in 2025, with 25% working in the construction sector.

Meanwhile, 14,964 Omani children aged 0–17 owned one or more plots of land, representing a decrease of approximately 1% compared with the previous year. In the field of social protection, the number of children benefiting from the Child Benefit reached 1,251,274 in 2025. The number of beneficiaries of the Orphan Benefit stood at 9,008, while 16,703 children aged 0–17 benefited from the benefit for persons with disabilities.

-ONA

Oman, Russia hold strategic dialogue



MOSCOW: The Sultanate of Oman and the Russian Federation on Tuesday held the third session of their Strategic Dialogue in the Russian capital, Moscow. The Omani side was chaired by Major General Idris bin Abdulrahman Al Kindi, Secretary-General of the National Security Council, while the Russian side was chaired by Sergei Shoigu, Secretary of the

Russian Security Council. The session comes within the framework of the two countries’ keenness to propel bilateral relations towards broader horizons in a manner that serves the common interests, reinforces the foundations of regional and international security and stability, and explores the prospects of joint cooperation between them. -ONA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

Oman participates in GCC meeting

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Information, participated in the preparatory meeting for the 29th meeting of the Ministers of Information of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. The meeting was held on Tuesday via video conference. The Sultanate of Oman was represented at the meeting by

Mohammed Said Al Balushi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information. The meeting discussed strengthening Gulf media cooperation and developing joint media work mechanisms, notably the Sultanate of Oman's initiative to establish unified controls for dealing with content published on social media. -ONA



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TENDER NOTICE
TENDER NUM #001

Sl No.	Description
1	MEDICAL INSURANCE FOR STAFF & DEPENDENTS

Competitive Tenders are invited from Medical Insurance Companies/ Insurance Brokers. The collection of tender documents from School will commence from **21/10/26 after a payment of non-refundable tender fee of R.O. 10/-**. Last date of tender submission is on or before **03/11/26 by 3:00pm**. The completed tender in all aspects should be dropped in the box kept in school office. The above tender should be submitted in a sealed envelope indicating the tender reference and without showing any identity of the company on the envelope addressed to:
The Chairperson, Purchase Subcommittee, Indian School Al Maabela

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



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Competitive Tenders are invited from suitably qualified vendors for the following:
Structural Steel, Associated Civil, Finishing and MEP Works for the Proposed School Expansion Project

Tender No.	Tender Description	Tender Fee (RO)	Tender documents available from	Last date of Tender Collection	Last date of Tender Submission
ISAS/ Tend/ OR2/ 2026	Structural-steel works with associated civil, finishing, electrical, fire/life-safety and split air-conditioning works for the proposed school expansion, under one lump-sum contract. Notes 1. The bidder shall be a Muscat Municipality- approved/ registered structural-steel contractor with relevant experience and shall act as the Main Contractor. 2. Approved specialist subcontractors may be engaged; however, the Main Contractor shall remain fully responsible for coordination and completion of the Works. 3. Mandatory Bidders' Site Visit: 7 November 2026. The time and meeting point will be notified by email to all registered tenderers. 4. Technical and commercial proposals shall be submitted strictly in accordance with the tender documents.	50/-	21-10-2026	11-10-2026	30-11-2026 at 12:30 PM

Mode of Tender fee payments and collection of Tender documents

- Direct remittance of the tender fee at the School's Office or Bank Transfer to Indian School Al Seeb – Bank A/C No. **0307-00139946-0011 with Bank Muscat**. (A copy of transaction's receipt MUST be sent to the e-mail: **om@indianschoolalseeb.com** with the Company Name and Tender Number). The tender document will be provided via e-mail.
- For any queries regarding the tenders, please write to **om@indianschoolalseeb.com**, 99639347.
- Tender Enquiries are permitted between 8 AM to 1.00 PM on all working days. The tenders are to be addressed to **The Head, Purchase Sub Committee, Indian School Al Seeb**, and submitted in a plain sealed envelope, indicating the tender reference without showing any identity of the company and must be dropped only in the School Tender Box.



شركة عُمان للمرطبات ش.م.ع.ع OMAN REFRESHMENT COMPANY SAOG

P.O. Box 30, C.P.O. A'Seeb P.C. 111, Sultanate of Oman, Tel. 24589000, 24589100, Fax : 24589099
e-mail : info@pepsioman.com, Website: www.pepsioman.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to present the unaudited results of the Company for the nine-months period ended on 30th September 2026.

The Company (ORC Group) reported a net profit after tax of **ﷵ** 3.02 million on a turnover of **ﷵ** 60.31 million for the nine-month period ended on 30th September 2026, compared to a net profit after tax of **ﷵ** 2.79 million on a turnover of **ﷵ** 52.76 million for the corresponding period of previous year.

Revenue increased by 14.3% while

net profit after tax grew by 8.5%. These results reflect the Company's resilience and disciplined execution in a challenging operating environment. Nevertheless, management remains cautiously optimistic for the remainder of the year given the ongoing geopolitical developments in the region and the related inflationary and cost pressures. The Company will continue to focus on operational excellence, cost discipline, and initiatives that support sustainable long-term growth.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I take this opportunity to extend our sincere appreciation to His Majesty

Sultan Haitham bin Tariq and his Government for their wise leadership, guidance and direction which continue to motivate and inspire us towards greater participation in the development and service of Sultanate of Oman.

We pray to the Almighty Allah to bestow His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq with the best of health and bless him with long life to lead the Sultanate of Oman on the path of prosperity.

Burti Obaid Al Mulla
(Chairman)

UNAUDITED SEPARATE AND CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE NINE MONTH PERIOD ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2026

	Parent		Group	
	2026	2025	2026	2025
Revenue	43,169,371	34,727,704	60,313,986	52,762,210
Cost of sales	(29,294,746)	(23,048,810)	(41,400,480)	(35,585,810)
Gross Profit	13,874,625	11,678,894	18,913,507	17,176,401
Selling and distribution expenses	(9,377,143)	(8,646,274)	(12,437,965)	(11,204,309)
General and administrative expenses	(2,151,000)	(2,407,015)	(3,350,548)	(3,396,236)
Net profit/(loss) from operations	2,346,482	625,606	3,124,994	2,575,857
Other income	109,802	198,519	336,231	270,440
Finance income (net)	879,877	759,018	226,965	184,473
Profit / (Loss) before income tax	3,336,161	1,583,143	3,688,190	3,030,769
Income tax	(499,799)	(145,000)	(664,571)	(244,884)
Profit / (Loss) after tax	2,836,362	1,438,143	3,023,619	2,785,885
Other comprehensive income				
Items that will be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss				
Foreign exchange difference on translation of goodwill	-	-	(30,865)	42,890
Foreign exchange differences on translation of foreign operations	-	-	(428,306)	531,518
Other comprehensive income (loss) not to be reclassified to statement of income in subsequent periods				
Net fair value change on financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income - equity instruments	(76,545)	(14,466)	(76,545)	(14,466)
Total comprehensive income for the year	2,759,817	1,423,677	2,487,903	3,345,827

UNAUDITED SEPARATE AND CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER 2026

	Parent		Group	
	2026	2025	2026	2025
Assets				
Non-current assets				
Property, plant and equipment and Capital work-in-progress	23,587,737	25,420,225	56,612,477	60,467,360
Intangible assets	-	-	14,312	26,704
Goodwill	-	-	1,392,227	1,422,794
Right-of-use assets	-	-	207,153	229,448
Investment in subsidiaries	24,471,200	24,471,200	-	-
Other investments	-	-	7,520	6,679
Deferred tax asset (net)	-	267,853	953,125	1,250,442
Financial assets at amortised cost	1,735,242	2,648,895	1,735,242	2,648,895
Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	998,026	890,600	998,026	890,600
Total non-current assets	50,792,205	53,698,772	61,920,083	66,942,921
Current assets				
Inventories	9,428,564	7,849,853	16,129,028	13,422,508
Trade and other receivables	9,247,541	8,483,114	13,719,010	10,966,411
Due from related parties	1,366,317	1,273,040	190,381	197,135
Term deposits	18,962,550	18,000,000	18,962,550	18,000,000
Cash and cash equivalents	11,720,796	6,401,760	15,694,271	9,517,991
Total current assets	50,725,768	42,007,767	64,695,241	52,104,045
Total assets	101,517,973	95,706,539	126,615,324	119,046,966
Equity and liabilities				
Equity				
Share capital	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000
Legal reserve	1,666,667	1,666,667	1,696,167	1,696,167
Foreign currency translation reserve	-	-	264,382	1,238,489
Reserve of gains and losses on financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income	(99,549)	(14,466)	(99,549)	(14,466)
General reserve	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Retained earnings	71,859,630	68,889,585	73,946,402	70,539,399
Total equity	80,926,747	78,041,786	83,307,402	80,959,589
Liabilities				
Non-current liabilities				
Term loans	-	-	7,005,979	6,976,864
Lease liabilities	-	-	121,496	136,677
Other Provisions	-	-	9,808	8,307
Employees' benefit liabilities	1,324,729	1,311,345	1,337,724	1,326,564
Total non-current liabilities	1,324,729	1,311,345	8,475,007	8,448,413
Current liabilities				
Term loans	-	894,096	-	894,096
Short-term loans	7,112,138	5,139,487	15,246,117	11,985,052
Lease liabilities	-	-	97,137	104,628
Due to related parties	181,008	155,296	81,008	49,809
Trade and other payables	11,473,252	10,141,129	18,900,710	16,568,157
Provision for income tax	500,098	23,400	507,943	37,222
Total current liabilities	19,266,496	16,353,408	34,832,915	29,638,964
Total liabilities	20,591,226	17,664,753	43,307,922	38,087,377
Total equity and liabilities	101,517,973	95,706,539	126,615,324	119,046,966

