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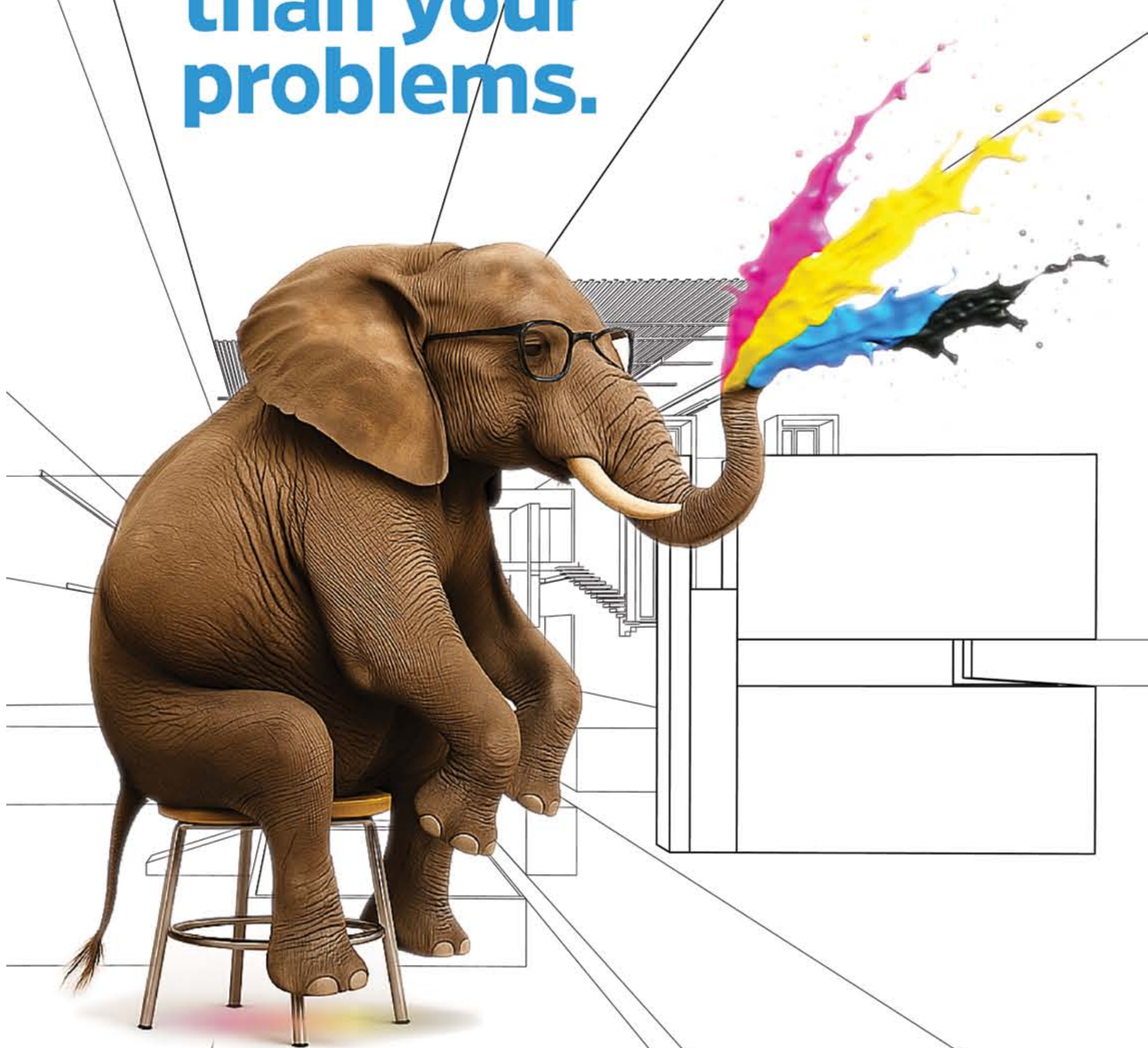
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COMMENTARY

Key Rules Governing Licensing of Tourism Activities in Oman

Oman's Tourism Law, promulgated by Royal Decree 69/2023, mandates a license for tourism activities and establishments, while its Executive Regulation, issued by Ministerial Decision 1152/2/1/141/2026, sets out license categories, procedures and renewal requirements.

Speaking to Times of Oman, Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim Al Zadjali, Chairman of Mohammed Ibrahim Law Firm, stated that "no person shall practice any tourism activity, operate and manage tourist and hotel establishments, or establish branches or offices of foreign tourism companies except after obtaining a license from the ministry. Licenses cover operating or managing tourist or hotel es-



tablishments; travel and tourism offices and foreign tourism company branches or offices; tourist guidance; adventure tourism; high art performance groups in tourist and hotel establishments;



and business tourism."

"License applications require the prescribed form, documents and fee. License applications not decided within 60 days of complete submission are deemed ac-

cepted. Licenses are renewable if the application is filed at least 60 days before expiry. Late renewal is fined 10% of the fee per month, and a license not renewed within 60 days of expiry is cancelled. License amendment, assignment or disposal requires prior written approval from the ministry," he said. He added that "tourist and hotel establishments need preliminary approval, which alone does not permit operation, and a ministry-approved classification certificate to obtain the license. Tourist guides must be Omanis aged 18 or over, or foreigners aged 25 or over licensed to work for a travel and tourism office. Adventure applicants must be Omani, 18 or over, with a security and safety audit certificate. Applicants for either

license must have full capacity, be medically fit and free from communicable diseases, and not have been convicted of a felony or crime against honor or trust, unless rehabilitated."

"A license may be suspended for unmet obligations or violations of the Regulation and is cancelled if the licensee loses a condition required for granting it or assigns it without ministerial approval. Practicing any tourism activity, operating or managing a tourist or hotel establishment, or establishing a foreign tourism company branch or office without a license carries imprisonment of 10 days to six months, a fine of OMR6,000 to OMR50,000, or either, with the minimum and maximum limits of the punishment doubled on

repetition. Assigning or disposing of a license without approval carries a fine of OMR3,000 to OMR6,000," he concluded.

(Mohammed Ibrahim Law Firm (info@mohammedibrahim.net), (+968 244 87 600) was established on 14th December 2006 and is serving clients through its offices in Muscat and Sohar, as well as operating on a request basis in other areas. It offers legal representation across a wide range of practice areas that include Labour Law, Corporate, Commercial, Contracts, Banking and Finance, International Trade, Foreign Investment, Maritime Law, Construction and Engineering Contracts, International Arbitration, Intellectual Property and more).

Oman conducts extensive market inspections to protect consumers

The ministry's inspection teams conducted extensive field visits to verify product quality, enforce regulations and take legal action against non-compliant establishments

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion intensified field inspection and monitoring efforts during the first half of 2026 to ensure commercial and industrial establishments comply with laws, regulations and approved standards across the Sultanate of Oman.

The ministry's inspection teams conducted extensive field visits to verify product quality, enforce regulations and take legal action against non-compliant establish-



ments, contributing to consumer protection and supporting a stable and transparent investment environment.

Hilal bin Mohsin Al-Amri, Director of the Inspection Department at the ministry, said the results and performance indicators for H1 2026 reflect extensive field efforts and continuous monitoring across the governorates.

He said the department focuses on fair institutional oversight, consumer protection, intellectual property rights and ensuring that products and services conform to approved standards, thereby enhancing customer and investor confidence in the Omani business environment.

As part of efforts to enforce intel-

lectual property rights, 36 inspection visits were conducted targeting restaurants, cafes and retail outlets. The teams issued 32 written warnings to establishments involved in trademark imitation and infringement in the food, personal care and household cleaning sectors, in addition to four warnings issued to restaurants and cafes. Awareness campaigns were also carried out to combat counterfeit products.

The ministry conducted 182 inspection visits to fuel filling stations in Muscat Governorate to verify compliance with regulations governing their establishment and operation. It also handled 18 reports received through the "Tajawob" platform.

Regarding mandatory electronic payment services at commercial centres and shops, inspection teams handled 198 field reports, resulting in 17 violations and 12 written warnings.

In industrial inspection and support for national products, teams conducted 72 field visits to industrial establishments to verify that actual activities matched registered industrial licences. Seven facilities holding National Product Identity licences were also inspected to verify local added-value ratios in accordance with Ministerial Decision No. 62/2022.

The ministry further conducted visits to 65 industrial establishments in Muscat Governorate to assess their actual need for expan-



ciate manpower and ensure that manpower requests correspond with the scale of operations. Field visits were also carried out to liquefied cooking gas depots to verify compliance with approved land areas and uses under Ministerial Decision No. 185/2024.

In the specifications, standards and laboratory testing sector, inspectors, in cooperation with the National Center for Measurement and Calibration, verified legal measuring instruments and calibrated 172 commercial scales, all of which were found to be compliant.

Meanwhile, 13,671 product samples were visually inspected to verify the presence of the Gulf Conformity Mark and the government hallmark for precious

metals. The inspections resulted in 168 violations involving non-conforming goods.

Al-Amri affirmed that the results achieved during H1 2026 reflect the ministry's continued commitment to effective field monitoring and protecting the rights of consumers and investors.

He added that developing inspection and monitoring tools and strengthening coordination with relevant government entities would contribute to raising compliance levels, limiting the circulation of non-conforming products, ensuring the safety and stability of Omani markets, and supporting the competitiveness of the investment and commercial environment.

RIA

Oman allocates OMR2.2mn fund for research work



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Research and Innovation Authority (RIA) has allocated OMR2.2 million in institutional funding for 467 research proposals submitted under the 2026 research cycle of its competency-based institutional funding programme.

The programme attracted broad participation from 28 higher education and research institutions, with funding approved for 127 doctoral research proposals, 162 graduate research proposals and 178 undergraduate student research proposals.

The funded proposals cover a wide range of research fields, in-

cluding education and human resources, environmental and biological resources, information and communication technology, health and social services, energy and industry, culture and humanities, basic sciences, and urban planning.

The Authority said the growing participation reflects the important role of the competency-based institutional funding programme in developing national research capabilities and supporting research projects with scientific, economic and social value.

The programme also contributes to aligning research activities with national priorities and supporting the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Indian Embassy in Muscat hosts solidarity run to mark Gandhi Jayanti

Times News Service

MUSCAT: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Embassy of India, Muscat hosted a 5-km Viksit Bharat Solidarity Run on 2nd October 2026 as part of Fit India Freedom Run 7.0, with enthusiastic participation from more than 1,000 members of the Indian community in Oman.

The run was held during Seva Pakhwada (17 September-2 October), as part of efforts to foster a spirit of solidarity among Indian citizens and overseas Indian communities and to promote the vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047. The initiative also highlighted the importance of community participation, fitness and collective action in contributing to this vision.

The run brought together children, youth, adults and senior members of the community, making it a vibrant celebration of fitness, unity and community spirit.

Participants were provided with event T-shirts before the run, while commemorative medals were presented at the finish, marking their participation in the Viksit Bharat Run.

The event began with Zumba and warm-up exercises, energising participants and setting the tone for the run.

Carrying the Fit India Freedom Run 7.0 message — "Fitness ki Dose, Aadha Ghanta Roz" — the initiative encouraged participants to embrace regular physical activity and healthy lifestyles.

Held on Gandhi Jayanti, the



event also recalled Mahatma Gandhi's enduring values of discipline, simplicity, physical well-being and service to society. These values complement the Fit

India movement and the vision of a healthy and active population as a foundation for a Viksit Bharat.

By bringing together the messages of Fit India and Viksit

Bharat, the event highlighted the importance of a healthy and active population as an essential foundation for India's journey towards becoming a developed nation. The participation of the Indian community in Oman added a strong sense of solidarity and reaffirmed its close connection with India.

Ambassador of India Prashant Pise, appreciated the enthusiastic participation of the Indian community and thanked all participants, sponsors, and volunteers for their support in making the event a success.

The Viksit Bharat Solidarity Run brought the Indian community together across generations in the spirit of fitness, solidarity and service, reaffirming their connection with India and the shared vision of a developed India by 2047.

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Oman Business Platform updates fee payment process for services

The update covers commercial registry and commercial agency services and forms part of the ministry's efforts to simplify procedures, develop digital government services

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion has updated the fee payment mechanism for a number of services provided through the Oman Business Platform, allowing beneficiaries to submit applications by paying a nominal fee and settle the remaining service fees after completing the application procedures.



The update covers commercial registry and commercial agency services and forms part of the ministry's efforts to simplify procedures, develop digital government services and provide a more flexible and efficient experience for investors and business owners.

Mubarak bin Mohammed Al-Duhani, Director General of Planning, Official Spokesperson and Head of the Digital Transforma-

tion Team at the ministry, said the update is part of an ongoing programme to redesign services based on the needs of investors and employers. He said the ministry's approach to digital transformation focuses first on simplifying procedures and then using digital solutions to deliver services more efficiently and sustainably.

Al-Duhani added that the ministry is continuously reviewing the

beneficiary journey, reducing steps and requirements and strengthening electronic integration among relevant entities, which contributes to improving the ease of doing business and the competitiveness of Oman's business environment.