SEND US YOUR VIEWS AND COMMENTS

editor@timesofoman.com

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وزارة التنمية الاجتماعية

Ministry of Social Development

Tender Announcement

The Internal Tender committee of Ministry of Social Development hereby announces the following tender :-

Tender No.	Tender Subject	Grade	Last date for obtainment of tender document	Last date for tender submission	Tender Document Price (non-retundable)	
					Small and Medium companies	Local companies
534/2026	Contracting work for the project to establish a water treatment unit at the Al-Wafa Center for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities in Izki	Companies specialized in the field of urban contracting and maintenance and registered primarily with the Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority with first degree	Sunday 8/11/2026 02:00 PM	Sunday 29/11/2026 02:00 PM	10 R.O	25 R.O
535/2026	Specifications for the design and implementation of wooden works for the office of Her Excellency the Doctor and for the agreement signing square	Companies specialized in the field of urban contracting and maintenance and registered with the Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority with excellent degree	Sunday 08/11/2026 02:00 PM	Sunday 29/11/2026 02:00 PM	10 R.O	25 R.O

❖ Specialized Companies, registered with the Tender Board may obtain the Tender documents at theTender Board e-tendering digital portal link (https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om), On Tuesday 20/10/2026

❖ For Inquiry, please contact though the e-tendering website (reg@tenderboard.gov.om) Tel. (24402200)

"The lowest or any other tender shall not be binding to the Ministry"

www.mosd.gov.om

AT WINDSOR CASTLE

His Majesty the Sultan and HM King of United Kingdom exchange orders

WINDSOR: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and His Majesty King Charles III of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Head of the Commonwealth exchanged orders at Windsor Castle yesterday on the occasion of His Majesty's state visit to the friendly United Kingdom, reflecting the depth of the enduring historical relations between the two countries. His Majesty the King conferred upon His Majesty the Sultan the Order of the Garter, while His Majesty the Sultan conferred upon His Majesty the King the Order of Al Said. His Majesty the Sultan also conferred upon Her Majesty Queen Camilla the Order of Oman "First Class". – **ONA**

iiOEX

2026

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2026

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GOOGLE EARTH AND GOOGLE MAPS

German court backs man in privacy case against Google

FRANKFURT: A state court in Hesse, Germany, has ruled in favour of a Frankfurt man who sued US tech giant Google over the publication of images on Google Earth and Google Maps that he argued invaded his privacy.

The man had previously sued to have images of his Frankfurt home and property scrubbed from Google's Street View site as well as from

Apple Look Around.

The court found that Google had infringed on the privacy of the man and his family by publishing aerial images of their property on Google Earth, saying: "Nobody must accept the worldwide publication of aerial images of their property without their consent, at least when concerning areas of a property hidden from public view."

"The plaintiff's personal space extends across the whole of the home's parcel. The only data to be gleaned here are personal, giving clues to private lifestyle, such as the size and design of the property. Beyond this, potential weak points in the property's security perimeter are also laid bare."

The court also accused Google of acquiring the images by "spying"

because it does not notify property owners that their properties will be filmed.

The court additionally found that although Google says it contributes to the democratization of knowledge, it nevertheless has no right to invoke freedom of information to justify invading private spaces.

— DW



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

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

OCHA

Deadly drone strikes interrupt critical services in Sudan

UNITED NATIONS: UN humanitarianism said Monday they are alarmed by reports of continued deadly drone strikes across Sudan, which are killing civilians and disrupting essential services.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said drones reportedly struck locations in the capital Khartoum, including near the airport, on Monday. A civilian was reportedly killed and some flights were cancelled following the attacks.

OCHA said that a drone strike in West Darfur state reportedly killed 11 people, including nine children, and injured others in the Bir Saliba area on Saturday.

In South Darfur state, a drone strike reportedly hit the Alma-washi market in the state capital Nyala last Friday, killing at least four people, including a child.

In North Kordofan state, at least four civilians were reportedly killed and others injured in a drone strike in the locality of Abu Zabab on Saturday.

"OCHA is also deeply saddened by the killing of a Sudanese Red Crescent volunteer while providing first aid at a health center in the town of Um Darfa, in Blue Nile State, last week, following a drone attack

on the facility," the office said. "Since the conflict began in April 2023, 25 Sudanese Red Crescent volunteers have reportedly been killed while on duty."

The office said international humanitarian law requires the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure, including medical facilities and humanitarian personnel.

Rising food prices

OCHA said rising food prices further challenge families struggling to meet their basic needs.

The World Food Programme said the cost of its local food basket rose by 24 percent in September compared with August. Currency depreciation, fuel shortages and conflict-related disruptions to markets and supply routes are driving up costs.

"Despite immense challenges, the United Nations and its humanitarian partners continue to deliver life-saving assistance," OCHA said. "In Central Darfur State, partners recently rehabilitated a water facility in the locality of Zalingei, restoring access to safe water for some 2,500 people. More than 2,000 families also received water, sanitation and hygiene assistance across several localities." — Xinhua

FREEDOM 250 RECEPTION

Marco Rubio calls US-India ties 'extraordinary', says partnership can help shape the 21st century

MUMBAI: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has characterised the strategic alignment between India and the United States as "extraordinary", emphasising that both nations have an opportunity to shape the course of the 21st century through partnership.

At the Freedom 250 reception in Mumbai, Rubio observed that while Washington and New Delhi would not see eye to eye on every matter, their shared fundamental interests hold the capacity to influence geopolitics, economics, trade and commerce for decades to come.

"No two nations on Earth will ever be perfectly aligned on every issue, and there will be times and points of disagreement," Rubio stated.

"But on the core issues that matter, the core issues that define the national interests of both India and the United States, the alignment between our countries is extraordinary," he added.

Rubio underscored that the collaboration carries immense weight given the demographic and economic magnitude of the two powers, characterising India as a country nearing a population of 1.5 billion alongside the United States as the planet's largest economy.

He noted that the two countries possess a distinct prospect to contribute towards authoring



the history of the 21st century by collaborating closely on matters destined to dictate tomorrow.

Furthermore, Rubio expressed the view that the United States ought to maintain more frequent diplomatic engagement with India, which he labelled among Washington's most vital geopolitical partners.

Reflecting upon an inquiry from journalists regarding his return to India following an in-

terval of merely four months, Rubio highlighted that the nation's demographic scale, democratic framework and strategic relevance establish it as a cornerstone partner for the US.

"I actually think we don't come enough," he remarked.

Rubio asserted that the narrative of the 21st century is unfolding within the region, maintaining that regional occurrences will determine global trajectories for

better and for worse.

"One day, someone will write a book about the history of the 21st century, and there will be a chapter about other regions in the world, but the 21st century will be defined, for better and for worse, by what happens in this region," he noted.

"We know that, we can sense it, we can feel it," he added.

During the reception, Rubio pointed out that contemporary geopolitical, economic, trade and commercial decisions will impact generations yet unborn.

He conveyed that American diplomatic personnel stationed in India hold a rare privilege to assist in moulding the future alongside a formidable, influential and advanced partner.

"What I'm excited about, and what I challenge our team at the Department of State to be excited about, as well as our team at the consulate here in Mumbai, is the fact that today you are assigned to and working in a place where the United States, in partnership with another powerful, influential, and advanced country, is helping to write the story of the 21st century," Rubio stated.

He asserted that the bilateral alliance must champion mutual principles encompassing individual dignity, democratic tenets and the rule of law.

— ANI



Shabiba Jawa'iz Basma



Social Impact Awards 2026



جوائز بسمة
Jawaz Basma

Rufaida Al Maawali Wins Social Entrepreneurship Initiative Award at Shabiba Jawa'iz Basma 2026



Rufaida Al Maawali was felicitated with the 'Social Entrepreneurship Initiative 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 TEvents, 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.

Rufaida Al Maawali was recognised for her inspiring entrepreneurial journey and contribution to women's economic empowerment, local agricultural development and social en-

trepreneurship. As the founder of Hamedh Helw, an Omani food business established in 2021, she transformed an initial investment of just OMR 8 into a growing enterprise focused on creating innovative, ready-to-eat products from locally grown seasonal fruits.

Through her initiative, Rufaida has demonstrated how locally available agricultural produce can be transformed into value-added food products, creating new opportunities for entrepreneurship while supporting Omani farmers and promoting local resources. Her business reflects an innovative approach to food production, combining traditional ingredients with evolving consumer preferences.

Through her commitment to

innovation, local value creation and women-led entrepreneurship, Rufaida Al Maawali serves as an example of how determination and a modest investment can develop into a promising business opportunity. Her achievements reflect the growing role of Omani women entrepreneurs in supporting sustainable economic growth and the broader objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

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

Omani Center for Organ Transplantation Wins Community Healthcare Initiative Award at Shabiba Jawa'iz Basma 2026



The Omani Center for Organ Transplantation was felicitated with the 'Community Healthcare Initiative 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 TEvents, 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.