Data from the Oman Business Platform showed continued growth in the use of digital services, with 963,549 transactions completed through the platform from January



to the end of September 2026.

During the same period, 35,907 new commercial registrations were issued, bringing the cumulative number of commercial registrations to 470,516. The number of registered commercial agencies reached 756, taking the cumulative total to 2,682, while 106,577 automatic licences were issued.

Hamid bin Hamad Al-Barashdi, Head of the Documentation and Authentication Department at the Commercial Registry Secretariat and a member of the ministry's Digital Transformation Team, said the revised payment mechanism followed a review of the beneficiary journey for com-

mercial registry and commercial agency services.

He said the new mechanism enables beneficiaries to begin transactions without paying the full fees upfront, requiring only a nominal payment when submitting an application, with the remaining fees paid after the transaction procedures are completed.

Al-Barashdi said the ministry will continue reviewing and developing services on the Oman Business Platform and expanding automation and automatic licensing, reducing manual intervention, speeding up transactions and improving services for investors and business owners.

SPECIALISED INDUSTRIAL CLUSTERS

Oman to showcase pharmaceutical investment opportunities in Milan

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) will participate in the Milan Pharmaceuticals Exhibition 2026, which opens in Milan, Italy, next Tuesday for three days.

The participation reflects Oman's efforts to establish specialised industrial clusters for pharmaceutical and medical device industries within economic, free and industrial zones, supporting pharmaceutical security, localising production and attracting quality investments.

The OPAZ delegation is headed by Ahmed bin Hassan Al-Dheeb, Vice Chairman of the Authority, and includes representatives from government and private sector entities.

During the exhibition, the delegation will highlight investment opportunities and incentives



available to global companies in Oman's economic, free and industrial zones. Meetings will also be held with manufacturers and investors to explore potential projects and partnerships, while highlighting Oman's strategic location, infrastructure and logistics capabilities and its access to regional and international markets.

OPAZ's participation, alongside Oman Exports, comes amid growth in Oman's pharmaceutical and medical industries, including the development of local companies' capabilities, stronger competitiveness and expanding exports to international markets.

The participation also seeks to promote Omani pharmaceutical and medical products, strengthen the presence of Omani companies in global markets, identify new export opportunities, establish trade partnerships with international buyers and importers, and showcase the sector's industrial and investment capabilities. OPAZ, in coordination with relevant authorities, developers and operators, is working to develop specialised industrial clusters capable of attracting local and international companies and creating an integrated investment ecosystem supporting manufacturing, storage, distribution and export activities.

The clusters are also intended to provide an enabling environment for the growth of pharmaceutical and medical industries and related activities.

SPACE MISSION

Duqm spaceport witnesses test launch of Azad Dreamer rocket

Times News Service

DUQM: The "Etlaq" spaceport in Duqm successfully conducted a trial launch of the Azad Dreamer rocket as part of the Karman X1 space mission.

The 4.3-metre-long rocket, weighing 26 kg, was launched from the spaceport and followed a stable upward trajectory, with flight data accurately transmitted to the mission control centre. The rocket reached its designated target altitude within the test range.

The mission was not intended to reach space, but focused on testing the launch process, rocket performance during flight, and the technologies and systems used in the mission. Karman X1 marks the second successful launch conducted from the Duqm spaceport, following the successful Duqm-1 launch in December 2024.

The Omani spaceport team prepared the launch site, supported



the integration of the rocket components and managed safety operations at the launch range. The mission forms part of the Formation programme, established by Launch in 2024 to facilitate suborbital and experimental rocket launches, with a focus on speed, efficiency, cost-effectiveness and adaptability.

The mission also contributes to strengthening the expertise of Omani teams in launch operations and international cooperation, while supporting the development of commercial launch capabilities from the Sultanate of Oman.

HH Sayyid Azzan bin Qais Al Said, CEO of the Space Launch Port, said Karman X1 was the first mission at the facility to bring to-

gether an Omani launch operator, Stellar Kinetics MCT, Singapore-based OculloSpace, and Australian company Orbit2Orbit, whose payload was carried by the rocket.

He noted that the mission reflects the spaceport's expanding and diversified international partnerships and its ability to attract space launch missions from different countries.

Sayyid Azzan described the launch as an important milestone for the spaceport, demonstrating Oman's ability to connect international partners and build operational expertise through successive missions.

The Duqm spaceport project is among the strategic projects supported by the National Space Programme of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology under the space sector infrastructure pillar. It aims to attract investment, transfer technology and support its localisation in Oman.

Eng. Naashiah Saud Al-Kharusi Honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award



Eng. Naashiah Saud Al-Kharusi, a pioneering Omani leader and the first Omani female engineer, was felicitated with the 'The Origin Lifetime Achievement Award' at The Origin - Women Forum & Awards 2026, held at JW Marriott Hotel Muscat.

With a remarkable career spanning more than five decades, Eng. Naashiah has made significant contributions to engineering, telecommunications, public service and women's advancement in Oman.

Beginning her career in 1972, she contributed to the development of the Sultanate's early national telecommunications infrastructure and went on to hold senior and advisory roles across the sector.

Her distinguished journey has included contributions to the Ministry of Transport and Communications, Omantel, Telecommunications Regulatory Authority and Information Technology



Authority, as well as representing Oman in international telecommunications forums.

Beyond the technology sector, Eng. Naashiah served as a member of Oman's State Council and contributed to advancing women's participation and leadership through several national and international platforms.

The Lifetime Achievement Award celebrates a career defined by pioneering leadership, national service and lasting impact. Eng. Naashiah's journey has helped pave the way for generations of Omani women to pursue careers in engineering, technology and leadership.

The Origin Awards 2026 are instituted by Times of Oman, in collaboration with Muscat Media Group, Gulf Leaders Circle and TEvents, recognising exceptional women, organisations and initiatives making a meaningful impact across industries and communities.

ROYAL VISIT

FROM A1 Royal visit by His Majesty the Sultan to elevate Oman-Kazakhstan relations

Statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information indicate that the volume of trade exchange between the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2025 reached OMR421,500, before surging during the first six months of 2026 to OMR22,883,700.

The centre stated that total Omani exports to Kazakhstan by the end of June 2026 reached OMR22,864,200, while the volume of Omani imports from Kazakhstan reached OMR19,400.

The number of visitors of Kazakh nationality in 2025 reached approximately 22,000, while their number by the end of August reached 10,965 visitors.

Sheikh Dr. Salah Salim Jaaboub, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Republic of Kazakhstan, told Oman News Agency (ONA) that the state visit by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to the Republic of Kazakhstan carries historical significance, as it is the first visit by an Omani Sultan to Kazakhstan and to the Central Asian region. This represents the culmination of a path of friendship and mutual trust extending over more than three decades.

He explained that the Sultanate of Oman was among the first countries to recognise the independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan, following which diplomatic relations were established between the two countries.

He noted that these relations were not limited to the political dimension but extended to the economic aspect, as the Sultanate of Oman was among the first Arab countries to invest in Kazakhstan through participation in the consortium that transports oil from the Tengiz field, one of the largest oil fields in the world.

He added that investments continued during the era of the renewed renaissance under the leadership of His Majesty through Oman Investment Authority in the oil and mining sectors.

The Ambassador affirmed that this Royal visit by His Majesty the Sultan will elevate relations between the two countries to a broader stage, as a number of agreements and memoranda of understanding are expected to be signed in various fields, including air transport, the promotion and protection of investments, information technology, artificial intelligence, health, agriculture, and co-operation between the chambers of commerce and industry in both countries.

He pointed to the issuance of a Royal decree that ratifies the establishment of the Omani-Kazakh Joint Committee for Economic, Trade, Investment, and Tourism Cooperation, to serve as an institutional framework that follows up on the implementation of these agreements and transforms them into tangible projects.

He explained that among the most promising prospects for cooperation between the two countries is the logistics field, as the transport of Kazakh exports, including wheat, through the Sultanate of Oman is being discussed. This would enhance the Sultanate of Oman's role as a logistics outlet for Kazakhstan in the region.

On the tourism side, the Ambassador explained that mutual visa exemption between the two countries, along with the launch of direct flights, has contributed to the growth of tourism movement between the two countries. More than 15,000 Omani citizens visited Kazakhstan over the past two years, while the Sultanate of Oman received more than 21,000 visitors from Kazakhstan.

He noted that this Royal visit comes in harmony with the Sultanate of Oman's approach to building balanced partnerships based on mutual interests. He expressed his aspiration for the visit to open broader horizons for cooperation in the interest of the two countries and peoples.

On his part, Aidarbek Toumatov, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Sultanate of Oman, affirmed that relations between Kazakhstan and the Sultanate of Oman have witnessed steady development and continuous progress for more than three decades. These relations are based on mutual respect, trust, and shared visions on many international issues.

He added that during this period, a solid legal and contractual frame-



work has been established, and areas of bilateral cooperation have expanded to include political, commercial, economic, investment, cultural, and humanitarian aspects, as well as various other fields.

He noted that in recent years, bilateral relations between the two countries have acquired an increasingly practical dimension, with priority given to expanding trade exchange, attracting investments, strengthening trade links, consolidating cooperation in the transport and logistics sectors, and coordinating efforts between public and private sector institutions.

He indicated that the promising potential of these relations will enable the elevation of the bilateral partnership to broader horizons.

Regarding the contribution of mutual visits and official meetings to elevating bilateral relations between the two countries, the Kazakh Ambassador stated that mutual visits at the highest levels and regular official communications have played a prominent role in enhancing political trust and have given additional momentum to relations between the two friendly countries. They not only establish effective political dialogue but also pave the way for exploring new areas of practical cooperation.

He added that recent years have witnessed continuous communication through high-level political contacts between Kazakhstan and Oman through official visits by officials from both countries, which have contributed to giving additional momentum to the development of bilateral cooperation in various fields.

He noted that the official visit

by His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, to Kazakhstan in April 2026 acquired particular importance in strengthening relations and gave new momentum to economic and investment partnership. This was followed by a visit to Muscat in May 2026 by Roman Sklyar, Head of the Presidential Administration of the Republic of Kazakhstan, during which the two sides discussed expanding investment, trade, and economic cooperation.

Regarding benefiting from the geographic location of the two countries, the Ambassador affirmed that developing cooperation in the field of transport and logistics between Kazakhstan and Oman acquires strategic importance for both countries. Kazakhstan, located in the heart of Eurasia, possesses significant transit potential and enjoys a location that qualifies it to be a major land bridge connecting China and Central Asia with other international markets.

He explained that the Sultanate of Oman, with its access to the Arabian Gulf and the Indian Ocean and its modern port infrastructure, offers additional opportunities for connectivity with the markets of the Middle East, South Asia, and Africa.

He pointed out that among the priorities is the development of a multimodal transport corridor linking the railway and road networks in Kazakhstan with maritime routes through Omani ports. This, he believes, requires closer cooperation between relevant transport authorities, port operators, railway companies, and logistics companies in both countries.

He affirmed that there are significant opportunities to increase exports of Kazakh products, including metals, grains, food products, and other goods, to the markets of the Sultanate of Oman and neighboring countries. Kazakhstan can also serve as an important land gateway for Omani goods to reach Central Asian markets and onward to China, he added.

He explained that practical steps can be taken to fully benefit from the advantages of our geographic location, as the two countries can establish a new and effective channel for the movement of goods, investments, and expertise between these two strategically important regions.

Regarding the political aspect, the Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Sultanate of Oman stated that Kazakhstan and the Sultanate of Oman share a convergent approach on a wide range of international issues. Both countries call for adherence to international law, respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states, peaceful settlement of disputes, and resolution of differences primarily through political and diplomatic means.

He also noted the cultural understanding regarding the importance of dialogue and mediation in resolving regional crises acquires particular importance, as Kazakhstan and the Sultanate of Oman cooperate effectively within the framework of the United Nations and other multilateral forums, supporting the enhancement of international cooperation, stability, and security.

He pointed out that there is significant potential to expand in-



vestment cooperation between Kazakhstan and the Sultanate of Oman in a number of complementary fields, foremost among them the mining and metallurgy sector, where joint investments can focus on developing mineral deposits and enhancing raw material processing.

He noted that among other important areas are transport and logistics, agriculture, and food security, including the development of multimodal routes, manufacturing facilities, and resilient supply chains. Industrial cooperation offers promising opportunities, including the establishment of joint production facilities serving third-country markets. There is also significant potential for cooperation in digital technologies and emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence and digital logistics.

He affirmed that focusing efforts on these areas will help both countries move forward toward a systematic and long-term investment partnership and create new drivers of economic growth for both Kazakhstan and the Sultanate of Oman.

Regarding enhancing tourism and cultural exchange between the two countries, the Ambassador stated that tourism has become one of the most dynamic areas of cooperation between Kazakhstan and the Sultanate of Oman. He said, "We have a solid foundation with a 30-day visa exemption system and direct air connectivity between Muscat and Almaty. Results are already tangible, as approximately 15,800 passengers traveled on this route during the three summer months alone."