The Omani Center for Organ Transplantation was recognised for its significant contribution to advancing organ donation and transplantation services, strengthening community healthcare and improving patient wellbeing across the Sultanate. Through its efforts, the organisation is helping pro-

vide renewed hope to patients suffering from end-stage organ failure while supporting the development of a comprehensive and sustainable transplantation system in Oman.

A key focus of the Center's work is the development of national frameworks, policies and ethical standards governing organ and tissue donation and transplantation. These efforts are helping establish a safe, structured and transparent system that supports both living and deceased organ donation, while strengthening the foundations of transplantation services within the country's healthcare sector.

Beyond developing healthcare frameworks, the Center plays an important role in raising public awareness about the life-saving importance of organ donation. By encouraging greater understanding of organ and tissue donation, it aims to promote informed

decision-making, strengthen community participation and support patients and families affected by organ failure.

Through its commitment to patient care, medical advancement and public awareness, the Omani Center for Organ Transplantation continues to contribute to the development of specialised healthcare services in Oman. Its initiatives reflect the importance of strengthening national healthcare capabilities while promoting compassion, community responsibility and improved quality of life for patients.

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

SPORTS

Sailors face challenging waters, stiff contest at Barceló Mussanah Resort

Laila Mohamed of Egypt continues to lead the Optimist competition at the 3rd Arab Women's Sailing Championship with three wins from the four races sailed on Tuesday, ending the day sixth overall

MUSCAT: Sailors faced another day of challenging tactical waters and stiff competition at the Barceló Mussanah Resort as the 15th Mussanah Race Week and the 3rd Arab Women's Sailing Championship completed the second day of racing. Fleets across the Optimist, ILCA 4, ILCA 6, ILCA 7, and the Para Inclusive Hansa 303 class pushed their endurance and skill to the limit, with four more races setting the stage for a dramatic final conclusion to both competitions.

Laila Mohamed of Egypt continues to lead the Optimist competition at the 3rd Arab Women's Sailing Championship with three wins from the four races sailed yesterday, ending the day sixth overall. Oman's Abeer Kalil Al Zakwani finished the day in second, five points back, and 13th overall after recording one win and three more podium finishes. Dana Abdullah of Bahrain remains in third, 24th overall.

Overall Optimist standings remain the unchanged with leader Khaled Yahya Al Sarihi of Oman on top after the second day with three podium finishes. Krishna Venkatchalam of India is second courtesy of a win in the second-last race of the day, while Mohammed Ziyad Al Qasmi of Oman is third after notching a win and a second placed finish.

The ILCA 4 competition is still led by Karma Waleed of Egypt who repeated yesterday's form to remain top of the standing after winning the last two races of the day. Hood Saad Al Noffi of Oman and Abdulrahman Al Bahri of the UAE switched places with the Omani sailor in second place after two second placed finishes from the four races. Tarteel Zaid Al Hasani of Oman ends the day fourth overall, and second in the women's competition. Hadeel Yousef Al Mushairfi of Oman rounds out the

top three in the women's competition, sitting tenth overall in a very close fleet.

Ines Nabel Gmati of Tunisia added two more wins and two second placed finishes to extend her lead in the women's ILCA 6 category and remain one point clear in the overall standings while Kholoud Mostafa of Egypt is second - third overall, five points behind. Ameena Shah of Kuwait took third with series of third placed finishes, while Maryam Ihab, also of Egypt drops to fourth. Simeon Hristov, representing the UAE, remains second overall the day in second with two wins. Oman's highest ranked sailor after day two is still Elyas Badar Al Fadhal in eighth overall, while Ibtisam Al Salmi ended the day in ninth overall.

Egyptian sailor Karma Waleed expressed her satisfaction with her performance, saying: "I am happy to maintain my lead and hope to continue performing well in the remaining races. Today's racing was challenging, particularly with the stronger winds and boats competing closely together. This is my second time competing at Mussanah Race Week, having previously participated in 2022. The event offers excellent organisation, varied sailing conditions and strong competition, providing a valuable opportunity for sailors to develop their skills and gain experience."

Dawood Abdullah of Bahrain excelled today in the ILCA 7 competition, recording two wins and a second place to take top spot from Oman's Al Mutasem Humood Al Farsi who drops to second. Hamza Ismail Al Ali from the UAE remains third after an impressive day on the water while Oman's Al Salim Ali Al Hamdani ended the day in fourth.

Emirati sailor Hamza Al Ali ex-

pressed satisfaction with his performance, saying: "I am pleased to be competing among the top three after returning to racing following a break of nearly 15 months. My previous experience has helped me adapt to the racing conditions, particularly the strong winds, which presented an additional challenge. Mussanah Race Week is one of the key events we look forward to competing in every year, thanks to its excellent organisation, facilities and high level of competition."

Omani Al Mutasem Al Farsi highlighted the challenging conditions on the second day of racing, saying: "I made a good start in the first race, but the increasing wind strength made the following races more demanding. ILCA 7 requires strong physical fitness to handle changing conditions. The event brings together experienced sailors, making the competition particularly strong. I aim to learn from today's races, improve my performance and achieve better results in the remaining races."



perienced race officials. The Omani race management team has demonstrated exceptional professionalism, drawing on years of experience in organising international sailing events to ensure that racing is conducted safely, fairly and efficiently."

She added: "One of the key strengths of this event is the experience and dedication of the Omani race officials, supported by international expertise. Their work ensures that all participating sailors can compete with confidence in a fair and well-organised environment. It is also encouraging to see two women holding senior leadership positions in race management and judging. This reflects the opportunities available to women in Oman and presents a positive image of the Sultanate's commitment to supporting women in international sporting events."

Both Mussanah Race Week and the 3rd Arab Women's Sailing Championships aim to support Oman Sail's strategy of nurturing national talent, empowering women in sport, and elevating the nation's standing as a premier global hub for sports tourism and international events in line with Oman Vision 2040.

The 2026 edition is presented by Renaissance Services as title partner; the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism; Barceló Mussanah Resort as host and bronze partner; alongside supporting partners National Mineral Water Company (Tanuf), the Arab Sailing Association, the Oman Maritime Sports Committee, and the Royal Navy of Oman's Directorate of Medical Services at the Medical City for Military and Security Services.



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OMAN OIL PRICE RISES

The price of Oman crude oil has increased, with prices for delivery by November 2026 reaching \$110.18. The price of Oman crude oil rose by \$3.35 from the price of Monday, which was \$106.83. -OMA

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 7,554.29 points, down by -1.06% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -0.51% at 625.41 points. National Gas, up 9.45%, was the top gainer while, Muscat Gases, down 6.48%, was the top loser.

Oman showcases opportunities at GCC-UK investment dialogue

The dialogue session brought together around 350 government officials, leaders of financial and investment institutions and major companies, to discuss the future of Gulf-British economic relations

Times News Service

LONDON: Oman is pitching its position as a competitive investment destination and highlighting various opportunities in priority economic sectors at a GCC-UK investment dialogue in London.

Oman is represented by Invest in Oman at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, the Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) and the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad) at a strategic dialogue between the United Kingdom and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

The event is organised by The Business Year in the British capital, London, under the auspices of the GCC General Secretariat, with the participation of senior government officials, decision-makers, investors and leaders of economic institutions and global companies.

The dialogue session brought together around 350 government officials, leaders of financial and investment institutions and major companies, to discuss the future of Gulf-British economic relations.



It also seeks to explore opportunities for cooperation in the trade, investment, energy, technology, innovation, financial services, and infrastructure sectors, and promote long-term economic partnerships between the two sides.

Haitham bin Salem Al Salmi, CEO of MSX said that participation in the strategic dialogue represents an important opportunity to enhance cooperation between the Gulf and British capital mar-

kets, and to exchange experiences and expertise in developing financial markets, which contributes to expanding the investor base and strengthening international investment flows.

He pointed to the importance of benefiting from international experiences and expertise in developing the infrastructure of financial markets, and enhancing liquidity levels and market depth. He pointed out that expanding

communication channels with global financial and investment institutions contributes to introducing the opportunities available in the Omani market, and supports its openness to new segments of investors.

He further said that the MSX seeks to enhance its presence in international financial markets, develop strategic partnerships with global financial and investment institutions. It also seeks to explore cooperation opportunities, and facilitate international investors' access to the Omani market, thereby enhancing the attractiveness and competitiveness of the Muscat Stock Exchange and supporting economic diversification efforts and achieving the goals of Oman Vision 2040.

Speaking at the session Engineer Ahmed bin Akak, CEO of Sezad said that the zone's participation comes within the framework of the Public Authority for Free

Zones' efforts to enhance the presence of Omani economic zones in international forums, contribute to expanding the horizons of economic and investment cooperation between the GCC countries and the United Kingdom. It will also help to introduce promising investment opportunities provided by the Sultanate of Oman, in a way that supports economic diversification and achieves the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

He explained that his participation as a speaker in the dialogue provided an opportunity to highlight the economic and investment transformations taking place in Sezad and its competitive advantages that qualify it to be a regional centre for advanced industries, logistics, and clean energy.

He pointed out that Duqm represents a model of the opportunities that can arise from the integration of the economic assets of the GCC countries and British industrial and technological expertise, ben-

efiting from its strategic location on the Arabian Sea, and the infrastructure system and major projects that it hosts.