He added that there is significant potential to increase growth on the tourism side, as Kazakhstan offers Omani tourists a new experience among mountains, lakes, unique nature, and rich historical heritage.

He explained that there is a tendency to operate charter flights from Astana and Almaty to Salalah starting in October, giving more Kazakh tourists the opportunity to discover the Sultanate of Oman. "In the longer term, the development of our air services framework will provide opportunities to launch a direct Muscat-Astana-Muscat route," he added.

As for culture, sports, and humanitarian ties, the Ambassador noted the increasing participation of a number of Kazakh athletes in major sporting events in the Sultanate of Oman, from the Tour of Oman to the Oman Individual Chess Championship. In 2025, the Kazakhstan national team also won the gold medal in the Asian Rugby Championship.

He also noted the cultural exchange between the two countries through numerous events. Last April, the embassy hosted a Nowruz celebration in Muscat, with the participation of the Kazakh community and Omanis. Last December, the Astana Opera presented Leo Delibes' "Coppélia" at the Royal Opera House in Muscat, which attracted great audience interest.

The Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Sultanate

of Oman concluded his remarks by stating that these initiatives across various fields, from tourism and sports to education and culture, contribute to elevating bilateral relations into genuine bonds between peoples and contribute to closer relations between Kazakhstan and the Sultanate of Oman.

On his part, Faisal Abdullah Al Rowas, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, affirmed that the Royal visit by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to the Republic of Kazakhstan represents an important milestone in the path of relations between the two friendly countries. It reflects the keenness to elevate them toward broader horizons of partnership and cooperation. He noted that the discussions and understandings at the level of the two countries' leaderships will give economic relations new momentum and open broader paths for trade, investment, and cooperation between the business communities.

He explained that the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Kazakhstan possess economic and geographic fundamentals that can serve as a foundation for establishing high-value partnerships delivering added value to both sides, particularly in transport and logistics, energy, food security, manufacturing, tourism, mining, digital transformation, and the banking and financial services sector. These fields present opportunities for exchanging expertise, developing digital and financial solutions, and strengthening cooperation between institutions and companies in both countries.

He noted that the strategic location of the two countries offers opportunities to enhance connectivity between Central Asian markets, the Gulf region, and surrounding markets, while leveraging the ports and economic and logistical zones in the Sultanate of Oman alongside Kazakhstan's economic reach in Central Asia. This strengthens prospects for trade and investment integration and facilitates the flow of goods and services.

Al Rowas added that the Royal visit represents an important opportunity to build on the solid foundations of relations between the two countries and to drive economic cooperation toward broader areas, creating further opportunities for the Omani and Kazakh private sectors to establish trade and investment partnerships with added value.

He affirmed that Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry plays an active role in supporting this direction by enhancing communication channels between the business communities, expanding awareness of investment opportunities, encouraging the exchange of delegations, and organizing joint business forums and meetings. This, he affirmed, strengthens the presence of Omani and Kazakh companies in both markets and contributes to developing trade and investment movement and building sustainable economic partnerships serving mutual interests. -ONA

AmCham Oman’s event draws over 180 executives

The open networking format gave executives the opportunity to reconnect after the summer, establish new relationships

Times News Service

MUSCAT: More than 200 senior executives, diplomats and business leaders gathered at the Sheraton Hotel Oman on Tuesday for AmCham Oman’s annual Back to Business Mega Networking Evening, marking the start of Oman’s new professional season and providing the stage for Title Sponsor O Homes to make its public debut.

The evening was attended by Jonathan Peccia, Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Muscat, as Guest of Honour, alongside representatives of the U.S. Embassy, AmCham Oman member companies and leaders from banking, logistics, hospitality, oil and gas, technology, real estate and other key sectors. Pointer Oman LLC joined the evening as Platinum Sponsor, supporting AmCham Oman’s efforts to bring together senior leaders from across the country’s business community.

Built around connection, the open networking format gave executives the opportunity to reconnect after the summer, establish new relationships and begin the conversations that will shape the final quarter of the year.

O Homes chose the evening to introduce its AI-driven real estate platform, built to open Oman’s property market to international investors. The platform allows users to browse and purchase veri-



fied freehold villas and apartments across Muscat, Salalah, Jebel Sifah, Al Mouj, Sultan Haitham City and AIDA, with transparent pricing, secure payment and an AI property advisor that matches investors with suitable opportunities through a simple conversation.

Rebecca Olson, Chief Executive Officer of AmCham Oman, said: “Back to Business is where Oman’s business community comes together again, and this year the room had exactly the energy we hoped for. We are especially proud that O Homes and Pointer Oman chose to power the event..giving all businesses in Oman from SME’s

to large corporations a chance to meaningfully connect. That is what AmCham Oman exists to do.. put ambitious Omani companies in a room full of the right people at the right moment.”

Mohsin Al-Jahdhami, Chief Executive Officer of O Homes, said: “When I built O Homes, I wanted to help more people call Oman, home! Oman has all the hallmarks of a world-class investment destination—safety, stability, real returns, and exceptional quality of life. We built O Homes to bridge the gap, making property acquisition transparent, simple, and fully verified every step of the way.” He added:

“Launching in front of Oman’s business community at an AmCham Oman event means a great deal to us. These are the partners, clients and advocates who will help us take Oman to the world.”

The Sheraton Hotel Oman hosted the evening, while Muscat Creative Advertising Agency supported the on-site screens. Portal Productions served as AmCham Oman’s photography and video partner. A raffle added to the evening’s celebrations, with prizes contributed by O Homes, Alila Jabal Akhdar, dusicD2, Europcar, Radisson Hotel Muscat Panorama and Royal Tulip Hotel.



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Chief Executive Officer: Ahmed Essa Al Zedjali

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

KAZAKHSTAN

His Majesty’s visit

< FROM A1 Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan during his visit will be a high-level official delegation comprising: His Highness Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs; Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court; Lt.Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu’amani, Minister of the Royal Office; Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister; Sultan bin Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance; Dr. Hamad bin Said Al Aufi, Head of the Private Office; Abdulsalam bin Mohammed Al Murshidi, President of Oman Investment Authority; Anwar bin Hilal Al Jabri, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and Sheikh Dr. Salah bin Salim Jaaboub, the Sultanate of Oman’s Ambassador to the Republic of Kazakhstan.

May Allah the Almighty safeguard His Majesty the Sultan in his residence and in his travels and grant him abundant health and complete well-being”.
-ONA



INDIAN SCHOOL DARSAIT
(Affiliated to CBSE, New Delhi, India) P.O. Box 1551, P.C. 114,
Sultanate of Oman, Tel: 24786693, 24783995
Email: office@isdoman.com Website: www.isdoman.com



TENDER NOTICE

REF: ISD/ADMIN/TENDER/2026-27/005

Indian School Darsait is seeking bids from specialised firms who are having experience in the supply of the following services:

SL. NO.	NAME OF THE TENDER	REF NO.
1.	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Air-Conditioning Units	ISD/ADM/T 2026-27/005-A
2.	Design, Supply & Construction of Pedestrian Connecting Bridge from School Building to Playground	ISD/ADM/T 2026-27/005-B
3.	Dismantling, Relocation & Reinstallation of Existing Tensile Structure at New Location	ISD/ADM/T 2026-27/005-C
4.	Supply of Desktop Computers	ISD/ADM/T 2026-27/005-D
5.	Supply of Laptops	ISD/ADM/T 2026-27/005-E
6.	Supply & Installation of Built-in Storage Cupboards for Staff Rooms	ISD/ADM/T 2026-27/005-F
7.	Development of New Volleyball Court	ISD/ADM/T 2026-27/005-G
8.	Supply of Stationery Items	ISD/ADM/T 2026-27/005-H

Interested parties shall collect the Tender documents from the school admin office against the payment of RO 10/- each as a non-refundable Tender fee from **04 Oct 2026 to 15 Oct 2026** during the working days (**Monday to Thursday**) of the school between **07:30 a.m. and 02:00 p.m.**

The completed Tender shall be dropped in the Tender Box kept in the school office on or before **20 Oct 2026 by 2.00 p.m.**

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.

The Tender document should be submitted in a sealed envelope, addressed to **The Head Purchase Subcommittee, Indian School Darsait, PO Box 1551, PC114, Darsait, Muscat.**

Principal

IN MIRBAT

Dhofar Arabian Horse Beauty Championship kicks off

MIRBAT: The third edition of the Dhofar International Arabian Horse Beauty Championship, organised by Dhofar Tourism Company, in cooperation with the Office of the Governor of Dhofar and the Oman Equestrian Federation, kicked off on Saturday in the Wilayat of Mirbat in the Governorate of Dhofar.

The tournament was inaugu-

rated by His Highness Sayyid Harib bin Thuwaini Al Said, Advisor at the Royal Court.

The championship, which targets 45 horse owners, is held according to the international standards adopted by the European Conference of Arab Horse Organizations (ECAHO).

His Highness Sayyid Marwan bin Turki Al Said, Governor of

Dhofar, affirmed that hosting the championship is an extension of the interest in equestrian sports and Arabian horses as an integral part of the cultural and historical heritage, noting that the championship’s attainment of international classification reflects the capabilities that the governorate enjoys in hosting specialised events. -ONA



TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Nama Dhofar Services invites the specialized companies to participate and submit their offers for the below said tenders:

Tender Number	Tender Name	Last Date for Collection of Tender Documents	Time & Last Date for Proposal Submission	Tender Fee (OMR) Including VAT (5%)	Site Visit Date
DISC/2026/022-2	Execution, Financing, Operation, and Maintenance of the Works under the BOT Contract for the Construction of Al Houtah Desalination Plant, Transmission Pipeline, Booster Stations, Tanks, Distribution Network, and Associated Works in Wilayat Rakhyut	18-October-2026	18-November-2026	1050.000	20-October-2026

- To purchase the tender document website via the link or the Barcode below:
https://isupplier.nama.om:4443/OA_HTML/OA.jsp?OAFunc=XTTEN_TENDER_FLOAT_DISC_F
- Every company wishing to participate in this tender must attach with its bid a bid bond in the form of a bank guarantee from one of the banks operating in the Sultanate of Oman. Any bid that does not contain the bid bond will be disqualified.
- The original bid bond must be submitted in an envelope sealed with red wax and addressed to the chairperson of the minor tender committee and written on outside the Tender name and the Tender number and it should be paced in the tender box in Nama Dhofar Services in Salalah before 03:00 pm of the last day for submitting Bids.
- Bids shall be submitted online through using "isupplier portal". No hard copies are accepted.
- The Tender fees are not refundable. However, Tenderers who are holding "Riyada" card issued from public authority for SME development will be exempted from providing the tender fee and the Bid bond.
- The company is not obliged to accept the lowest or any other bid.
- In the event of receipt of the tender document on behalf of another company, the interested purchasers in the above tender document should provide details of the person's name and the company details.



شركة ظفار للخدمات المدمجة
ص.ب ١٦٤ - فرع فرندى ٢١ - صلالة - محافظة ظفار
هاتف: ٢٢٢٠٢٠٠ - فاكس: ٢٢٢٠٢٠١
www.dhofarservices.nama.om





وزارة التنمية الاجتماعية
Ministry of Social Development



Tender Announcement

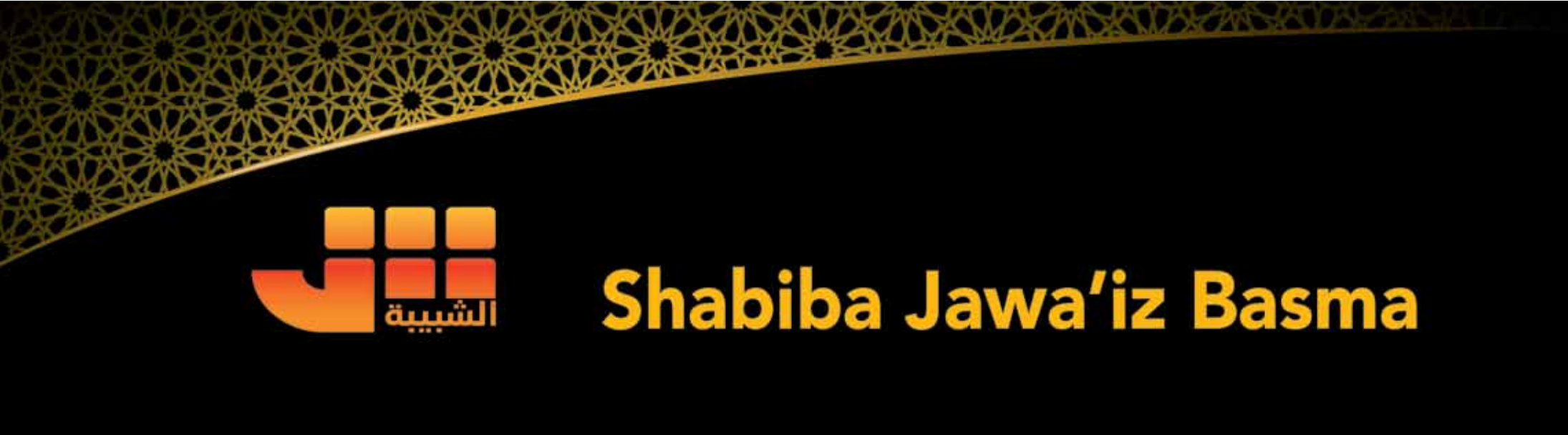
The Internal Tender committee of Ministry of Social Development hereby announces the following tender :-

Tender No.	Tender Subject	Grade	Last date for obtainment of tender document	Last date for tender submission	Tender Document Price (non-refundable)	
					Small and Medium companies	Local companies
482/2026	Specifications of the subdivision works in the Down Syndrome Center building (formerly the day care center building) Al-Khoud	Companies specialized in the field of urban contracting and maintenance and registered with the Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority at the fourth degree	Tuesday 13/10/2026 02:00 PM	Thursday 22/10/2026 10:00 AM	10 R.O	25 R.O
483/2026	Business specifications for supplying and installing shock-resistant floors for the Directorate of Care and Rehabilitation Centers for People with Disabilities - Al-Khoud	Companies specialized in the field of urban contracting and maintenance and registered with the Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority at the fourth degree	Thursday 15/10/2026 02:00 PM	Thursday 29/10/2026 10:00 AM	10 R.O	25 R.O
487/2026	Ministry's electronic portal development project	Companies specialized in the field of design, installation and maintenance of information programs and systems Equipping information data centers registered with the Projects, Tenders and Local Content Authority with the excellent, first, second, third or fourth degree	Friday 23/10/2026 02:00 PM	Thursday 12/11/2026 10:00 AM	10 R.O	25 R.O

- ❖ Specialized Companies, registered with the Tender Board may obtain the Tender documents at the Tender Board e-tendering digital portal link (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>). On Sunday 04/10/2026
- ❖ For Inquiry , please contact through 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



'JAWA'IZ BASMA 2026' CELEBRATES INITIATIVES CREATING MEANINGFUL SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC IMPACT



Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali, Chairman, Muscat Media Group



Dr. Nooreen Al Balushi, Consultant General - Hepatobiliary and Liver Transplant Surgeon, Royal Hospital and Director of the Omani Center for Organ Transplantation, Ministry of Health



MUSCAT: Shabiba Jawa'iz Basma 2026, organised by Muscat Media Group, the media group behind Times of Oman and Al Shabiba, was held on 30 September 2026 at JW Marriott Hotel Muscat.

The event brought together senior officials, business leaders, organisations, community champions and changemakers to celebrate

initiatives creating meaningful social, environmental and economic impact across the Sultanate.

Aligned with Oman Vision 2040, Jawa'iz Basma provided a platform to recognise organisations, initiatives and individuals contributing towards stronger, more inclusive and sustainable communities across Oman.

The event commenced with a

welcome address by Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali, Chairman, Muscat Media Group, who set the tone for an evening dedicated to recognising purposeful initiatives and the people and organisations behind positive change.

The event was honoured by the presence of His Excellency Sheikh Ali bin Mansour Al Amiri, Member, Majlis A'Shura who graced the

occasion as Chief Guest and presented the awards to the winners alongside Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali. A key highlight of the evening was an insightful session by Dr. Nooreen Al Balushi, Consultant General, Hepatobiliary and Liver Transplant Surgeon at the Royal Hospital and Director of the Omani Center for Organ Transplantation.

She shared insights into Oman's journey in organ donation and transplantation, highlighting its life-saving impact and the importance of advancing awareness across the community.

The evening consisted of the presentation of 22 awards, recognising outstanding organisations, initiatives and individuals creating meaningful social, envi-

ronmental and economic impact across Oman.

The success of Shabiba Jawa'iz Basma 2026 was strengthened by the valued support of its partners – OQ8, Ahlibank, Worley, Jeep, RAM and Minara – whose association contributed to an evening dedicated to celebrating meaningful initiatives and positive impact across Oman.



AHMED MOHAMMED AHMED ALMUADI
Environment Protection Initiative



RUFAIDA ALMAAWALI
Social Entrepreneurship Initiative



OMANI CENTER FOR ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION
Community Healthcare Initiative



JUSOOR FOUNDATION
Youth Engagement Initiative – Talent Development



MHD ACERE
Youth Engagement in Sports



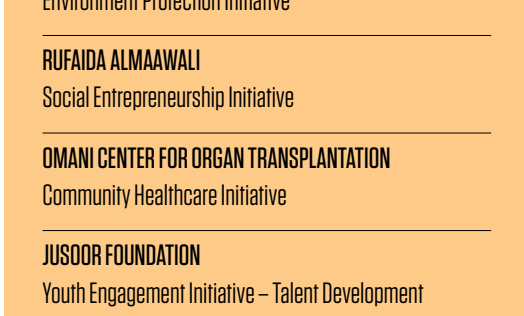
AL AZHAR SCIENTIFIC CENTER
Skill Development Initiative



VOLTAMP ENERGY
Community Development Empowerment Initiative



AREEJ VEGETABLE OILS & DERIVATIVES
Outstanding Omanisation Achievement - Food Manufacturing



OMANI CENTER FOR ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION
Community Healthcare Initiative



OMAN SAIL
Disability Inclusion Initiative



AL BARAKA OILFIELD SERVICES
In-Country Value (ICV) in Oil & Gas



AREEJ VEGETABLE OILS & DERIVATIVES
Outstanding Omanisation Achievement - Food Manufacturing



SHELL OMAN MARKETING
CSR Initiative of the Year



EUROPCAR OMAN
Leadership in CSR in Car Rental Services



VALE
Leadership in CSR - Mining



AHLI BANK
Leadership in CSR - Banking



OMAN HOUSING BANK
National Leadership in Housing Empowerment & Development



MHD - ITICS
Women Empowerment Initiative - Diversified Business



PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT OMAN
Women Empowerment Initiative - Oil & Gas



WORLEY
Leadership in Sustainable Business Practices



OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY
Leadership in ESG - Manufacturing



QO8
Community Education Initiative



SOHAR PORT AND FREEZONE
Leadership in Social Impact



DAR AL ATTA'A
Leadership in Social Impact



QO8
Community Education Initiative



SOHAR PORT AND FREEZONE
Leadership in Social Impact



DAR AL ATTA'A
Leadership in Social Impact



SPORTS

Iyer-led side beats Pakistan by 19 runs, clinches Asian Games gold

With this, India has secured its 81st Asian Games medal, including 19th gold to the tally. India has also won 26 silver medals and 36 bronze medals already

AICHI-NAGOYA: Team India made history, delivering a double gold in cricket. After the women's team, the men's team beat Pakistan in the gold medal clash by 19 runs at the ongoing Asian Games on Saturday, on the back of heroic efforts from Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma and Axar Patel.

With this, India has secured its 81st Asian Games medal, including 19th gold to the tally. India has also won 26 silver medals and 36 bronze medals already. Earlier, the Harmanpreet Kaur-led women's team had beaten Sri Lanka by 147 runs to win a gold medal in women's cricket.

During the run-chase of 212 runs, Jasprit Bumrah did not have a very good start, conceding 11 runs in the first over, bowling two no-balls.

Maaz Sadaqat and Sahibzada Farhan added a few boundaries before Washington Sundar struck to remove Sahibzada for a 11-ball 10. Pakistan was 33/1 in 3.4 overs.



In the next over, Axar Patel removed Usman Khan for just three runs, while the all-rounder started the seventh over by removing Maaz for 23 in 18 balls, with three fours. Pakistan was down and out at 39/3 in 6.1 overs.

Hasan Nawaz and Saim Ayub took control for Pakistan from there on, with both collecting sixes against spin of Abhishek Sharma and Ravi Bishnoi. Nawaz smashed Bishnoi for two successive sixes in the 10th over, ending the first half at 76/3, with Nawaz (26*) and Ayub (12*) unbeaten.

Saim gathered two more fours against Abhishek in the 11th over.

A massive leakage in Ravi Bishnoi's over, two sixes and a four from Hasan, put India in a spot of bother. Pakistan reached the 100-run mark in 12.2 overs.

Shivam Dube ended the 87-run stand, removing Saim for 29 in 22 balls, with two fours and a six, with a catch from Washington Sundar. The wicket came at the right time just when things had started looking bleak for India. Pakistan was 126/4 in 14.1 overs.

Hasan Nawaz carried on, getting a six against Axar and a trio of boundaries against Dube in the 17th over, bringing down the equation to 52 runs needed in 18 balls.

Hasan was at 79 in 40 balls, with five fours and five sixes, playing a blinder for his nation.

Washington broke the partnership, removing Abdul Samad for just nine in nine balls, with Pakistan at 162/5 in 17.3 overs, India still needing Hasan's big wicket.

Pakistan continued to attack, with Saad Masood getting sixes against Sundar and Bumrah. The equation reached 33 in the final over. India managed to defend the total, as Pakistan ended at 192/6, with Hasan's heroic 96 off 51 balls, with five fours and seven sixes in vain.

Axar Patel and Washington (2/29) delivered sensational

spells, while Shivam Dube (2/33) also took two wickets.

Earlier, India posted a commanding 211/6 against Pakistan in the gold medal match with Abhishek Sharma and Tilak Varma smashing quickfire half-centuries on Saturday.

Batting first, India made a flying start as openers Vaibhav Sooryavanshi and Abhishek Sharma smashed 24 runs off Pakistan spinner Saad Masood in the second over.

However, in the very next over, all-rounder Saim Ayub struck to dismiss Sooryavanshi, who scored 15 off nine balls, including two sixes. The runs continued to flow as Abhishek hammered Ayub for a six and two consecutive boundaries, helping India reach 43/1.

On the fifth ball of the fourth over, Pakistan pacer Ahmed Daniyal dismissed wicketkeeper-batter Sanju Samson for just two runs. At the end of the fifth over, India were 63/2.

On the final ball of the sixth over, opener Abhishek Sharma completed his half-century off just 20 balls against Daniyal. India finished the powerplay at 81/2, putting themselves in a strong position.

81/2 was India's highest powerplay score against Pakistan in T20Is, bettering 69/0 in the Asia Cup 2025 Super Fours fixture in Dubai. Abhishek had got to 50 off 24 balls in that game, which was India's previous fastest fifty against Pakistan in the format.

Arafat Minhas then claimed the prized wicket of Abhishek Sharma on the fifth ball of the eighth over. The left-handed batter was stumped after playing a brilliant knock of 61 off 28 balls, including seven sixes and three fours. The

Men in Blue strengthened their position after 10 overs, reaching 114/3.

On the first ball of the 14th over, Arafat Minhas claimed his second wicket, clean bowling wicket-keeper-batter Ishan Kishan for 20 off 18 balls, including three fours, as India reached 133/4. India lost captain Shreyas Iyer on the first ball of the 15th over after Abrar Ahmed dismissed him for 21 off 24 balls, including two fours. After the end of the 16th over, India reached 142/5.

During the 18th over of Sufyan Mogim, Tilak Varma hammered one four and two consecutive sixes as India reached 172/5. In the very next over, Tilak Varma and Shivam Dube hammered 23 runs off Saim Ayub as India raced to 195/5. On the first ball of the 20th over, Ahmed Daniyal claimed the big wicket of Dube, who departed after scoring 27 off 15 deliveries, including two fours and two sixes.

However, Varma shifted into top gear, hammering two consecutive sixes off the third and fourth balls before completing his half-century off just 21 balls on the fifth delivery, helping India cross the 200-run mark. India finished with a commanding 211/6 in 20 overs. Varma remained unbeaten on 22-ball 51, including three fours and four sixes.

For Pakistan, Ahmed Daniyal (2/43) and Arafat Minhas (2/25) claimed two wickets apiece, while Saim Ayub (1/47) and Abrar Ahmed (1/29) chipped in with one wicket each.

Brief Scores: India: 211/6 (Abhishek Sharma 61, Tilak Varma 51*, Arafat Minhas 2/25) beat Pakistan: 192/6 (Hasan Nawaz 96, Saim Ayub 29, Axar Patel 2/29).

WORLD CUP MATCHES

FIFA report on World Cup identifies counter-pressing as defining trend

GENEVA: FIFA published a post-tournament report of the 2026 World Cup on Friday, saying the tournament showed the trend of counter-pressing and a redefined role of the goalkeepers.

The report, compiled by FIFA's Technical Study Group and the FIFA Football Performance Insights Department, analyzed all 104 World Cup matches to find tactical innovation, evolving player roles and new pathways to success at the highest level.

According to FIFA, counter-pressing is a double-edged asset identified as one of the competition's defining trends. "The top teams regularly succeeded in turning a loss of possession into an immediate attacking opportunity," it said.

Goalkeepers are increasingly used as active participants in the build-up phase and as a solution in the quest to overcome the opposition's press, FIFA said.

FIFA said the analysis showed there is no single winning formula, describing it as "contrasting routes to success" - from aggressive high presses to disciplined low blocks and rapid transitions.

The report also explored the game across every phase of play



to raise nine key topics, including building with a back three, wide-player rotations, exploiting inside channels, progression through key players, high pressing, counter-pressing, defensive blocks, attacking transitions, and the evolving role of the goalkeeper.