Engineer Nasser bin Khalifa Al Kindi, CEO of Invest in Oman reviewed the competitive advantages and strengths of the Sultanate of Oman, the investment opportunities available in the targeted sectors, and the Ministry's efforts in developing the investment system, simplifying procedures and enhancing the efficiency of services provided to investors.

He stressed that participation in this international economic forum is an extension of the efforts of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion to enhance the investment presence of the Sultanate of Oman in global markets. He particularly noted that these participations aim to transform direct communication with investors and economic institutions into practical partnerships and quality investment projects that achieve added value for the national economy.

He said that the ministry adopts an integrated approach to investment promotion, based on identifying and developing promising investment opportunities according to the requirements of the target markets, enhancing communication with global companies and financial and investment institutions, in addition to integration with governmental and private entities to facilitate the investor's journey and expedite procedures related to investment projects.

He added that Invest in Oman plays a pivotal role as a unified window for promoting investment opportunities and providing services to investors, stressing that the Ministry continues its efforts to improve the business environment by simplifying procedures, developing digital services, and enhancing the efficiency of the legislative and regulatory system, thereby raising the competitiveness of the Sultanate of Oman and enhancing investor confidence.



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MARKET

MSX index ends lower



National Gas, up 9.45%, was the top gainer while, Muscat Gases, down 6.48%, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 7,554.29 points, down by -1.06% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by -0.51% at 625.41 points. National Gas, up 9.45%, was the top gainer while, Muscat Gases, down 6.48%, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded while Oman Telecom were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 15857 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 51.61 million, with more than 141.77 million shares changing hands. Out of 67 traded securities, 15 advanced, 30 declined, and 22 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for RO 4622K while GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for RO 3321K, followed by foreign investors for RO 1301K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 13,609.58 points, down -1.14%. Prices of Al Madina Investments,

Al Sharqia Investment, Muscat Insurance, DIDIC were up by 3.80%, 2.94%, 2.94%, 0.70% respectively. Prices of Bank Muscat, Oman United Insurance, Sohar International Bank, Global Financial Investments, Muscat Finance were down by 4.72%, 2.48%, 1.61%, 1.55%, 1.49% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 9,991.80 points, down -0.06%. Prices of Gulf Mushroom Products, A'Saffa Foods, Galfar Engineering were up by 6.60%, 1.45%, 1.29% respectively. Prices of Al Anwar Ceramics, Voltamp Energy were down by 1.35%, 1.06% respectively.

Services Index was down by -0.23% before closing at 3,020.10 points. Prices of National Gas, Barka Water & Power Company were up by 9.45%, 1.94% respectively. Prices of Dhofar Generating, Barka Desalination, Al Jazeera Services, Shell Oman Marketing, Ooredoo were down by 3.80%, 3.55%, 1.96%, 1.13%, 0.95% respectively. -United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	7,640.73	7,554.29	7,554.29	7,634.86	-80.57	-1.06%
FINANCIAL INDEX	13,770.18	13,600.26	13,609.58	13,766.56	-156.99	-1.14%
Industry Index	10,047.93	9,976.58	9,991.80	9,997.88	-6.08	-0.06%
Services Index	3,032.80	3,015.34	3,020.10	3,027.19	-7.09	-0.23%
MSX Shariah Index	629.63	624.82	625.41	628.62	-3.21	-0.51%
MSX TR INDEX	11,942.09	11,806.99	11,806.99	11,932.91	-125.93	-1.06%
FINANCIAL TR IDX	16,929.72	16,708.97	16,732.26	16,925.27	-193.01	-1.14%
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	12,907.53	12,815.88	12,835.44	12,843.24	-7.81	-0.06%
SERVICES TR IDX	4,187.12	4,163.02	4,169.60	4,179.38	-9.78	-0.23%
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,291.54	1,291.46	1,291.54	1,291.27	0.26	0.02%

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
141,774,247	51,613,661	15,857	38,982,994,204	15	30	22	67

MSX DAILY BULLETIN AS ON 20/10/2026

SIN	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

OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	56,741	31,143	31	0.535	0.565	0.535	0.565	0.530	0.035	6.604	0.565	0.535	0.565	0.100	28,443,443
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO	412,980	43,110	42	0.105	0.105	0.103	0.105	0.102	0.003	2.941	0.105	0.105	0.106	0.100	9,450,000
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	15,000	2,370	3	0.158	0.158	0.158	0.158	0.155	0.003	1.935	0.158	0.153	0.158	0.100	25,280,000
OM0000002804	ASAFA FOODS	200	139	2	0.690	0.700	0.690	0.700	0.690	0.010	1.449	0.700	0.690	0.700	0.100	84,000,000
OM0000001509	DHOFAR INT'L DEVELOPMENT & INVEST	23,603	6,733	9	0.290	0.290	0.285	0.289	0.287	0.002	0.697	0.289	0.286	0.315	0.100	143,360,225
OM0000001920	ASTAD SHIPPING	3,940,820	885,264	1,693	0.227	0.227	0.222	0.225	0.224	0.001	0.446	0.225	0.231	0.225	0.000	1,171,967,463
OM0000001159	OMAN NATIONAL ENG'G & INVEST	22,000	3,255	3	0.149	0.149	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.000	0.000	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.100	22,200,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	240,000	120,000	10	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.000	0.000	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.100	812,973,178
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	250	855	2	3.420	3.420	3.420	3.420	3.420	0.000	0.000	3.420	3.078	3.420	0.100	306,774,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	99,868	20,773	12	0.208	0.208	0.208	0.208	0.208	0.000	0.000	0.208	0.202	0.208	0.100	63,961,980
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	40,300	3,506	5	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.000	0.000	0.087	0.086	0.087	0.100	30,983,075
OM0000003000	AL MAHA PETROLEUM PRODT'S MKRTNG	3,836	5,255	2	1.370	1.370	1.370	1.370	1.370	0.000	0.000	1.370	1.240	1.390	0.100	94,530,000
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	228,882	24,854	28	0.108	0.110	0.108	0.109	0.109	0.000	0.000	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.100	19,075,000
OM0000004925	ALBATAINAH POWER	181,931	35,842	9	0.197	0.198	0.197	0.197	0.197	0.000	0.000	0.197	0.195	0.197	0.100	132,952,824
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	45,183	8,946	7	0.198	0.198	0.198	0.198	0.198	0.000	0.000	0.198	0.195	0.198	0.100	141,452,455
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	313,000	137,199	869	0.439	0.440	0.436	0.438	0.438	0.000	0.000	0.438	0.440	0.438	0.100	337,347,600
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	12,702,613	6,252,011	318	0.491	0.494	0.490	0.491	0.491	0.000	0.000	0.491	0.491	0.492	0.010	3,928,000,000
OM0000003234	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	103,100	28,169	8	0.274	0.274	0.273	0.273	0.274	-0.001	-0.365	0.273	0.272	0.274	0.100	64,539,930
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	7,584,270	10,307,985	90	1.363	1.363	1.358	1.358	1.364	-0.006	-0.440	1.359	1.500	1.359	0.100	1,018,500,000
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	112,115	25,123	359	0.225	0.225	0.223	0.224	0.225	-0.001	-0.444	0.224	0.220	0.223	0.100	680,914,871
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	210,210	43,708	49	0.209	0.210	0.204	0.209	0.210	-0.001	-0.476	0.209	0.206	0.210	0.100	305,683,705
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	1,800	740	3	0.412	0.412	0.410	0.410	0.412	-0.002	-0.485	0.410	0.410	0.414	0.100	460,370,105
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	11,400	2,063	6	0.181	0.181	0.181	0.181	0.182	-0.001	-0.549	0.181	0.182	0.185	0.100	36,134,044
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	532,291	79,762	18	0.150	0.151	0.149	0.149	0.150	-0.001	-0.607	0.149	0.148	0.150	0.100	333,306,002
OM0000004735	SEMBOROP SALALAH	414,333	117,246	22	0.283	0.283	0.281	0.283	0.285	-0.002	-0.702	0.283	0.283	0.283	0.100	270,143,862
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	30,546,796	6,807,651	2,781	0.224	0.224	0.221	0.225	0.224	-0.002	-0.893	0.222	0.221	0.222	0.100	961,398,510
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	205,581	64,459	35	0.317	0.317	0.313	0.313	0.316	-0.003	-0.949	0.313	0.313	0.330	0.100	203,745,544
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	1,181,474	220,229	27	0.187	0.187	0.185	0.187	0.189	-0.002	-1.058	0.187	0.187	0.187	0.010	187,000,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	576,000	217,528	50	0.371	0.388	0.370	0.382	0.388	-0.006	-1.546	0.382	0.388	0.387	0.100	76,400,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	39,760,249	7,332,206	2,747	0.186	0.186	0.182	0.183	0.186	-0.003	-1.613	0.183	0.181	0.183	0.100	1,404,709,038
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	19,000	4,750	1	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.255	0.005	1.961	0.250	0.250	0.000	0.100	10,710,748
OM0000009008	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SPT)	19,169,217	4,807,548	2,985	0.252	0.254	0.248	0.248	0.253	-0.005	-1.978	0.248	0.248	0.248	0.040	857,953,371
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	25,000	7,912	6	0.320	0.322	0.315	0.315	0.323	-0.008	-2.477	0.315	0.310	0.323	0.100	33,075,000
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	35,000	5,730	5	0.164	0.164	0.163	0.163	0.169	-0.006	-3.550	0.163	0.163	0.163	0.100	12,310,086
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	7,715,140	3,201,729	2,494	0.425	0.425	0.404	0.404	0.424	-0.020	-4.717	0.404	0.404	0.411	0.100	3,032,584,413
Total		35	126,530,163	40,855,794	14,711											