"The objective is not simply to describe what happened, but

to understand why it happened: how teams created and controlled space, how they attacked and defended, how individual roles evolved, and how the decisions of players and coaches influenced the different moments of the game," said FIFA chief of global football development, Arsene Wenger.

RED BULL DRIVER

Verstappen secures his first pole position of the season in the Bahrain Grand Prix

SEPANG: Red Bull driver Max Verstappen secured his first pole position of the season in the Bahrain Grand Prix in Malaysia on Saturday, as part of the Formula 1 World Championship, and was joined on the front row by Ferrari driver Lewis Hamilton.

Verstappen's teammate Isaac Hajar was the third fastest driver, but he will drop to eighth on the starting grid due to a penalty, allowing championship leader Kimi Antonelli of Mercedes to move up to third alongside Ferrari's Charles Leclerc.

Verstappen was the last driver to win a Grand Prix in Malaysia in 2017, his second career victory, before the race was dropped from the Formula 1 calendar after the government said it could not afford the costs.

After nine years in which he



won four titles, the Dutchman showed that he is still the most prominent driver in Sepang, after recording a time of 1 minute and 35.130 seconds.

Hamilton, who also has one win at Sepang, suffered from tire wear in free practice, but the veteran Briton snatched second place from Hajar in the final moments of qualifying.

Hajar exceeded the permitted number of engines this season, resulting in a penalty of dropping five places on the starting grid. -ONA

AICHI-NAGOYA

Teenage athletes take centre stage at Asian Games

NAGOYA: Records have tumbled and new stars have emerged at the 2026 Asian Games, where a generation of young athletes has made its mark across sports ranging from swimming and athletics to skateboarding and eSports.

Of China's 815 athletes, 548 are making their Asian Games debuts, while nearly a third were born in 2005 or later. The youngest is 12-year-old skateboarder Cao Shiqi.

Cao finished fourth in the women's park final, just 1.63 points shy of the podium. The tears she shed afterward, her coach said, would only sharpen a talent whose composure belies her age.

In the pool, 19-year-old Zhang Zhanshuo emerged as one of the Games' biggest stars, winning seven gold medals from eight events to equal the record for the most titles by an athlete at a single Asian Games.

Zhang swept the men's 200m, 400m, 800m and 1,500m free-



style titles, breaking the Asian record in the 200m and Games records in the 400m and 800m. He added three relay golds, helping China set Asian records in the men's 4x200m and 4x100m freestyle relays.

Zhang was not the only teenager making waves at the Tokyo Aquatics Center.

Yu Zidi, 13, won three individual titles in four days. Victory in the women's 200m butterfly made her the youngest swimming gold medalist in Asian Games history before she broke the Asian record in the 200m individual medley and the Games record in



the Premier League's investigation, with three of the four alleged breaches upheld.

Man City, meeting the Friday deadline, submitted their paperwork for appeal on Thursday, as per Goal.com.

The multi-time Premier League champions were ruled to have inflated their revenues by upwards of 380 million pounds. On Friday, City released a statement, denying any wrongdoing and maintaining their innocence, saying that the "opinion contains clear material errors of law, principle and fact and is unsafe."

"Manchester City Football Club can confirm that at 7pm on Thursday 1st October 2026 the club lodged its comprehensive

appeal against the opinion of the Premier League Commission, in relation to the Premier League disciplinary matter. The club's firm position is that, on multiple grounds, the opinion contains clear material errors, of law, principle and fact and is unsafe," said the statement, as per Goal.com.

The statement continued: "The club is innocent of the accusations made by the Premier League and a comprehensive body of irrefutable evidence exists in support of all of its positions, relating to this case. We will continue to respect due process and are necessarily restricted in what we can say further until all proceedings are complete."

City is expected to argue that their key sponsorships were bankrolled by Abu Dhabi Government, not the club's ownership group. The outcome of this appeal could have a massive impact on English Football. As per current regulations, the newly convened judicial panel will look into the initial decision instead of a full re-hearing of the original case, meaning that Man City will have to prove the errors in the Commission's initial ruling in order to overturn the verdict and avoid sanctions. -ANI

US NATURAL GAS OUTPUT
NEW DELHI: US natural gas production reached an all-time high in July 2026, driven primarily by increased output from the prolific Permian Basin, according to the latest data from the US Energy Information Administration (EIA).

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MAJOR FORUM IN BAHRAIN
The Sultanate of Oman will participate in the GCC Ministers of Trade, Industry and Standardisation meetings and the “Made in the Gulf 2026” Forum and Exhibition, to be hosted by the Kingdom of Bahrain next Tuesday and Wednesday. **>B2**

NCSI DATA



Effective exchange rate index of Omani rial rises by 0.4%

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The effective exchange rate index of the Omani Rial rose by 0.4 percent, reaching 116.8 points at the end of July 2026, compared to 116.3 points at the end of July 2025.

Preliminary data published by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) showed that the currency issued in the Sultanate of Oman grew by 4.9 percent by the end of July 2026, reaching OMR1.585 billion, compared to 1.511 billion by the end of July 2025.

The narrow money supply increased by 28 percent, reaching OMR9.209 billion at the end of July 2026, compared to OMR7.193 billion at the end of July 2025.

Domestic liquidity also increased by 14.9 percent, reaching OMR29.252 billion at the end of July 2026, compared to OMR25.450 billion at the end of July 2025.

Additionally, foreign assets decreased by 1.7 percent to reach OMR7.283 billion at the end of July 2026, compared to

Domestic liquidity also increased by 14.9 percent, reaching OMR29.252 billion

OMR7.411 billion at the end of July 2025.

Private sector deposits

In the banking sector, private sector deposits with commercial banks and Islamic windows increased by 12.9 percent by the end of July 2026, reaching OMR24.711 billion, compared to OMR21.890 billion by the end of July 2025.

Total loans and financing granted by commercial banks and Islamic windows also increased by 12.2 percent, reaching OMR38.258 billion by the end of July 2026, compared to OMR34.100 billion by the end of July 2025.

The gross domestic product of the wholesale and retail trade sector at current prices rose 5% during H1 2026 to about OMR1.735 billion, compared with the same period in 2025

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Business activity in the Sultanate of Oman continued to expand during the first half of 2026, supported by efforts to develop the business environment, streamline procedures and strengthen trade and investment.

Data from the National Centre for Statistics and Information showed that the gross domestic product of the wholesale and retail trade sector at current prices rose 5% during H1 2026 to about OMR1.735 billion, compared with the same period in 2025.

Foreign investment in trade activity also increased by 9.7% to approximately OMR305.3 million, reflecting continued investment flows into the sector and the opportunities offered by the Omani market.

Re-exports recorded the strongest growth among the indicators, rising 13.6% to about OMR1.14 billion. The increase highlights



Oman's growing role in regional and international trade, supported by its strategic location, logistics infrastructure and network of ports, airports and land crossings.

Nasra bint Sultan Al Habshi, Director General of Trade at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, said the indicators reflect the continued expansion of commercial activity and underscore the importance of developing an efficient and flexible

business environment that supports investment and strengthens Oman's links with regional and global markets.

She said the growth in re-exports reflects increased utilisation of Oman's trade and logistics capabilities.

The ministry, in coordination with relevant authorities, is working to facilitate trade through various ports, simplify import, export and re-export procedures and en-

hance integration among government services provided to the private sector.

Al Habshi added that the ministry is continuing to develop the legislative and regulatory framework for the commercial sector, digitise services and simplify procedures through the Oman Business Platform, improve the investor and trader experience, promote e-commerce and competition, and enhance the efficiency of services provided to the private sector.

She noted that the 9.7% increase in foreign investment in trade activities is an indicator of the attractiveness of the sector. The ministry is working to attract quality investments and connect them with available opportunities, while leveraging the advantages offered by economic, free and industrial zones and Oman's transport and logistics infrastructure.

The ministry is also working to facilitate exports and re-exports, address challenges facing traders and exporters in coordination with government and private entities, and develop digital services and legislation governing commercial activities.

MSX IN SEPTEMBER

Investors target bank and industrial stocks

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Investors on the Muscat Stock Exchange targeted shares of banks, investment, finance, insurance and industrial companies in trading last month. This was on the back of improvement shown by these sectors in recent months and the approaching announcement of the preliminary financial results for the third quarter of this year.

The gains recorded by the shares of banks, investment, finance and insurance companies were reflected in the performance of the financial sector index, which rose 220 points and closed above the level of 13,600 points. The industrial sector index rose by about 200 points and closed at 9,812 points, benefiting from the rise in the shares of Gulf Mushroom Production, Al Anwar Ceramic Tiles, Oman Chlorine, Voltamp Energy,

Oman Cement, Al Jazeera Steel Products, Galfar Engineering and Contracting and many other industrial stocks.

In September, the Muscat Stock Exchange saw the prices of 41 securities rise, compared to 54 securities whose prices declined and 13 securities that remained unchanged at their previous levels. However, the recorded increases were not reflected in the main index, which was affected by the recorded declines and closed at 7,566 points, down 37 points. The services sector index recorded the highest losses, affected by the decline in the shares of Asyad Shipping, OQ Gas Networks, Sohar Power and a number of other shares, and closed at 3009 points, down 51 points.

The market capitalisation of the Muscat Stock Exchange rose to OMR39.23 billion by the end of last month, recording gains of about

OMR590 million, benefiting from the rise in the market capitalisation of closed companies and public shareholding companies listed on the parallel market.

Trading value in September recorded a decline of 6.4 percent to OMR914 million, compared to about OMR976.5 million in August. However, the number of transactions executed rose to 199,000, compared to 178,000 executed in August.

Bank Sohar International's stock attracted investors, witnessing trades worth OMR224.4 million, representing 24.5 percent of the total trading value. OQ Basic Industries came in second place with trades worth OMR175.8 million, Omantel came in third with trades worth OMR99.1 million, OQ Gas Networks came in fourth place with trades worth OMR98.7 million Omani riyals, while OQ Exploration and Production came in

fifth with trades worth OMR98.3 million, representing 10.7 percent of the total trading value.

Dhofar Food and Investment shares led the gainers, rising by 32.2 percent and closing at 291 baisa. Oman Chromite shares also rose by 32.2 percent and closed at OMR4.800. Oman Arab Bank shares climbed to 340 baisa, rising by 31.2 percent. Gulf Mushroom Production shares rose by 15.2 percent and closed at 492 baisa. Oman India Fertiliser shares rose by 11.7 percent and closed at 228 baisa.

In contrast, National Aluminium Products shares recorded the highest losses, declining by 32.8 percent and closing at 100 baisa. Asyad Shipping shares fell by 14.6 percent and closed at 210 baisa. Sohar Power shares declined to 190 baisa, recording a decrease of 13.6 percent. Oman Fisheries shares fell to 21 baisa, recording a decrease of 8.7 percent.

IN H1 2026



Raysut Industrial City localises nine projects worth over OMR6.5mn

Times News Service

Muscat: Raysut Industrial City, affiliated with the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates “Madayn”, received 27 investment applications during the first half of 2026, of which nine new projects were localised with a total investment value of OMR6.55 million. Occupying a combined area of 32,702.8 sqm, the projects span several sectors, including food industries, iron manufacturing, mining industries, and services sector, among others. During the same period, five underperforming projects were addressed through their replacement with quality projects in targeted sectors.

Hamid bin Ali Bait Said, Acting Director General of Raysut Industrial City, said that by the end of the first half of 2026, the total cumulative investment volume in the industrial city had exceeded OMR521 million. The city employs 3,681 workers, of which 1,582 are Omanis, recording an Omanisation rate of more than 44%.

“Raysut Industrial City currently covers an area of more than 3,994,141 sqm, with an occupancy rate of developed areas reaching around 98%. Future expansions are planned over an area of up to 10,053,468 sqm,” he said.

He noted that Madayn continues to implement a number of de-

velopment projects and enhance basic services at Raysut Industrial City. These include providing water and wastewater services for Phases 2 and 3, as well as preparing studies and master plans for the future expansions.

He added that several approved projects are expected to commence soon, including the expansion and development of infrastructure for new areas, the establishment of Madayn Entrepreneurial Complex, and a project to enhance the city's security systems. These projects are expected to support Raysut Industrial City in accommodating new investment applications and strengthening its competitiveness. Raysut Industrial City enjoys a strategic location, approximately 4 km from the Port of Salalah and 15 km from Salalah Airport. Its location provides access to markets in Africa and Asia, in addition to its proximity to the Yemeni market, thereby offering competitive advantages in export and logistics. Raysut Industrial City also provides an attractive environment for food and pharmaceutical industries in Dhofar Governorate.

The management is currently working with a number of partners to explore investment opportunities across supply chains related to the medical sector, as well as the project of establishing a cluster for food industries.

Oman's stock market edges higher in weekly trading

MUSCAT: The Omani stock market returned to the upside during the week. The MSX 30 index rose 0.59% to close at 7,598.51 points on Thursday, ending a two-week losing streak. Activity recovered sharply. The volume of shares traded jumped 55.23% week-on-week and traded value climbed 52.47%. The next major catalyst will be preliminary Q3 results over the coming weeks.

“On the domestic front, S&P Global's rating which cited fiscal consolidation measures and improved economic performance also underpinned the index. Market participants additionally focused on geopolitical developments and US-Iran talks,” according to an industry watcher.

“Although mediators pursued efforts to reach a diplomatic settlement between the two countries, prolonged ten-



sions and unclear negotiation timelines could continue to cap further upside,” said Daniel Takieddine Co-founder and CEO, Sky Links Capital Group.

Oil prices remained volatile amid the ongoing uncertainty and concerns over the developments in the region. Reports of a potential US military buildup could fuel caution, while markets continue to react to any changes in maritime conditions and diplomatic progress. At the same time, elevated prices

provide a floor for Oman's stock market.

Meanwhile, attention remained on US economic data this week. Lower-than-expected PCE figures and job market data as well as softer messaging from some Federal Reserve governors led to a decrease in interest rate hike expectations in October, which could support risk appetite.

At the sector level, the industry index finished the week at 10,066.06 points, advancing by 1.60%. OQ Base Industries surged by 3.16%, while Oman Cables Industry rose by 0.15%. Meanwhile, Oman Cement eased by 0.77%.

The financial index rose by 0.90%, closing at 13,699.87 points. Bank Dhofar posted solid gains of 3.86%, while Al Anwar Investment was up by 1.95%. National Bank Oman finished the week with

a 0.82% increase. At the same time, Oman Emirates Holding, Omninvest, Bank Muscat, and Madina Takaful declined by 4.76%, 1.48%, 0.94%, and 0.90%, respectively.

The services index settled at 3,032.07 points, up by 0.76%. Abraj Energy Services, Ooredoo and AlBatinah Power climbed by 1.48%, 1.27% and 0.51%, respectively. Asyad Shipping and Al Jazeera Services closed the week with more limited gains of 0.48% and 0.40%, respectively. OQ Exploration and Production retreated by 0.83%.

“Looking ahead, investors will continue to watch for any de-escalation signals that could ease tensions and improve sentiment. Any substantive updates could lift markets, while prolonged geopolitical uncertainty could keep risks in place,” Daniel Takieddine further added.

MARKET

29 Omani companies to showcase national products in Bahrain expo

The participation aims to strengthen Gulf economic integration, enhance the competitiveness of national products and industries, and expand their access to regional and international markets

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman will participate in the GCC Ministers of Trade, Industry and Standardisation meetings and the “Made in the Gulf 2026” Forum and Exhibition, to be hosted by the Kingdom of Bahrain next Tuesday and



Wednesday.

The participation aims to strengthen Gulf economic integration, enhance the competitiveness of national products and industries, and expand their access to regional and international markets.

Oman's delegation is headed by Ghalib bin Saeed Al-Maamari, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion for Trade and Industry, with representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Small and Medium Enterprises

Development Authority (Riyada), the Consumer Protection Authority and the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

A total of 29 Omani companies will also participate in the accompanying exhibition, showcasing national products and manufacturing capabilities.

The meetings include the 71st meeting of the GCC Trade Cooperation Committee, the 57th meeting of the Industrial Cooperation Committee, the 12th meeting of the Ministerial Committee for

Standardization Affairs and the 15th consultative meeting between GCC trade and industry ministers and heads of federations and chambers.

Al-Maamari said Oman's participation comes at a stage requiring Gulf integration to move beyond policy coordination towards greater impact on trade, industry and investment. He highlighted the importance of removing obstacles to the movement of goods, strengthening value and supply chains, developing standardisation systems



and creating wider opportunities for private sector growth within and beyond GCC markets.

He said GCC countries have strong economic, industrial and logistical capabilities that can support deeper integration, adding that linking production capacities and comparative advantages would strengthen Gulf content, create joint industrial and investment opportunities and enhance the competitiveness of Gulf products globally.

Al-Maamari noted that the participation of 29 Omani companies in “Made in the Gulf 2026” reflects the diversity of Omani industries and the development of national production capabilities. The event provides an opportunity for Omani

companies to showcase their products, establish direct partnerships with Gulf businesses and explore opportunities for expansion, exports and participation in regional value chains.

The forum brings together ministers, decision-makers, industry leaders, investors and experts to discuss the future of Gulf industry. Its sessions cover access to global markets, green and sustainable manufacturing, industrial investment, product quality and competitiveness, infrastructure, supply chains, financing, local content, smart factories and innovation.

An accompanying knowledge programme will continue until October 8, focusing on Gulf standardisation and conformity, industrial transformation and artificial intelligence, smart factories, sustainability, quality infrastructure and the role of technology in improving industrial efficiency.

Through its participation, Oman seeks to strengthen the position of its national industries within the Gulf manufacturing system, expand opportunities for Omani companies to establish partnerships and increase exports, and contribute to translating Gulf integration into joint projects and value-added economic opportunities.

FOR THIS YEAR

India's GDP forecast remains at 7%

NEW DELHI: NITI Aayog Member Arvind Virmani has retained his forecast of 7 per cent GDP growth for India this year, while cautioning that the economy continues to face a wide range of uncertainty amid unresolved trade issues and global developments.

Speaking to ANI on the sidelines of the Kautilya Economic Conclave, Virmani said he had raised his growth forecast from 6.5 per cent to 7 per cent earlier this year, while simultaneously expanding the uncertainty range.

My forecast

“My forecast right now for the whole year is still the same. 7% plus or minus 1%,” Virmani said.

Explaining his approach to economic forecasting, he said uncertainty was an inherent part of macroeconomic conditions and should be factored into projections rather than ignored.

“Uncertainty is a fact of macroeconomic life,” Virmani said, adding that there could always be developments that had not been anticipated. — ANI

BYD OMAN'S ELECTRIC SUV OFFERING

BYD ATTO 3: Drive electric with special pricing, charger and more

MUSCAT: As part of BYD's “Electric Today. Endless Possibilities.” campaign, the all-electric BYD ATTO 3 is available across Oman with a package of ownership benefits designed to make the move to electric driving simpler and more rewarding. The campaign runs from 17 August to 17 October 2026, placing the ATTO 3 at the centre of BYD Oman's electric SUV offering.

From 17 August to 17 October 2026, eligible retail customers purchasing the BYD ATTO 3 can benefit from special pricing, one year of free insurance through Liva Insurance, a complimentary scheduled service package and a complimentary 2 kW 3-pin EV charger, subject to eligibility and applicable terms and conditions.

Customers financing an eligible vehicle through Oman Arab Bank may also receive two months of complimentary instalments, subject to the bank's approval. This will be for a loan of 6 years and above with a loan to value of 80%



of vehicle purchase price. Terms and conditions apply.

Beyond the campaign benefits, the ATTO 3 continues to make a strong case for going electric in the Sultanate. It combines sharp styling, a distinctive interior and real everyday practicality, giving drivers an SUV that feels modern and exciting without asking them

to give up efficiency for fun.

Chinese dragon

Inspired by the form of the Chinese dragon, the ATTO 3 wears a bold, angular silhouette highlighted by wing-shaped headlamps and 18-inch “Wing of Wind” alloy wheels. Its electric motor delivers 201 hp and 310 Nm of torque, tak-

ing the SUV from 0 to 100 km/h in 7.3 seconds. A WLTP-rated range of 410 km gives the ATTO 3 the confidence to handle daily city traffic as well as longer drives along the coast.

Inside, the ATTO 3 breaks from convention with a cabin concept inspired by the gym. Premium trim and playful design

details run throughout, while a 12.8-inch touchscreen supports Android Auto and Apple CarPlay for smooth navigation and entertainment integration on the move. Intelligent driver-assistance systems work alongside BYD's Blade Battery to support confidence and peace of mind on every journey.

The vehicle remains backed by BYD's protection package: a 6-year or 150,000 km vehicle warranty and an 8-year or 200,000 km battery warranty, whichever comes first in each case, subject to applicable terms and conditions.

Visit a BYD showroom in Oman today to experience the ATTO 3 in person, arrange a test drive and take advantage of the current campaign benefits before they end on 17 October 2026.

In Oman, BYD vehicles are distributed by World Auto Business LLC. For more details, to check stock availability, or to schedule a test drive, please call 72225925. You can also visit www.bydoman.com

AT CX LIVE AWARDS 2026

Bank Muscat wins Best Digital Customer Service Award

MUSCAT: Reaffirming its leadership in delivering an advanced banking experience and its continued investment in innovation and digital transformation, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, has been recognised with the “Best Digital Customer Service” Award at the CX Live Awards Middle East 2026. The prestigious recognition acknowledges the Bank's continuous efforts to develop an integrated ecosystem of digital services and solutions that enhance customer experience while making banking simpler, faster, more convenient and efficient. The award was presented at a recently held ceremony in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, attended by distinguished representatives and professionals from across the Middle East and beyond. Salim bin Said Al Shanfari, representative of Bank Muscat at its UAE Representative Office, received the award on behalf of the Bank.

The recognition reflects the success of Bank Muscat's strategy of placing customers at the heart of its development and innovation initiatives while leveraging modern technologies to deliver a seamless and integrated banking experience across multiple channels. The Bank continues to implement a wide range of digital initiatives and projects aimed at simplifying processes, reducing the time and



effort required to complete transactions, and enabling customers to access banking services conveniently anytime and anywhere. The award also recognises Bank Muscat's ongoing commitment to enhancing customer experience through innovation and the continuous development of its digital capabilities. Digital transformation remains a key enabler in the Bank's efforts to deliver meaning-

ful value to customers by providing solutions that are simple, secure, fast and responsive to their evolving needs. Bank Muscat continues to invest in emerging technologies while actively incorporating customer feedback and insights into the development of its products and services.

Over the past period, Bank Muscat has continued to expand the range of services available through

its Mobile Banking application and Internet Banking platform, enabling customers to complete an increasing number of transactions digitally without the need to visit a branch. Among these enhancements is the digital Know Your Customer (KYC) update service, which enables customers to update their personal information conveniently through digital channels while receiving notifications

on the progress of their requests.

The Bank has also enhanced convenience by enabling customers to request banking cards through the Mobile Banking application and have them delivered directly to their preferred location, providing greater flexibility and reducing the need for branch visits.

As part of its efforts to further enhance customers' digital experience, Bank Muscat introduced the Instant Digital Personal Loan service through its Mobile Banking application. The service enables eligible customers to complete the personal loan process through a simplified and efficient digital journey, demonstrating the Bank's continued focus on leveraging technology to streamline processes, reduce turnaround times and provide customers with faster access to banking solutions.

In the area of payments, Bank Muscat continues to expand its portfolio of modern digital payment solutions, providing customers with secure, convenient and seamless options for their everyday transactions. The continuous enhancement of services available through Mobile Banking and Internet Banking provides customers with greater flexibility in managing their accounts and carrying out transfers, payments and other banking transactions through secure digital channels.

Beyond individual products and

services, Bank Muscat continues to strengthen the overall customer journey across its various touchpoints by leveraging technology, data and customer feedback to better understand evolving expectations.

This approach supports the design and enhancement of services that are increasingly aligned with customers' needs and preferences. The Bank follows an integrated omnichannel approach that brings together its digital platforms, extensive branch network and Contact Centre to deliver a consistent, convenient and seamless banking experience.

Demonstrating its commitment to making banking support more accessible, Bank Muscat was also the first financial institution in the Sultanate of Oman to introduce customer enquiries and banking service requests through WhatsApp, using the Bank's existing Contact Centre number, 24795555. The service provides customers with an additional convenient channel to communicate with the Bank, submit enquiries and request various banking services and facilities. The initiative reflects Bank Muscat's commitment to keeping pace with technological developments and strengthening direct and digital engagement with customers, while facilitating faster access to banking support and information.



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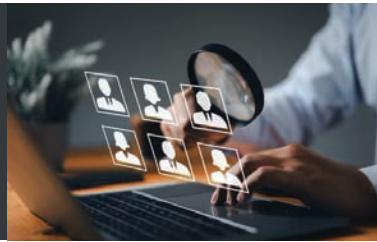
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Indian male MBA, 12 yrs of experience in accounts & procurement looking for suitable opportunities. Contact: 98104268, Email: shinishakir@gmail.com

Accountant having 10 yrs gulf experience in accounts, D/L and NOC Available Contact: 79192017

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

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

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

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

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

Indian female MCom qualified, 10 yrs of experience in home country seeking job. Tally ERP, busy, Manager.io Contact: 95473637

ADMINISTRATION

Indian female, MSc Industrial Psychology graduate with 1 yr HR experience, seeking HR, Administration, Sales or Marketing roles. Excellent communication, coordination & people management skills. Contact: 99680529, Email: evapraisya@gmail.com

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

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

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

Indian male graduate with 20 yrs experience seeks job for executive secretary, admin or any other suitable post. Presently available in Muscat. Contact: 91410074.