Parallel Market

OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	747,039	102,631	78	0.130	0.139	0.130	0.139	0.127	0.012	9.449	0.139	0.139	0.139	0.100	11,815,000
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	1,200	98	1	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.079	0.003	3.797	0.082	0.074	0.081	0.100	3,534,000
OM0000001806	MUSCAT INSURANCE	500	280	1	0.560	0.560	0.560	0.560	0.544	0.016	2.941	0.560	0.560	0.000	1,000	6,174,000
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	17,563	2,764	13	0.163	0.163	0.157	0.157	0.155	0.002	1.290	0.157	0.157	0.159	0.100	31,868,000
OM0000003711	SOHAR POWER	1,711	419	2	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.242	0.003	1.240	0.245	0.236	0.245	0.100	4,900,000
OM0000003400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	1,000	590	1	0.590	0.590	0.590	0.590	0.590	0.000	0.000	0.590	0.578	0.620	0.100	102,446,000
OM0000001608	OMAN PACKAGING	4,490	1,033	1	0.230	0.230	0.230	0.230	0.230	0.000	0.000	0.230	0.000	0.230	0.100	7,460,000
OM0000003028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	26,819	1,877	5	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.070	0.070	0.071	0.100	1,470,000
OM0000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	4,440	1,088	2	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.000	0.000	0.245	0.000	0.258	0.100	4,533,000
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	35,000	2,035	3	0.058	0.059	0.058	0.059	0.059	0.000	0.000	0.059	0.057	0.062	0.100	14,750,000
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	21,800	2,027	4	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.000	0.000	0.093	0.093	0.094	0.100	14,466,000
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	1,038,500	295,964	24	0.285	0.285	0.284	0.284	0.286	-0.002	-0.699	0.284	0.284	0.285	0.100	591,536,000
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	141,756	28,209	5	0.199	0.199	0.199	0.199	0.201	-0.002	-0.995	0.199	0.185	0.201	0.100	552,879,000
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	5,030	3,974	3	0.794	0.794	0.790	0.790	0.799	-0.009	-1.126	0.790	0.790	0.788	0.100	75,050,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	196,518	28,660	54	0.148	0.148	0.144	0.146	0.148	-0.002	-1.351	0.146	0.145	0.146	0.100	32,120,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	70,900	4,603	4	0.066	0.066	0.065	0.066	0.067	-0.001	-1.493	0.065	0.065	0.066	0.100	20,271,000
OM0000001151	OMIFCO	12,623,468	2,661,025	898	0.213	0.214	0.209	0.209	0.213	-0.004	-1.878	0.209	0.209	0.214	0.000	1,288,079,000
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	10,200	776	3	0.079	0.079	0.076	0.076	0.079	-0.003	-3.797	0.076	0.078	0.100	0.100	16,890,000
OM000000178	MUSCAT GASES	4,133	537	3	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.138	-0.009	-6.475	0.130	0.137	0.100	0.100	3,900,000
Total		14,951,167	3,138,591	1,105												



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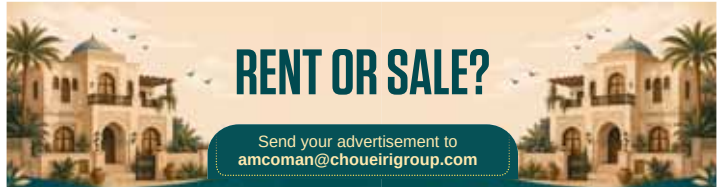


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Finance professional, Chartered accountant (finalist/MBA), with 15 yrs of experience in accounts, audit, tax and VAT compliance, risk management and financial reporting, seeking a suitable opportunity in Oman. Available for immediate joining. Contact: 77179238, chanthusureshababu92@gmail.com

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Indian male with 3+yrs experience as civil engineer seeking suitable opportunities, Contact: 72074773 Email: amair7286@gmail.com

Experienced quantity surveyor seeking opportunities in Oman with NOC, available for immediate joining. Contact: +968 94875222. Email : asmath9926@gmail.com

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Senior MEP professional having 20+yrs of GCC experience in the construction industry of project management, design & supervision works looking for suitable openings. Contact: 97283452 Email: syedrehuman@gmail.com

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VETERAN JOURNALIST



Christiane Amanpour to leave CNN after 43 years

NEW YORK: Veteran journalist Christiane Amanpour on Monday said she was leaving her role at CNN after 43 years at the network. “After thinking carefully for several months and experiencing a few sleepless nights, as you can imagine, I’ve decided to separate from CNN,” Amanpour, 68, said in a statement.

“This daily show on CNN and PBS will come to an end at the end of this year. But CNN and I have worked out a smooth transition where we continue doing Amanpour once a week through to June,” she said in a video message posted on social media.

On-the-ground reporting from major war zones

Amanpour, who became famous for her on-the-ground reporting from major war zones, did not give a reason for her departure.

That said, her move to resign comes weeks after CNN’s parent company, Warner Bros. Discovery (WBD), was formally taken over by Paramount Skydance.

After a yearlong process, Paramount closed its merger with WBD on October 6, uniting two giants in TV news — CBS and CNN — under one roof.

The merger has drawn concerns over the independence of the newsroom at CNN as the merged company’s owners, the Ellison family, are close allies of US President Donald Trump.

— DW

Japan launches spacecraft to mysterious moons of Mars

The uncrewed Martian Moons eXploration (MMX) mission is expected to reach Mars in August 2027. It will attempt to collect samples from Phobos, the larger of the planet’s two moons

TOKYO: A Japanese spacecraft successfully set off on a journey to one of Mars’ moons late Monday in a race to become the first mission to return samples to Earth and potentially unlock the mysterious origins of the Solar System.

The uncrewed Martian Moons eXploration (MMX) mission is expected to reach Mars in August 2027.

It will attempt to collect samples from Phobos, the larger of the planet’s two moons, and deploy the German-French rover IDE-FIX to explore the surface.

The flagship H3 rocket carrying the MMX probe lifted off into a pitch-black sky from the Tanegashima Space Centre at 4:41 a.m. local time (1941 GMT Monday), the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) said.

Flight controllers burst into applause and jumped to their feet as the spacecraft blasted into space, shaking hands and embracing. Thousands of people tuned in to watch the livestream despite the early hour.

An hour later, JAXA announced



that the probe had successfully separated from the H3 rocket and was “beginning its journey towards the Martian system.”

“I’d dreamt of this day, so I’m incredibly happy,” said JAXA scientist Mari Aida. “Right now I feel really relieved.”

The agency also received signals from the spacecraft as expected, confirming it was operating normally.

Making way for science

Scientists hope the probe’s discoveries will help lay the groundwork for eventual human exploration.

“The samples from MMX will bring forth paradigm-shifting science on the Mars system for generations to come, especially as NASA prepares to send the first humans to Mars,” Nicky Fox, administrator of NASA’s Science Mission Directorate, said in a

message broadcast on the JAXA live stream.

JAXA also hopes the mission will reveal how Mars and its two moons formed, unlocking a key piece of knowledge about the formation of the Solar System.

One theory holds that Mars’ two moons formed after a giant celestial body collided with the planet. Another hypothesis suggests the moons are asteroids captured by

Mars’ gravity. Confirming either theory would help scientists determine “how a habitable environment for life might have arisen on the terrestrial planets,” JAXA said, referring to the four rocky planets closest to the sun.

Probe to reach destination in August 2027

The probe is due to arrive near Mars around August 2027, where it will orbit one of the planet’s two natural moons, Phobos.

A French-German rover named IDEFIX, after the dog from the Asterix comic series, will be the first vehicle to travel across Phobos to conduct surface observations and help ensure a safe landing for the Japanese probe. It is no bigger than a microwave oven.

Once MMX arrives on Phobos, it will spend about two hours collecting at least 10 grams of material from the moon’s surface before launching back into space. It will also study Mars’ other natural moon, Deimos, during a series of flybys before leaving the Martian region in 2030.

Another objective of the mission is to explore the possibility of using Phobos as a “natural space station” by establishing the requirements for a round trip.

Phobos is a lumpy, potato-shaped rock measuring about 22 kilometres (14 miles) across.

The mission, which aims to complete the first round trip to the Martian region, is a collaboration involving US and European space agencies along with several private technology companies.

US and Chinese space agencies have also been competing to become the first to return rock samples from the surface of Mars to Earth. NASA’s Perseverance rover, which has been exploring the planet since 2021, has already collected samples. The return mission, however, was canceled by US President Donald Trump’s administration after a congressional vote in January. — DW

MEETING IN MUMBAI

India, UAE discuss bilateral relations

MUMBAI: Indian External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar and his UAE counterpart, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, held a meeting in Mumbai on Tuesday, evaluating bilateral relations and exploring avenues to bolster their comprehensive strategic and economic partnership.

EAM Jaishankar observed that the ties between India and the UAE are fulfilling expectations as a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, Additional Secretary (Gulf) at the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Aseem Mahajan, and other officials also attended the meeting.

In a post on X, EAM Jaishankar said, “A productive meeting with DPM and FM UAE Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, undertaking a comprehensive review of our wide-ranging ties. The breadth and ambition of our cooperation is visible across the domains of trade, investments, energy, technology, logistics, defence, education and people-to-people ties. The India-UAE relationship is living up to its promise as a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.”

Furthermore, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the UAE utilised X to share details concerning the discussions between EAM Jaishankar and Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

“H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed holds an expanded meeting with His Excellency Dr Subrahmanyan Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs of the friendly Republic of India, in Mumbai, where they discuss new opportunities to enhance the comprehensive strategic and economic partnership between UAE and India, and to expand the horizons of bilateral cooperation in vital sectors, in support of the two countries’ aspirations for further growth and prosperity,” the UAE’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs posted on X.

Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan arrived in Mumbai on Monday for an official visit, highlighting the consistent and robust diplomatic interactions connecting India and the UAE. — ANI

RIOTING AND LOOTING

French authorities impose partial curfews in parts of several cities

PARIS: French authorities imposed curfews in parts of several cities on Monday night in response to criticism over security failings after cost-of-living and anti-government protests descended into rioting and looting over the weekend.

In the capital, Paris, police issued a curfew around the Place de la Republique and Les Halles from 11 p.m. until 6 a.m. local time (9:00 p.m. to 04:00 UTC) on Tuesday morning, while protests were banned in certain other areas from 8 p.m.

“A police deployment is in place to ensure strict compliance with these measures,” read a police statement.

On France’s south coast, the mayor of Nice signed an order installing a curfew for minors in the city centre overnight while nearby Marseille also banned gatherings and demonstrations.

Sources in Prime Minister Sebastian Lecornu’s office told the Reuters news agency that curfews had also been set for minors between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. over the



next two days in the northern city of Lille and the nearby towns of Douai, Wattignies and Denain with the agreement of local mayors.

“My determination to restore order is absolute,” Lecornu told reporters, ruling out blanket curfews in Paris but not a potential state of emergency.

Foreign governments issue France travel warnings

Several countries around the world, including China, Malaysia, Germany and the United States, have advised citizens traveling to

France to avoid large crowds and exercise caution in the wake of large-scale protests and looting in major cities.

China’s Foreign Ministry urged Chinese nationals in France to remain alert to potential risks, increase safety precautions, and avoid areas where demonstrations are taking place.

Malaysia’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that, while travel to France remains unrestricted, Malaysians are advised to consider postponing non-essential trips until the situation improves.

The Malaysian embassy in Paris has issued an advisory urging citizens already in France to exercise caution and remain vigilant.

The US State Department issued an alert on Monday warning Americans to avoid demonstrations in major French cities, while an alert issued by the American embassy in Paris noted new curfews ordered in cities including Paris and Lille.

“Avoid the areas of the demonstrations,” the warning said.

And in Europe, some of France’s direct neighbours have also issued travel advice to citizens.

The German Foreign Ministry said further riots couldn’t be ruled out and urged German nationals to follow instructions from local police. It warned citizens that they could face fines if they fail to adhere to requests to leave unauthorized demonstrations.

Governments in the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Poland, Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Norway also issued warnings to avoid protests.

— DW

EARLY REFERENDUM RESULTS

Canadian Prime Minister welcomes rejection of Alberta separation proposal

OTTAWA: Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney on Tuesday said that Albertans had chosen national unity and a shared future with Canada after early referendum results indicated that the province had rejected a proposal to hold a binding vote on separation.

In a post on X, Carney said, “On October 19, Albertans made a clear choice. They chose unity, to build together, and to take care of each other. Above all, Albertans chose Canada.”

According to CBC News, more than 76 per cent of voters were in favour of staying part of Canada in early referendum results, while



around 23 per cent supported holding a binding vote on whether to leave the country.

CBC News projected that Albertans had soundly rejected the proposal to hold a binding referendum on whether to begin the separation process. As per the Canadian news

site, cheers erupted at the ‘Forever Canadian’ watch party following the projection, with supporters raising their fists and flags in celebration.

As per the official statement provided in the post on X, Carney said that although votes on the other questions in the referendum were still being counted, the result on separation meant Alberta and the rest of Canada could move forward together.

“While votes on all questions continue to be tallied, tonight’s results on the defining question of separation mean that Albertans and all Canadians will move forward

together with renewed purpose and high ambition,” he said.

The Canadian Prime Minister also highlighted his government’s plans to expand trade, accelerate major infrastructure projects and strengthen the country’s energy sector, with Alberta playing a central role.

“We are building that future, bigger and faster than ever before. Canada is securing new trade partners around the world, fast-tracking major, nation-building projects in every part of the country, and unleashing our full potential as a global energy superpower with Alberta at its core,” Carney said. — ANI

AUSTRALIA

MP loses leg after deliberate car attack

MELBOURNE: An Australian lawmaker struck by a car in an apparently deliberate attack on Monday has lost one of her legs, local media reported.

Independent MP Helen Haines underwent surgery overnight after suffering what were described as critical injuries in the incident, with national broadcaster ABC and the daily Sydney Morning Herald reporting on Tuesday that one leg had been amputated.

Counterterrorism investigators have joined a police probe into the incident, which occurred outside Haines’ constituency office in Wangaratta, northeast of

the Victorian capital, Melbourne. Haines, 65, was hit by an SUV, which police said was a white Toyota, outside her office. She suffered serious injuries, particularly to her lower body.

ABC cited witnesses as saying they heard a bang and then saw a woman pinned between two cars.

The driver, described as a 43-year-old man, has been arrested, according to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

Albanese said early investigations suggested the driver made a U-turn before hitting Haines as she was loading or unloading items at the trunk of her car. — DW



OMANI SINGER NADEEM AL BALUSHI TO BLEND HOLLYWOOD AND BOLLYWOOD HITS

Over the years, he performed at numerous wedding celebrations and private events with the band before embarking on a career as a one-man performer

MUSCAT: Omani singer Nadeem Al Balushi is set to bring together Bollywood melodies and English hits at Musical Fiesta 2026, joining rising Indian girl group Wi.S.H. for an evening of music in Muscat on November 6.

The concert will take place at the Grand Hall of Al Falaj Hotel, featuring a mix of musical styles and performances aimed at bringing together music lovers from different backgrounds.

"I will be singing mostly Bollywood numbers and will be mixing in some English songs as well," Al Balushi told Times of Oman.

Born and raised in Muscat, Al Balushi has built a following among Omanis and expatriates through his versatility as a vocalist and keyboard player. He performs in five languages — Arabic, Hindi, English, Punjabi and Baluchi — allowing him to connect with audiences from diverse cultural backgrounds.

His musical journey began at the age of 10, when he started playing the keyboard at school programmes. He later formed a band with six other artists, taking the lead as its vocalist and keyboard player. Over the years, he performed at numerous wedding celebrations and private events with the band before embarking on a career as a one-man performer.

Al Balushi has also shared the stage with international artists from India, Pakistan and Tanzania, including Indian singer Bali Bharambhat, Sukhbir and comedian Asrani, as well as Pakistani performers Asif Mehdi and Shana Shakeel, and



Tanzanian artists Bushoke and MBdog. He was also part of the musical performances at the Asian Beach Games in 2010.

In 2015, he released his first international album, For All, through India's Venus Music Company.

While music remains a passion, Al Balushi works for an international bank. He continues to pursue his ambition of making a mark in Bollywood, hoping to take his music to a wider audience.

Musical Fiesta 2026 will also feature Wi.S.H., an emerging Indian all-girl pop group making its first live appearance in Oman. The group comprises four members — Ri, Sim, Zo and Suchi — and takes its name from Willpower, Inspiration, Strength and Hope.

Formed by Dreampop Entertainment and managed by The Hello Group in India, Wi.S.H. is signed to Sony Music India. The group made its debut on March 1, 2024, with the single "Lazeez", followed by its eight-track debut album Sweetburn.

Blending pop, R&B and soul, the group combines catchy melodies and strong harmonies with lyrics centred on empowerment and self-expression. Its music and performances have helped it build a growing following in India and beyond.

The group aims to uplift and empower the next generation through music, sisterhood and self-expression.

Organised by Olive Events, the concert will also feature music sets supported by DJ Shazee, adding to an evening that promises a blend of Bollywood favourites, international hits and contemporary Indian pop.

SPORTS

Portuguese FA suspends Ronaldo for 30 days, imposes €255 fine

The 41-year-old forward faces disciplinary action over his decision to depart the national team camp, with the federation imposing the suspension after initiating formal proceedings against the Portugal captain

LISBON: Cristiano Ronaldo has been handed a 30-day suspension and fined €255 by the Portuguese Football Federation after leaving the Portugal squad during the most recent international break, as per Goal.com.

The 41-year-old forward faces disciplinary action over his decision to depart the national team camp, with the federation imposing the suspension after initiating formal proceedings against the Portugal captain, as per Goal.com.

In late September, Cristiano Ronaldo reportedly clashed with Portugal coach Jorge Jesus after remaining on the bench during the national team's 2-1 international victory over Norway. Cristiano Ronaldo claimed that Jesus had assured him beforehand that he would play for around 30 minutes.

Although Jesus instructed the Portugal captain to warm up during the match, the forward was never brought on. Cristiano Ronaldo was reportedly frustrated by



the decision, believing that the coach had not taken his concerns seriously. He later alleged that Jesus had broken a second promise to publicly explain the situation at

a press conference.