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ENGINEER

Civil Engineer with 10 yrs GCC experience having valid visa and D/L seeks placement. Contact: +968 79585378, Email: vineesh.v35@gmail.com

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Experienced Mechanical engineer with 7 yrs of experience currently seeking opportunities in Oman. Kindly consider my profile for suitable positions. Contact 95778415. Email Samsanju770@gmail.com

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MEP, HVAC Eng: 4+ yrs Oman experience with valid D/L is available. Contact: +968-75020107

IT

Full-Stack Software Engineer, 2+ yrs GCC exp in web apps, e-commerce & portals. Present in Oman, immediate joiner. WhatsApp/Call: +968-96094823, Email-sadullah2000@gmail.com

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Indian male MMS 2 yrs of sales and marketing experience looking for suitable opportunities. Immediate joining. Contact: 91415250, Email: tambesalwan@gmail.com

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CENTRAL NIGERIA

Four-vehicle crash leads to death of 20 and injures 5

ABUJA: Twenty people were killed and five others injured in a crash involving four vehicles in Nigeria's central Plateau State, a road safety official said on Saturday.

A major highway
The incident occurred along the Hawan-Kibo-Jos road, a major highway in the country's central region, on Friday afternoon, Osondu Ohaeri, national spokesperson for the Federal Road Safety Corps, told Xinhua by telephone.

Citing a preliminary investigation, Ohaeri said the crash was caused by "brake failure and loss of control."

A total of 25 people were involved in the incident, he said, adding that the five injured had been taken to a local hospital for treatment.

Bus lost control
Some witnesses said a passenger bus lost control while descending a hill in the area and rammed into other vehicles, including a truck.

Fatal road accidents are common in Nigeria and are often attributed to speeding, overloading, poor road conditions and reckless driving.

— Xinhua

ARMED DOMESTIC GROUPS

Is Ethiopia at risk of a proxy war?

ADDIS ABABA: Over the past week, three militias from a new alliance, led by the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), have been fighting the Ethiopian National Defence Force (ENDF) in northern Ethiopia.

The heterogeneous alliance that calls itself the "Ethiopian Peoples' Forces Alliance for Survival" brings together seven armed domestic groups that oppose Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's federal government. However, the ENDF has painted a picture of an alliance that extends far beyond Ethiopia's borders: Its commander-in-chief, Field Marshal Birhanu Jula, accused Eritrea, Sudan and Egypt of supporting the TPLF.

Sudan dismissed the allegation as "baseless." Its military government countered with accusations that Ethiopia was supporting the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) militia that has been fighting Sudan's army for over three years.

Eritrea said Ethiopia was attempting to shift responsibility for its own internal conflicts onto its neighbors. Cairo, meanwhile, issued a flat denial.

A domestic conflict with "external actors"

Viewing developments in northern Ethiopia as a domestic affair is not the full picture, according to experts. "While it is primarily a domestic conflict, it certainly has

a foreign policy dimension due to the many external actors directly or indirectly involved," said Susanne Stollreiter, the head of the Ethiopia office of the Germany's Friedrich Ebert Foundation.

Stollreiter told DW that these actors have their own interests in the region — interests that could potentially be advanced by the conflict.

"If this conflict escalates, I would even assume that it could truly lead to a kind of conflagration across the region, given the various conflict dynamics here in the Horn of Africa."

Egypt and Sudan have long harbored grievances against Ethiopia because the source country of the

gressing very well."

"We are moving in the right direction," he said without providing further details.

German Interior Minister Alexander Dobrindt said there were "preliminary" talks on return hubs but declined to say which countries were involved.

More work was needed to make sure any agreement would withstand possible lawsuits, he said.

"These agreements are meant to be sustainable in the long term,"

Dobrindt noted, adding that he was nevertheless hopeful that a first deal could be sealed by the end of the year.

Dutch Migration Minister Bart van den Brink said a technical mission already visited a potential host country in early September.

Supporters of the policy say return hubs could facilitate repatriations and act as a deterrent for would-be irregular migrants.

But critics question their legality and argue that they violate mi-



grants' fundamental rights.

Suspending asylum process in emergencies?

On Thursday, Greece even proposed temporarily suspending asylum applications in emergency situations. The right to seek asylum is guaranteed by the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

Athens argued that current rules are inadequate to handle mass arrivals as in Spain's North African enclave of Ceuta this summer.

The Spanish government estimates over 72,000 migrants entered Ceuta in late July. While most of them have since returned, some 10,000 remain, reinforcing calls in some EU capitals for a tougher approach. The Spanish government has said only minors and small groups of the people who entered Ceuta were brought to mainland Spain.

Greece's proposal appeared to draw support from some member states. "We have to find a legal way not to bring them into the asylum procedure," said Dutch Migration Minister van den Brink. "In situations like Ceuta, it should be treated as a border management issue rather than an asylum issue." — DW

Full story at timesofoman.com/world

N. AFGHANISTAN

5 people dead in mine collapse

KABUL: Five workers have been killed after a mine collapsed in northern Afghanistan's Takhar province, local media outlet TOLONews reported on Saturday.

Naqibullah Masroor, head of press and public relations at the Takhar Police Command, told TOLONews that the incident occurred at a mine in the Shah Mastan Valley of Chah Ab district.

Masroor said the local authorities would release further details about the incident later.

The report did not say when the incident occurred.

Bordering Tajikistan, Takhar province is rich in various mineral resources and has attracted many miners over recent years. — Xinhua

HIT CHINESE FILM

Once upon a time in Iraq: Food, war, and the pursuit of peace

BEIJING: In the closing scene of the hit Chinese film "Once Upon a Time in the Middle East," sunlight fills a post-war restaurant as a waiter introduces the house specialty, namely "Xu Fu Rice Stew," a humble dish born out of wartime hardship.

It begins as a simple pot of braised rice, made by a Chinese cook named Xu Fu for hungry children fleeing a regional fight. Yet the dish holds something deeper — a shared hope for peace.

The waiter is played by Ameen Muneer Mohammed Al-Obaidi, an Iraqi who goes by the Chinese name Fang Haoming. He is a young reporter and a survivor of the Iraq War launched by the United States. In 2003, when American missiles lit up the night sky over his hometown Baghdad, Al-Obaidi was barely three years old.

"The only food we had then was raw potatoes and rock-hard flatbread. Even that wasn't guaranteed," he recalled. "My father would queue for hours to get two or three potatoes for the family."

"When I saw the rubble and graffiti on set, it brought everything back," said Al-Obaidi. He moved to Yinchuan, the capital city of northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, in 2011 to reunite with his elder sister. She had married a Chinese man she met in the Middle East and later settled down in Yinchuan.

"Before I came to China, I didn't know what peace was," he said.

A few days after Al-Obaidi settled in the Chinese city, he encountered the Spring Festival, which is China's most important traditional festival, when families gather for reunion and celebration.

At night, the sound of firecrackers and fireworks startled the Iraqi family. "Where I come from, when you hear that sound, everyone tenses up and wants to get into a bomb shelter," Al-Obaidi noted.



But what he saw outside was very different: children laughing and cheering, families holding each other as colorful fireworks lit up the sky. "That was the first time I realised such sounds can bring happiness, not necessarily fear," he added.

Ever since, the Spring Festival has been Al-Obaidi's favourite holiday, and he makes sure to have Chinese New Year's Eve dinner with family and friends every year.

"Being able to sit down to a peaceful meal is the greatest joy for us," the young man said.

This idea lies at the heart of the film. According to Wen Muye, the film's director, the decision to tell a war story through a restaurant came from a simple contrast: war brings destruction, while food is closely associated with warmth, reunion and everyday happiness.

The film follows Xu's journey to the Middle East to work in a Chinese restaurant after falling into debt at home. Alongside restaurant manager Ma Junsheng, he helps build a popular eatery that becomes a gathering place for people

from diverse backgrounds. Then war breaks out, and the restaurant, once a place of ordinary life, gets caught up in the violence.

The film frequently returns to the theme of cooking, from dumpplings made before Xu leaves home to a wedding banquet where Chinese and Arab food traditions come together. Later, as Xu flees the fighting with a group of orphaned children, he prepares a simple pot of rice.

The meal is modest, Wen said, but for the frightened children, it offers something more important, providing a moment of security and a taste of normal life. The dish eventually becomes known as Xu Fu's braised rice at the restaurant.

Since its release in August, the film has generated strong box-office numbers and positive reviews, grossing over 2.3 billion yuan (about \$343 million).

Though set in the Middle East, the war drama's emotional centre lies elsewhere. It can be found in the universal desire for an ordinary life, where a person can eat, work and sit together with family

without fear.

"Don't forget to eat properly" is an everyday Chinese expression of care. In the film, it becomes something much larger, a reminder of the normal life war threatens to take away.

Though Al-Obaidi had never acted before this film, Wen was determined to cast the young Iraqi who had lived through war and embraced peace. Explaining his rationale, Wen said, "Just him standing there is the best performance."

The Loong Restaurant, where Xu works as a chef in the hit film, also draws on real-life stories. For decades, running restaurants has been one of the most common ways Chinese people make a living overseas, and some Chinese restaurants have become unexpected meeting places between cultures.

Chen Xianzhong, an Arabic-language graduate who first visited Iraq in 1984, left his stable job in a Chinese state-owned company years later and opened a Chinese restaurant named Yan Loong Wan in downtown Baghdad in 2003.

At the time, it was one of just

a few Chinese restaurants in the city. As Iraq is a Muslim-majority country, Chen said, he made sure that all the ingredients used in the restaurant were in line with local customs and acceptable to Muslim diners.

Then the Iraq War broke out, and Chen nonetheless refused to give up his business. In a city where explosions shattered windows and fear emptied the streets, the restaurant became something rare: a taste of normal life. Diners could find authentic Chinese dishes, including dumplings, alongside local specialties such as samoon, a type of bread common in Iraq.

Local Iraqi families, international journalists and diplomats, and even American soldiers arriving in armored vehicles, all came to eat, Chen said, adding that the restaurant put him in touch with many walks of life. When car bombs eventually made the city too dangerous to live in, Chen closed the restaurant in 2005 and sent his Chinese staff home. But he chose to stay, continuing to run a hotel and a shopping mall.

"I had already got to know the country, and I could use the language I learned every day," he told Xinhua when explaining his decision to stay in Iraq despite the conflict. For Chen, opportunity and risk went hand in hand, and he was prepared to take that risk.

"Almost every penny I earned came from Iraq," the 72-year-old said. "Now I just want to give something back -- to the Iraqi people and to my fellow Chinese."

Hospitality, Chen recalled, is woven into the fabric of Iraqi life. His neighbors, some of them farmers with orchards, would drop by with fresh dates and sometimes even an entire grilled fish.

"I've been to many places in the Middle East, and Iraq is my favorite. People there are very friendly to the Chinese," he said,

adding that he often gives his neighbours Chinese porcelain products as tokens of appreciation for their kindness.

Chen's real-life story echoes one of the film's central ideas: even in times of conflict, ordinary people keep looking for places to eat, talk and connect.

China and Arab countries boast a long history of friendly exchanges. For centuries, Chinese and Arab civilizations have traveled along the land and maritime Silk Roads, exchanging goods, knowledge and ideas across vast distances.

For Al-Obaidi, the young Iraqi who grew up in China, the warmth he has experienced across cultures is part of this longer history. China and the Arab world may lie far apart on the map, he said, but they share the same reverence for peace and yearning for a better life, cherishing family and hospitality alike.

When Al-Obaidi finally returned to Baghdad in 2024, he found construction cranes rising where shells once fell. Chinese companies are among those contributing to the rebuilding of his homeland, including by building schools.

"Looking at those children's smiling faces, I recalled my childhood, and at that moment, I was convinced that the future of Iraq would be different," he said.

On his third visit to China this June, former Iraqi President Abdul Latif Rashid spoke highly of China's constructive role in Iraq's post-war reconstruction and expressed gratitude for China's valuable support in energy, infrastructure and other areas.

Speaking to Xinhua on the sidelines of the 2026 Forum on Global Human Rights Governance in Beijing in June, Rashid commended China's efforts to improve international relations and advance human rights. — Xinhua

Full story at timesofoman.com/world



A ROMANI ARTIST IN HUNGARY RECLAIMS HIS IDENTITY

Norbert Olah is an artist. He's also Romani. For a long time, he avoided making his ethnic background a theme of his art for fear of being pigeonholed. Then it became his focus



The painting on the canvas is of a man playing chess with a robot. The colour on his face is still damp and glistening. Norbert Olah was working into the early hours: The Bura Galeria in Budapest has been his studio all summer. He finds it easiest to concentrate at night, when the Hungarian capital gradually falls silent.

Olah has taped foil and cardboard over the tiled floor at the back of the gallery. Pots of brushes, tubes of paint, pencil sketches, and, over and over again, pictures that include the blue-and-green Roma flag line the room.

Norbert Olah is an artist. He's also Romani. For a long time, he deliberately left this part of his identity out of his art. Not because his ethnicity wasn't important to him, but because he didn't want to be labelled a "Romani artist."

"There are so many prejudices about Roma culture and Roma art," Olah says. "The art scene regards it as naïve, unprofessional, unsophisticated, and kitsch."

But the older Olah got, the harder he found it to ignore his own story in his art. Especially in a country in which being Romani is not just an ethnicity but a political reality.