Tensions escalated before the Al-Nassr captain decided to leave Portugal's training camp ahead of the match against Denmark. He

subsequently issued a lengthy public apology to his teammates and supporters, acknowledging that his departure from the national team could not go unpunished.

The Al-Nassr forward also called for an appropriate sanction, arguing that his status as a role model made it even more important for his actions to be judged strictly. Despite his criticism of Jesus' handling of the situation, the Portugal captain said he was prepared to accept the consequences of his decision.

On October 10, the Portuguese Football Federation announced that it had formally opened disciplinary proceedings against the striker, with the forward facing a suspension pending a final decision. The federation has now imposed a 30-day suspension and a €255 fine. The financial penalty is relatively small compared with the Portuguese forward's reported earnings.

However, with the suspension backdated to 30 September, the day he left the training camp, Cristiano Ronaldo will be eligible to return on 14 November, when Portugal are scheduled to play their next international match. **-ANI**

IN GQEBERHA



South Africa not giving up hope as Bavuma looms as key

GQEBERHA: South Africa batting coach Ashwell Prince believes his side's ICC World Test Championship fixture against Australia in Gqeberha is still up for grabs despite the fact rain has ruined much of the first two days of play.

Only 43 overs have been bowled across the first two days as rain at St George's Park, with the Proteas reaching 97/5 at stumps on Monday in their first innings and still with a mountain to climb if they are to remain in contention of winning the Test and claiming the three-game series.

But Prince has not given up hope just yet, with the former South Africa left-hander and current batting coach suggesting there was still plenty of time for his side to force a result.

"We still have to bowl as well.

The ball is moving around and I think the ball will move around as the Test match goes on," Prince said at stumps on day two.

"There's already some divots out there. Obviously, weather conditions before the match, plus during the match, with moisture, rain, pitch may be starting out a bit softer than usual. So, there are divots already developing on the surface.

"If the sun comes out, that might firm up and the ball might move around a little bit faster, maybe. We don't know. So, we say you can only tell what the pitch does until both teams are batted."

If the Proteas are going to post a decent total in their first innings and give their strong pace attack something to bowl at then they will require further patience at the crease from skipper Temba Bavuma as the captain remained

unbeaten at stumps on day two with a dogged 41 not out already to his name. Bavuma has been the only South Africa batter to look comfortable in the difficult conditions in Gqeberha and Prince has been suitably impressed with the efforts of the veteran right-hander thus far.

"I think a big part and a big positive in Temba's play today was decision-making," Prince added.

"There tends to be a lot of discussion about technique and technical things. But I think decision-making so far from him was exceptional.

"At the moment, the skipper's out there digging deep, standing up, long way to continue tomorrow. And hopefully you'll have a few partners digging in with him. And that's why we love this format." **-icc**

COACH HANSI FLICK

Barcelona youngsters called into squad for PSG Champions League game

MADRID: FC Barcelona coach Hansi Flick has called up 18-year-old Barca Athletic defender Alex Campos and Egyptian forward Hamza Abdelkarim to his squad ahead of Tuesday's Champions League tie away to reigning European champion Paris Saint-Germain. Flick is without three defenders - Andreas Christensen, Eric Garcia and Jules Kounde - with Garcia and Kounde picking up injuries in Saturday's 5-2 win away to Real Betis.

Campos has been a regular starter for Barca Athletic this season and is described as a player who is reliable in his defensive duties, strong in the air and comfortable playing the ball out from the back.

Abdelkarim has featured for both the first team and the reserves this season since making his move from Al Ahly permanent. He played for Barca Athletic this past weekend in the RFEF Second Federation, the fourth tier of Spanish football, scoring in a 2-1 win over Utebo.

Athletic Bilbao striker Guruzeta suffers serious knee injury

Athletic Bilbao forward Gorka Guruzeta is likely to miss the rest of the season after suffering a serious knee injury in Saturday's 0-0 draw away to Valencia.

The 30-year-old came on as a second-half substitute and had been on the pitch for just over a



minute when he pulled up after appearing to catch his foot in the turf at Valencia's Mestalla Stadium.

Athletic Bilbao coach Edin Terzic said at the post-match press conference that the injury "doesn't look good," and the club has now confirmed the worst fears.

"Athletic Club forward Gorka Guruzeta has suffered a complete tear of the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in his left knee, as confirmed by the club's medical staff," the club said on its website on Monday.

"The player will undergo surgery in the coming days and is expected to face an extended recovery period of six to nine months."

Although Guruzeta had yet to score this season, he was Ath-

letic's top scorer in the 2025-26 campaign, netting 10 goals in 35 La Liga appearances and a further five in seven Champions League matches.

His injury leaves Inaki Williams and Maroan Sannadi as the main specialist strikers in the Basque side's first-team squad, with Sannadi having only returned to fitness this summer after missing a large part of last season with a knee problem.

Guruzeta is the fourth Athletic player to suffer an ACL tear in the past year. Benat Prados and Unai Egiluz sustained the same injury last season, while Manex Lozano suffered an ACL tear in February when he was on loan at Racing Santander. **-Xinhua**

IN BAUSER

Omani military teams enter quarters of CISM World Military Beach Volleyball Championship

MUSCAT: Omani military national teams (A) and (B) advanced to the quarter-final stage (round of eight) of the 5th CISM World Military Beach Volleyball Championship 2026, hosted by the Ministry of Defence, represented by the Office of the Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces.

The championship is held on the sand courts of the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex in Bauser, concluding its competitions tomorrow, Wednesday.

The qualification of both teams came with the conclusion of the group stage matches. Group A results ended with the Qatari team topping the standings, followed by the German team in second place, the Omani national team (B) in third place, the French team in fourth, and the New Zealand team in fifth.

In Group B, the Brazilian team topped the standings, followed by the Algerian team in second place, the Omani national team (A) in third, and the Sri Lankan team in fourth.

Following these results, the quarter-final matches kick off this evening, with the Qatari team (Group A leaders) facing the Sri Lankan team (fourth in Group B), while the German team (second in



Group A) faces the Omani national team (A) (third in Group B). Meanwhile, the Omani national team (B) (third in Group A) plays against the Algerian team (second in Group B). The four winning teams will advance to the semi-final matches, whereas the losing teams will play placement matches to determine fifth through eighth places.

In the women's category competitions, the French team (Group A leaders) meets the Algerian

team (second in Group B), and the German team (Group B leaders) plays against the Sri Lankan team (second in Group A), while our national team (third in Group A) faces the New Zealand team (third in Group B).

Over the past days, the championship witnessed fierce competition and high technical standards reflecting the presence of elite international teams, with the total number of championship matches

reaching 39 matches, including 28 for men and 11 for women.

Participating in the men's competition are eight nations represented by the Sultanate of Oman with two teams, alongside Algeria, Germany, Brazil, France, the Netherlands, Qatar, and Sri Lanka. Meanwhile, six countries participated in the women's category with one team each, namely the Sultanate of Oman, Algeria, France, Germany, Sri Lanka, and the Netherlands.

It is worth noting that the fourth edition of the championship held in Sri Lanka saw the Sri Lankan team crowned with the men's title, while the French team finished second, Germany third, and the Omani national team fourth. In the women's competition, the French team claimed the title, while the Sri Lankan team secured second and third places.

The Sultanate of Oman's hosting of this global sporting event comes within its ongoing keenness to enhance military sports cooperation, as well as embrace international championships that contribute to raising levels of sports competition, deepening ties of friendship, and exchanging expertise among armed forces from various countries worldwide.

TRI-NATION SERIES

England batter Joe Root 97 runs away from historic 8,000 ODI run mark

RAWALPINDI : As England start their tri-nation series campaign against Pakistan at Rawalpindi, star batter Joe Root stands just 97 runs away from becoming the first English player to reach the 8,000 ODI runs mark.

England will start their tri-nation series campaign against Pakistan at Rawalpindi. Pakistan is having momentum by their side, having won their campaign opener against Sri Lanka by 37 runs. England is also coming into the series with some positive results, having secured ODI series wins over Sri Lanka and India at home recently.

Root, England's highest ODI run-getter, has made 7,903 runs in 195 matches and 184 innings at an average of 50.66 and a strike rate of 87.68, with 20 centuries and 48 fifties, including best score of 166*. England's second and third-highest run-getters in ODIs are former World Cup winning skipper Eoin Morgan (6,957 runs in 225 matches with 13 centuries) and Jos Buttler (5,678 runs in 204 matches with 11 centuries).

This year, Root is in exceptional form in ODIs, having made 573 runs in nine innings at an average of 114.60 and a strike rate of 88.01,



with a century and five fifties to his name, with best score of 111*. The veteran batter also enjoyed a great 2025 in ODIs, with 808 runs in 15 ODIs and innings at an average of 57.71 and a strike rate of 95.50, with three centuries and four fifties.

Since England's 2023 ICC Cricket World Cup disaster, Root's resurgence as an ODI batter has been incredible, having made 1,381 runs across 24 matches and innings at an average of 72.68, with four centuries and nine fifties. **-ANI**

IN PICTURES



PEOPLE PARTICIPATE IN EARLY VOTING AHEAD OF US MIDTERM ELECTIONS: A woman casts her vote at a polling station in Bangor, Maine, the United States, days before the US midterm elections, which falls on Nov. 3. — Xinhua

PARADE OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE DANCES HELD IN CHAOYANG, CHINA'S LIAONING: A Shangkouzi stilt performance is staged during a grand parade in Chaoyang, northeast China's Liaoning Province. A grand parade of intangible cultural heritage dances was held here, as part of the 4th Annual Conference on Intangible Cultural Heritage Safeguarding in China. The event brought together over 20 performing groups, presenting an array of folk dances and drumming performances. — Xinhua



FIM SUPERSPORT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SPANISH ROUND: Federico Caricasulo (L) of EASTROC ZXMOTO Evan Bros Factory competes during the Race 1 of WorldSSP at the FIM Supersport World Championship Spanish Round in Jerez, Spain. — Xinhua



FALL MIGRATION OF SNOW GEESE IN QUEBEC, CANADA: This photo shows the fall migration of snow geese at the Cap Tourmente National Wildlife Area in Quebec, Canada. — Xinhua



'THE POWER OF HER STORY' PANEL DISCUSSION AT CII BIG PICTURE SUMMIT: Actress Sonali Bendre speaks during 'The Power of Her Story' panel discussion at the CII Big Picture Summit organised by The New Economics of Media & Entertainment, in Mumbai. Actress Radhika Madan and Prime Video and Amazon MGM Studios Director and Head of Originals (SVOD) Nikhil Madhok also present. — ANI Photo



5TH ANNUAL NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF AMERICAS PARADE HELD IN NEW YORK: People participate in a ceremony of indigenous people in New York, the United States. — Xinhua

INJE CHRYSANTHEMUM FESTIVAL HELD IN SOUTH KOREA: People visit the Inje chrysanthemum festival in Inje-gun, Gangwon-do province, South Korea. — Xinhua



EXPO MATEAR 2026 HELD IN BUENOS AIRES: A staff member (L) introduces yerba mate products during the Expo Matear 2026 in Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina. Expo Matear is Argentina's annual event dedicated to yerba mate, the iconic national beverage here. At this year's event, visitors can sample a wide range of yerba mate varieties, explore the beverage's cultivation and processing, and engage with cultural rituals. — Xinhua

ROUND-UP

The Majlis brings Omani hospitality to Muscat airport arrivals

Traditionally, airport meet-and-greet services involve welcoming arriving guests at the arrivals gate with name placards before escorting them to their onward transport. The Majlis takes this experience a step further by welcoming guests into a dedicated hospitality space inspired by the traditional Omani majlis, offering them a warm introduction to Oman from the moment they arrive

MUSCAT: Asha Enterprises and ITL World have officially inaugurated The Majlis – Experience Oman at Muscat International Airport, introducing a more personal and welcoming approach to airport arrivals in the Sultanate.

Traditionally, airport meet-and-greet services involve welcoming arriving guests at the arrivals gate with name placards before escorting them to their onward transport. The Majlis takes this experience a step further by welcoming guests into a dedicated hospitality space inspired by the traditional Omani majlis, offering them a warm introduction to Oman from the moment they arrive.

The Majlis was officially inaugurated by Azzan bin Qassim Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism for Tourism, in the presence of Rishi Khimji and Dharmesh Khimji of Asha Enterprises; Abdul Razack, Group CEO of Eram Holdings; Rafeeq Mohammad, CEO of ITL World; and Nitin Sapre, Group CEO of Asha Enterprises.

The ceremony also brought together distinguished guests and senior representatives from Oman

Airports, Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre (OCEC), Visit Oman, The Diplomatic Club, Al Mouj Muscat and other leading organisations from Oman's aviation, tourism, hospitality and business communities.

A joint venture between Europcar, part of Asha Enterprises, and ITL World, part of Eram Holdings, The Majlis brings together the complementary strengths of both partners in hospitality, mobility, travel management and tourism.

Located in the Arrivals Hall of Muscat International Airport, The Majlis offers guests a comfortable setting where they can experience traditional Omani hospitality through coffee, dates, halwa and refreshments, while receiving personalised assistance with their onward journey.

Beyond the welcome experience, The Majlis offers meet-and-greet services, premium chauffeur-driven transfers, travel assistance and curated experiences across Oman, including city tours, sightseeing excursions and personalised itineraries. The concept caters to leisure travellers, business visitors, families and corporate delegations.



By bringing together hospitality, airport assistance and onward travel services under one roof, The Majlis aims to transform

what is often a routine airport pickup into a memorable first impression of Oman. The inauguration marks an im-

portant milestone in the partnership between Europcar and ITL World, reflecting their shared commitment to offering visitors

a warmer welcome, a more convenient arrival experience and an opportunity to discover more of Oman.

STRENGTHENS RELATIONSHIPS WITH BUSINESS COMMUNITY



Bank Muscat takes its global financial markets seminar series to Salalah

MUSCAT: Building on the momentum of its ongoing seminar series, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, hosted a seminar on global financial markets in Salalah.

The event brought together a number of officials representing various institutions and companies in Dhofar Governorate. The session explored the latest developments shaping international markets and what they mean for the local business environment.

The Salalah seminar is the latest stop in a series that has taken the Bank to Muscat, Sohar and, most recently, Riyadh in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Bank Muscat holds these sessions across different governorates and markets to bring them closer to its customers. This strengthens its relationships with the business community and gives customers timely access to expert market perspectives wherever they operate.

Bank Muscat leveraged this initiative to provide attendees with

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an in-depth perspective on the opportunities and challenges shaping today's financial and business environment. Discussions spanned a broad range of topics centered on the latest global economic shifts and the anticipated outlook for the international economy in the years ahead. The event enabled participants to exchange views with market specialists, helping them turn global trends into practical considerations for their businesses.

Bank Muscat offers a comprehensive suite of treasury products and services around the clock, with extensive geographic coverage spanning Asian markets as well as certain regions aligned with New York trading hours, cov-

ering both international business days and GCC working days. These services include advanced foreign exchange solutions, alongside effective hedging tools against interest rate, currency and commodity risks, positioning Bank Muscat among select regional banks offering its customers comprehensive hedging solutions.

Guided by its firmly held customer-centric vision and powered by its vision to be "Better Everyday" Bank Muscat continues to deepen its understanding of customer needs across the region's markets, and deliver innovative financial solutions aligned to customer needs, in line with global best practices.

PROMOTION

iCAUR launches winter campaign with exclusive ownership benefits



MUSCAT: iCAUR Oman has announced the launch of its exciting winter campaign "Unlock Winter. Unlock Your Lifestyle" offering customers a comprehensive ownership package on the iCAUR V27 and iCAUR 03T.

Running till 31 December the campaign brings together free registration, free insurance, a complimentary service package, a free home charger and free roadside assistance, alongside a raffle that gives customers the chance to win their car back.

Customers who purchase an iCAUR during the campaign period will enjoy free registration on all models and free insurance along with a complimentary service package for 2 years or 30,000 km, whichever comes first.

The package also includes a free home charger to support convenient charging at home and free 3-year AAA roadside assistance for added peace of mind on every journey. Every iCAUR vehicle is further backed by a 6-year / 200,000 km manufacturer warranty from the date of delivery with eligible models carrying a power battery warranty of 8 years / 200,000 km, whichever comes first. In addition, every customer who purchases an iCAUR V27, iCAUR 03T or the brand new iCAUR Super V23 during the campaign will be entered into the "Buy an iCAUR This Winter, Win

Your Car Back" raffle with the prize of winning the cost of your car back (*T&Cs apply).

The campaign arrives as the upcoming cooler months bring peak season for outdoor travel across the Sultanate. iCAUR's winter offers are intended to make ownership simpler and more rewarding for new customers, while showcasing two models built for Oman's mix of city driving, mountain roads and desert terrain.

The iCAUR V27 REEV, the brand's first mid-to-large SUV combines retro-inspired design with advanced technology. It is powered by Range Extended Electric Vehicle (REEV) technology in which the combustion engine acts solely as an onboard generator to charge the electric motors, delivering a total range of over 1,000 kilometres.

The V27 produces 449 HP and accelerates from 0 to 100 km/h in 5.9 seconds. Its Vehicle-to-Load (V2L) technology turns the vehicle into a mobile power source for outdoor cooking, camp lighting and device charging, making it well suited to winter picnics, beach trips and desert camping. Inside, the premium cabin features an incredible 48 dedicated storage compartments alongside a class-leading 715L boot.

The iCAUR 03T is an off-road SUV designed for drivers who seek adventure. It combines a

429-horsepower engine with i-AWD intelligent four-wheel drive accelerating from 0 to 100 km/h in just 4.8 seconds. Perfectly striking a balance between daily urban utility and trend-setting aesthetics, the 03T eliminates the boundaries of classic electric vehicles through its advanced Range Extended Electric Vehicle (REEV) technology. By utilizing a high-efficiency onboard engine purely as a generator to feed the electric motors, it achieves a total driving range of over 750 km.

Recently unveiled in Oman for the first time in the Middle East, the iCAUR V23 Super is a bold, all-electric SUV that combine distinctive design, modern technology and everyday practicality. Powered by a 185 kW electric motor delivering 300 Nm of torque, it offers a driving range of up to 401 km (CLTC) and supports DC fast charging from 20% to 80% in approximately 36 minutes.

Its spacious five-seat cabin features a 15.4-inch touchscreen, wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, and power-adjustable front seats with heating and ventilation. With advanced driver assistance systems, a 540° panoramic camera, 19-inch alloy wheels and Vehicle-to-Load (V2L) functionality, the iCAUR V23 Super delivers an engaging electric driving experience designed for modern lifestyles.



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