Life under Orban

The first time Viktor Orban's Fidesz party won an absolute majority in the Hungarian parliamentary elections of 2010, Olah had just finished school and was starting his art course at the Hungarian University of Fine Arts in Budapest. At a time of life when the world ought to be opening up, Olah felt more and more barriers were being erected.

Olah was directly affected by Hungary's political reorientation, as both an artist and a Rom-



ani. Politics co-opted the cultural scene and made it toe the party line. Roma became the target of hateful rhetoric, including from the prime minister himself. Orban repeatedly called attention to himself with racist comments about Roma.

For the 16 years Orban was in power, Hungary's Roma population, estimated to be around 700,000 people, was caught between official promises of integration and persistent marginalisation. Orban's government introduced a state employment program that hired predominantly Roma workers. But instead of helping them gain a foothold in the job market, many Romani found themselves trapped in insecure, poorly paid, temporary jobs. The government did little to implement real change. Romani in Hungary are still disproportionately affected by poverty and social exclusion.

There came a point when Norbert Olah felt he could no longer stand by and do nothing.

Other people's prejudices

In 2021, during Hungary's biggest independent contemporary art event, the OFF-Biennale Budapest, Olah and his father laid a brick wall directly in front of the entrance to the building that had



housed the Roma Parliament, a Roma cultural centre with an art collection, archive, library, and events program. The Orban government evicted it in 2016, saying the building was structurally dangerous and promising to repurpose it as a national Roma centre. It has stood empty ever since.

The title of Olah's work was "The Romani Artist's Fears." Words like "integration," "assimilation," and "segregation" were chiseled into the bricks. A few weeks later, Olah staged a performance in which he took a sledgehammer to his artwork and smashed it till it collapsed.

In an accompanying text, Olah wrote publicly for the first time about the fears, prejudices, and expectations he encounters as an artist with Roma roots. The text is full of questions. Should a Romani artist's work focus on topics relevant to Roma? What is the relationship between ethnicity and aesthetics? Would people only contact an artist with Roma roots if they were specifically looking for a Romani artist, or would they do so if they needed a Hungarian artist, too?

"Of course we're always looking for answers. But sometimes it's more interesting to look at the question itself," says Olah, picking

who was minister for transport at the time, spoke out against labor migration with the argument that Hungary still had "domestic reserves," like the Roma, who could "clean the crap out of overflowing toilets" on Intercity trains. The scene appears in Olah's art: A fake election poster depicts a man in a balaclava sitting on a golden toilet, brandishing a toilet brush, with the slogan underneath: "Gypsy Criminals for President."

Opportunity for real change?

Gypsy Criminals is also the name of the artists' collective Olah founded in 2024, along with a friend of his and his miniature pinscher. The term comes from Hungarian crime statistics, and has been used since the 2000s by right-wing politicians to imply that all Roma are criminals. The name is ironic, like many aspects of Olah's work.

Analyses by the foundation Roma for Democracy show that many Roma did not vote for Orban's Fidesz party in the April 2026 parliamentary election. Orban's successor, Peter Magyar, adopted a different tone in relation to Roma as part of his election campaign. He met with members of the Roma minority, and his election manifesto contained a specific paragraph about equal opportunities for Roma. Four of the Tisza party's nine new members of parliament are Romani. One was even elected a deputy speaker of parliament.

Since the election, there has been cautious optimism that the precarious situation of many Roma in Hungary could finally change. On the other hand, nothing has fundamentally changed in the four months since the election, apart from the tone when talking about the ethnic minority. "What

I'm seeing right now are mostly symbolic gestures," says Olah.

Roma on Mars

Some of his friends in the more liberal art scene are growing impatient. They would like to see Magyar take a much more liberal course, but Olah is a realist.

"He's a conservative politician," he says. "We elected him to put an end to the Orban system. He didn't promise any more than that." But the election in April was an opportunity for a fresh political start, he adds. "I think in the long run we will live in a normal society again, led by a normal government, that will do some things well and others not so well. As an artist, it will be my job to criticise that."

Olah's work also considers the future. The first pictures for his next project are already up on the wall in his studio. It's Roma futurism: A Romani couple strolling on Mars; a blue-and-green Roma flag on the moon; a weightless astronaut with a traditional Cegled water jug, used by Romani musicians as a percussion instrument. Olah is also planning a two-meter-high space station in the shape of a cartwheel, a symbol of the Romani people.

For Olah, space travel is also a metaphor for social advancement — the desire of people and communities to overcome the barriers they face as a result of their origins, or poverty, or life in a minority. Again, he is asking questions. What if a society were fundamentally recreated from the beginning? If aliens encountered Roma, would they do so without prejudice? What remains of an identity if everything about it changes?

Olah shreds the masking tape between his fingers. More unanswered questions. But that's exactly what makes them so interesting. -nw

SPORTS



WORLD ANIMAL DAY OBSERVED: This file photo shows a lioness at Serengeti National Park in Tanzania. World Animal Day is observed annually on Oct. 4. — Xinhua

BOLLYWOOD ACTRESS YAMI GAUTAM WITH HER CO-STAR ADDINATH M. KOTHARE POSES AT 'NAYYI NAVELLI' TRAILER LAUNCH IN MUMBAI: Bollywood actress Yami Gautam, with her co-star Addinath M. Kothare, poses for photographers during the trailer launch of their upcoming film 'Nayyi Navelli', in Mumbai. — ANI Photo



SUNRISE AT THE LAKE SONGHUA RESORT IN JILIN CITY IN CHINA: Tourists watch sunrise at the Lake Songhua Resort in Jilin City, northeast China's Jilin Province. During the National Day holiday, people step outdoors to enjoy a vibrant holiday atmosphere. — Xinhua



LATVIA HOLDS PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION AMID MULTI-PARTY CONTEST: A voter casts a ballot with his child at a polling station in Riga, Latvia. Voting in the Latvian parliamentary election began with 1,428 candidates vying for 100 seats in the 15th Saeima, Latvia's parliament. — Xinhua



SELECTION OF CLASSIC WU OPERA PIECES STAGED IN BERLIN: Artists perform Wu Opera in Berlin, Germany. The Zhejiang Wu Opera Research Center brought a selection of classic Wu Opera pieces to German audiences. — Xinhua



AZERBAIJAN INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE EXHIBITION IN BAKU: People visit the Azerbaijan International Defence Exhibition at the Baku Expo Centre in Baku, Azerbaijan. — Xinhua

ROUND-UP

Lulu expands presence in Oman with new hypermarket in Al Hail

The hypermarket was inaugurated by H.E. Ibtisam bint Ahmed Al Farouji, Undersecretary for Investment Promotion at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, in the presence of Yusuffali M.A., Chairman of Lulu Group, senior government officials and other dignitaries

MUSCAT: Lulu has expanded its retail footprint in Oman with the opening of a new hypermarket in Al Hail, bringing its shopping experience closer to residents of one of Muscat's rapidly growing communities.

The hypermarket was inaugurated by H.E. Ibtisam bint Ahmed Al Farouji, Undersecretary for Investment Promotion at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, in the presence of Yusuffali M.A., Chairman of Lulu Group, senior government officials and other dignitaries.

Speaking on the occasion, the Undersecretary said "The opening



of a new branch of the global LuLu Group represents a valuable addition to the Sultanate of Oman's retail sector and reflects investors' confidence in the attractiveness of the Omani market and the opportunities it offers for growth and expansion. At the Ministry, we remain committed to supporting high-value investments that contribute to economic diversification, strengthen supply chains, and generate added value for the national economy, in line with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040."

"The opening of our new hypermarket in Al Hail reflects our continued commitment to being closer to our customers and serving the evolving needs of communities across Oman. We remain focused on expanding our presence in the Sultanate, with more projects in the pipeline," said Yusuffali M.A., Chairman of LuLu Group.

Strategically located in Al Hail,

the new 76,973 sq. ft. hypermarket offers a comprehensive shopping experience with groceries and everyday essentials, fresh fruits and vegetables, meat and seafood, bakery products and freshly prepared food.

The store also features dedicated sections for electronics, home appliances, mobile phones, smart TVs, laptops and household products, bringing a broad selection of food and non-food categories under one roof.

Designed for convenient shopping, the hypermarket features modern retail facilities along with ample parking, providing easy access for residents of Al Hail and surrounding communities.

The latest opening forms part of Lulu's ongoing expansion in Oman as the retailer continues to strengthen its network and bring its shopping experience closer to customers across the Sultanate.



VODAFONE OMAN



Digital capability strengthens Oman's proposition to live, work and invest

MUSCAT: Oman's next phase of digital development is strengthening the country's proposition as a place to live, work and invest, Vodafone Oman's Chief Executive Officer Eng. Bader Al Zidi said during the official opening of Live Oman in London. Addressing government and business leaders during the Partners' Perspectives segment, Eng. Al Zidi highlighted Oman's progress from establishing strong digital foundations towards applying them across economic sectors, public services and business activity.

In Oman, the National Digital Economy Program is building on the progress already made in government digital transformation, with its next phase focused on digitising promising economic sectors, expanding digital services and increasing their contribution to national growth.

Eng. Al Zidi said: "Oman has built strong digital foundations for its next phase of growth. The opportunity now lies in what those foundations enable: better services, stronger businesses and new possibilities across the economy. Connectivity delivers its greatest value when people and organisations can use it to move their ambitions forward. People and businesses considering their future in Oman are looking at the complete proposition: the opportunities available, the services around them and the environment in which they can operate



and grow. Oman's digital progress is an increasingly important part of that proposition."

Eng. Al Zidi went on to add, "At Vodafone Oman, we connect for a better future. Our role goes beyond bringing people onto a network. It is about combining connectivity and technology in ways that help individuals, businesses and communities achieve more."

Led by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, Live Oman brings together national partners to present the Sultanate as a place to live, work, build and invest. Vodafone Oman's role combines the sector perspective set out by Eng. Al Zidi with practical support for the campaign within the Sultanate. Through its communications channels, connectivity capabilities, marketing experience and relationships, the company has brought the campaign to its customers and partners in Oman, while providing connectivity support to members of the Live Oman team travelling to London.

RECOGNITION



Sohar International receives award for banking leadership and performance

MUSCAT: Sohar International has been honoured with the Alam Al Iktisaad Excellence Award for Banking Leadership and Performance at the Alam Al Iktisaad Awards 2026, recognising the Bank's continued progress in strengthening its performance, capabilities and contribution to Oman's evolving financial and economic landscape.

The ceremony was held under the patronage of H.E. Sheikh Dr Ali bin Masoud Al Sunaidi, Advisor at the Diwan of Royal Court. The recognition comes as Sohar International continues to advance a growth strategy focused not simply on scale, but on building the capabilities required of a modern, competitive and increasingly connected Omani financial institution.

Through disciplined growth, continued investment in technology and talent, and the expansion of its banking and advisory capabilities, the Bank is strengthening its ability to serve the changing ambitions of individuals, businesses and institutions while contributing to Oman's broader

economic transformation.

Strong performance

Commenting on the recognition, Abdulwahid Mohamed Al Mursidi, Chief Executive Officer of Sohar International, said: "The role of banking is evolving alongside Oman's economy. As new industries emerge, businesses expand into new markets and investment flows become increasingly interconnected, financial institutions must have the capabilities to enable that ambition. At Sohar International, we are building an Omani financial institution that can respond to this opportunity — combining strong performance with deeper capabilities, greater connectivity and a long-term commitment to the country we serve. This recognition reflects the progress we are making, but our focus remains firmly on what comes next: creating greater value for our customers and shareholders, supporting the growth of Omani enterprise, and contributing to a more competitive and globally connected economy."

Central to this direction is Sohar

International's continued investment in the capabilities that will shape the future of banking. By combining deep understanding of the Omani market with digitalisation, technology and financial innovation, the Bank continues to enhance customer experience and develop solutions that respond to increasingly sophisticated financial needs.

At the same time, the continued development of its corporate, commercial, investment banking and wealth management capabilities is enabling Sohar International to support customers across different stages of growth — from accessing capital and managing financial needs to pursuing investment opportunities and expanding into new markets.

Together with its growing international connectivity, these capabilities strengthen the Bank's role in connecting Omani businesses, investors and institutions with opportunities both within the Sultanate and internationally.

The Alam Al Iktisaad Excellence Award for Banking Leadership and Performance further

reflects Sohar International's institutional progress and the continued evolution of its role within Oman's financial sector. Looking ahead, the Bank remains focused on strengthening its capabilities, anticipating emerging opportunities and creating sustainable long-term value while supporting the ambitions of its customers and the Sultanate of Oman.

Sohar International is guided by a clear vision to become a world-leading Omani service company that helps customers, communities, and people prosper and grow. With a purpose to help people 'win' by delivering responsive banking for their ever-changing world, the bank offers innovative solutions across Commercial and Investment Banking, Wealth Management, Islamic Banking, and more. Operating with a strong digital-first approach and an expanding regional footprint—including presence in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—Sohar International is committed to driving value through strategic partnerships and a dynamic customer experience. Learn more at www.SIB.om



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